

WHITESTOWN
BOONE COUNTY, INDIANA

CENTENNIAL

1851 - 1951

PROGRAM
AND HISTORY

**WHITESTOWN, INDIANA
CENTENNIAL**

July, 6, 7, 8, 1951

PROGRAM

(All Time C. D. S. T.)

FRIDAY, JULY 6th

- Afternoon—2:00 Official Opening of the Centennial.
Evening—7:00 Arcadia German Band.
7:45 "Harmonettes" of Frankfort.
8:15 Lebanon High School Band.
9:15 Music.

SATURDAY, JULY 7th

- Morning—11:00 Contests for Boys and Girls.
Afternoon—1:00 Parade.
2:00 Governor Henry Schricker, speaker.
3:00 Crowning of the Centennial Queen.
3:15 Introduction of Guests.
3:30 Awarding of Prizes.
3:45 Lebanon Lions Club Band.
Evening—7:00 Sunset Trio.
8:00 Talent Show.
9:00 Special Entertainment.
10:00 Music.

SUNDAY, JULY 8th

- Morning—10:30 Union Church Service.
Afternoon—2:30 Dover High School Band Concert.
3:45 Sunset Trio.
Evening—8:30 Special Show.

History of Whitestown, Indiana

Compiled by Mrs. Catherine McMakin

Whitestown, the center of one of the best agricultural districts in Boone county, located in Worth Township and situated on the Indianapolis, Cincinnati and Lafayette Railroad, was founded in the year of 1851.

Going back more than 100 years the vicinity is described as a vast wilderness, with a heavy growth of dense timber of unusually fine fibre and water all around, running at will with no apparent place to leave the swampland.

Worth township, however has the distinction of being the highest and most level of any of the twelve townships in Boone county with no stream of any size within its boundaries. It is said that the highest point between the Great Lakes and the Ohio River is midway between Whitestown and Lebanon on the railway.

The early pioneers of the community came from Tennessee, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Virginia. A few hardy pioneers settling in the woods, built cabins, cleared patches here and there, had log rollings, house raisings; then improvements came gradually.

The pioneers underwent privations and hardships that the present generation know nothing about. Descendants of the early settlers are still carrying on the traditions of the town and country.

The original name conferred was New Germantown, but some difficulty was experienced in securing a postoffice under that name, so it was changed to Whitestown.

There is some difference of opinion on how the town derived its name. A Historical Atlas of Boone County published in 1878 states the town was named in honor of Hon. Albert S. White, the first president of the I. C. & L. Railroad (which runs through town) and a member of Congress from this district at that time. Others claim it was named for Lemuel White, the first white man who came to the community.

The first plat was laid out on section 19 on the land of Ambrose or Abram Nease. The first merchant was Har-

rimon Spencer, followed soon after by Henry Lucas and William Laughner.

The first election was held in 1852 and Henry Lucas was chosen Justice of Peace.

Among those doing business in an early day in various capacities were: William T. Givens, David Eichman and Caesar Eichman, dry goods; F. M. Moody, groceries and station agent; Nease and Keefe, bakery; J. S. Harmon and J. T. Ross, drugs; J. W. Bowser, grain dealer and proprietor of a warehouse on the south side of the railroad.

Postmasters: Henry Lucas, Dr. Ross, Henry Walters, S. M. Trout and J. O. Barb. Doctors, I. T. Ross, Starkey, Larimore and J. S. Hardy.

There were two stave factories, three blacksmith shops, two wagon shops, and one steam saw mill. The first grist mill was built by Isaac Dye and Alfred Osburn.

The railroad through town was completed about the time Whitestown was founded which afforded a convenient outlet for the produce.

Names listed among those who came as pioneers were: Richard Hull, John and James McCord, James White, Thomas Harmon, Adam Kettering, Joseph White, John Smith, Philip Lucas, John Neese, Solmon Neese, Abraham Hedrick, Mose Neese, John Isenhour, Louis and George Hauser, David Ray, Benjamin Booher, Samuel Ray, Henry Lucas, George Lucas, William Staton, Christopher Bowers, Daniel Buck, John Peters, the Sanders family, Laughners, Schoolers, Utterbacks, Engledows, Harmons, Ottingers, Bohannons and Goods.

The first school in Worth Township was taught by Henry Lucas in 1837 in a log cabin. This was a free school being sustained by funds derived from the sale of the congressional lands within the county.

One of the early schools in Whitestown was located where the home and office of Dr. Harvey Lovett now is located. Mrs. Sarah Laughner Goodwin, age 92, attended this school at the age of ten.

The present grade school building was built in 1896, the

high school, 1915, and the gym connecting the two completed in 1941.

One of the early frame school buildings was moved into Whitestown, made into a residence and is now occupied by Hallie Scott.

Worth township trustees were: Henry Lucas, Jos. Westner, George Hauser, George Hedrick, John Schooler, Samuel N. Good, John Barnes, Vando Booher, Dr. Jordan, Seymour Stewart, Sanford Turner, Samuel West, Walter Schooler Adolphus Dulin, Herbert Markland, Allie Neese, Charles Essex, Adelbert Neese, and Irvin Peters the present township trustee.

Religious services were conducted for a time wherever possible. A log house was erected by the Disciples or Christians in 1840 on section 19 within the present limit of Whitestown. It was used a number of years then after the congregation built a more commodious one it was sold to David Ray, who occupied it as a wagon shop.

Methodist Church

Methodism in Whitestown had its beginning about 1852 by Rev. Tandy Gossett.

The first Methodist church was organized in a wagon shop near where Alonzo Powell now resides. It was quite a large structure and material was moved out and seats placed for the first congregation to hear Rev. Nathaniel Gossett, a local preacher. Afterward a church was organized with a Mr. Ray, the shop owner, as class leader. The congregation moved from the wagon shop to the school house. A revival was held in February 1868 and in March the present Methodist church was organized. In September, 1868 a new frame church on the present site was dedicated and taken into conference in 1869 while under the charge of the Rev. C. A. Brooks, organizer. In 1905 the present church was erected, and in the last few years modernized.

Fifty-one pastors have served the church. The present pastor, Rev. James E. Byrd, came in the fall of 1942 and has served the charge for the longest period.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

St. Marks Lutheran Church had its early beginning as a little band of worshipers in a log cabin about 1934. As the group increased and need was felt for a larger worshiping place they moved to a spot where the Old Lutheran church now stands, 1½ miles east and north of Whitestown, and where Daniel Buck one of its worshipers was buried in the Lutheran cemetery. The date on the tombstone, still standing is 1835. On a site nearby this cemetery the men built a log cabin which served as the first church building. The cabin was soon replaced by a larger building and to this church the settlers came. The Rev. E. S. Henkel, an early Lutheran circuit rider was responsible for forming the tiny congregation. In 1842 the group accepted an offer to unite with a few Campellites (forerunners of the Christian denomination) and erected a new frame structure in Whitestown. The new church was called Newtown church. Rev. Miles J. Stirewalt in 1866 became its first regular pastor.

In the spring of 1869, on the site where the present church stands, a new brick church was built. It was during this period the name was changed to St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran. This church was dedicated August 15, 1869 and had 41 charter members.

Whitestown's eldest person, Mrs. Sarah Laughner Goodwin, received the sacrament of Holy Baptism from the Rev. Henkel, was the first infant baptized in the Newtown church.

The passing years brought about changes and the present St. Mark's church was built and dedication services held on January 29, 1905. During the course of years times called for improvements and redecoration and now St. Mark's is one of Whitestown's modern worship structures. The church has had 18 full time pastors, Rev. Wilford C. Butt came in April, 1951, as its 19th regular minister.

Baptist Church

The Baptist church started with tent meetings in Stark's park, the interest grew and following a tent meeting, October 9, 1902, a group remained who had a desire to organize.

A group organized and perfected plans, and on May 22, 1903 decided to build. The dedicatory service was conducted by Dr. E. W. Lausberry on the first Sunday in January 1904. The Rev. A. H. Allen was the first pastor called after the church was completed. The building committee was composed of a Mr. Barnes, T. C. Hager, Alex Hull, Isaac Isenhour, J. N. Stark and Landy Cline. Those elected first trustees were: J. W. Peters, W. E. Livengood, T. C. Hager and W. H. Dulin, treasurer.

The church has undergone various improvements recently and is growing under the leadership of Rev. John O. McIntyre, who was called in November, 1949 to serve the charge as its fifteenth regular minister.

Town Incorporated—Officials Elected

March 1, 1947 an election was held for or against the incorporating of Whitestown, which carried by a margin of 53 votes. The first town election was held July 26, 1947, with John Hull, Wayne Dodson and Minnice Sortor elected trustees, and Robert G. McMakin, clerk-treasurer. The present town board members are John Hull, William Merl Engledow and Donald Sortor; Robert G. McMakin, clerk-treasurer. Isaac Wilson serves as town marshal. Richard W. Adney is the town attorney.

A special census of Whitestown was taken March 8, 1948 and numbered 499.

Organizations of the Town

The Lions Club was organized in November, 1944 by a delegation of Lions from Zionsville and Lebanon, assisted by Bryan B. Blalock, special representative for Lions International. In December the club received its charter and became the 199th Lions Club in the State. The late Robert Linville Jr., served as first president. Other presi-

dents were John Duncan, Arthur T. Whitmore, Clyde O. Laughner, Cecil Gifford, with Clyde Roseboom now serving, and George McDaniel, president-elect.

The Donald Pipes American Legion Post No. 410 was organized in 1946 with Eugene Essex first Commander. Other commanders were Noah Byrnett, Ivan E. Harmon. Leathel Beckham, Aurel Dodson, and present Commander Everett Allen.

Organizations besides the Whitestown church groups include, Masonic Celestial Lodge No. 525, Order of Eastern Star No. 248, Legion Auxiliary, Parent-Teachers Association, Mothers Club, Alpha Delta Sorority, Girls and Boys 4-H and Scout groups, Farm Bureau, Citizens Telephone Company, Fire Department; two Home Economics Clubs and various social clubs.

Eldest Residents of the Town

Mrs. Sarah Laughner Goodwin, who will be 93, June 23 1951, is the eldest lady residing in Whitestown, and Allen Pollard, who will attain the age of 84, July 5, 1951, is the eldest man residing in Whitestown. Mr. Pollard, a retired Big Four Railroad section foreman has resided here 45 years.

Whitestown Business Associates

The Laughner Drug Store is the oldest of the present business establishments, operated the past fifty years by Clyde O. Laughner.

The milling business, started in pioneer days is now known as the Kirtley Grain Company, with Hallie Scott, manager.

The Whitestown Printing Shop was operated about 1900 by Earl Darnell, who is now located in Lebanon. Darnell sold to L. E. Smith in 1908 and in August 1913, Smith sold to B. F. McMakin, who devoted his life to the weekly newspaper and print shop. Robert G. McMakin, son of the late B. F. McMakin took over the business and continues to operate the shop. The publication of a newspaper was discontinued in June 1946.

Whitestown business associates, June 1, 1951 are: Miss Eva Miller, postmistress; Orestes O. Cragun, rural mail carrier; Harvey D. Lovett, doctor; Cleo Hillock, William Smith and Hallie Scott, Regal Market; Orpha and Garold Allen, grocery and furniture, Robert G. McMakin, printer and insurance; Clyde O. Laughner, druggist; Floyd E. Kesler, restaurant; Charles Siamas, Legion Cafe, manager; Hallie F. Scott, manager Kirtley Grain Company; Minnie C. Sortor, manager Whitestown Lumber Company; Hobert Burtner, Electric Shop; Clarence Hand, Howard Glascock, truckers; Claude E. Dulin, poultry buyer; Mrs. James Hickman, Little Gift Box; Leathel Beckham, skating rink, manager; George McDaniel, Radio and Television; Samuel R. Pipes, electric and acetylene welder; Charles Merrill, barber; Pearl Cragun and Helen Dodson, beauty shop operators; Charles Bennett, garage; Loren Pipes, Mobil Station;

Everett Allen, Standard Station; Horace D. Wheat, Standard Oil Co. agent; Ora I. Caldwell, Farm Bureau Products; Harold Livengood, upholstering, Woodworking shop; Mrs. Floyd Halcomb, French Elrod, William Elrod and Quentin Elrod, Bel-Mar Products Corp.; Clyde and Ralph Roseboom, seed dealers; J. R. Hinman, manager, Brown's Antique Shop; Grover Allen, pool room; Harry Griffin, Drive-In; Rush Livengood, slaughter house and painter; J. T. Kight, painter; Robert Sanders, junk dealer; Cleve Hedges, tool sharpening, trash hauling; Alva West, woodworking shop.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

"Early Life and Times in Boone County," Harden & Spahr, published in Lebanon, May, 1887.

"Historical Atlas of Boone County," published by Ingman Bros. in 1878.

Files of the "Whitestown Dispatch," 1908-1946.

COMMITTEES

Clyde O. Laughner, chairman (resigned); George McDaniel, chairman; Cecil O. Bennington, vice chairman; Mrs. Carl Batz, secretary; Robert G. McMakin, assistant secretary; Russell Hine, treasurer.

Historical: Mrs. Wilber Casey, Rev. James E. Byrd, Earl Bohannon and Mrs. Lillie Jackson.

Finance: Horace D. Wheat, Russell Hine, Mrs. Bonnie Linville, Mrs. Harold Livengood and Mrs. Paul Groover.

Advertising: Robert G. McMakin, Monta Robertson and Mrs. Kenneth McKinzie.

Whisker: Hobert Burtner, Foy Mendenhall and Russell Hine.

Program: George McDaniel, Charles Smiley, Mrs. Arthur T. Whitmore, Mrs. Wilber Casey and Hobert Burtner.

Speaker: Clive Cline, Mrs. Roy Huckleberry and Carl Witt.

Music: Mrs. Wilber Casey, George McDaniel, Harry G. Etter and Franklin Scott.

Parade: Charles N. Smiley, Lotis Spaugh, Clyde Roseboom, Richard Wellington and Donald Sortor.

Window Display: Mrs. Arthur Whitmore, Mrs. Carl Witt, Mrs. Lillie Jackson and Mrs. Marion Harmon.

Queen: Mrs. Clyde Neese Jr., Mrs. Otha Shaw and Mrs. Donald Hamm.

Union Service: Rev. James E. Byrd, Rev. Wilford C. Butt and Rev. John O. McIntyre.

Kangaroo Court: Earl Bohannon, Richard Wellington and Foy Mendenhall.

Press: Mrs. Robert McMakin.

ORGANIZATION COMMITTEES

Lutheran Church—Mrs. Cleveland Hine (resigned), Mrs. Clyde Neese, Jr., Mrs. Marion Cline and Mrs. Edna Hine.

Baptist Church—Clive Cline, Charles N. Smiley, Horace D. Wheat.

Methodist Church—Mrs. Carl Batz, Robert McMakin and Mrs. Roy Huckleberry.

Alpha Delta Sorority—Mrs. Wilber Casey, Mrs. Clarence Hill, Mrs. W. E. Clingler.

Eastern Star—Mrs. Carl Witt, Mrs. Oma Shoemaker (resigned), Mrs. Bonnie Linville and Mrs. Raymond Powell.

Mothers Club—Mrs. Paul Groover, Mrs. Kenneth McKinzie, Mrs. Otha Shaw.

American Legion—Richard Wellington, W. B. Engledow, Leathel Beckham.

School—Cecil Bennington, Mrs. Harold Livengood and Mrs. Noble Beck.

Celestial Lodge No. 525 F. & A. M.—Rev. J. E. Byrd, Carl Witt and Monta Robertson.

Worth While Home Ec Club—Mrs. A. T. Whitmore, Mrs. Lillie Jackson and Mrs. Clarence Hand.

Parent-Teachers Association—Earl Bohannon, Hobert Burtner, Mrs. Donald Hamm.

Worth Farm Bureau—Ivan Williams, Frank Steffey, and Foy Mendenhall.

Lions Club—Clyde O. Laughner (resigned), Arthur T. Whitmore, Thomas Howard and Russell Hine.

Town and Country Home Ec Club—Mrs. Leland Smith and Mrs. Byron Crostreet.

Notes