

Herald JOURNAL

TUESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 5, 2013 11 75¢

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WEATHER
TODAY High: 60 Low: 50
Cloudy
THURS. High: 56 Low: 31

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MONTICELLO, INDIANA

A Lakeside View Jefferson Township celebrated centennial in 1936

BY MATT SMITH
Carroll County Historical
Museum Curator

Jefferson township which is in the corner of Carroll County surrounded by its neighbor White County on the north and west was formed up from a part of what had been Adams Township in 1836, and celebrated its Centennial in August of 1936 at the Yeoman M.E.



HISTORICALLY
YOURS

MARK
SMITH

Church, with Mrs. W.G. Million over the churches of the township, Mrs. Carl Hanna over the schools, Miss Thyra Heiny and David Lilly taking charge of the early settlement, John Kennard over early industry, and Mrs. Minnie Overly, home economics. John Hornbeck was thought to be the first Caucasian settler in the township, and in September of 1832 Samuel Goslee entered a tract of land and for many years was a prominent member of the community. Other early settlers of the community included Jonas Elston, David Lucas, Thomas Patton, John Lynch, Henry Tedford, James Delzell, John Scott, Jacob Baum, John B. Mikesell, David Coble, William Carson, and David Overly. Scholarly endeavors were first undertaken at Moses Grandstaff's farm, as well as those of Alfred Briney and William Carson. The namesake of the town of Yeoman was the somewhat ambitious Colonel Samuel Yeoman, engineer of the Indianapolis, Delphi, and Chicago Railroad.

Predominant houses of worship were the Hickory Grove Church, formerly the Union Christian Church, then the Congregationalist Christian Congregation, then a United Church of Christ in 1957, now an independent body of believers as of October seventh of 2004. This was organized first in 1868. Another significant group of faithful was the Oak Grove Christian Church



Pictured is the building that once house the Yeoman Bank, which was closed in the 1940s. Photo Submitted

(Disciples of Christ) which was organized in 1880 representing three other equally significant flocks, those being the Church of the Brethren, Methodist, and the New Dunker Church of God. The Church of God prevailed to become the present body of believers. The original Yeoman Methodist Church building was erected in 1878 and dedicated in 1880; however groundbreaking for the present edifice was performed on May twenty-third of 1965.

The diminutive settlement of Patton was established in 1883 by Hezekiah Patton whose spiritual tendencies were principally German Baptist. This small burg never significantly thrived, although the R.L. Polk Gazetteer showed nine merchants there

ranging from two physicians to a wagon maker, with a cooper, livestock dealer, blacksmith, saw mill, Methodist pastor, and a general store included for good measure.

The town of Yeoman was thrust into the local limelight when the contract for the Oakdale dam was let to the L.R. Myers Construction Company of Chicago in July of 1924 and it was announced in the Logansport Morning Press that "several carloads of material are already on the siding at Yeoman, part of which are being

Unloaded and moved to Oakdale by truck. The dam will be located at a point 1,000 feet north of the wagon bridge at Oakdale. It will be 1,300 feet across."

In the August nineteenth 1924 edition of the Logansport Pharos Tribune there was mention made of the move of the office from Lennox, another name for the present-day town of Yeoman.

The precedent for the present Oakdale dam and related hydroelectric plant was a mill owned by an Anthony Schuetz, which was also paired with a general store. The entire operation was sold to William Underhill for \$13,000, who sold it for taxes to a Richard L. Walker from Croton-on-Hudson, receiving only \$600. This he refused thinking a \$12,000 property should bring more.

Attorney George W. Julien

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**HISTORY,
FROM PAGE 1**

who had the business in hand informed him that the assessor was abroad in the land and if he got another swipe at the property there wouldn't be anything left. The sale and transfer was made and after court costs and attorney fees paid the owner \$200. Today, about 90 years later (in 1924) the property is rated at from two to three million dollars."

Logansport Pharos-Tribune, Tuesday, August nineteenth, 1924. Another allusion to the railroad track at Yeoman was seen in the Logansport Morning Press on Tuesday, October sixth of 1925 which stated that "The railroad truck and track equipment which was between Yeoman and the dam was loaded Saturday and is now on its way to other places. The Link Belt Grade is to go to a job in West Virginia where it is to work on a job which will require two years for completion."

Almost immediately Delphi residents initiated a plan to develop a resort in January of 1928 on land formerly owned by a Sylvanus Cowan. Thus we see just a hint of the importance of the

Jefferson Township area in the development of what is now a state-wide attraction.

The financial life of the Yeoman area was enlivened by a bank holdup in June of 1933, during which Mr. Walter Kennard and Fay Holloway were forced to sit on stools near the counter while the contents of the safe were taken. One of the offenders, Ira Seybold, was arraigned, found guilty, and sentenced to a term of from ten to twenty years. I am quite sure this will elicit responses from my readers

who remember this event.

This was one of many events which occurred by John Dillinger clones during this time period.

Jefferson township has produced its share of notables who were well-known on the local, state, and national scene, one being Mable Sites Fraser, whose father George was a very

well-known farmer of Jefferson Township. Mable, who was born November fourth of 1901, and whose death occurred September eighth of 1971, claimed Myrtle Million also as her mother. She was married to William R. Fraser, who was born August ninth of 1895. Mable was a prominent worker in the Republican

Party, and was a delegate to the Republican Conventions of 1948 and 1952. She was also Republican State Vice Chairman. Her son, the late William Sites Fraser, was born January seventeenth of 1923, and was a Delphi High School graduate in 1941, receiving his B.A from I.U. in 1950 and his M.A from Purdue

University in 1964. He was a speech therapist in Fort Wayne from 1951-1953, and taught speech at Jefferson High School in Lafayette, Indiana from 1954-1958. His prime accomplishment there was in starting WJEF, then WJHS radio station, and on September tenth of 2002 the William S. Fraser Radio-TV Center was dedicated.

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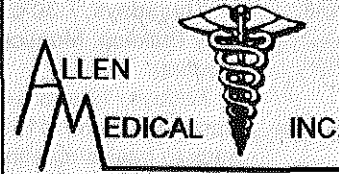
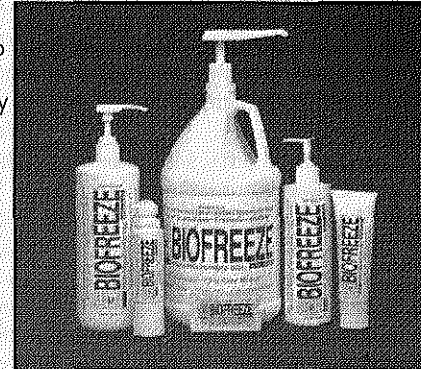
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