



Country Hearth

The Journal of Indiana's Northwest Valley

Adams Hearth Publications Post Office Box 550 Kouts Indiana 46347 phone (219) 766-3982

FREE

October of 1993

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Country Hearth's Over the Bridge Feature by Lewis Coe

In Search of the Gifford Railroad Remnant

Land developers of the nineteenth century had a well established formula for making money. Buy a large tract of low cost land, bring in settlers to populate it, then build a railroad to ship products in and out of the area. This was exactly the method used by Benjamin J. Gifford in the project that gave him a place in the history of northwest Indiana. After some other projects in Illinois had turned out to be unprofitable Gifford was looking for new opportunities. It was then, in 1891, that he heard of the Pinkamink Marsh in central Jasper County. After acquiring 34,000 acres of marsh at \$4.50 per acre, Gifford set out to make it suitable for some kind of agriculture. The marsh was said to be the most difficult to drain in northern Indiana and consisted of a vast muck bed, said to be the largest in the world. Two dredge boats were built and after working steadily over a two year period Gifford created a network of ditches that at last made the marsh suitable for agriculture.

and terminated at McCordsburg, Indiana, near the Ohio border. North of Kersey the road headed in a northwesterly direction to cross the Kankakee River and progress as far as the village of Dinwiddie. Dinwiddie was on what is now State Road 2 and is the present location of the Apple Valley Trailer Park. Work was continued in a northward direction with the aim of reaching Gary. By 1912, the tracks extended four miles north of Dinwiddie, and the railroad had been graded as far north as what is now called 153rd Avenue (Lake County Road H-10).

Gifford's death in 1913 brought an end to further construction when the tracks were only about 15 miles from the original objective.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

FACE THE RISING SUN

Cover Story
by Kathy Good

The first annual Wind, Rain and Fire Traditional Pow Wow gave area residents the opportunity to not only witness the beliefs and traditions of a diversity of native American Indian tribes, but to help those in need. The spiritual gathering was held October 2nd and 3rd at the Rising Sun Campground in Pulaski County as a benefit to help residents of the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

In a clearing near the banks of the Tippecanoe River, the past joins with the present to create a better future for many. The smoky scent of smudge pots and campfires drifts across the sacred circle as the singers lift their voices above the pounding of the drums. The dancers move to the music much like their ancestors did, in clearings such as this one, all those centuries ago.

As three hawks circle above in the autumn sky, a woman wearing traditional tribal dress smiles and says, "Grandfather has given us this beautiful day."

A Pow Wow is a gathering of family and friends, a time to teach and to learn the old ways and beliefs, to honor the young and the old and those who have passed on. A time of celebration. A Pow Wow is also a spiritual experience, a time to thank Grandfather for life, for all that has passed as well as all that is yet to be. There are representatives of twenty tribes here, each with their own culture and beliefs. They talk of Grandfather, The Great Spirit, The Supreme Being, and God. Yet today they have come together as brothers and sisters, all cultural differences put aside.

Greywolf is Cheyenne, chosen to be the spiritual advisor for this gathering. He says "Welcome to my wife's lodge," explaining that in his culture the home belongs to the wife. When asked why he traveled all the way from Tell City, Indiana to be a part of this Pow Wow, he says, "It was a dream to do this for the people."

Sitting on colorful blankets in the spacious plains-style tipi, Greywolf tells of life on the Rosebud Reservation, the conditions there echoing those on neighboring reservations like Pine Ridge. For many, it will be a dangerously cold and difficult winter. "Several families will get together and choose one house. They will cut a fifty-gallon drum in two and then set it up on blocks in that one house. During the winter, they'll burn anything they can find for heat." When the numbing cold becomes too much to bear, there will be one place, a warming station, in which to escape the freezing weather. Rosebud is the poorest county in the United States. A family of five will try to survive on a yearly income of \$2000, with no electricity or telephone. With no industry nearby, the unemployment rate is sky high. Infants die at a heartbreaking rate.

The three women who organized this event hope to ease the hardship somewhat. Erna Summers is owner of the campground. Buffalo Heart, a Muskogee Creek, and Nagomoonkokoquay (Songs of the Owl), an Ojibwa, are the owners of Wind, Rain and Fire Traders of Monticello. They are in direct contact with the elders of Pine Ridge and are focusing on those residents who fall through the cracks of other relief efforts, especially mothers with infants. The women are already making contact with reservations in other parts of the country, and hope to collect enough donations in the future to allow a twice yearly shipment to those with the greatest need.

Buffalo Heart says, "We hope to help those people who receive no aid at all. The traditionals who live according to the old ways and beliefs do not receive government aid or help from the churches and organizations that send supplies to the reservations. The people are so proud that they will starve before asking for handouts. The food, clothing, and medicines we are sending are not handouts but handups."

Medicines, especially, are greatly needed. In the village of Porcupine on Pine Ridge Reservation the only health facility is little more than a shack. The only doctor volunteers his time, driving one hundred twenty-five miles each way to staff the clinic one day each week.

The dancers, singers, traders, and visitors are all contributing to the truckloads of handups heading for South Dakota. Money raised from the admission fees, sales made by traders, and various raffles conducted over the weekend will purchase goods needed but not donated. In the campground recreation center, the growing pile of donations includes winter clothing, food, supplies, and over the counter medicines. A blanket drive has resulted in the donation of fifty-six blankets before the Pow Wow began.

Homer Hettinger of Star City has volunteered to deliver the donations to South Dakota. "My heart goes out to the children," he says. Homer is one of the traders selling native crafts from booths set up around the sacred circle. "I feel God has called me to help others. When I see a need I try to do something about it." He has in the past helped with relief efforts in places like Appalachia.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

An Olde Time Catalog of Business Cards & Advertisements

Adams Hearth Publications Presents
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Publisher & Editor by the Hearth
Diane S. Adams

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Vicki Lowman

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Linda Warren



Penpersons

Lewis Coe	Gifford Railroad
Kathy Good	Face the Rising Sun
Ilah Miller	The Farm Wife
Linda Warren	Festivals
Cheryl Ponder	Guest Ed & Shopkeeps
Cindy Flagg	Shopkeeps
Diane Adams	Shopkeeps
Sam	Dining Without Dishes

Photo Credits

Rick Warren Rural Mural of Barns

Cover Logo for The Country Hearth Journal
Laney Griffin

Country Hearth

Northwest Indiana's Journal



Diane S. Adams
Publisher & Editor
(219)766-3982 office

Adams Hearth Publications Post Office Box 550 Kouts, IN 46347

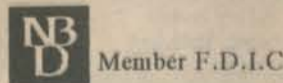
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Country Hearth Editorial

In September I learned to never fish from a ditch that is near a dusty gravel road, especially during a drought. Not that I was the one fishing. I've had an aversion to nightcrawlers since the age of four when I used a stick to chop my brother's nightcrawler into a half dozen pieces so he would be able to catch more fish.

The gravel road I refer to is what my husband and I nicknamed the River Road. We traveled the River Road many times during September as the family headed for rendezvous, festivals, dinner in Starke and Marshall Counties, to meet friends for a night of folk music at Lomax Station, and to the printer for various needs. The River Road is a standby that takes us through the country where there may never be a highway. Every time I have passed the fishermen at the ditch I have felt a tinge of guilt because of the dust that clouds the fresh country air. I learned that I will not fish there, if I ever do fish.

The River Road is now a main drag for me when I accompany my energetic sales ambassador on calls around the nine counties we cover. This is because this road is one of the few that does not have a business anywhere between Highway 421 and Highway 49. Believe me, this was the only way to get the auto home on time after a day of introduction sales calls. The ambassador was ready to drop and roll out of the auto door everytime we passed a business, and by 5:30p.m. I could not afford the time it would take to get her through LaCrosse or Kouts! So I turned west on the River Road.

"This road doesn't have businesses," she remarked after passing several miles of fields, ditches and more fields.

"That's right." I enjoyed the scenery for the eight miles across country. Indeed this was an ideal way to end a day in the east territory.

The same type of route is true when the editor's auto heads for the commercial printer in the northeast. The River Road takes me to 421 I travel north to LaCrosse, turn east and the small, quiet village is left behind within a minute. The auto makes an automatic veer north when we reach Highway 39. From there, the closest I come to an industrial or business district is Kingsbury on 6 & 35.

Did I mention veer north? This is a phrase I used last week when I realized the turn Country Hearth has taken. The ideal that was in my brain for months was that this publication will be distributed throughout Indiana's Northwest Valley and will be extremely for advertisers who have a shop, restaurant or festival attracts people from three counties away.

Hundreds upon hundreds are distributed in most of the communities on our route, unless, of course, there are not hundreds and hundreds of citizens within their township radius. The publication will also be useful to automobile dealers and real estate agents. Price advertising verses industrial advertising is the last question to be asked when the publication they consider is picked up by 25,000 then passed around within families and businesses.

The October issue of Country Hearth explores Gifford Railway. We also spent a day at the Wind, Rain and Fire Pow Wow on Rising Sun Campground. As with last month, a guest editorial is included for memories and imaginings. Dining Without Dishes, Festivals and Shopkeeps are in place. We will introduce you to little shops and adventures that you didn't know existed or have neglected to visit for several years. Take some time to explore your area of the Northwest Indiana community.

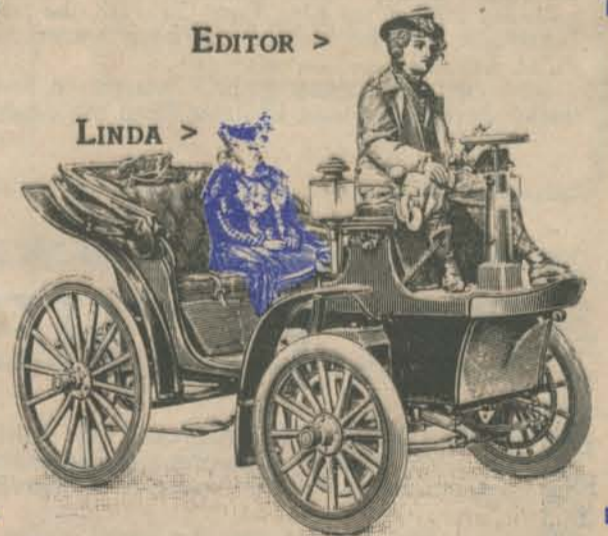
Make an adventure of an autumn day. And if you visit Gentleman Tom's Hide-Away in Kersey, tell Gentleman Tom that you saw his ad in Country Hearth! In fact, tell all your advertisers! Use their coupons and remember they are the ones who make Country Hearth possible. Until November -

Diane



EDITOR >

LINDA >



Letter to the Editor

Dear Folks at Country Hearth,

I just wanted to tell you how much I loved your first publication. I love how it looks like a paper from the Good Old Days! It gave me a real warm feeling. I love all of the articles. I especially like The Farm Wife by Ilah! I enjoyed reading all of the advertisements. I'll even visit some of those places that I never knew even existed! I can't wait to try your Rural Recipes! I'll be looking forward to your next issue!

Sincerely,

Nancy Reed
Lowell, Indiana



We, at Country Hearth, thank Nancy and all the readers who called and sent letters of encouragement. The several calls we received concerning subscription to Country Hearth were considered. At this time, Country Hearth will not offer a subscription service. At all times, we will have the publications free for readers to pickup and share with neighbors. Please pass your copy around. We estimated 75,000 adult readers in September because most of the callers told us they received a copy from a relative or friend, or that they were passing their issue on to another. Thank you!!!



TRACKING BARN

RURAL MURAL PICTORIAL BY RICK WARREN

TOP LEFT: AT H.H. PEELLE PINE TREE FARM

LOWER LEFT: KOONTZ LAKE RUSTIC

BELOW: SEE PIG TILED ROOF OF BARN AS DRIVE EAST TO WINAMAC ON HIGHWAY 14 - NEAR HIGHWAY 39.



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Was September festival month or what... I hope you got to get out and have some great moments in time. We took a family night out to the Popcorn Fest Balloon Glow. After parking and unloading, we found a picnic spot and put our stuff down. While we were visiting with the balloonists the sky took on different colors and it was apparent that no Balloon Glow was going to happen. But never fear... we were ready. While other folks were headed home, there sat the Warren family enjoying a picnic. Life really is what you make of it.

Venturing around, I'm spellbound by the beautiful colors of autumn. You don't have to go very far to be impressed. I just returned from a trip down Highway 8 in Knox and I wonder now why I didn't stop at one of the many Farm Harvests on display. I often wonder, is it the sights or sounds that captivate me the most. Leaves tumbling from trees or the acorn as it bounces to the ground. Autumn brings the haunted woods. Several areas plan events along that theme. LaPorte has a Halloween Haunted Trail, guided hikes through the haunted woods from October 21 - 23. In Crown Point is the Forbidden Forest at Lemon Lake County Park from Oct 29-30. Heading indoors is the Porter County Expo's 2nd Annual FallFest Art & Craft Show with juried artists only from Oct 16-17. A PowWow can be attended with traditional Indian Crafts at Baker Junior High School, Michigan City on October 23. If Antiques are more your style Marquette Mall offers the Questers Antique Show on Oct 23-24. Miller's Tree Farm in Idaville, near Monticello, has something to offer every weekend in October. On Oct. 16-17 Native American Dancers are featured, on Oct 23-24 the Elk Dog Clan Rendezzvous and Bluegrass music. On Oct 30-31 is music and a Halloween Costume Party. Goshen has an Ethnic Fair on Nov 6.

In Anticipation of Christmas

Nov 12-13 is the weekend of the Crystal Valley Country Christmas in Amish Country. And the 13-14 is the Midwest Art & Craft Show in Lapaz. More early holiday celebrations are the Winterfest in Elkhart and the Holiday Sellabration in Valparaiso. If you feel like a mid-autumn drive, there's the Christmas Stroll through Vincennes and their early parade on November 19-21.

Linda and Rick Warren make their home near North Judson. Rick Warren, the manager of LaCrosse Thermogas, is one of the photographers for Country Hearth. His array of Northwest Indiana Valley barns are in this issue. Linda has been writing articles, reviewing and covering music entertainment for the Music City Entertainer in Nashville for 5 years. Rick has been shooting concert photography during these years. Recently they expanded their talents toward local and national publications. Other interests include travel, festivals and experiencing life's pleasures.

Festival committees are invited to phone Adams Hearth Publications at 219/766-3982. Ask for Diane or Vicki. Only your ad guarantees that your festival and/or entertainment will be included in Linda Warren's *Festivals of the Season* feature. Restaurants, stores, schools, towns, and private enterprisers are invited to include your entertainment requests. Information, rates and publication schedules are mailed if you send an SASE to *Festivals Info Please*, Adams Hearth Publications, P O Box 550, Kouts IN 46347. (Non-profit organizations entitled to 25% discounted advertising. Restrictions do apply.)

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Country Crafters At Heart by Diane Adams of Kouts

Mary Wilson coordinates the resident crafters who display gifts, country folk art, and braided rugs at Country Crafters At Heart on 5 West Main Street in Knox. Mary's whimsical animals are so endearing that those with a humorous nature won't resist them. The many crafters in Mary's shop also have holiday gifts and decorations on display. Hours are Mon thru Fri 9am-5pm. Sat 9am-2pm. The shop is closed on Sundays. Phone 772-5999.

Morrow's Turkey Farm by Cheryl Ponder of DeMotte

Let's talk turkey! Neil and Johanna Morrow have been doing that for many years. They raise and sell 2000 turkeys each year. They sell these turkeys to individuals wanting a fresh turkey for the holidays. Many school groups have toured their operation and asked questions about the birds. Maybe the strangest question was "Do they have teeth?" You have heard the expression "scarce as hens teeth, haven't you?" Primarily a family operation with outside help at busy time - which is Thanksgiving - they are glad to have you stop by and see the turkeys. They've made some people pretty glad too on Thanksgiving morning when they discovered their turkey hasn't thawed or isn't what they expected and have had to make a hasty call for another. They are at 18503 S. Union in Hebron. 996-3511

Steinmetz Party Rentals by Cheryl Ponder

Did you ever have a sickening feeling in the pit of your stomach at 10p.m.? That you've forgotten to do something? Perhaps it's something like forgetting to rent two or three fifty-five cup coffee pots for a sales meeting the next day. It's happened. Fortunately, Steinmetz Party Rentals was able to save the day. In business at 1021 East Division Street, DeMotte, for three years they've saved the day for many customers that want to save money and arrange for their own wedding, graduation parties and festive occasions. Let Doris help you with your next party. Call 987-5438 or stop by weekdays 10-5 and Sat 9-12. Closed Thurs

Persnickety Shoppe by Cindy I Flagg of Argos

The Persnickety Shoppe located at 219 North Michigan in downtown Plymouth, features a full array of country accent gifts, cards, afghans, and gift bags. Also, Vicki Lane Figurines and Hanna's Candles. Ann Harmon, proprietor of the unique gift shop, points out that she carries many holiday items, too. The Persnickety Shoppe hours are 10am-5:30pm Tues thru Fri/ 10am-3pm Sat. Closed Sun & Mon. They will soon start extended holiday hours.

A. J. Kid Co. by Cindy I Flagg

A. J. Kid Co., owned and operated by Brad and Anee Penrod, recently opened at 1913 N. Michigan Street in the Plymouth Plaza Center. A. J. Kid Co. is a children's clothing store specializing in name brand clothing such as OshKosh, Little Me, Mufflings, and NLF Kids, plus accessories from Disney, Peanuts Gang and Barney. Penrod believes the large play area appeals to the adult shoppers as well as children. Children are able to play or watch the television while parents are able to shop uninterrupted. Another highlight of the store is what Penrod refers to as "the mommy board" where free ads are displayed for yard sales, babysitting, Discovery Toys, Avon, etc. A.J. Kid Co. will soon offer holiday dresses, gift wrapping, gift certificate and a baby shower gift registry. Store hours are Mon thru Fri 10am-9pm. Sat noon-9pm. Sun noon-6pm. (219)936-1177

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DINING WITHOUT DISHES

BY SAM



Until I was around 15 years old, I had never been exposed to what is now called ethnic food. Living as I did, in the distant suburbs of a very conservative and ethnically intolerant city, the area restaurants were strictly continental. My idea of ethnic food was pizza. When I went to school all that changed and the world of ethnic food opened up before me in all its splendor. New seasonings and ingredients changed my view of food preparation forever. Although I still have a great appreciation for continental cuisine, the allure of a truly authentic ethnic meal stirs my imaginings.

I was always taught that *when in Rome do as the Romans do*. This is a rule that, for me, carries over to the dining experience. When I go Mexican or Japanese or Russian, et cetera, I go authentic. When I try a country's food for the first time, I always try to have a native of that country with me to guide me through the experience. In this way, I can explore the cuisine and any related traditions and lore at the same time. I also learn if the menu is typical of the menus of the wealthy or the poor, a menu typical of a celebration, or every day. Most importantly, the native has a much better idea of the authenticity of the food and the diversity of the menu.

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OVERDRESSED	FAR SIGHTED	VIVACIOUS
UNDERDRESSED	CREATIVE	DISORGANIZED
SICK	ROMANTIC	GALLANT
WELL	RAVISHING	POLITE

TRY DINING AT FIESTA MEXICO
 DOWNTOWN CROWN POINT ON THE SQUARE

Editor's note: Sam is our anonymous critic, therefore we cannot tell you much about this person's likes, dislikes, location of home or gender. We do assure the readers & establishments that the critic is not myself, my relation, or in my employ. The critic is a freelancer and enjoys the writing of Dining Without Dishes immensely. Sam will choose the next, and all establishments. Sam does request suggestions from readers. Send name of your favorite restaurant to:

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FIESTA MEXICO

1 N. COURT STREET IN CROWN POINT (219)663-5890
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Fiesta Mexico serves up a great fare of authentic Mexican food. The menu is typical of a Mexican country, as opposed to city, offering everyday meals. There is also a selection of Mexican beers for those who choose to drink as well as eat Mexican. Fiesta Mexico does not offer a variety of the celebration foods of the country but this writer doubts many visitors would take a chance on these since they sometimes require a very adventurous spirit.

Diners are greeted by a waitress with a basket of homemade chips and mild hot salsas to nibble on while they survey the menu. The salsas are both very tasty but the hot is only for the strongest mouths. Unlike many hot salsas, this one has an abundance of flavor besides the spiciness. There is also a bowl of pickles, onions, carrots, and chili peppers on each table to tempt the lovers of hot food.

The menu offers appetizers but I cannot recommend these if you intend to also have a meal. Not because they are not good, which they are, but because the meals are large. Small children and light eaters may find the Menudo a La Jalisco (tripe soup) or the Quesadillas Rancheras (flour tortillas with melted cheese with salsa) much to their liking for a meal.

Main menu items can be ordered a la carte or as a dinner. Dinners include two or more of the ala carte items and include Spanish rice and refried beans. For those not familiar with authentic food I recommend the combination platter as a way of sampling the basics. This platter includes a taco, a tostada, an enchilada, and a tamale in beef, pork, or chicken. For those ready to move beyond the taco stage, I recommend trying the Fiesta Mexico a La Parrilla, a grilled skirt steak with garnish which is eaten with the tortillas provided. The tamales are especially good with the taste of the corn leaves delightfully strong.

Everything on the menu is prepared intelligently. The meals are not spicy as a rule but, for those who feel the need, the salsas are on the table.

Desserts include the traditional Flan, Mexican Rice Pudding and a Sombrero. Those who have never tried Flan owe it to themselves to try it since it is such a part of the Mexican dining experience.

For those in your party who only like American food, Fiesta Mexico also has a limited menu of American sandwiches.

Fiesta Mexico closes at 8:00 weeknights and 9:00 on the weekends so go early. They don't take reservations or credit cards.

Dinner for two will run around \$20.00.

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8 SERVICE & ATMOSPHERE

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Another Country Hearth Guest Editorial

HUCKSTERS THEN . . . AND NOW

"These times they are a changin'" Imagine that the year is 1909, imagine that you need something from the store. Imagine too, that you are busy, or your children ill or that it's raining and a mile round walk to town would be very unhandy indeed. What will you do? Don't worry, here comes the 'huckster' or the market man. He may own the general store that you shop at in town or he could work for himself and only make deliveries, but he makes the weekly trip to deliver to rural areas, too.

The coming of the huckster was a big event in the life of a farm boy. The huckster wagon was pulled by a team of fine, strong horses and carried a supply of the most popular items such as coffee, tobacco, beans, fish, vinegar, sugar, spices, flour and dry goods, and thread.

A small barrel of kerosene was always a welcome sight for all homes had kerosene lamps and burned candles as well. Axle grease and chicken crates were fastened to the outside or the top of the wagon. Often the egg and butter might not be enough to purchase the groceries and a hen or two was added to the barter fare thus utilizing the crates on the wagon. Someone else down the road might want a chicken for supper and thus the huckster could accommodate all tastes.

Could you imagine a truck rolling up outside your door today with food supplies, dry goods, medicine, even clothes? Imagine the size of the truck that would be needed to furnish a weeks' supply of groceries! Of course hucksters were around before television so no commercials told women that they needed three or four different cleaners - one for a specialty in the area of cleaning each room of the house. How did they manage? Quite nicely, thank you. Fels Naptha soap and homemade lye soap cleaned everything that needed to be cleaned. Paper towels were unheard of, so you used rags for cleaning. Imagine, rags and homemade soap and elbow grease were all that you needed then to do your cleaning. Of course there were no stubbornly stained bathroom fixtures to be cleaned, no fancy appliances that required three different products to clean each and no wall to wall carpeting.

The huckster did deliver clothes back then, but they were not the 'instant' clothes of today. They were bolts of yard goods, calico, wool, flannel and other coarse, durable materials that held up well and lasted for a long time. Why a huckster today would need a semi to contain the many styles and materials of today's clothes. There were no slacks, shorts, culottes, or jeans for the ladies or little girls. They wore dresses. Mostly long dresses and aprons. Remember them? My grandmother always wore one and for awhile I did too because it was a novelty.

Do you ever get nostalgic for things of the past? I do. I miss aprons, handkerchiefs (the ones with lots of lace edging . . . though I do not miss the ironing that they require!) and hats. Hats with veils, flowers and plumes. Velvet dresses with rich lace trim. That's what I would like to have back.

Oh, for a huckster wagon to drive up today! I could be happy with that shopping arrangement. And if the huckster just happened to have a few hats tucked away among the food items and patent medicines and needed notions, well, I'd be eagerly awaiting the marketman's wagon the next week. Take a backward glance. Can't you just see him in your mind? A part of history . . . from the Good Olde Days. Then it was a way of life . . . something you had to endure. Now it's just a backward glance at how it used to be.



from Cheryl Ponder

The Country Hearth is pleased to introduce Cheryl A. Ponder. She is an award-winning editorialist. She teaches private creative writing classes and enjoys her church activities. Cheryl resides in DeMotte with her daughter.

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Continued from front page

This is a traditional Pow Wow. There are no French Voyageur costumes or hobbyists here. The craft and food booths are run by Native Americans who here by invitation. White Dove and Silvertree, also known as Myrtle and Marty Roop, make jewelry, dancing sticks, and knives which they sell at Pow Wows through the state. Marty, a well known silversmith from Peru, says "We do this for the camaraderie. Here, we are with our brothers and sisters, we are a family." Through the year the Roops, like a large percentage of the Pow Wow participants, give presentations to schools and other organizations to share their culture and heritage. The Roops are descendants of the Miami tribe. Members of the Miami tribe of Indiana can trace their roots back to the great tribe which once controlled a area of the state. Yet they are not recognized as a tribe at all by the federal government. During the 1830s when the Miamis were relocated to the West chose to stay in Indiana, and as a result lost their tribal status. The Miami community, a self-supporting group based in Peru, owns a city block in that town where they have built a cultural center and museum to share their heritage.

TRIBES REPRESENTED AT WIND, RAIN AND FIRE



- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Miami | Comanche |
| Potawatomi | Kiowa-Apache |
| Sioux | Delaware |
| Blackfoot | Iroquois |
| Muskogee Creek | Ponca |
| Cheyenne | Ottawa |
| Cherokee | Ojibwa |
| Kiowa | Shawnee |
| Mohawk | Tlingit |
| Cayuga | Oneida |

Bill danced in the men's traditional style. He wore a fox skin draped across one shoulder, and a breastplate made from a large turtle shell. "I traded some for the turtle shell. I learned not long ago that my people, the Creeks, were once known as the Turtle People. I had a dream about this shell and decided to put it into a breastplate." Animal skins were once worn while hunting to confuse animals with the scent. When worn while dancing they are a way to honor Great Spirit or to tell a story about the hunt.

There are almost as many styles of dancing as there are styles of dress. The Master of Ceremonies, Teed Howard of Nashville, Indiana introduces each group of dancers and explains their costumes. The traditional style outfits are mostly buckskin or cloth, the decorations differing from tribe to tribe. The costumes worn by the fancy dancers are striking. The large U-shaped feather bustles, the bells and bright colors match the flashy dance style of these men. The jingle dances are music in motion. The dresses are covered with up to three hundred metal cones which jingle against each other with each movement. The cones have been rolled from the metal found in Skoal containers. A more sedate women's costume is worn by the shawl dancers. The women lift the silky fringed shawls away from their shoulders to create a vision of colorful butterflies.

The grass dancers wear shirts and pants adorned with thousands of strands of yarn in various color combinations. Long ago the yarn would have been ribbons or strings of beads. It swishes with each step much like grass waves before the wind. In the past the round dance was always performed first. The grass dancers would flatten the tall grasses to create the dance circle. Today the grass dancers are all young men with plenty of stamina to perform the energetic dance style. The youngest by far is Jesse Whittemore from Beech Grove, Indiana, who just celebrated his third birthday. With a wide grin he exclaims, "Look, someone gave me a dollar." Earlier, when individual dancers were honored, anyone who liked an individual's style of dance could show their appreciation by laying a dollar at the dancer's feet. Jesse was one to receive the honor. His grandmother explains that he learned the songs and the dances by attending Pow Wows and listening to tapes of the music at home. Jesse's father, Gary Whittemore, Jr., is a singer. Singers have to know hundreds of songs and attend weekly meetings to practice and to learn. Jesse's uncle is also a grass dancer. He attends monthly meetings of Kunieh Society where a group of young people learn the dances and the old ways.

In the American Indian culture a person is born to a song, works to a song and dies to a song. From the young, like Jesse Whittemore, to the old, like a Comanche and a Kiowa-Apache who are the last two women of their tribes to be born in a lodge in the traditional way, all those here join together to celebrate life with song.

Wyman Redstar is a Sioux who has spent most of his life on the Pine Ridge Reservation. He is chosen to act as the Head Male Dancer during the second annual Wind, Rain and Fire Pow Wow already scheduled for the first weekend in October of 1994.

He gives the closing prayer in the Sioux language, thanking all who came and contributed to the benefit. When he translates his words into the English language one phrase is long remembered.

"The children are hungry." (CJ)

An account has been set up for donations to help residents of Pine Ridge and other reservations. If you would like to contribute, make checks out to Pow Wow Benefit Fund. Mail in care of Erna Summers, R.R. 1 Box 114, Monterey, IN 46960. If organizations would like to help this project, contact Erna Summers at (219)542-4780 or Buffalo Heart and Songs of the Owls at Wind, Rain, Fire Traders (219)278-7021 or (219)278-7594.

Kathy, her husband, and four children live on a farm in Porter County's Pleasant Township. She freelances for The Kouts Journal & local newspapers. Kathy has an interest in the history of northwest Indiana. Readers will look forward to more fine articles.

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DAVID AMO



ASPHALTUM IN SEPTEMBER OF 1993
RUSTY OLD TANKS MARK THE SPOT
PHOTO BY LEWIS COE

Over the Bridge by Lewis Coe continued from front page

Gifford Railroad Remnant

The line was sold to the Monon after Gifford's death and continued to operate as a short line railroad for the next twenty years. Older residents can still remember the little train standing at Dinwiddie Station preparatory to heading back south to McCoysburg. Oddly enough, the train contributed to its own demise by hauling large quantities of road making materials to replace the train for shipping goods.

In the 1890s a farmer digging a water well struck a deposit of oil at a location northeast of the present village of Gifford. The place is marked on many Indiana maps as Asphaltum and the hope was that it would be an important addition to the economy of the area. A spur of the railroad was built from Gifford for handling oil shipments. Unfortunately, the oil field played out around 1904 and today Asphaltum has vanished. By 1936, traffic on the Gifford Railroad had declined to the point where it was unprofitable to continue operation and the Monon received permission to remove the tracks in that same year. When this writer first toured the former right of way in 1978, traces of the old road could still be found. Now, fifteen years later, there have been many changes in the landscape and it is difficult to find any recognizable traces of the old route. Near Apple Valley Trailer Park on State Road 2, a portion of the old embankment can be seen on the south side of the highway. On Range Line Road, a couple of miles south of State Road 2, the old Fifield elevator, once served by the railway, still stands and has been made into a private home by the enterprising owners. The outlines of the old railroad can be seen dimly on the south side of road H-10 near Broadway. At Kersey, a short section of track connecting the grain elevator with the Conrail track is said to be the only remnant of the original track. Once called the Onion Line due to the nature of the crops it carried, the little railroad might have had a longer and more prosperous life if its founder had not died before it reached its projected northern terminal. Even so, it would have eventually met the same fate as the larger and more prosperous railroads that once traversed the region.

Those of us old enough to have witnessed the demise of the railroads that once crisscrossed northern Indiana have shed many a tear over their passing. It seems such a waste that these railroads which were built at such great effort and cost could not have found a place in the modern system of transportation. (CJ)

Lewis Coe has lived in Crown Point for many years and has authored numerous articles, including those on the history of the telegraph and radio, which he learned as a teenager in his home town of Galva, Illinois. His book, *The Telegraph: A History of Morse's Invention and Its Predecessors in the United States* was recently published. Another of Mr. Coe's books, *The Heliograph*, was printed in 1987. Ordering information is under Publications in the issue.

The Farm Wife

by Ilah Miller

We found Katie's little tracks. She was headed for the cornfield . . .



Our house was old and cold. We had a cook stove in the kitchen that burned either cobs or wood. When we could afford it, we burned coal in the stove. We had another big wood stove in the dining room and a small oil heater in the living room. The way the rooms were arranged one would have to go from our bedroom through the living room, then the dining room, across the kitchen to the backstairs to get up to the second floor. I could not bring myself to let the girls sleep upstairs for fear the house would catch on fire, and because the house was so cold, we kept the girls downstairs with us through the winter months.

Fall came and the corn was ripe enough to be cut for silage to feed the cows. What a busy time it is for farmers to prepare for the winter feed supply. We had two large silos and my husband had to crawl up to the top of each to fasten the blower pipes so that the chopped corn would fall inside. The silo chopper sat on the ground by the silo and was driven with a large belt that was powered from a farm tractor pulley wheel. I was always afraid that someone would get their legs or arms cut off in the long belt as it whirled faster and faster. To me, the chopper seemed like a big monster gobbling up the corn that had been hauled in on rock wagons and was pitched manually into the machine to be chopped. We cut the corn in the field with a corn binder. It cut and tied the corn stalks into bundles about a foot across. They were dropped on the ground and the men pitched the bundles on to a flat wagon to transport the bundles to the silo chopper.

One afternoon I couldn't find my daughter Katie. I was terrified. I was searching around the barns and sheds when Mr. Warren, our landlord, came to the farm. He helped me search for her. We found her little tracks. She was headed for the cornfield just east of the buildings. Junior, my husband, was in the field cutting corn with the binder. When Katie heard the tractor, she headed that way. We tracked her little footprints to the edge of the huge cornfield where the tracks began to circle back and forth. She was following the noise of the John Deere "A" tractor as her dad crossed back and forth on the corn rows. I was so scared he would not see her approaching. It would have been a tragic accident if she was caught in the machinery. We finally caught up her. All she said was "I heard my daddy but couldn't find him."

Later that week the chopper plugged up, the knives that chopped the corn became dull and the blower pipes were plugged. My husband was attempting to remove a big nut from the chopper to repair the machine. He put a pipe on the end of a pipe wrench and stood on it to break the nut loose. As he kicked the pipe real hard he slipped and ended up with a sprained ankle. I took him to Dr. Sam Dittmer that night and Old Doc said, "Well, you found out who was the stronger . . . you or the machinery." So many problems go along with farming.

Sometimes we make our problems. As I said in the last issue, I often helped my husband and more than once my assistance was a problem for us. One time I was going to "help" and offered to drive a load of corn into town while my brother John and my husband were milking. I got to the elevator alright and drove the truck up the unloading ramp. The guys at the elevator hooked the chains to the front wheels to raise the truck and I pulled the emergency brake on so the truck wouldn't roll down the hill so fast when they lowered it back down. I drove back over the scale to weigh the empty truck and headed for home. When I got there it was early evening and getting dark. I told the men, who were still milking in the lit barn, that the truck had pulled just as hard coming home as it did with the load of corn. Junior went out into the cool night and the brake drums glowed red in the dark. Yes . . . I had forgotten to release the emergency brake and drove home that way.

Editor's note: We, at Country Hearth, urge you to be cautious with the lives of your family and with your home as the winter approaches. Please heat your homes safely, and above all, arrange simple and realistic escape routes that you and your children can use in case of fire and smoke hazards.

Ilah Sandberg Miller and her husband Junior reside southeast of Kouts, near the Kankakee. Ilah's articles are often published in The Kouts Journal and other publications. She writes, "Farming has been a way of life for us these past fifty some years so I'll share stories with you later." Ilah

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 1 t fresh parsley
 1 T melted olive oil
 1/4 c chopped green onion
 1/4 c cream
 4 slices whole wheat bread
 grated Parmesan cheese
 Salt Pepper

Break bread into small pieces and mix all but cheese. Stuff quail. Baste with olive oil. Bake at 300 for 1 1/2 hrs. Baste every 15 min. Sprinkle w/ cheese 5 min before removing from oven. Serve with salad & wild rice or chowder and bread.

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 1 t salt
 8 med apples
 3/4 c white sugar
 2 t cinnamon
 1 t nutmeg
 Sauce: 1 c warm water
 1 c brown sugar

Make crust of flour - cut Crisco into it. Pour milk in slowly. Peel and slice apples into deep dish. Sprinkle sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg on - let stand a few minutes. Roll out crust. Cut into 4 pieces. Place apples onto each. Shape dough around. Place in deep baking dish w/ liquified sauce. Dot w/ butter. Baste every 15 min as bakes for 1 hr in 350 degree oven. Mmmm

Country Hearth

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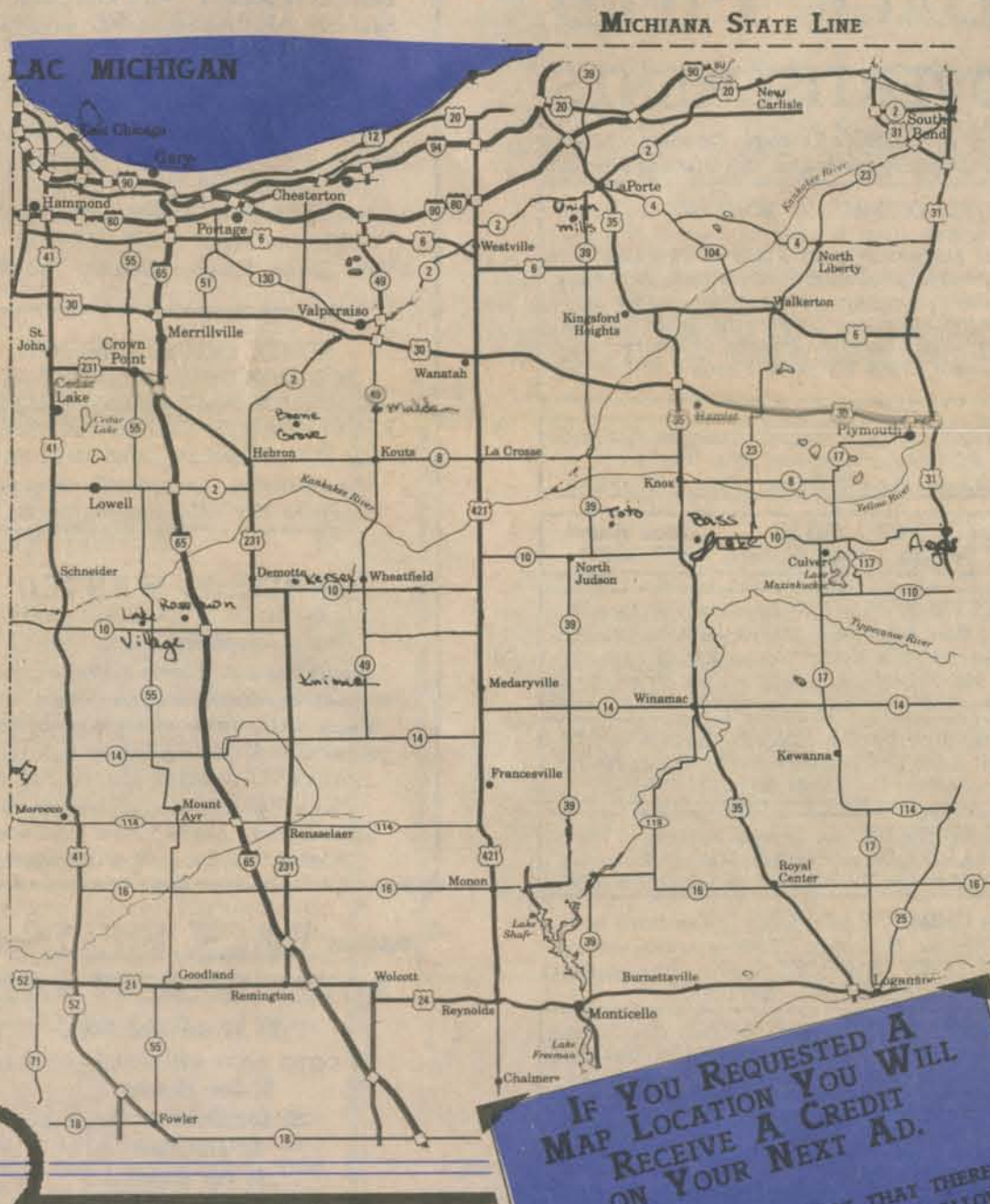


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