



March 2017

WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Box 256 Indianola, IA 50125

Phone-515-961-8085

(Highway 92 West, 1400 West 2nd, turn north into fair grounds, then turn east)

E-mail- contact@warrencountyhistory.org

Inside This Issue

- Page 3 Toby Tent Shows
- Page 4 Clanton Creek Bridge
- Page 5 WC Covered Bridges
- Page 6 Lucy Snider White

WCHS ANNUAL MEETING

**Tues. 7:00 pm
March 28**

Kent Halstead

**Music of
Revolutionary War**

WCHS EXECUTIVE BOARD

**Sat. at 9:30
April 8th**

LCF COMMITTEE

**Sat. at 10:30
April 8th**

**NO APRIL 8th
FARMER'S MARKET
They will be at
Middle School Gym**

WCHS MEETING

**Tues. April 25
Dave Brown
Indianola Videos**

WCHS EXECUTIVE BOARD

**Sat. at 9:30
May 13th**

LCF COMMITTEE

**Sat. at 10:30
May 13th**

Burger King has discontinued its non profit fundraising program so we will no longer have our 4th Tuesday Burger King night. We thank them for their previous support.

WCHS 2017 ANNUAL MEETING

The WCHS will hold its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, March 28 at 7:00 pm. Burger King has discontinued its non profit fundraising program so our members will no longer need to eat at Burger King on the 4th Tuesday evening.

This is the proposed slate of WCHS 2017 officers: President, Darlene Lawyer; 1st Vice President, Deb Taylor; 2nd Vice President, Brenda Morgan; Secretary, Alice Brito, and Treasurer, Judy McClymond. We will elect new officers at this meeting.

We no longer elect our Building Trustees. Our 2017 Building Trustees will be Dave Grisom, Dwight McCormick, Dan Porter, Don Sandy and Dick Labertew. One of the things that they will be studying is the possibility of an outdoor overhang that would provide cover over our dining room entrance.

PLEASE SAVE HYVEE RECEIPTS

WCHS is now collecting Indianola HyVee receipts. Please save your grocery, pharmacy and gas receipts from the Indianola HyVee and drop them off at the museum. When we get \$100,000 in receipts, we will receive \$350.00 from HyVee.



PIECED LCF QUILT

Debbie Simpson has pieced our 2017 LCF quilt, and it is ready to be quilted. She also is creating two barn quilts for our raffle. We will have raffle tickets available this summer.

The 2017 LCF theme will be **Warren County Tunes Into The 40s**. The dates for this year's LCF are Saturday, September 23rd and Sunday, September 24th. Kristi is looking for people to help with children and youth activities, organizers for a Saturday evening dance, and a multitude of other things. If you would like to help, join us Saturday, April 8th at 10:30 am to plan and discuss LCF 2017.

CONTINUE TO COLLECT USED INK /TONER CARTRIDGES

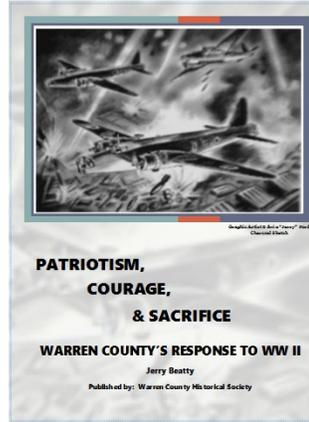
In February WCHS used OfficeMax/OfficeDepot rewards from 3 members to buy a new router for 79 cents.

You can help by bringing in cartridges to us or by setting up an OfficeMax/OfficeDepot account and sharing your certificates. Here is how:

1. Sign up for OfficeMax/OfficeDepot rewards at any store or at their website. (Free)
2. Take as many as 10 used ink cartridges to one of the stores no more than once a month (10 per month limit)
3. Purchase at least \$10 worth of merchandise.
4. When you receive notice by e-mail that your rewards have been posted to your account, print up the certificate and bring it to the WCHS.
5. We will combine different members certificates to "buy" office equipment and supplies for the museum. If you have questions about this, talk to Ruth Hall.

NEW ACQUISITIONS

Sheriff Bill Mathew presentation clock and campaign plaque, Steve & Dick Mathews
 Barnett/Blackford Genealogy, Annette Rath
 Research notes of Record Herald 2016 articles, Elodie Opstad
 Glass display case, Dewain and Lula Clausen
 Ackworth Academy photo, atlases, Bible, shoes, miscellaneous papers, Lynn Van Clark
 Ink drawing of train station by James Graham, Mary McCormick
 1960s wedding photos from Record Herald
 War Hawk Year Books 89 & 90, 1991 SE Warren graduation class photo, Jamie Rath
 Blackford Family History, Susan Graeser
 John Taylor Scrapbooks, Janis Taylor
 Slide projector, Deb Taylor
 Norwalk basketball team photo, Myrna Barkley
Our Own Country, and Hawthorne photos, Richard Wood
 Photos and articles, Shirley Clark
 10 Don Berry framed photos, Indianola Record Herald
 Two display cases, Balloon Museum



Jerry is hard at work on Patriotism, Courage, & Sacrifice: Warren County's Response to WW II.

Jerry Beatty would like you to share your or a family member's personal experiences, photos, and memorabilia concerning World War II. Don't forget the

memories of those who were left here on the home front. Did anyone work at the Des Moines Ordnance Plant in Ankeny making .30 and .50 caliber bullets?

Call Jerry at 515-961-3088 or jerrykbeatty42@gmail.com

FROM WCHS ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE:

Planned Legacy and Memorial Gifts ensure that your lifetime support and passion for Warren County History will be sustained into the future.

WARREN COUNTY TIDBITS



Coal Creek Bridge in northeast Warren County was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1998. During heavy flooding in the last few years it was swept away. It has been removed from the National Register.

This Pratt Pony Truss bridge was built in 1889. The 88-foot (27 m) span carried traffic on Fillmore Street over Coal Creek. The Warren County Board of Supervisors contracted with the Seevers Manufacturing Company of Oskaloosa, Iowa to build this bridge.

Lacona fire destroyed two churches, city hall, a house and barn. Fire began in barn belonging to W.K. Scott. Fanned by a stiff breeze, it quickly spread to his house and to the other buildings. The Lacona Fire Department was hampered by the loss of equipment when city hall burned. Chariton and Milo aided in fighting the blaze.

From June 17, 1933, Des Moines Register, Photographer Bede Irvin



Oct. 8, 1944 Des Moines Register, Clarence Conard's farm near New Virginia. Herman 12, Doris 16, Clarence and Mrs. Conard



Farmers can get repairs night or day from Clarence Conard's workshop 2 1/4 miles east of New Virginia on Highway 205. He can overhaul a tractor, car, harness; shoe a horse or put soles on your shoes; or build new equipment.



Dorothy "Dot" Sund



Jess Sund

Kathi has renewed our Toby Tent Show Booth in the museum basement. This has caused me to reminisce about the Tilton tent shows I attended in my hometown of Greene in the 1950s. We were too small a town to be a regular stop but a retired, resident-tent show actress got them to set-up in an empty lot next to the Rock Island Depot, when they had an open schedule.

My parent's dry cleaners was open till 9:00 pm summer, Saturday evenings so my dad was often working. I was not allowed to go to the local movie theater unless it showed a religious movie like *Sampson & Delilah* or *Quo Vadis*. However, my parents allowed me go to the Toby tent show with my friend and her parents. The live performance thrilled me.

I remember the blend of smells in the tent - grass wet with the dew, popcorn popping, women's perfume and cigarette smoke. The main character Toby, a red haired, freckle faced country bumpkin, had a good heart but got into trouble because of his bragging and involvement in "get rich quick" schemes. From the moment the curtain opened those that attended were kept laughing or in suspense due to the actors' antics on the stage.

On Saturday night there was a double feature. At intermission and between the two plays prizes like lamps, figurines, etc. were awarded. I can't remember if these were door prizes or people bought extra chances to win. Maybe it was both. The experience of these amazing, live plays, made me love live performances. The Toby tent shows bridged the entertainment gap between the Chautauqua and television. TV caused families to stay at home and brought the demise of the tent show.

Many young actors got their early experience in these shows. One was movie star Ralph Bellamy. Bellamy ran away from home in Illinois when he was 15 and managed to get into an Iowa tent road show. He toured with the road shows before finally landing in New York City.

The Shaffner players covered Iowa and the Midwest with many traveling troops. The touring group in my north central area was the Tiltons and this area it was the Sun Players (formerly the Hatcher Players) starring Jesse Sund as Toby and his wife, Dorothy (Dot) as Susie. The Hatcher/Sun Players were headquartered in New Market, IA for 21 years.

Dot was born in Des Moines in 1913 and Jess was born in 1906. She started in tent shows in 1932. Dot married Jess in 1942, and they worked with the Hatcher Players.

In 1950 they reorganized as the Sun Players. They stored items during the winter in Maryville, MO and recruited college students as staff and actors. The tent was 50 feet by 120 feet. They played Indianola where the old Hy Vee was located.

Dot and Jesse moved to 506 South E Street, Indianola to take care of their Aunt Henrietta Sinderson (1901-1983). Her husband Ross Lynn Sinderson had died here in 1967. I found an ad in the [Des Moines Register](#) for Harlan Amusements, a Show of Rides and Concessions from Mr. Sinderson in 1919, so he must have been involved in the entertainment business also.

Ad from Sept. 28, 1916, *Advocate*

"After the Minnows Comes the Whale"
27 Years-Everlasting Success-27 Years

TERRY'S
BIG UNCLE TOM'S CABIN
TENT SHOW

KING and MONARCH of them all - FOREVER
FOREMOST :: Newest Edition of the Oldest Hit



Indianola Tuesday, October 10

Exhibiting in monster waterproof canvas (100 ft. x 120 ft.) seating 2,000 people. Three bands, Drum Corps, 50 Actors Dancers, Specialty and Colored people.



The Sunds continued to live on South E after Henrietta died in 1983. They stored tents and other items at the end of South E Street. An aside from Jim Patrick—the Chitwood's Car Show also stored things at the end of South E.

Dot died in 1999 and Jess in 1990 and are buried here. Our society was given their props and costumes.

For further research be sure to visit The Theatre Museum and Research Library in Mt. Pleasant which is dedicated to Tent, Repertoire, and Folk Theatre. **Resources:** Interview by Jim Patrick of Dot & Jesse, Memories from Linda Beatty

CLANTON CREEK BRIDGE

Indianola Record, Sept 6, 1922

The old covered bridge of Clanton Creek, about a quarter of a mile this side of the Madison County line, is the last of the covered bridges of Warren County. Those of us who still consider ourselves young remember when every main road in the county was carried over the principal streams by covered bridges. We used to drive into and through their shadowy tunnels, peak out through holes in the side where some obstreperous colt had kicked a board off, or down through a hole in the floor and see the water flowing by with the feeling that we had spied on some unseen power that was trying to hide from us. To our childish imaginations these bridges, rumbling to the horses' hoof beats and echoing to the steel tires bumping from board to board, were a kind of cave of mystery. On any long drive into the country the covered bridge, while topographically the low spot, was in interest the high spot of the journey.

But the covered bridges have gone with many other objects into the discard with the advancing steel age. Why were these bridges covered? They were made of wooden trusses instead of steel as are our present bridges, and these trusses were of such expense that it was economy for the county to pay for several roofs and even new sides in order to keep the rain and snow and frost from rotting the wooden truss beams. But with the advent of steel, which will last forever, if kept painted, there passed the need for the coverings as paint is cheaper than lumber and shingles.

This particular bridge on Clanton Creek is about three and 1/2 miles southeast of Wick and the same distance northeast of St. Charles. It lies just back of the residence of Geo. Meilike in Jackson Township. It was built in 1872. It was condemned for heavy traffic several years ago, but it has remained in use until the past few weeks, when the dredge cut the new channel of Clanton Creek across the road a little way west of it. This channel has effectually closed the road until a new bridge is built, and when it is put in it will in all probability be so located as to cross the new channel and the old channel at their intersection. So, the old bridge may not be said to be abandoned for good and all except as it is used by Mr. Meilike in going to his field across the from his house.

The location of the bridge there used to be a ford on the creek. The first bridge built was a simple, open bridge without truss, but this did not long withstand the high waters for which Clanton Creek has always been noted. While the ford was in use, John Stewart, who later became treasurer of Warren County attempted to cross one day with his wife and baby when the water was higher than he had supposed. In the sweep of the water Mrs. Stewart was drowned and the baby floated down the swift current, kept on the surface of the water by the heavy wrappings around its little body. Before the blankets took up enough water to sink the precious bundle, it lodged on some brush and Alex McGinnis, who lived where Mr. Meilike now lives, swam out and rescued it.

The replacing of this bridge with a new one across both channels is now a bone of contention between the supervisors of Madison and Warren Counties. It seems there was an agreement between the two counties many years ago that the north half of the county line road should be maintained by Warren County and the south half by Madison County. On account of the fact that a road on the line opposite this particular point would have involved crossing a slough, and building three bridges on Clanton Creek, the road a quarter of a mile east of the county line was substituted for the county line road and has always been maintained by Madison County. Now, Madison County has opened a road a quarter of a mile west of the county line and wants to make it take the place of the road that has been established these fifty and more years. To this the Warren County Board is objecting and claims that it is the duty of Madison County under the contract to maintain this road and put in the bridge.

Clanton Creek was named for the three brothers, Joel M., Charles William and Isaac Clanton who moved in 1846 with their families along Clanton Creek in Madison County.



From the 1895 Iowa Geological Survey done by Simpson College Professor J.L. Tilton, we find that there is no county in Iowa that is better watered and better drained than Warren County.

The North, Middle and South Rivers, with other small streams, afford water privileges and a natural drainage system which is not surpassed in any other county in the state.

Covered Bridges in Warren County excerpted from *The Palimpsest*, 1970, pages 493-496

Warren County Leader for January 19, 1871 reported this action by the Supervisors: Your committee appointed to superintend the letting and building of a bridge across North River at Bell's farm would now report: Your committee met September 12th, selected the site and let contract to P. Bucklew for \$700 in addition to amount subscribed. Said bridge is a high sided lattice bridge, 70 foot span, 30 feet apron on the North and 25 feet on the South end, all of good pine material. We received said bridge in November...

Warren County Leader, September 15, 1870 reports the following resolution passed by the Board: Resolved that there be appropriated from the bridge fund the sum of \$500 for the purpose of enclosing and covering the bridge across Middle River, south of Churchville. Said bridge to be high sided. (Later they reduced the appropriation by \$100)

Warren County Leader, September 12, 1872: Resolved that an appropriation of \$150 out of the bridge fund be made to aid in building a bridge over Clanton Creek near the residence of Alexander McGinnis to be expended under the supervision of John Wood and B.C. Berry...

Berry told the Board: I contracted with Mr. McCarty for the building of a low latticed bridge fifty feet span for the sum of \$525, including a subscription of \$195 from parties interested, that the work has been completed according to contract.

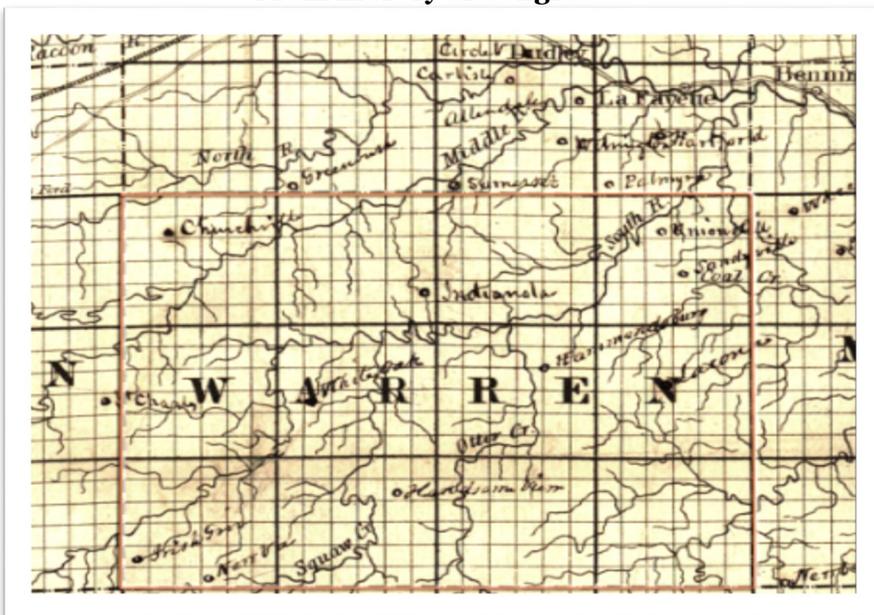
Blanche Seid Lanning reported in a letter to J.A. Wymore, May 25, 1959, that "There was a covered bridge across Middle River about a mile south of the Owen Bridge." She indicated the bridge was torn down between 1900 and 1902. "There was another covered bridge across North River at what is now Carlisle Park." It was probably dismantled between 1900 and 1902.

Leader, September 15, 1870 reports: Supervisors contract for the building of a bridge across Otter Creek on the Hammondsburg and Osceola road. Thomas Barrett will build an enclosed lattice bridge of seven feet sides, fifty feet span, and sixty feet approaches, all of pine for \$805.

Don Berry reported Spaulding's Bridge spanned South River about a mile above the State Road Bridge. State Road Bridge was located south of Indianola and bridged the South River. Summerset Bridge spanned Middle River.

1850 Map of Warren County

From Library of Congress



At the time of this map, the upper tier of Warren County Townships ("The Strip") were a part of Polk County. "The Strip" was returned to Warren County in 1852. The return was minus some area in Allen and Richland Townships. "they are clearly of the opinion that the said tier of townships originally belonged to Warren and that the same was subsequently annexed to Polk, by an act of the legislature, when Warren was unrepresented" further, it was the opinion of the committee that "justice and equity require that said tier of townships should be re-annexed to Warren County," Page 136, *Journal of the House*, 4th General Assembly

WARREN COUNTY CREEKS

from iowa.hometownlocator.com/features/physical.class.stream.scfips.1981.cfm

Creek Name	USG Topo Map	Primary Zip Code
Badger Creek		Norwalk
Box Elder Creek		New Virginia
Broadhorn Creek		New Virginia
Buck Creek		Milo
Bull Run		Norwalk
Butcher Creek		Hartford
Cavitt Creek		Scotch Ridge
Clanton Creek		Martensdale
Coal Creek		Sandyville
Cotton Creek		Newbern
Felters Branch		Norwalk
Flank Creek		Norwalk
Limestone Creek		Truro
Middle Creek		Otley
Otter Creek		Milo
Painter Creek		Martensdale
Papoose Creek		New Virginia
Plug Run		Scotch Ridge
Sants Branch		Martensdale
Short Creek		Hartford
Skinsway Creek		Medora
Squaw Creek		Indianola
Steels Branch		Patterson
Stony Creek		Newbern
Turkery Creek		Indianola
Turkey Creek		Martinsdale
White Breast		Lacona
Winn Branch		Newbern

WARREN COUNTY PIONEER, LUCY ANN SNYDER WHITE

Lucy was born in Richland County, Ohio May 18, 1838 to Andrew and Elizabeth “Mosher” Snyder. When a small child, her family moved by covered wagon from Ohio to Missouri. They did not own slaves like their neighbors so had no social recognition.

In 1846 they moved from Missouri to Warren County, IA because Iowa was becoming a state and opening new areas for settlement. Warren County was unsettled and had Native Americans traveling and camping here. This made security and protection uncertain for white settlers.

There were only two families living north of North River and they were the Joseph Young family and his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Crow.

The Snyder family located there for two weeks but decided to move into Old Fort Des Moines for a while. There was no town but a few scattered log houses and buildings along the Raccoon River on the site of what is now Des Moines’ Cherry Street. Here government soldiers were stationed to protect the settlers.

The family moved to where Norwalk is now located. Later her father hired a guide to locate for them a place known as “Crusse’s Grove”, which is about where Churchville is now located. They lived here but a short time and returned to Norwalk where much of the country was heavily wooded and here Mr. Snyder bought a claim and built a log house 18 by 20 feet. Greased paper was used for 18 inch square windows, and it had puncheon (hewn not sawn) floor and door. It had a fireplace almost as large as one wall of the house. A large log was rolled into the fireplace and served for cooking as well as heating.

Twelve persons lived in this one room house one winter. The first year the Snyders had to travel to Oskaloosa, 60 miles away, for groceries and wheat flour. There was a grist mill for corn, but they could not afford to go there. They cooked corn on the cob and then grated it into flour.

The United States furnished these scattered families with their mail. Samuel Snyder, brother to Lucy, was the first government mail carrier. Over swollen streams that had to be forded and across dangerous country, he carried mail from Ft. Des Moines to Winterset. Some days he would have but two letters to deliver. He was paid \$130 per year but he continued for three years and at the end of that period had received only \$130. He continued and finally was paid his full salary.

The settlement continued to grow . One of their neighbors was Hoyt Sherman. There were no schools until one was built at Greenbush a few miles away.

On January 9, 1855 Lucy Snyder and George W. White were married. Soon they moved near Shannon City in Ringgold County. They returned to what is known as the North River settlement and lived for a time southeast of the present site of Norwalk. Later, they located in old Ft. Des Moines where they lived a short time while hunting a suitable location. About 1858 they moved north of Norwalk and raised ten children. Lucy lived here until her death October 25, 1933.

George W. White was born in Pennsylvania to William and Elizabeth White July 11, 1830. He enlisted in the Civil War October 5, 1862 and served in Company H of the 34th Iowa Infantry for three years. Lucy was left at home to care for three children.

Lucy was a charter member of the Norwalk Methodist Church.

From February 20, 1930 *Herald* and a transcription by Nancy Denly Breidenthal of an unknown 1929 publication

Join WCHS Tuesday, March 28 at 7:00 pm for our 2017 Annual Meeting and election of officers. The program will be Music of the American Revolution by Middle School Teacher Kent Halstead. He will be assisted by Kyrstan Kenne, Ruth and Steve Hall’s grand-daughter.



As former Mayor George Hladky used to say, “Someone cares. Pass it along.”

Darlene Lawyer, who has been serving as WCHS 1st Vice President, wanted to express how thankful we are for our wonderful volunteers. As we change officers in March, we do not have the words to describe the generosity of heart and soul that comes from people who volunteer on a regular basis. A special THANK YOU to the dedicated members of the Executive Committee, Building Committee, and Endowment Committee. These committee members, who give of their time and talent, keep this organization running. As Erma Bombeck said, “Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation’s compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another.”

WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

E-mail _____

\$15 New Renewal Gift

Check areas in which you would wish to volunteer:

Pioneer School Cleaning Days LCF
 Filing Data Entry Painting
 Outdoor Work Display Design Research

Take a few moments to renew or join Warren County Historical Society. At our March Executive Committee Meeting, we decided to change our membership year from March-February, to the calendar year beginning in January and ending in December. We also will be raising our dues to \$20.00 in 2017.



You can join now for \$15.00.

Pioneer School Cleaning Day

Thursday, April 27th

9:00 am

**Wear your old clothes and
bring your brooms!**

OLDEST IOWAN DIES, Warren County Native



When Tressa Myrtle Epps was born on March 30, 1905 in Summerset, Warren County, Iowa to Albert and Bertha Epps there were only 45 stars on the US flag and Teddy Roosevelt was President.

She married Grant Bartholomew on December 24, 1924 in Indianola, Iowa. They had 4 children: Newton, Mariglee, Avis and Joyce. She had 13 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren and 54 great-great-grandchildren. The **Supercentenarian** passed away on February 5, 2017 at her home in Carlisle.

She was a homemaker and lived her entire life in central Iowa. She lived 56 years in her house on Pennsylvania Avenue. She loved music and played piano at the Baptist Church Sunday School for many years. Her favorite

possession was her piano, which was purchased when she began lessons over 100 years ago. She took piano lessons at

the Randleman House, which was one of the few houses on the north side of Pennsylvania Street at the time. She had been verified by

Gerontology Research Group as Iowa's oldest resident, 7th oldest in the United States and 44th in the world.

WCHS COLLECTIONS POLICY

The Collections Committee, consisting of 5 members with varied interests and familiarity with the museum collection and space constraints, will be appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee.

Criteria for determining whether an object should be accessioned:

1. The object is consistent with the Society's mission
2. The object is documented as having been made or used in Warren County or has Warren County relevance
3. The object is in good condition
4. The Society can properly store and preserve the object
5. The object is so unusual that it presents an exceptional opportunity for the Society and thus should be given preferential consideration
6. The acceptance of the object in all probability will not result in major future expenses for the Society
7. The object enhances our collection

The Collection Committee shall recommend items for deaccession if:

1. The object is a duplicate of an item already in the collection
2. The item is deteriorated
3. The item does not in any way illuminate the history of Warren County or the lives of the people who lived there
4. The item cannot be given the necessary care or preservation
5. The item is inferior to others in the collection and has no history attached

The WCHS Executive Committee will discuss the proposed deaccession and by simple majority vote, confirm or reject the deaccession of the item. Objects approved for removal from the collection may be disposed of by:

1. Offering the item to another museum or educational institution
2. Offering the item for public sale
3. Destruction of the item in an efficient and respectful manner
4. Offering to family

Any funds generated through the sale of deaccession shall be used for collection care and management

RIGHT HERE IN RIVER CITY, and I'm talking about POOL

Strange things have been happening here since a juvenile court judge ordered local officials to ban everyone under 21 from Indiana's two busy billiard halls. Judge Earl W. Vincent of Guthrie Center is enforcing Iowa law that prohibits operators of pool or billiard halls from allowing minors into their places of business.

Parents, school leaders, councilmen, and college spokesmen weren't convinced that such a ban—even though it conforms with state law—will do anyone good.

Immediate results of the order were: 1. The community, long one of Iowa's dry spots, acquired a new beer tavern, its third to take the place of a "recreation center" that had offered a "good, clean place for youngsters. 2. Both billiard halls in this Warren County city of 5, 146 promptly lost business—at their game tables and over their lunch, soft drink and candy counters. 3. Young folks and others began to wonder when they'll have a youth center—long needed here.

The whole thing came to the surface as Judge Vincent heard a delinquency case against four boys here, accused of forcing their way into the Empress Theater and stealing admission tickets the night of February 5th.

Three of these lads were 15 and one was 6

During routine questioning, the court inquired as to where the boys spent their time outside school hours. One reported that he went to the movies several times a week and frequented the billiard hall on occasions.

Judge Vincent lifted his brows and remarked: "We've got a state law to keep boys of this age out of pool halls. Why isn't it enforced here?"

The attorney for the boys promptly sent out subpoenas for the mayor, police chief and billiard hall owners to get the answer.

Mayor L.H. Myers, long a druggist here; Chief Dana Buckles; John Gilbert of the Gilbert and Cox Billiard Hall; and E H. Fetters, of the newer Deluxe Recreation Parlor, each admitted he was aware of the state law—but explained enforcement had been held off because of public sentiment

The Judge termed such a lack of enforcement "outrageous" and criticized officials for permitting the condition that "contributed to the delinquency of minors."



Mayor
Myers

The ban went on—promptly and completely. It even spread throughout the county's small towns.

At Saturday's meeting Mayor Meyers remarked, "As they have operated here our billiard halls have been a good thing for the town. They permitted no gambling of any kind. They sold no beer. Anyone who ever was in one of the halls would be a booster for it. The boys had fun in these places without harm.

Fetters had previously asked for a beer license but had been refused. That is when he opened the billiard hall. He said, "This ruling on minors is causing me to close my billiard hall. I'm moving back to Albia to work in auto sales."

The billiard crowd had been slim and receipts were down at the Gilbert and Cox Pool Hall also.

The large crowd in attendance at the meeting had mixed feelings about the ban on minors. Leaders were puzzling over what to offer the younger set, including the college set, in the way of entertainment.



Hoyman

Superintendent Hoyman said, "We need a youth center, something more than our school projects and church programs can offer. The town would be better off to have a center and keep the young people out of their cars at night, or at noon, or after school."

Businessman Fetters said he would donate two of his pool tables to a youth center.

From April 8, 1951 Sunday Des Moines Register and written by J.L. Smith



Fetters, "Things were going swell."