

THE HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF DEER CREEK

Located in beautiful Northeastern Carroll County, Indiana

Deer Creek was established on the Michigan Road in 1832 as the Deer Creek Post Office which closed about 1904. In 1875 Solomon Fouts platted the town of West Sonora located on the west 1/2 of the northwest quarter of section 14 in Washington Township. In 1891 a Mr. McCleary recorded a plat for an addition to West Sonora. In 1893, Franklin Fouts recorded a second addition to West Sonora.

Not only was Deer Creek also known as West Sonora, but it had the nickname of Henpeck for several years. It was said to have received the nickname of Henpeck because in the village was a tavern and a general store where men of the vicinity spent much of their time loafing. Their wives would become exasperated and would go to the tavern to get their husbands. On such an occasion the men would remark, "isn't that fellow henpecked?" It happened so often that the men remarked among themselves, "Surely this place is henpecked."

As early as 1851 it was an important point along the Michigan Road. Benjamin Smith operated a sawmill and tavern at this spot and had a stock of goods in his tavern. Thomas DeFord had a blacksmith shop.

There are still some folks around Deer Creek who can remember the Deer Creek of the 1930-1950's having as many as 5 filling stations and 5 stores at a time. Bert Appleton had a business that included groceries, tinsmith, and hardware. Amos Spangler's grandpa had Spangler and Jones Dry Goods in a building that still stands today on the west side of the highway. "Quack" Brown had a gas pump and a small grocery store. McDowell ran a restaurant and a garage. Beck and Gardner ran it before McDowell. There was a Poundstone Grocery Store in the Oddfellows building with the Oddfellows meeting on the second floor. There was also a Masonic Building. Mr. Kushon had a pool room and a card room. John Cornell had a garage. Orvie Harmon had a barber shop. Other barbers in Deer Creek included Johnny Kushmel and John West. Aaron McFatrige had a gas station. Deer Creek physicians have included Dr. Cooper, Dr. Moore, and Dr. Eagan among others. The Deer Creek Phone Company existed until the 1950's. Sisters Veena Bryant and Effie Cornell ran the phone company and were the sole operators for years. A Mr. Bridge had ran it before them. Billy Seagraves lived in Deer Creek and he took care of and repaired all of the phone lines.

Deer Creek High school closed its doors in 1958. It was the home of the basketball team, the Deer Creek Crickets. The basketball games were played in the Flora Community Gym. Deer Creek High School had an auditorium and many class plays were put on it. North Central School, located on the corner of 800N and 500E, was built in 1917. Some of the teachers remembered as teaching at North Central were Helen Huston, Geneva Jones, Effie Guiken, Ruby Knight, Charline Yeager Robeson, and Kenny Cornell.

In 2003, Deer Creek is home to the Deer Creek Presbyterian Church, Deer Creek Garage, Betty's Stop and Shop, Myer's Exteriors, Lesh Advertising, Deer Creek Business Enterprises, Deer Creek Park, and the Deer Creek Community Center. The Deer Creek Festival is held annually in August. Lois Wallace has served as Washington Township Trustee since 1991.