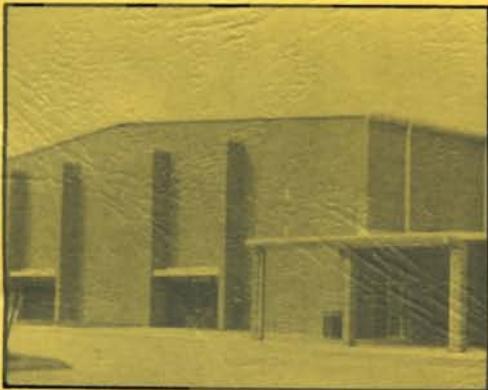


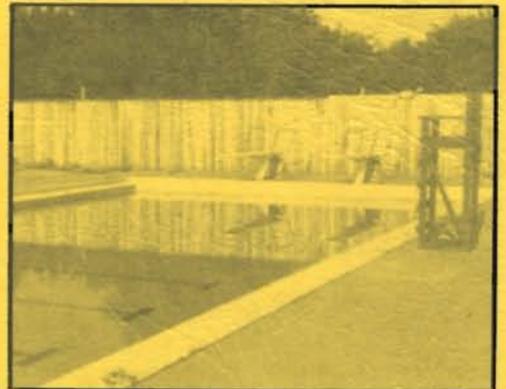
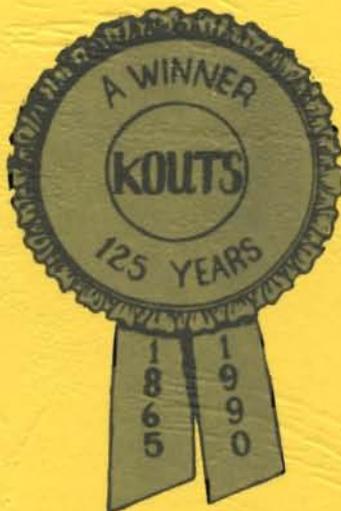
“A Quarter Past One”



KOUTS FIRE STATION



KOUTS HIGH SCHOOL GYM

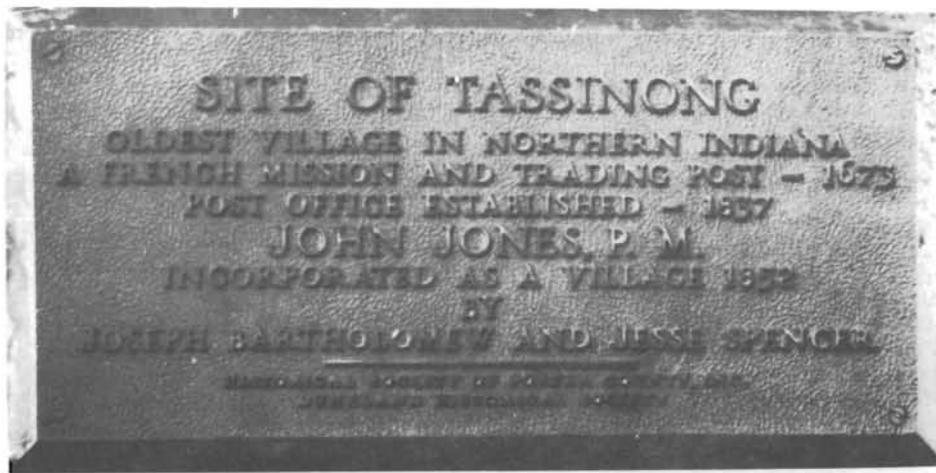


PLEASANT TOWNSHIP POOL



DRAZER PARK

125th Anniversary
Kouts, Indiana



Early Exploration

About the year 1673 Jesuit missionaries, Fathers Claude Allouez and Claude Dablon landed in the lake region that is now Porter County and covered the territory to the Kankakee River.

In the following year Father Jacques Marquette paddled up the Kankakee to its source on his return trip from the Mississippi.

In 1679 a famous band passed down the beautiful river. Robert Cavalier Sieur de LaSalle was the leader

and Chevalier de Tonti, the lieutenant. The next spring, LaSalle returned on his way to Frontenac with only three companions and passed through this territory on foot.

In 1711, the natives of this area came under the influence of Father Chardon, a missionary. Many were baptized from his post at St. Joseph, Michigan and because of this the natives were friendly with the French.

Land of Four Flags

In 1759 all of northern Indiana passed into the hands of the British who found their rivals, the French, had greater favor with the Indians. The Indians caused several skirmishes to help the French regain the territory. However, peace prevailed and trading posts were established.

In 1781, the northern part of the territory was invaded by Don Eugenio Pierre who had come from St. Louis to seize the land in the name of the king of Spain. Now the third flag waved over the area which was to be Pleasant Township.

By the treaty of peace made between England and the United States in 1783 following the Revolutionary

War, a fourth flag waved. Through the military efforts of William Henry Harrison and his valiant army, the monetary contributions of Frances Vigo and the persuasiveness of Father Gibault, the Northwest Territory which embraces five states became a part of the new nation.

During this time there were very few white settlers in the region which was to become Pleasant Township. The Kankakee region was very valuable for its furs and fish but the white settlers and the natives were farther north because Lake Kankakee, as it was sometimes called, covered most of the southern part of the county.



First Businessmen In Kouts

The Kouts Family

(Originally spelled Kautz)

The late Barnhardt Kouts, who was the principal representative of the family here for half a century, was a native of the state of Pennsylvania, where he was born in 1835, a son of Barnhardt and Salome Kouts. Their parents were both born in Germany, and brought with them to this country those sterling qualities which are so often associated with the German stock. The Kouts family were among the pioneers of Porter County, having located here before the railroad era and helping in the development of the resources of the country. Son Barnhardt Kouts married a Bridget Neal, a native of England, who died only a year or so after their marriage. He later wedded Mrs. Henrietta Eadus. Mrs. Henrietta Kouts, a kindly woman and highly honored resident of Porter County was born in this county, and was the daughter of John W. and Elizabeth (Shuey) Wright. John W. Wright, the father of Mrs. Kouts, was a progressive and public-spirited citizen and his name adorns the history of the bench and bar of Porter County. He also served in the offices of sheriff and county treasurer. Besides Henrietta, the other children of his family were: Nancy, who became the wife of Albert Spencer; Elizabeth Crawford; Ann J. Hall; and Hilary, who was a hardware merchant and president of the bank at Kouts.

After his marriage, Barnhardt Kouts located in the town of Kouts. Before the construction of the railroad through this point he was engaged in farming, but with the coming of the railroad he and his brother-in-law, H. A. Wright, established the first store and built the first house on the new townsite. Beginning with a small stock of groceries, they developed their trade throughout all the surrounding country, and Mr. Kouts would make regular trips to Philadelphia to buy his stock and brought

into the store, goods to the value of as much as five thousand dollars at a time. For sixteen years during his career as merchant he also acted as agent for the Pennsylvania Railroad, but finally his increasing business obliged him to give up this position. The partnership was finally dissolved, and Mr. Kouts then erected a two-story building in which he continued his business. On January 1, 1893, a fire that originated in adjoining buildings wiped out his own property with a loss of eight thousand dollars, which was total since he had neglected to renew his recently expired insurance. This disaster was not sufficient to discourage a man of his character, and he at once resumed business in the little store rooms where he had begun his career as a merchant, and with the encouragement of his wife was soon rapidly recovering from his losses. Afterwards, on a prominent corner in the center of town he erected the first brick business building in Kouts. This building located next to the bank was razed in 1964. Barnhardt Kouts was in the past, one of the most prosperous and influential merchants and citizens.

One son, Leon B., was born to Mr. and Mrs. Kouts. Leon Kouts was one of the progressive young farmers of this vicinity. He was married to Miss Jessie Miller and they were the parents of three children - Kenneth Wright, Katy B. and Edith. Katy died when seven years old and Edith at the age of eight months. On the evening of November 12, 1911, in the midst of a hard wind storm, Mr. Kouts with his little son set out to carry a pail of milk to his mother's home, and on the way a limb torn from a tree by the violence of the wind, struck him on the head and resulted in his death. The sudden death of this rising and influential citizen was a shock to the community in which he had been reared, and he left many friends to grieve over his loss. Leon's only descendant, Kenneth Kouts, resides in Crown Point and conducts a business in Hebron.

Hilary Wright - Hay Press and Hay Barn

With the dissolution of the Kouts-Wright partnership Hilary Wright operated the Hay Press and Hay Barn on the plot of ground where the Bill Small's now live. The wild marsh hay was pressed, generally in the field by horse power, and brought here to be stored until shipped to Chicago as feed for the horses that pulled the street cars. A little track was built from the hay barn to the Pennsylvania main line and the loaded cars were pushed by hand. Since this work was seasonal the empty hay barn became at times a center for social gatherings in the town's infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Wright and daughters Shirley (Anna), Edna and Muse lived in a home they built in Wright's Addition on the corner where Kosanke's Bottled Gas business is located. With the construction of the Chicago and Atlantic Railroad in 1881 they sold this first home to P. F. Fredericks who dealt in nursery supplies and built a new home farther east in their addition. This home is owned and occupied by the Lloyd Berndts.

With the completion of the Erie Mr. Wright sold his hay barn near the Pennsylvania to George Wilcox and built a business office and scales, a hay barn and grain elevator along the Erie. The office stood in what is now Williams front yard, the elevator where the Standard Oil tanks are, and the hay barn farther east. Grain was hauled to the elevator in double box wagons

with side boards but in grain sacks that held 2 and 2-1/2 bushels. These grain sacks were in need of repairing and washing which was another household chore. The elevator was destroyed by fire November 5, 1901 and Mr. Wright bought out Bob Arnold's hardware and lumber business and moved his office there. In this venture he was assisted by his son-in-law Walter Bush (Muse's husband) and continued there until his retirement. Mr. Wright was always active in civic affairs and his integrity was much admired by all who knew him. Truly he was the "Grand Old Man of Kouts".

In this area the only direct descendant of the Wright family is Mrs. Nelson Metherd, a granddaughter, who lives southeast of Kouts on a farm.

The hardware and lumber business operated by Wright is presently owned by Richard Chael and is the Kouts Lumber Company.

The first Wright home sold to Fredericks was made into a hotel and around the mid 1890's it was sold to Herman Behrends who with his wife and family came from Chicago. It was known as the Behrends Hotel for about a quarter of a century. With the widening of Main Street and the building of sidewalks and the aging of the operators, the hotel business was discontinued and the building sold to Paul Wells. He had it moved a short distance to the east and made into apartments. As such it served until it was razed by Kosanke to make a parking lot to serve the funeral home.

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Chael

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Chael and five children, Henry and Herman, Lena, Caroline and Minnie, came from Mechlenburg, Germany in 1883 and stopped in Denham, Indiana. On hearing that work could be had in Kouts they moved here in June 1884 and the father went to work on the Pennsylvania section and later at the coal docks where he was employed until 70 years of age. Frederick, Martha and Erma were born in Kouts. This family is unique in that all the living members of the second generation are still in the town and several of the third and even the fourth generation are here. The son, Herman, went to work for Grant Hayes, a blacksmith, with a shop on the southeast corner of Main and Alice Streets - then the east end of town. Grant Hayes moved to Tennessee to do blacksmithing and Herman maintained the shop. Hayes decided Kouts was best and returned. By 1917 Hayes sold his shop, the main part to

Carl Peters and the back part to Chael who moved it to the present location, and for 45 years carried on a general repair shop in the lot next to his home bought at the time of his marriage to Carrie Schroeder. When he started the business it was fixing buggies and wagons and plows; through the years it changed to tractors, autos, combines, and even airplanes. Folks within an area of 25 miles knew of his work and his willingness to try to fix anything and how he always succeeded. Widows and children never had to pay. His oldest son, Harold, now has taken over the business. One of the oldest pieces of equipment in the shop is the forge which stands in the center and is one of the few forges left in this part of the country.

Another son, Richard, owns and operates the Kouts Lumber Company which was begun in the 1880's by Will Arnold who sold out to Hilary Wright.

The following population statistics were obtained from the United States Department of Commerce Bureau of Census, Jeffersonville Census Operations Office, Jeffersonville, Indiana 47130.

DATE	TOWN OF KOUTS	PLEASANT TOWNSHIP	PORTER COUNTY
1850	----	311	5,234
1860	----	479	10,313
1870	----	615	13,942
1880	214	892	17,227
1890	----	984	18,052
1900	----	1,209	19,175
1910	----	1,424	20,540
1920	----	1,563	20,256
1930	583	1,497	22,821
1940	732	1,685	27,836
1950	718	1,640	40,076
1960	1,007	2,031	60,279

Herman Rosenbaum Store



Left to right: Oscar Knoll, Fred Rosenbaum, Bill Rosenbaum.

In 1874 the Herman Rosenbaum family - the wife 4 sons and 4 daughters came to town from Brems, Indiana, and built a general store on a street running parallel to the railroad on the plot where the Cities Service Station used to be. This was a two story building and the family lived upstairs until prosperity prompted them to build a spacious home on what is now State Road 8. Here they purchased over 12 acres of land from Kruells in the early 1890's. They sold this area to interested buyers for home sites in acre sized lots, which much of it is today except for the McKinney Addition that has 9 homes built on 2 acres served by a dead end street. This Rosenbaum home was destroyed by fire on March 7, 1936 and today Mrs. Viola Francis lives in a home built recently on the lot.

With the passing of Herman Rosenbaum the store was operated by members of the family, a son, William, and daughter, Adeline, until the 1930's. Adjacent to the store on the east was a salt shed where customers bought salt by the barrel. Later in the teens it was used as Levy's Dress Shop where power driven sewing machines operated by local women made dresses for both wholesale and retail.

Besides groceries, Rosenbaums also sold a fine quality of dry goods, men's clothing, even dress suits, shoes, clocks, and hardware, truly a general store.

As you will read in the Kosanke history Mr. Ewalt Kosanke's first furniture shop was sold and moved to make way for a larger business building.

Rosenbaum's bought it and located it just across the street west from their general store and here the three sons had turns at operating a hardware business-- first by Fred, then by Frank, and lastly by Gus.

None of the original family are living today.

In this centennial year a daughter-in-law Mrs. Frank Rosenbaum, a grandson Fred Rosenbaum, two granddaughters Ruth Rosenbaum Struve, Alice Rosenbaum Goodpasture, three great grandsons Dean, Dale and Robert Rosenbaum, and a great granddaughter Drelah Rosenbaum perpetuate the name in the town.

In this period, going east on the street from Rosenbaum's Store, Johnnie Hall had a saloon with a most uncommon sign made by the civil engineers that were working for the Pennsylvania Railroad. It was shaped like an old fashioned bee hive and lettered with this poem:

In this hive we're all alive
Good liquors make you funny
If you're dry; come in and try
Good liquors for your money.



Left to right: Bill Pahl, Gust Rosenbaum, Robert Rosenbaum and Frank Rosenbaum.

Michael J. O'Brien



In 1883, Mike O'Brien and family moved to Kouts from Valparaiso and opened a grocery store on the present site of the Town Hall. John Welsh of Marshall Grove helped finance the two story building. The first floor was a grocery store. Coffee, sugar, flour, cereals, salt, crackers, etc. were measured out of the barrels and sold to customers in desired poundage. The candy in pails and store cookies in big boxes with isingglass windows were so tempting to farm children who got to town rarely. But the most fascinating thing in the O'Brien store was the cuckoo clock and happy was the child who could linger there until the noon hour. Our modern noon whistle has no such charm.

The O'Brien family lived in the home now occupied by the Floyd Kerlinska family. A son, Frank, succeeded his father in business. He and his wife, the former, Mayme Hannon of Marshall Grove, built and resided in a home back of the store now occupied by Laura and Emil Pulaski. They graciously served satisfied customers until 1916 when they sold their business to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Luers of Rensselaer. The second floor of the building known as O'Brien's Hall, served as a meeting place for the lodges, social functions, high school classes and for a period of time as a Methodist Church. The hall was reached by an outside stairs on the west side of the building, while the land west of the building was taken up with hitching racks.

A son James (Jim) O'Brien built the store now owned by Hiatt and for a time ran a grocery store. Later he became the Kouts postmaster. The surviving O'Briens, Agnes Merry, Bertha Rennebaum, Sophia Cotton, and the O'Brien twins, Leo and Louis, now live in California.



August Hofferth

Another business man that served Kouts and surrounding territory for over seven decades and bridged the two centuries is that of August Hofferth and sons Burt and Emil.

August's brother, John, immigrated from Germany to Kouts in the early 1880's. There was work to be had in Kouts so he sent word to August to come. Not only did August Hofferth come but he brought two more worthy Augusts - Honehouse and Wandrey - both names still found in Kouts.

August Hofferth had been trained as a brickmason and learned plastering so he was always busy in the growing town and farm community. He married

Theresa Wittenberg who had come to the township with her parents from Germany in the 1860's. He built the cement plant in 1906 and was helped in the business by his sons. Besides block stones the Hofferths also made burial vaults and for a time concrete tile. At one time in the operation of the plant, machinery was installed that enabled them to turn out 5 blocks a minute. Due to a lessening demand they quit making block stones in 1946 and in 1958 the Hofferth Brothers sold out to John Rogowski whose Kouts Building and Supply business is located a block farther east. The building that housed the cement plant was bought and remodeled to be used by the Kouts Cabinets operated by Ralph Birky and

Monroe Helmuth whose custom made cabinets are a pride of the area.

Besides the sons Burt and Emil, there were two daughters, Hattie and Alta. The former married Ed Rosenbaum, that genial never to be forgotten rural mail carrier, and their daughter LaVerne Sommers is active in the community life and serves as a relief rural

carrier.

In 1934 Burt Hofferth started in the insurance business as a side line and today is kept busy with its demands, while Emil is still called upon and on occasions lays up with his skilled hands an attractive stone or brick front or fireplace. Burt, too, served the community as postmaster from 1913 to 1921.



James Hodgins

No early history of Kouts would be complete without giving recognition to James Hodgins, since his legacy to the community is occupied by the present school plant and grounds. Mr. Hodgins came to Kouts from Canada, his birthplace, where he had been a teacher, and in 1881 purchased 39.64 acres of land in the southeast part of Kouts from Barnabas and Henrietta Kouts for \$2000. Just as Barnhart Kouts and Hilary Wright were brothers-in-law (Mrs. Kouts was Henrietta

Wright), so were Hilary Wright and James Hodgins brothers-in-law, as their wives were Susan and Maria Maxwell. Mr. Hodgins had a hay press and was an implement dealer. Mr. and Mrs. Hodgins always kept boarders and roomers too, and built the spacious home where Grace Cannon presently resides for that purpose, and at the time there were only two other houses on that side of the street south of them. A Mr. Grogert lived in the Hazel Hofferth house and Mr. Theil where the senior Fred Rosenbaum home is now. Around the turn of the century several families and individuals went to North Dakota to homestead. Mr. Hodgins joined in the Great Migration but stayed only two years. It was too rugged and Mrs. Hodgins didn't choose to go. Although James Hodgins was born in Canada and never became a citizen of the United States, his zeal in promoting the Fourth of July celebration could not have been more intense were he a descendant of a D.A.R. However, he was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. Mr. Hodgins was a very versatile person serving as Justice of the Peace performing marriages and on rare occasions conducted funerals in the absence of a minister. Another talent lay in his ability to direct a band and deliver a good address.

The location of the present Legion Hall was determined by the gift of the land to them if they would erect a hall upon it - if not it would revert to the Hodgins estate.

His kindness and generosity to the children of his era is held in grateful remembrance by all the senior citizens whose memory reaches back to "Uncle Jim" as he was fondly called.



Main St looking South, Kouts, Ind. 1-kir

Benkie's Drug Store - Mr. Benkie and son, Raymond, wearing white shirts.

John G. Benkie

Another early business man that served Kouts long and faithfully was John G. Benkie who came here from Wanatah with his wife and two daughters, Etta

and Mae, in 1890. Kouts was not an unknown place to him because his father and uncle had worked here on the construction of the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and St. Louis

Railroad in the 1860's.

Mr. Benkie, a pharmacist with experience both in Wanatah and Chicago, bought the building just south of the Erie Railroad from Dr. McKee who left Kouts to practice in Chicago. When Benkie's first came to Kouts they lived in a cottage where the Heinold Elevator garage is now, and in 1895 built a large home on the same street with Kosankes and next door to the Rosenbaum home. (The cottage was moved out on 49 and incorporated in the Doyne Stewart home.)

A son, Raymond, and daughter, Louise, were born here. In 1900 Mr. Benkie enlarged the drug store and it housed the first telephone exchange Kouts had of only twenty subscribers. In 1918 a new front was added and in 1925 an addition was built on the back bringing the

building to its present size and appearance. After a course in pharmaceutical school Raymond joined his father in the business, and he and his sister, Etta, operated the drug store alone after the father's death in 1939, and until Raymond's death in 1950, when the business was sold to Louis and Dorothy Marquardt. The building still owned by the Benkies is rented by the Jorgensen Heating and Sheet Metal.

Housing the first telephone exchange in his store as Mr. Benkie did, cast its spell on one of his family. Louise served as an operator for over thirty years both in Kouts and later in Valparaiso as the Kouts office was closed by automation. Louise retired in 1963 and she and Etta occupy the family home maintaining an active and ever friendly interest in the community.

Charles W. Betterton, Sr.

Another family that gave Kouts an early business man was that of Charles W. Betterton, Sr., who with his wife Christina and family of two sons, William J., and Charles W. Jr., and two daughters, Emily and Margaret, came to the Kouts area from New Albany, Indiana shortly after the end of the Civil War. The Betterton family originated in England where there is a town by that name. They settled on a farm on the Baum's Bridge Road, across and a little north of the Elmer Werner home. Mr. Betterton was a cabinet maker and it is the two sons that had a share in Kouts history. Charles, Jr. was a salesman for J. I. Case machinery and a talented musician of whose skill and contribution you have or shall read in another chapter. His son, Jesse Oatman Betterton, was the first and only graduate of Kouts High School in 1900. This family moved to Omaha, Nebraska and Kouts' first graduate went on to finish college as a mining engineer.

William J. Betterton married Margaret Lauer around 1884 and at first they lived on a farm near Baum's Bridge. During this era he served as township assessor. Through the years ten children, three daughters and seven sons, were born, one son dying in infancy. Leaving the Baum's Bridge area they moved to English Lake where he had a general store. From English Lake they moved to the town of Kouts, buying the George Trumble property on the south end of Main

Street, the house now occupied by Leonard Good. For a decade he conducted a general store, groceries, dry goods, hardware, etc. in the building on the west side of Main Street next to Kosanke's Store. Prior to this, Charles W. had a feed grinding store on the site of the Rock residence.

After selling his grocery business Will Betterton operated a saw mill and feed grinding service on the area west of the home about where the Vance William's home is now, as that street was not yet opened. From 1914 to 1918 he served as trustee of Pleasant Township and at the same time owned and operated a large steam threshing machine and separator, so large it required thirty to thirty-five men to feed the separator's hungry maw and haul away the grain to the elevator.

Their son, Joe, was one of the crew of the battleship "Kansas" with the United State Navy when the fleet was sent around the world in 1908 during the Theodore Roosevelt administration. This fleet stopped at all the important seaports of the world and was the first intimation of our power.

Another son, Jack, was always in demand as a garage mechanic as was Pete for carpenter work.

The two living members of the family are a daughter, Mary, in Florida, and a son, Oley, who devoted his life to teaching with only time out for service with the navy in World War I. He is a retired principal and resides in Porter, Indiana.



Kosanke's Store - Ed Kosanke on left, Ewalt Kosanke on right.

Ewalt Kosanke

A continuous successful business in its third generation is that of Kosankes Funeral Home, having been established in 1882 by Ewalt Kosanke who came

here from Wanatah with his wife and here reared a family of three sons, Herman, William, and Edward, and two daughters, Nettie (Humphrey) and Laura (Wolf).

Ewalt built a small building on the present site of Keehns Hardware, and there made furniture by hand and repaired broken furniture for his customers. They lived in a cottage just south of the furniture store. When Mr. Key another village blacksmith died, a mortician, Mr. LaPell, had to come from Valparaiso to take care of the funeral. The distance was so great that Mr. LaPell urged Ewalt Kosanke to take up undertaking in conjunction with his furniture making. He complied and later the three sons followed the same profession.

A larger building was needed so the first shop was moved down Main Street to the site of the I.G.A. parking lot and there Gus Rosenbaum, son of Herman,

had a hardware store.

When Kosanke built the larger building it was a two story structure. In this building was a thriving furniture and undertaking business. A cyclone damaged the building badly in 1917 and again in 1935. In 1935 they removed the second story. In the early 1900's Ewalt built a large home where the Kosanke Funeral Home is now. With added improvements of the funeral chapel in 1941, more improvements in 1960 and again in 1964, Kouts boasts a funeral home whose facilities and gracious, kindly service ranks with the best in the state. James Kosanke, grandson of Ewalt and son of Edward, is in charge of the business and lives in the original home modernized and styled for years to come.

George Frederick Wolbrandt

George Frederick Wolbrandt, his wife Louise and family of four sons and four daughters, came here from Des Plaines, Illinois before 1870. When he came from Germany where he had driven a stage coach between Mechlenburg and Berlin is unknown.

Wolbrandts bought the Simon Witham farm which today includes the southwest subdivision. Since his boys did not want to farm, he sold it August 1, 1870 and bought the tavern on Mentor St. east of Rosenbaum's Store. The tavern was a boarding and rooming house with a bar.

The older Germans say they took in and cared for all early immigrants who had no place to stay. Meantime they helped them find work and adjust to life here. Mrs. Wolbrandt was a midwife who cheerfully helped all who needed her and cared for the family doing all household tasks.

In the mid 1880's they sold the tavern to Knolls

who came from Medaryville. Mr. Wolbrandt then had a meat market on West Mentor St. in the area between the Danford and Neuffer homes. With business discontinued there he rented the first Barney Kouts building on the west side of Main St. and there had a meat market.

Three sons, Fred, Charles, and George, all went to work on the railroad, the former as an operator at the tower and the other two as signal maintainers. August went to Jasper County where he farmed.

The daughters married and descendants of three of them are Kouts residents today: Minnie's (Mrs. Dan Metherd) daughter, Mrs. Lillie Nichols and her son Herbert; Emma's (Mrs. Henry Herring) son Jim Herring who operated The Kouts Inn, grandchildren, Cecil and Gene Wise, and the four daughters of Lee Herring, as well as Sophia's (Mrs. Keehn) grandson, Jack Keehn, who operated the hardware store until February of this year.



The Hunter's Home and Hotel and Saloon

George Glissman

George Glissman was born in 1840 in Schleswig-Holstein, then a part of the kingdom of Denmark but since 1864 belonging to Germany. When he left his home in 1861 for America he came directly to Porter County. Two sisters, Anna and Dora, also came; the former married and moved to Iowa, while the latter married Benjamin Hiline and has descendants in the county.

George married Anna Hurst and they lived north of Kouts where the Knopinski farm is now. (Their two grandchildren, Arthur Glissman and Henrietta Viola

Hilding, furnished information and pictures for our Centennia. book.)

After his first wife's death Mr. Glissman married Elizabeth Teut (Tight) in 1875 and it is thought they then had the hotel on the present site of the town water tank. It was known as "The Central House" until 1900 but later as "The Hunters Home." It was a large hotel providing board, lodging, and a bar. George and Elizabeth had four children but the only descendants are children of Henry and Barbara (Misch) Glissman none of whom live in Kouts. Henry died in December 1963.

It was to this hotel hunters flocked during the hunting seasons. It was in close proximity to the railroad stations where accommodation trains arrived and departed four times daily in each direction.

In addition Mr. Glissman kept a kennel of hunting dogs for the use of his customers who returned regularly to enjoy the abundance of game in the Kankakee River

area. Too, he had an ice house where ice cut on the river was stored not only for his own use but to sell.

The draining of the river closed out the hotel business and Mr. Glissman died there in 1914. After his death the building was used as a two family dwelling part time and as a storage place. In 1923 or 1924, while occupied by the Herring family, it was destroyed by fire.



Left to right: Leonard Wyant, Joe Anderson, Leo O'Brien, Emma Pontow, Christine Teut (Tight), Elizabeth Glissman, George Glissman, Henry Glissman (on horse).

Fred Perry

Undoubtedly the most varied and longest business career can be claimed by Fred Perry who came from Valparaiso to Kouts in 1902. He was of French Canadian ancestry, the name originally spelled Pare'. Fred went to work in Sed Unruh's bakery on Main Street. In 1904 he took two important steps - he married Olive Wyant and bought the bakery shop and business and both ventures were successful. They had two sons, Theodore and Kenneth, both deceased, and a daughter, Janet Hilliard. Mr. and Mrs. Perry celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary September 26, 1964. Good fortune prompted "Bake" as he was commonly called to buy the building and land from H. V. Deopker next north to Kosanke's Furniture Store. With the opening of Will Street (named after Will Betterton) in 1916, Mr. Perry moved the building, faced it south on Will Street (now Claussen's home site), remodeled and opened the Gem Theatre. With the bakery and theatre, Mr. Perry had help from two local young men, Delbert Hicken at the theatre and Vaughn Lane at the bakery. The theatre was a real boon to the town - admission was a nickel and because of a queer quirk in the film circuit, the best movies were shown in Kouts even before they were shown in Chicago. The silent movies had musical accompaniment played on the piano by Edith Porter Knoll succeeded by J. Raymond Benkie. With the advent of talking pictures that feature was added. Charlie Cannon and George Hanaway were so persistent in their demands for buying the theatre that in 1920 Mr. Perry yielded and went to Remington, Indiana where he acquired the show house there. Loneliness for Kouts and environs

brought them back in less than a year. Mr. Perry then went to work with Turner Eadus as contractor and together they built gravel roads around Otis, Chesterton and Lake Eliza. In 1927 the depression left the road builders broke financially but not in willingness to



Hilliard's Restaurant Today.

work. At this time Mr. Perry bought out Theodore Pietsch, the baker who had come to Kouts in 1921 and was located in the building on the east side of Main Street now occupied by the Alcoa Aluminum where he conducted the business until 1932 when he bought the restaurant from Caroline Hamann and then ran both bakery and restaurant.

With better roads, bread trucks, and the Depression which forced many to do their own baking, Mr. Perry discontinued baking but retained the restaurant.

In 1942 he accepted a position with the Alcoholic Beverage Board and served on it until 1956.

In 1944 he leased the restaurant for three years and in that time there were three restaurateurs, Frank Green, Willard Sutter and Paul Martin.

Janet Perry Hilliard and her husband John took charge in 1947. Due to increased business more space was needed and in 1957 an attractive dining room was added. This feature accommodates family dinners, parties, and weddings, and the restaurant now provides employment for twenty people.

Prior to failing health, Mr. Perry was on hand with his friendly and genial manner to greet the hungry and bid them welcome, a service that is now missed.

Mrs. Margaret Williams

Mrs. Margaret Williams, affectionately called "Aunt Margaret" by her customers still living in the town today, had a little grocery store built north of the Pennsylvania Railroad and on the west side of the street. These customers with a touch of nostalgia tell that Aunt Margaret had the "best candy" and that she was so understanding, patient, and helpful while each made his choice - that precious penny must be wisely spent. These same patrons too fondly recall how she

and Mrs. Nancy Shuey sat enjoying their rocking chairs, smoking their clay pipes and discussing items of local interest in the interim between customers. This store was moved a little to the south and incorporated in Hiatt's Plumbing Shop.

Next to O'Brien's store Aunt Liza Fay lived in and operated the "Cottage Inn" where she roomed and boarded the salesmen known as "drummers" who traveled by train and solicited orders from the business men.

Early Names

In the early history of Kouts and Pleasant Township three large ethnic groups have dominated the population.

The Irish are represented by the names: Anderson, Barry, Bartholomew, Best, Biggart, Burke, Callahan, Cannon, Casey, Clark, Dwyer, Grffith, Hannon, Maxwell, McCarthy, McNeff, O'Brien, Quirk, Ryan, Smith, Walsh and Welsh.

The Germans were predominant and history records the names of: Behrends, Benkie, Chael, Coleman, Denzine, Gesse, Gramps, Heimberg, Herring, Hofferth, Honehouse, Jarnecke, Klemm, Kneifel, Krueger, Kosanke, Kouts, Kruell, Lauer, Miller Neuschafer, Pontow, Reinke, Steiner, Trinkle, Wandrey, Weise, and Wolbrandt.

The Polish names are: Baranowski, Cincoski, Diskavish, Drazzer, Lapelski, Knopinski, Mishnick, Mroz, Pulaski, Radilyack and Shutske are representative of their group.

Not classified under the three groups above are: Asher, Betterton, Berrier, Brown, Childers, Crawford, Douglas, Hall, Meadows, Morrison, Spencer, Shuey, and Stoddard.

The building of the Pennsylvania with its opportunity for work in the very early settling of Kouts followed by the construction of the Chicago and Atlantic in 1881 drew many people to Kouts. Several worked on the railroads until they accumulated enough to buy a little land; really their main objective; to own a farm rather than work on the railroad. When both railroads double tracked still more work was available.

Not all names included in the ethnic groups were employed on the railroad for some sought employment on farms and saved until they, too, could buy a few acres of their own. With hard and persevering work those few acres have grown to prosperous farms.

The Reeves Ranch

An early ranch formed of 5500 acres in the eastern part of Pleasant Township and western part of Dewey Township, LaPorte County, was known as the Reeves Ranch, from the name of the first owner Arthur Reeves of Richmond, Indiana. Lee G. Howell followed by Frank Wood were first managers of the ranch and lived in the managerial home recently vacated (Feb. 27, 1965) by the Rudy Dolezal family.

With the death of Arthur Reeves the ranch was inherited by his aged mother, Mrs. Mark E. Reeves, who turned over the responsibilities to her son-in-law William Dudley Foulke. In 1910 for lack of competent management the ranch was offered for sale at \$75 an acre but there were no takers.

Then Mr. Foulke appealed to the Department of Agriculture at Washington, D.C. for help in finding a manager. The Department recommended J. A. Warren of Nebraska who was on a leave of absence due to illness. In 1911 with return to health, Mr. Warren was back at work as Consulting Agriculturist for the Holly Sugar Beet Co. of Holly, Colorado. He accepted the offer to manage the ranch on a trial basis, and Mr. and Mrs. Warren and family moved here from Nebraska.

In 1911 the Grasmere Land Company was formed with directors Mrs. Foulke, A. D. Gayle, and J. A. Warren; Mrs. Foulke's sons-in-law Dr. Urey, Cates, Gayle, Hughes, and Morrison were stock holders, as were the directors.

Just before the Depression some of the ranch was sold as individual farms but returned for lack of payments.

When Mr. Warren retired in 1941, Wilbur Coultas became manager of the ranch until 1944 when it was again sold out in farms. Mr. Warren purchased the home place where he returned to live, the Fred Deli, Dick Deli, Neal Pumroy, and Elliott Warren farms. Elliott later purchased his farm. Other farms carved from the ranch are those of Forest Warren, Hefners, Warren Birky, Norbert Dolezal, Hastings, Dr. Jack Dittmer, Albert Sinn, and Jake Galbreath.

A daughter, Mrs. Myrna Warren Tuesberg, lives in Kouts.



Gustave Kosanke Family Home

Gustave Kosanke and family came to Kouts from Wanatah at the same time his brother Ewalt did. He opened the first meat market in a building on the present location of Hilliards Restaurant and lived in the house just north of the store. In this family were four sons, Otto, Julius, Fred and Henry, and three daughters, Elsie, Lenora and Louise, none of whom are now living in the area.

Gus, as he was known, drove through the country

with horse and buggy, bargaining with the farmers for animals which he killed at a slaughter house west of town adjacent to the Ira Dye property. They, too, built a big home on the street across from the Rosenbaum home, presently occupied by the Milford Fox family. Gus succeeded in business by his son Henry (Hank) who operated the store till 1916. He sold out to William Resh from Boone Grove and moved to Argos, Indiana.

William Abraham

Wilhelm Carl Abraham was born in Ruheim Province Posen, Germany in 1842 and came to America in 1866. He first located in Jasper County but came to Kouts in 1868. Here he married Louisa Schwanke in 1871 and in 1872 became a naturalized citizen.

They owned five lots on the corner of Kouts and Pulaski St. just north of the Pennsylvania where they built a home. Mr. Abraham bought and sold hay and horses and dealt in coal. The coal sheds were between the old Kouts Elevator and stockyards along the Pennsylvania R.R. On the home property he operated a sawmill and cider press during a period of time. He, too, built a blacksmith shop in the same area which he rented

to Grant Hayes until Hayes built his own shop on the southeast corner of Main and Elizabeth St.

After the death of his first wife Mr. Abraham married Lena Jahnz and to this union four children were born, none of whom live in Kouts. The original home was destroyed by fire in 1907 and a second home built to the east of the old site.

Henry Herring

Henry Herring had a business before 1900 with little or no competition -- that of dredging and house moving. Now you know how the buildings that didn't burn got moved to a new location.

Early Historical Events

Three events in Kouts and environs were publicized in the Chicago paper prior to 1900.

In September 1887 a Chicago and Atlantic passenger train was standing at Sandy Hook Ditch taking water when a Wabash freight train smashed into it, telescoping the passenger train. No one knows how many were killed but the injured were brought to the old Kouts Hotel on the east side of Main Street operated by Millers. Every room was filled and the town women, Mrs. Henry Herring, Mrs. George Wolbrandt and daughter, Minnie, Mrs. Henrietta Kouts, and Mrs. Ben Anderson, went in and cheerfully helped in caring for them until they were again able to travel to their homes. One case was especially pathetic - that of a young boy whose parents died at the scene of the wreck. The railroad company wanted the Millers to keep him and they would repay them generously. Since Mr. Miller was a Civil War veteran and then an old man, he could not accept such responsibility. Litigation following the wreck caused the bankruptcy of the Chicago Atlantic Railroad. Thereafter, the road bed and rolling stock were taken over by the Erie.

Another news item was shrouded in mystery. A "wild man" was living in the vicinity. He made an awful noise terrorizing the people and dogs. Possees were formed to search for him during the day in the woods and marshes. Young men did their courting in the daytime and no one was out after dark save the "wild man" and his accomplices. After several months of

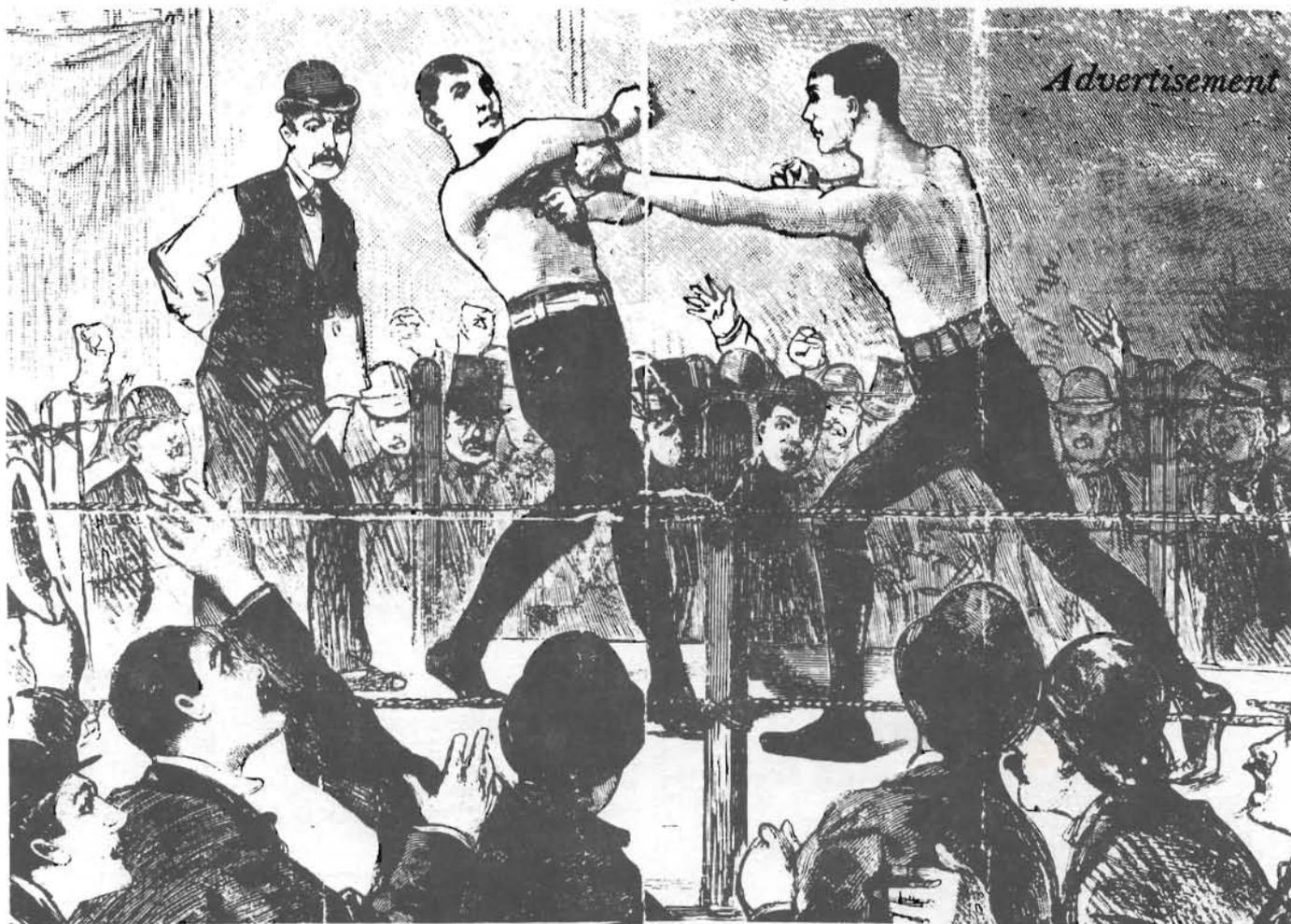
terror it disappeared quite coincidentally with the young men going to work in distant places.

Then on March 31, 1889 the worlds featherweight boxing championship match fight took place in O'Brien's Hall. Prize fighting was outlawed in Chicago and through the influence of some Kouts citizens with Chicago connections the fight was brought to Kouts. Arrangements were carefully made - the justice of peace was taken for a ride to Valparaiso - the special train on the Erie with its cargo of contestants puffed into the sidetrack. Frank Murphy of England and Ike Weir, the Belfast Spider, 100 Chicagoans, men in high silk hats and tails speedily made their way to the hall.

It was midnight when the fighters climbed into the ring, donned skin tight gloves and went to work for the \$1500 and the title. Three hours and 60 rounds later it still had not been won. At 4 a.m. Weir the Irish champion was weakening. Weir rallied and at 80 rounds, as neither could stand well, they called the fight to a draw. They made their way back to the waiting train and left town after the history making event.

Mike O'Brien and his helpers hastily tidied up the hall so that it would be ready for Methodist church services on Sunday morning. The Methodists were incensed at such use of their church but Mr. O'Brien, an enterprising man, retorted that he'd gotten more rent for the one night than the church goes paid in a year.

The famous hall with the store and locker plant operated by William Hefron as the Royal Blue Store was destroyed by fire on October 28, 1954.



Ike Weir (the "Belfast Spider"), then the world's featherweight champion, fought Frank Murphy of England at Kouts, Indiana, for the featherweight championship of the world in one of the most colorful fights in ring history. Weir and Murphy fought eighty rounds with

skin-tight gloves, for a purse of \$1500. Murphy was the favorite and although the Spider weakened at the last, he retained his championship title. The date March 31, 1889.



WEST SIDE OF MAIN STREET, LOOKING NORTH



EAST SIDE OF MAIN STREET, LOOKING SOUTH
MAIN STREET - KOUTS, INDIANA

Come walk with me down the east side of Main Street in the early 1890's. You've already read about Benkie's Drug Store. Just north of it Joshua George, a cobbler, then an old man, besides repairing shoes, made shoes to order. Mr. George had served Kouts faithfully for many years and at one time he and John Schultz also in Kouts, were the only two boot makers in Porter County. Next to the drug store on the south was Bloods Barber Shop; adjacent to it Ben and Jack Anderson had a livery barn where rigs could be rented or they would taxi by buggy to their destination, customers who were horse shy. Nearby stood a paint and wall paper store operated by Otto Knoll. The building occupied by Gina's Pizza Shop was built by August Wandrey who had an ice cream parlor on the first floor and a hall for meetings upstairs. The ice cream business was not lucrative and the owner changed to a saloon. A dwelling stood in an orchard between the Wandrey building and Gust Kosanke's butcher shop. In the area east of the butcher shop Mrs. Winslow had the old Kouts Hotel. (This hotel had been built early in Kouts history with "Uncle" George and "Aunt" Jane Miller in charge. He started the hotel when he came here after the Civil War.) Evidently business was not too rushing for she did dress making as a side line. Although Barney Kouts built the first brick business building in town he rented it to Massey and Freeman, the latter buying the merchandise and Joe and Rose Massey doing the selling with Minnie Dillingham as clerk. As we walk on toward Rosenbaum's store look left and see the horse driven Coal Docks and Water Tank on the north side of the Pennsylvania tracks just opposite Maple Street. Since you've read about Rosenbaum's store we'll saunter on down the street and cross over to watch the village blacksmith, Bill Cincoski, a master smithy, ply his trade in a shop on the site of the John Stark's home.

KOUTS 125th ANNIVERSARY

Coming back to the north Pent Witham had an ell shaped home - the part two storied which they used as a home and the one storied part faced on now Mentor Street and in this Mrs. Witham had a millinery store. Just north across the street was Dr. Atkins Drug Store - across the railroad stood Barney Kouts' first building, then one story handling dry goods mostly - back of the store a short distance stood the Jerry McCarthy home. Let's travel on. Jim O'Brien had a grocery store (now the Hiatt building) and during the two separated presidential administrations of Grover Cleveland, it was also the post office. Standing close to Jim O'Brien's store was Harry Reiter's business which started out in a small building but with additions east and west and aft, it took on its present aspect. Harry was a watch repairman and sold jewelry and was very enterprising indeed. Next stood Sed Unruh's bakery shop. This shop, too, had an upstairs and the rooms were rented at intervals to dentists who served Kouts intermittently; and for other painful extractions if you held a poor hand and were the loser.

As we stroll northward we come to Barney Kouts' second building which burned in the 90's, the Cottage Inn and O'Brien's Store of which you read earlier. Leaving O'Brien's Store we tread on a brick sidewalk to the Ewalt Kosanke home and to the Kosanke Store. Adjacent to it was the Betterton store and few steps on to another blacksmith shop where George Wyant held forth. An now we come to the last business building the lumber yard where John Arnold is proprietor.

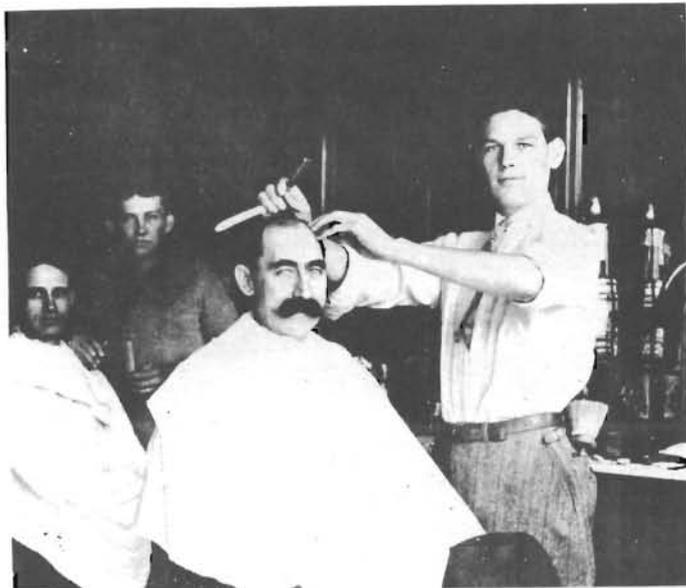
After reading this far you realize that between fires and movings, additions, subtractions, and face liftings, few business buildings in Kouts even faintly resemble the original.

Early Professional People

Now that you have read the history of the early business people, an attempt will be made to trace the craftsmen and artisans that constituted a large part of the town's population and supported the three or four grocery and general stores, the meat markets, restaurants, recreational centers, etc. Let us take the occupations in alphabetical order which cannot be chronological order for they do not coincide.

AUCTIONEER - The first auctioneer to come to Kouts was William Martin who came here in 1917. Today his son, Lester, follows the trade.

BAKERS - In a previous account you read of Sed Unruh, the town's first baker, Fred Perry who succeeded him, and Theodore Pietsch, who came in 1921 and had a bakery for a decade. Emil Wiesche, a German baker, served for a short time in the late 20's and the last one was Sam Myren, who conducted a bakery and quick lunch restaurant on the corner next to the bank.



Left to Right: Gleason Falls, Henry Kosanke, George Runyon, and Martin Radilyack

BARBERS - The barbers have been numerous and Kouts always supported two shops and two barbers in one shop. Before 1900 William Ellis, Pete Lyons, Archie Blood, Stoyer and Emory Goodpasture were barbers; Leo Drazer, who went on to be a dentist practicing in St. Louis; later Julius Kitzman, Bill Rampke, Joe Hart, Joe Harris, and by 1911 an advertisement revealed Ira J. Dye as tonsorial artist and John Wandrey and Martin Radilyack as barbers. Melvin Hendrickson came here from Wheatfield in 1914 and followed the trade until his death in 1940. Perry Griffith, Bill Neider known as "Bill the Barber", Wally Ruark, and Sherman Riddell have, too, served Kouts. To Vernon Schultz goes the distinction of 34 years of continuous service as a barber beginning in 1930 when shaves were 15¢ and hair cuts were 35¢. In 1956 Bill Johnston opened a shop on N. Main St. and when Vernon Schultz retired in 1964 he was replaced by a native son, Vincent Sommers, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Sommers.

BEAUTICIANS - The first beauty operator was Edith Knoll who gave Marcel waves with a hot iron, followed decades later by Alice Hendrickson who opened a beauty shop in her father's barber shop after finishing her course at Mrs. Hill's in Valparaiso. Then when she married she had a shop in the Lyons Building where she also lived until moving to Valparaiso. Wilmetta Dykes Hiatt operated a shop in Mrs. Quirk's grocery store in the 1930's. Doris Schultz has had a shop since July 15, 1944. She took her training at Travis Beauty School in Hammond.

CARPENTERS of the earlier era are George Tromblee, George Cannon, Sam Steiner, Link Arnold, Rudolph Hotchchilds, Charlie Taylor, and Harry Miller. The latter came here for the express purpose of building chicken houses for William Howell who planned to raise chickens to sell to the restaurants in Chicago during the Columbian Exposition of 1892-93. Mr. Howell's lack of knowledge of "setting hen habits" (this pre-dated incubators) doomed the project to failure, but Harry found ready employment. Carpenters after 1900 were William Lane, Ed Snodgrass, Frank Bradney, Desilver Lyons, Klemz Brothers, William Peters, and Vern Hopkins. The latter came here following the 1917 cyclone when much carpenter work was in order to repair the ravages of the storm.

DRESSMAKERS were Mrs. Winslow, Mary Radilyack, Mary Fry Pagel, Mrs. Harry Rollar, Mrs. James Nichols, Mrs. Perry Griffith, and Mrs. Clara Wandry. With the coming of ready-to-wear there was less demand for this service.

LAWYERS - Through the years Kouts has had three lawyers: James A. True, Thomas (Pat) Crowe and Parmenius (Pete) Lyons, the former serving as a Justice of Peace and the latter as township trustee during whose tenure paper and pencils replaced the slates.

TOWN MARSHALS - Since the 1880's Kouts has had less than a score of marshals or constables.

The first one who served was Dan Doon. He was conveniently spirited out of town during the championship fight in 1889 so had no problem. He just wasn't here. Dan Doon also served as janitor at the Kouts School while he was marshal. Other men who have held this post are: Otto Knoll, Charlie Lane, Herman Kosanke, Luther Wise, August Vergin, Burney Maxwell, Walter Jackson, Herman Chael, Grant Shoup, Simeon Rice, Homer Stewart, Joe Shepard, William Schultz, Ewalt Jahnz, Charles Mason, and presently Leland Jarnecke. Ewalt Jahnz went on to serve as deputy in the Porter County Sheriff's Department, a post he has held for years.

The masons, cement workers, brick layers, and plasterers were represented by George Glissman, August Hofferth and later his sons, William (Teut) Tight, Walter Pfeiffer, and Leland Jarnecke.

MILLINERS - And to keep milady properly hatted, Mrs. Pent Witham, Mrs. Winfield Pierce, Mrs. Cecelia Childers, and Mrs. Sanders offered chapeaus styled to the period when they were in business.

MUSIC TEACHERS giving piano lessons were Mrs. Elizabeth Rivet, Mrs. Edith Knoll, Mrs. C. P. Hockett, Marie Quirk, Gladys Pumroy, and presently Mrs. Minnie Koepeke.

PAINTERS and DECORATORS - After the carpenters and plasterers got the buildings finished, the painters and paper hangers moved in to beautify and finish the raw materials. This work was done by Al Cleveland, Charlie Ferguson, Enos Schloetter, Otto Knoll, Herman and Bill Kosanke (painters), and Porter Childers who taught the trade to Herman Honehouse who later apprenticed James Griffith, Otto Metherd and Ferdinand Redelman and Sons.

VETERINARIAN - Dr. L. H. Hough was the first and only veterinarian Kouts ever had. He came here in 1922 with his wife and four children from Scottsburg, Indiana. A graduate of Indiana Veterinary College, Indianapolis, in 1909, he served this community until his death in May 1936. Two children, Mrs. Thomas Quirk (Ida) and Robert Hough are now residents of Kouts.



Medical Arts Building

Dentistry

In the practice of dentistry only five names appear in the early history. Of the four only two were resident dentists and not for more than that many years each. The other two maintained offices in a nearby town and had an office in Kouts open only on one day a week. The community was fortunate that Mr. Benkie, Dr. Noland and Dr. Dittmer had forceps and were skilled in using them. Teeth would ache most when the dentist was not here.

The first resident dentist within anyone's memory was Dr. Hill who had office on the west side of Main Street over Unruh's Bakery. He was here in the early 1900's.

Dr. Hill was succeeded by Dr. Charles L. Bartholomew of Valparaiso who served Kouts one day a week from 1908 to 1912 commuting with horse and buggy. His office was over the bakery on the east side of Main Street. Dr. Bartholomew eventually gave up dentistry for undertaking, his father's business.

He was followed by Dr. Frank Ling from Hebron who had an office for a little over a year in Benkie's Drug Store. Dr. Ling commuted from Hebron on the

Pennsylvania Accomodation Trains. He wooed and won Mae Benkie and after their marriage in 1913 they chose to live in Hebron.

In 1914 and '15 the Christian minister's (Rev. Whitt) son-in-law, Dr. Myers, practiced in the same offices used by Dr. Hill.

In the 1920's Dr. G. D. Conover of Valparaiso served Kouts a day a week with his office located on Mentor Street east of the Rosenbaum Store.

From then until 1960 Kouts dental problems were attended by dentists in Valparaiso, La Crosse, Wheatfield, Hebron, Wanatah and North Judson.

On September 1, 1960 Dr. Robert E. Hott opened his office in the Runyan building on the east side of Main Street. In November 1962 he moved to the new Medical Arts Building located in Good Acres north of Kouts. Dr. Hott received his dental degree from Indiana University in June 1958 and then spent two years in the armed services.

At long last Kouts is enjoying and appreciating the skilled services of a full time dentist.

Optometry

Dr. John Wright, an optometrist, opened a part time office in the Medical Arts Building in the spring of 1963. He comes to Kouts on Wednesday from DeMotte where his main office and home is located.

Kouts Doctors



Dr. Philip D. Noland

Various doctors' names have appeared in this history and in quick review will rename Dr. Adtkins, Dr. Ibach, Dr. Kellog, Dr. Welch, Dr. Sprague, Dr. McKee, Dr. Ellis, Dr. Hockett and Dr. Chevigny.

Besides being a physician, Dr. Adtkins had a drug store on the site of Fritz's Tavern. It was a two story building and the family lived upstairs. Those whose memory serves them best remember the large apothecary jars that decorated the drug store windows and besides drugs, he also had cigars, candy and gum. They, too, recall that Dr. Adtkins and his brother who made his home with them, both wore long white beards. When they left Kouts they located in Kansas.

The two doctors who stand out and who chose to live out their days in Kouts are Dr. P. D. Noland and Dr. S. E. Dittmer.

Dr. Noland came to Kouts with his wife from Boone Grove in 1888. Two daughters, Anna and Eva, were born here. In 1893 Dr. Noland went back to school in Chicago and had Dr. Chevigny come to take his place for a year. During that time Dr. Chevigny and family lived at the Behrends Hotel. In 1910 Dr. Noland built the home where his grandson Phillip Reif, (Eva's son) now resides. It was a residence with office and waiting room built in. With horses and buggy Dr. Noland made home calls throughout the area until the automobile came into common use. Perhaps the most trying time of his medical career was the "flu" epidemic of October and November 1918. For three weeks he traveled constantly from home to home administering to the sick only stopping at home for food, a bath, clean clothes and a quick nap. He lost no patients except those with other complications. As Dr. Noland became semi-retired he served Pleasant Township as Trustee from 1922 to 1926 - that difficult era when the Ku Klux Klan dictated policy not only in Pleasant Township but the state and nation as well.



Dr. and Mrs. S. E. Dittmer

Dr. and Mrs. S. E. Dittmer and son, Jack, arrived in Kouts in 1912, coming from Charleston, Illinois. He began practicing medicine in an office over Cunningham's Store. His skill especially as a diagnostician, his wit and humor and great compassion endeared him to his patients. A daughter, Jane, and son, Tom, were born in Kouts.

In 1918 Dr. Dittmer answered the call to colors and served in Camp Greenleaf, Georgia, resuming practice after the Armistice of 1918.

With no adequate hospital facilities in the county, Dr. Dittmer usually took his surgical patients to St. Bernard's Hospital in Chicago by train. In this hospital his medical opinion was highly respected. Lesser cases or those objecting to the distance in going to Chicago were cared for in the Christian Hospital in Valparaiso. Here the nurse in charge, Clara Gulbransen, had no peer in her profession. With Dr. Dittmer's guidance and her skilled nursing his patients were returned to health and vigor.

In 1917 Dittmers bought and remodeled the McCarthy house built on the site where Dr. Ellis's home was destroyed by fire in 1906 and in this home he lived until his death in December 1951.

His sons, Jack and Tom, are both outstanding physicians and surgeons maintaining a joint office in Valparaiso while Jack also has an office in Kouts.

While doctors came and went in Kouts the pioneers were fortunate to have in their midst a most understanding and efficient licensed midwife in the person of Mrs. Anthony Diskivish, who with her husband had come to this country from Poland in 1870. Mr. Diskivish worked on the Pennsylvania Railroad until 1887 when they bought and moved to the farm where the Gerald Shutskes now live. Mrs. Diskivish went wherever and whenever she was needed and besides assisting at the birth, stayed and cared for the mother, baby, and rest of the family until the mother could resume her duties. Her name is spoken almost reverently which indicates the esteem with which she is held by those who remember her acts of Christian charity. A daughter, Mrs. Frances Adams, lives near the south edge of town.



Anderson's Roller Mills And Heinold's

In bygone days a mile east and a mile north of Kouts, a wind powered mill stood on a farm owned by George Haste. Within the memory of the oldest residents a Holland Dutchman named Keil operated the mill. Here the early settlers took their sacks of grain to be made into meal or grist. When you inquired as to when it would be ready, the old timers quoted the following: "Vell, I don't know! Ven the vind no blow, I can no grind, ven the vind it blow, you come three days."

Another mill, water powered, stood by Crooked Creek, on what is now the Paul Drazer farm.

Both mills were unnecessary after W. N. Anderson built the Kouts Roller Mill in Kouts on the present site of the Heinold Elevator. The mill stones were imported from France. Mr. Anderson employed Gust Denzine as miller. He and Mrs. Denzine lived in a house adjacent to the mill until they built the first house on the north side of 8 now occupied by Elbert Schneckenburgers.

With the death of Mr. Denzine in 1908, Mr. Anderson employed Ed Dolman of North Judson as miller. Ed Dolman was succeeded in the late teens by Mr. Hentgen who worked a few years until commercially ground flour took away the business.

In conjunction with the milling business, Mr. Anderson also was a dealer in hard and soft coal, saddles, horse furnishings and mended harness. With his advancing years, business ceased and in 1937 the mill was purchased by Matt Heinold.

The Matthew Heinold family moved in 1921 from Gridley, Illinois to the farm south of Kouts now occupied by Ted Koselke. Here they farmed until the purchase of the Kouts Roller Mills. This purchase included the Anderson home in which the Matt Heinolds lived, now the Jonas Birky home.

The original Heinold business was a partnership consisting of the founder Matt, his son Virgil, and daughters Dorothy Stewart and Fern Antrim. They rebuilt the Anderson mill into an elevator and in 1940 purchased the Aylesworth Elevator Co. In 1943 the rebuilt elevator was destroyed by fire and replaced by a new concrete structure.

1952 witnessed great expansion at Aylesworth for they built a grain storage plant, concrete, fireproof elevator of 392,000 bushel capacity with cleaning and

drying equipment. They, too, bought the competing Kouts Elevator from Eldon Kuehl. It was razed in 1963 to make way for a new equipment warehouse and pre-mix room.

Heinold Elevator was incorporated in June 1958 with approximately 300 stockholders at present. And in 1958 the new Square Deal Feed Mill was built in Kouts to replace the one destroyed by fire September 25, 1956. The mill on Mentor St. provided bulk storage for 300 tons of ingredients and the housing system is unloaded via a push button batching arrangement involving the latest design and geared to a production of 20 tons of feed per hour.

The first cement block garage next to the Catholic Church was built in 1947 and the second one July 1956. The new office building and warehouse on Mentor St. were completed in April 1963.

The firm employs 73 people, has over 30 trucks and serves the needs of farmers in a six county area of northwestern Indiana.

The phenomenal expansion of Heinolds outside of Kouts is pictorially shown on their ad page.

Thanks

To Our Photographers

For the present day photographs in this book acknowledgement is made to Mrs. Louella Jensen of "Kouts Times", Chet Dyniewski, and Ted Hitz, the photographers, and to John Schnurlein who saw the need and requested the work done.

Incorporation of Kouts

In the establishing of an incorporated town Kouts followed the slogan: "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again."

It was in 1914 that five civic minded citizens saw the need for corporation and spear headed the movement. They were: H. V. Deopker, Walter Bush, Herman Kosanke, and J. J. Overmeyer, with E. M. O'Brien as notary public. A long list of citizens signed the petition but the County Commissioners disregarded the appeal and the measure never came to vote. They tried again in 1917 and this time Dr. S. E. Dittmer was the first signer, but when it came to vote the voters rejected it. It was not until 1921 that they voted to accept town government. Accordingly a mile square, a half mile in each direction from the junction of State Roads 8 and 49, became the incorporated town. The population at that time was 576 with 156 households and 170 voters.

The first election for trustees and a clerk was held in the old school house in February 1921 with the following results: District One, William Denzine; District Two, Henry Herring; District Three, Ira Dye; District Four, Ray S. Berline, and the clerk, Burt Hofferth. August Vergin was appointed as the first town marshal with Thomas E. (Pat) Crowe as the town's first attorney. Mrs. Vergin resigned in July and Burney Maxwell was appointed.

The government was run on money borrowed from the trustees from election time (Feb.) until the beginning of the next year. There was no town hall so the second floor of the old Kouts building, vacated in 1964 by Mrs. Cunningham, was rented as a meeting place.

The first budget was small, only slightly over a thousand dollars with \$75 a month allowed for the town marshal, \$25 a year for each trustee and \$50 a year for the clerk. With no electricity nor water, and most of the roads in town taken care of by the county, a large budget was unnecessary.

Electricity was extended from Hebron to Kouts in 1921 from the Walter Beal generating plant in Hebron. By 1924 power came from the Valparaiso Lighting

Co. and then the Northern Indiana Public Service absorbed both plants and electricity was brought from the State Line generator in Hammond.

In a December 1922 meeting of the Town Board Henry Herring offered the following resolution:

That whereas the Town of Kouts is without a place to keep their fire truck and also without a lock up, and without a place to hold their meetings and whereas H. V. Deopker has offered to sell to the Town of Kouts the cement block building and about 22 ft. of ground (frontage) off the north side of lot for the sum of \$2500, one half to be paid in 2 years and the balance in 3 years with the rate of interest at 6 % be it resolved that the Town Board purchase the same when he furnishes a good and sufficient warranty deed - motion carried.

In July 1923 the order of business carried a motion by Ira Dye, seconded by Henry Herring, that the front of the town hall be taken down for the purpose of putting in an "I" beam instead of the wooden beam which will be too short when the front is remodeled for the purpose of accommodating the fire truck, also to fill in the back end with blocks and a wall to form a lock up. Motion carried.

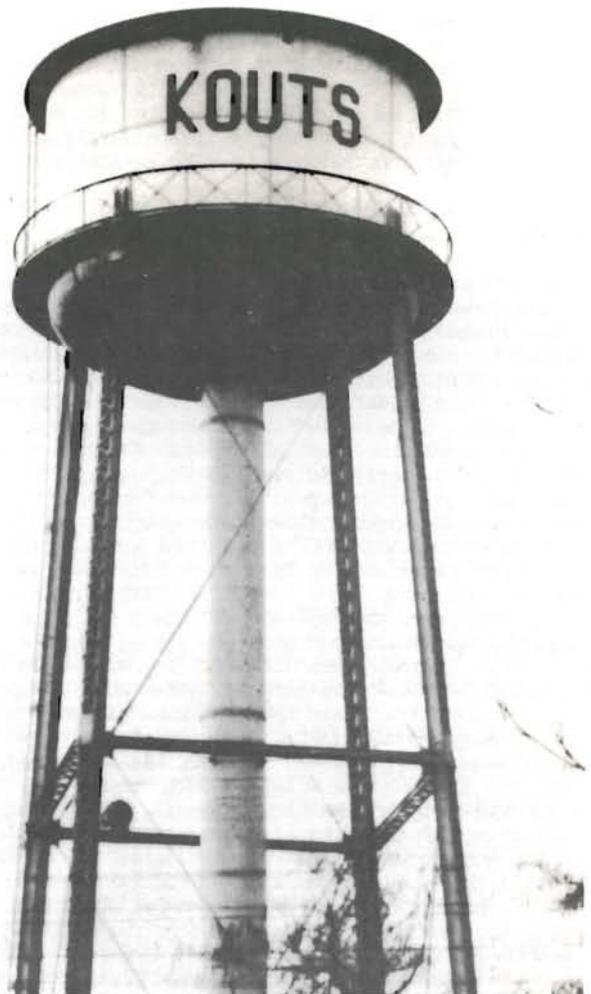
A committee of two, Herring and Dye, was appointed to look after the work on the town hall.

The jail was built at a cost of \$360 and locks, cots and a coal stove were added equipment.

The fire siren was ordered in May 1925 at a



"Ye Old Town Jail"



Kouts Water Tower



First Town Hall

cost of \$360 with Ralph Knoll and Paul Gordon doing the electrical work at a cost of \$175.

In July 1925 a resolution was passed to sound the siren at noon each day for the purpose of testing and to keep the siren in working condition. So for forty years we've known when to eat lunch or dinner.

The struggle for water in town, too, required perseverance. In 1930 a petition was made to erect a municipal water plant but the Public Service Commission rejected it because a town is allowed to be bonded for only 3% of its taxable evaluation and that sum was insufficient to build a plant. The rejection was a blessing in disguise for in 1939 on the second try, a much larger and better plant was made possible through government assistance. At the time an alert town resident read that Lakeville, Indiana was installing a water system through P.W.A. help. Accordingly Town Board President Fred Perry and Town Attorney Edward J. Ryan drove to Lakeville to confer with their town officials. With their findings they drove on to South Bend to see Clarence Manion who had charge of P.W.A. in this region and he promised to use his influence on behalf of the Kouts project. In due time wells were drilled on the George Glissman property which had been purchased by the town. The W.P.A. furnished the labor and P.W.A. some of the material required and Kouts had an adequate plant.

At one of their meetings the Town Board gave priority to naming the streets. The leading north-south street remained Main Street as it has always been but commonly called 49 today, while the leading east-west street was named Indiana Street, now State Road 8. Rose Street was named for Rose Yoder of whom you shall read in the Christian Church history; Kouts Street in honor of the first family; Maple Street for the trees that enhance it; Church Street because two churches are at its beginning; Poland Avenue for many of our early Polish residents who lived on it; Will Street for Will Betterton; College Avenue for it ran past both the old and new school, and Mentor Street retained the name given it by Charlie Betterton. Sr. The street running parallel to the Erie Railroad was named Erie Street while the one running north of and parallel to the Pennsylvania Railroad was called Railroad Street.

The board had their moments of levity for to Pete Lyons, a staunch Democrat, the street past his home was named McKinley, while not wanting to neglect a rank Republican, the street beside Will Betterton's home was named Jefferson Street.

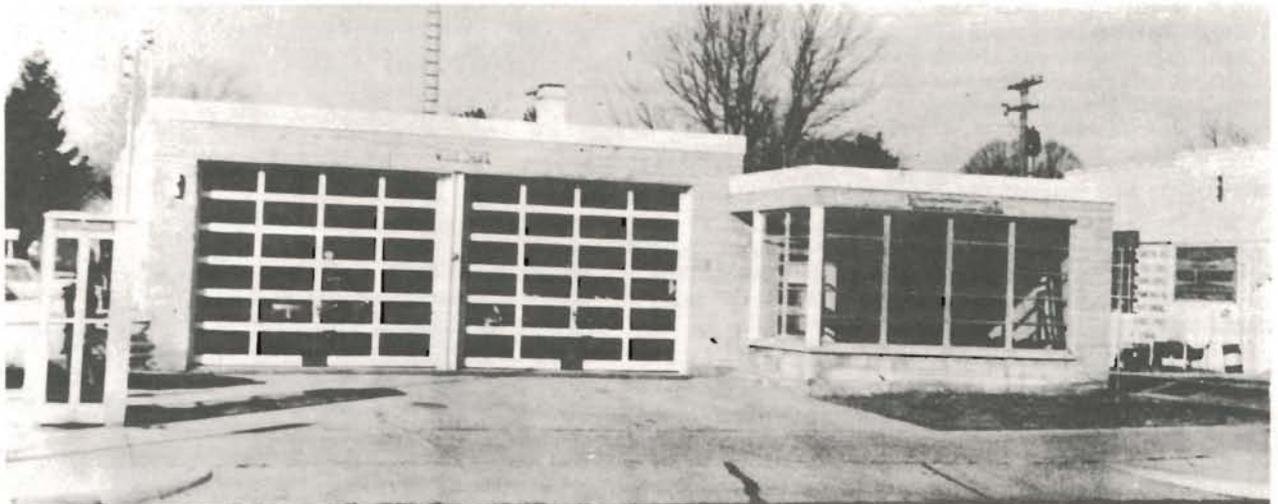
In 1957 construction on a new Town Hall to cost \$17,000 was begun on the site of the old O'Brien Hall, more recently Bill Heffron's Royal Blue Store, destroyed by fire. It was dedicated in 1958 and serves as a meeting place for not only the Town Board, but also for a voting place, other civic meetings as well as a garage to house the fire trucks.

Howard McKinney developed the two acres in the Rosenbaum addition on the north side of Road 8 with the house now owned by Mrs. Gust Lippert being the first one built.

A new subdivision was started in an area southwest of town in 1952 with Lee Birky building the first homes. In 1954 Sam Strong furthered development but sold out to Hall whose home sites are on the south side of Jefferson Street, with Hamstra Builders building on the north side of Jefferson. This area was brought into the corporation in March, 1959.

Allen Good opened Good Acres to the north of town on the west side of 49 and here built the Medical Arts Building and plotted the rest of the area for restricted homesites. Shady Lane on North Church Street is under development as is the Betterton property on S. Main Street. The Wieland property on the east end of town awaits development.

Centennial Year finds the Town Board and citizenry faced with the challenging problems of a sewage disposal and new storm sewers.



Present Town Hall and Fire Station



Seated; Fritz Maul, George Maul, and Al Whited. Standing on the ground; Ewalt Jahnz, Joe Shepard, Leland Jarnecke, Lester Rhyndard, Cecil Maxwell, Harold Dommer, Harold Chael, Asst Chief, John Rogowski, Dick

Chael-Fire Chief, Leo Fullgraf, and Floyd Miller. On truck: Robert Claussen, James Kosanke-Ass't Chief, Bernard Kroft, John Sandberg, Norman (Mike) Haring, John Timm, and Gene Manago.

Fire Department

In the April 25, 1921 meeting a resolution was proposed for the purchase of a triple tank chemical engine outfit from Obenchain-Bauer Co. of Logansport, Indiana for the sum of \$2075 with Cannon and Peters Ford Dealers of Kouts to furnish a Fordton truck chassis with self starter for the sum of \$682. The resolution was passed, the outfit purchased, and put into service on May 5, 1921.

The first fire fought by the department with the new truck was that of the Fred Heinold residence on August 4, 1921.

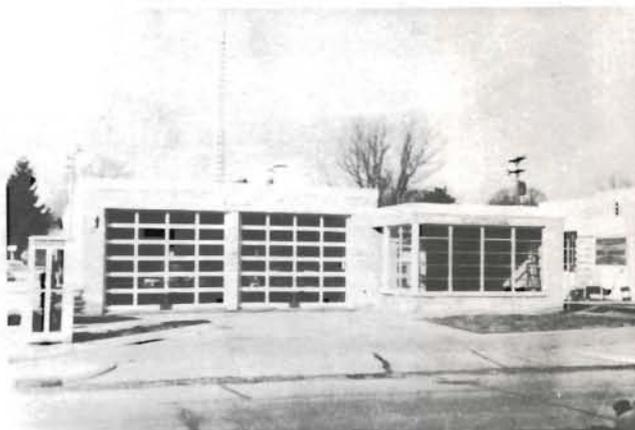
The Fire Department was on a voluntary basis and Paul Gordon, Gust Rosenbaum, August Vergin, Burney Maxwell, and Herman Chael were names listed in the department's infancy.

By 1930 the Ford chassis was replaced with a larger Chevrolet chassis (1 1/2 ton) and Ewalt Jahnz became the fire chief. With the installation of the water plant, fire was fought with water pressure on the hose.

In 1946 Kouts acquired the first pumper truck and in January 1965 a new American-LaFrance fire truck was purchased in Elmira, New York for \$23,000. Present Fire Chief Richard Chael, his brother Harold, John

Rogowski, and George Maul made the trip to drive the truck to Kouts.

J. C. Hiatt and Howard Cannon served as heads of the Fire Department between the time served by Ewalt Jahnz and the present.

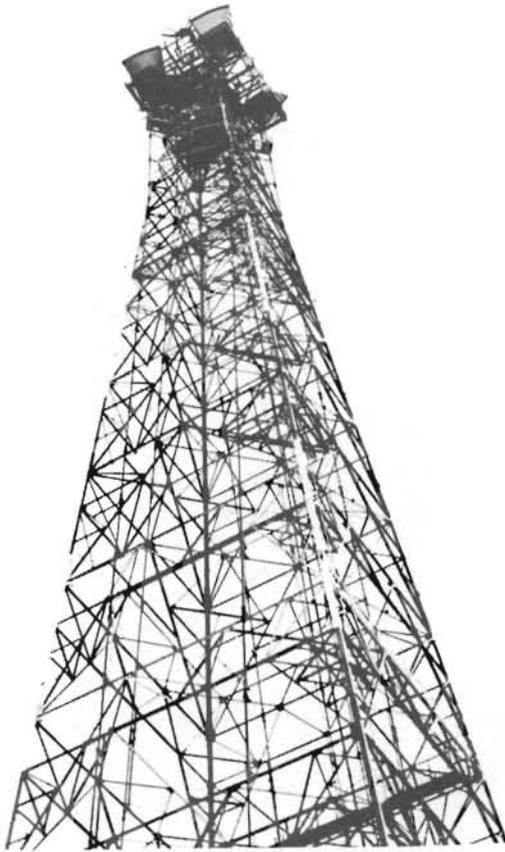


Present Town Hall and Fire Station

KOUTS 125th ANNIVERSARY

'Kouts Is Four In Score

Ready For A Hundred More'



Radio Relay Tower South of Kouts

Another link in the nation's growing web of defense and civilian communications is that of the new microwave radio relay system which stretches from coast to coast. In Illinois these towers are located at Winnebago, Lee, Norway, Bonfield, and Momence, and in Indiana at Kouts and LaPorte.

At the present time many of the nation's trans-continental telephone circuits pass through Chicago. The new radio relay route will carry calls around Chicago which is a safety factor in national defense if the telephone equipment in Chicago should be destroyed.

Each tower in the system will use newly developed antennas shaped like "horns of plenty" which send beams of radio waves toward the next tower in line as well as receiving antenna which gather them in. Then they are amplified and sent on. Each pair of "cornucopia horns" can handle as many as 20,000 telephone conversations at a time.

The steel towers range in height from 187 feet at Winnebago to 340 feet at Kouts. The Kouts tower was built and completed in 1956.

Industry

Very few attempts have been made to establish manufacturing enterprises in Kouts. Joseph Hackman erected a sawmill on the bank of the Kankakee River in the very early days, but in the 1870's sold it to James M. Pugh who converted it into a portable mill and used it in various parts of the township.

H. A. Wright started a cheese factory about 1877 (where Breitzke's live) but shortly abandoned the undertaking.

In 1887 Jerry Ryan started an ax-handle factory which employed five or six men but for lack of suitable timber that business was discontinued.

The cutting and baling of marsh hay was big



Miss Kathy Robbins - Kouts Centennial Slogan Winner

business until the straightening of the Kankakee and digging dredge ditches turned all the area into productive farm lands.

After 1910 mine props were cut from the river timber until the supply was exhausted. They were shipped out by rail from Kouts to their destination.

Albright and Ely, representatives of Elkhart Lumber Company, had a saw mill on East Mentor Street approximately where the stockyards are now, but it was destroyed by fire in the early 1920's. Over a million board feet of lumber was lost.

In 1915 a reed furniture and basket factory was started by Joe Mroz in the Glissman Building known as "The Hunters' Home". In this venture George Maul and Prokop of LaPorte worked with Joe. From "The Hunters' Home" they moved to the Frazier Building (next east of Mrs. Kasl's home). After a few years the factory moved to LaPorte and Joe and George went into the slaughtering business.

In the 1920's Dodson had a so-called pickle factory in Kouts. It was merely the large vats of salt brine in which the pickles were stored until shipped by rail to the processing plants. These vats stood east of the Kouts Elevator along the Pennsylvania Railroad. Claussen succeeded Dodson in this project but the community soon tired of the back breaking activity.



Pennsylvania Depot with Agent Adolph Kaysen



Erie Depot with Agent Lester Hoover

Transportation

Rail service at Kouts is provided by two lines. The Logansport Division of the Pennsylvania line, P.C.C. & St. L. R.R., which was built through here in 1865, was the beginning of the town.

The Chicago and Atlantic Railroad built through Kouts was begun in 1881 and the first trains ran over it on December 25, 1883. The work had been hampered by the stretch of wet marsh land between Clanricarde and Wilders where all the roadbed had to be built with wheelbarrows and shovels. Very little work could be done with horses as they were too heavy. The 1887 wreck at Sandy Hook Ditch caused the bankruptcy of the Chicago and Atlantic and it then became the Chicago and Erie.

The Pennsylvania double tracked in 1904 and the Erie in 1916. Each road ran two accommodation trains each way daily.

With the Erie crossing the Pennsylvania in Kouts, operators and lever men have always held important and responsible positions. Formerly it was just two shifts as each turn was 12 hours instead of 8 hours as now. Early operators whose names could be recalled were: Fritz Wolbrandt, Godfrey Nimon, Ted Swartz, Charlie Bentley, Mike Shutske, Cleo Kent, George Hanaway, Edward M. O'Brien, Gleason Falls, Edwin and George Pumroy. The last 6 men knew and used the Morse Code so were telegraphers, too, as trains were dispatched that way. Today they use telephones. Thomas Quirk, Sr. was operator at the Lomax tower and lived in Kouts. Jack Radilyack, Henry Furness, and Harry Rollar worked at the Clanricarde Tower long since discontinued, as well as the tower at Goodpasture's crossing (where J. L. Vogel now lives) where Bert Warble was operator. Present operators are: Charles Underwood, Jack Frasers and John Paulsen.

The Pennsylvania depot agents were: Barney Kouts, Pent Witham, Turner Eadus, A. J. Howard, Pat Halligan, Tommy Britton, Joseph V. Vogel, Jay Banter, Bob Maudlin, Mrs. Howard Enoch, also her husband Howard Enoch, Wanda Kinney, and now Adolph Kaysen of Hebron who serves only a certain hour each day.

The Erie agents were: Mike O'Brien, Ray Berlin, Moonshower, D. E. Jones, Waldo Gray, Claude Walters, Wayne Mallett, Kenny Appleman, Harry Teems, and presently our genial and ever obliging Lester Hoover.

To keep the trains moving safely, a number of signal men were stationed in Kouts. George Wolbrandt, John Metherd, Fred Chael, Dempsey Wandrey, Ernest Wandrey, Harvey James, Wilbur McIntire, and Alfred Chatten are some names that come to mind and each served many years.

In addition Henry Dux was employed by the Pennsylvania as car repairman, working on any box cars needing

repair found on the siding between the coal docks and Crown Point.

The section men had the responsibility of keeping the road bed in repair and ready for the heavy train traffic. The Erie and Pennsylvania each had four sections with the bosses and workers living in town. Some of the Erie bosses were Pat McGrath, Tommy Clark, George Bernoski, William Cunningham, Roy Adams, and Ted Hurley.

On the Pennsylvania were found Louie Pfost, Jerry McCarthy, Louis Wandrey, Jim Garrigan, John Dwyer, Lawrence Starkey, Hiram Jackson, and Fred Henning. Now these sections are lengthened and few if any of the men live in town. The men commute in company owned trucks and on company time.

Before the installation of gates at the Main Street crossings both roads employed crossing watchmen, with John Lapelski, Alec Williamson, George Maul, Gust Jahnz, Ed Garvey, and Mrs. Fred Henning each serving a period of years, while August Honehouse and Verner Blachly guarded the Erie until gates and flashers were installed in 1941.

Besides the railroaders you've read about, another group of men held responsible positions at the Coal Docks and Water Tank. All the Pennsylvania trains stopped in Kouts for coal and water. While the men appreciated the work so close at hand, the townspeople became weary waiting for the crossing to clear, the women disgusted if not furious when the refueled train belched out soot on their washings and clean porches. Finally the agitation became so great that the Pennsylvania built new modern docks two miles west of Kouts, where a tiled ditch brought water from Sandy Hook Ditch to their water tank. They opened for their first trains on February 14, 1907. (A real Valentine for the town.)

Fred Chael, Sr. and Dan Metherd are names of early workers at the docks as are Lawrence Starkey, John Wandrey and Joe Craig.

By 1911 the Sandy Hook Ditch was dredged lowering the water level and wells had to be drilled. They drilled 290 feet and found plenty of water. But before the first train reached Logansport, they had an urgent call ordering them not to use that water for any more trains. It was too salty! By drilling more wells and installing a pump to lift the water from the Sandy Hook Ditch, a supply of water was in reserve.

Joe Craig was foreman at the docks from 1909 till 1911 when Jim Hooley who had seniority took over the job until 1914; then John Dunkel took over till 1926 when Joe Craig was welcomed back and held the job until his retirement in 1946. Alva Hardesty took Joe Craig's place and then Ray Sommerville until the use of diesel engines closed the docks. They were dismantled and torn down in 1957.



New Post Office in Kouts

The Kouts Post Office

According to records from the Federal Government the first name of our town was Foster, and Peter C. Bonham was temporary postmaster.

It was on May 14, 1867 that Hilary Wright was appointed postmaster of Kout's Station, a fourth class office, and he served until March 11, 1881. Mr. Wright was succeeded by Sebastian Douglas who served only twenty-one months.

Lyman Atkins got his appointment on December 4, 1882. He was Dr. Atkins's brother and had the office in his brother's drug store.

On February 5, 1886 Jim O'Brien took up the duties in his store under Grover Cleveland's administration and served under Cleveland's both terms which were separated by a term under Benjamin Harrison's presidency when Johnny Hall was awarded the job.

Due to a change in politics Truman S. Caswell (called Stoddard Caswell) relieved Jim O'Brien and had the Post Office in a small building, office and home combination, across the alley from the old Post Office on what is now the Dittmer property. It was moved to North Main Street and converted to a barber shop.

Since Mr. Caswell was paralyzed from an accident in the timber when a falling tree caused a permanent back injury, he served his customers from a wheel chair. He resigned in 1902 to join the families of Mark

Zorn, Joe Vannett, Mrs. Pent Witham and sons, Maxwells, Sims and others, who went to North Dakota to homestead.

On March 27, 1902 Charles Wolbrandt, a nephew of George Wolbrandt, was appointed and for the first time Kouts had an office in a building which was exclusively a Post Office. It later became a barber shop. Mr. Wolbrandt's daughter Vivian (Mrs. Francis Hawbrook) lives in the Five Points area as well as grandchildren and great grandchildren, Tetzloffs and Selmans.

On August 23, 1913, Burt Hofferth was awarded the job and it was during his tenure that the business outgrew its first building. Since Mrs. Kouts owned the building and was made aware of the overcrowded condition, she immediately hired Frank Bradney as carpenter, to build a larger building just east of the old one. It was during these years that Kouts became a third class office. Burt resigned in 1921 to go back into private business.

Clara Young was appointed in April 1921 but due to a technicality requiring the postmaster to be a free holder in the town or township, served only three months when she was succeeded by Albert Honehouse. When politics changed again, Mr. Honehouse was succeeded by Ira Dye who took over on January 1, 1933, and served for twenty years.

On November 1, 1953 Lester Rhynard was awarded the position and in 1955 the Post Office moved from its location of over a half century, to its new home on State Road 49. With increased business due to growth of town and community, Kouts became a second class office in 1954. The income from the sale of stamps, government cards and envelopes determines the class rating of an office. Mitchell Starkey has served as a faithful and competent postal clerk since June 1959.

Through the years Kouts has always been privileged to have excellent mail service with both railroads dispatching and discharging first class mail several times daily on their fast trains. However at present, just one mail sack a day is sent and received on the Pennsylvania, none on the Erie. The bulk of the mail is brought in by truck, as is the parcel post, and is dispatched in like manner.

Kouts Creamery

A group of 68 townsmen and farmers led by a better business promoter pooled their resources and built the Kouts Creamery in 1912 with P. O. Norris current bank cashier as secretary-treasurer. It always operated on the brink of broke, never paid dividends and the stockholders finally sold out to Martin Walters whose sons continued the business. They shortly went over the brink and the building was taken over by the Bowman Dairy in 1925. This place hummed with activity and was a "shot in the arm" to both business and the farmer. Farmers hauled milk for a radius of twenty miles to the dairy where it was tested, cooled, and piped into thermos trucks for its journey to Chicago. Dairy managers included Ed Capouch, George Mathews, Harvey Lloyd, Harry Carr, and Ed Knopinski who succeeded each other in that order.

Chris Daumer, owner and manager of the thermos trucks, bought and renovated the former Ford garage built by George Knoll. Some of his faithful drivers were Don Rhynard, Clarence Sommers, George Talbutt, Leon Henderson, Vernon (Gangle) Burns, and George Wilson. With newer methods of milk handling, Bowman Dairy closed in November of 1951. Heindol Elevator bought the building and use it as a storage place.

Rural Free Delivery



Pictured above Mrs. Rosenbaum at reins of rural mail route buggy which she used until 1923.

History records that the first rural route in the United States was established in Charleston, West Virginia in 1896; it was 15 miles long. At the present time our nation is served by 32,000 routes, averaging 55 miles per route.

It was on November 15, 1904 that the first rural free delivery was started from the Kouts Post Office. Earl Pierce was the first carrier and served until February 1913. His brother Nyle was his substitute. The route of 21 miles was covered with a horse drawn mail wagon and in 1913 with the introduction of Parcel Post, had an added feature for everyone's convenience.

The inimitable Edward (Eddie) Rosenbaum was appointed to succeed Earl Pierce.

With the establishment of a second route from the Kouts office in 1916, Carl Cannon became the second carrier. He served until January 31, 1917 when he resigned. Eddie's sister, Laura Rosenbaum Pulaski,

was his successor on Route Two but by mutual agreement they traded routes.

Eddie served Kouts rural patrons for 44 years retiring in 1957. Hattie, his wife, substituted for him until her tragic death October 1, 1948 in a traffic accident at the junction of Roads 2 and 30 southeast of Valparaiso.

Laura retired in 1962 after 46 years service and in all those years, no one ever saw either Laura or Eddie too busy, too hurried, or too harassed to be patient, polite, and pleasant, often going beyond the call of duty and despite most adverse road and weather conditions they followed the motto of the Pony Express "the Mail Must Go Through".

Eddie was succeeded by Al Miller and Art Kneifel was awarded Laura's route. Eddie and Laura left very exacting marks of excellence in service at which to aim, and by aiming high, doth one grow. Future historians can write the new carriers' claim to fame.

Burke Ranch

The Burke Ranch was created in 1887 when three Chicago cattle brokers - Jim and John Burke, brothers, and George Adams - bought almost ten square miles of Kankakee swampland southeast of Kouts for \$2.50 to \$3.00 an acre. The 6000 acres of damp land grew little except wild marsh hay. But that was abundant and the men planned to ship in western cattle to winter on the hay, fatten in the spring on Illinois corn and brewery malt and thus earn a tidy profit.

Accordingly they hired Charles Lauer, a lean six-footer plus, just turned 21 to set up and manage the ranch. With help he erected a few rough buildings, strung 12 miles of fence and graded a siding which the Erie Railroad tracked and named Clanricarde in honor of Jim Burke's wife's home town in Wales. To this point the cattle were shipped from Chicago. By the fall of 1888 longhorns by the train load began arriving and they soon had 1800. Our Hoosier cowboys knew little about western cattle but they soon learned never to walk among them. They would obey horsemen but immediately charge a man afoot.

They got through the first winter in good shape, tending the herd on imported western ponies and feeding them 9000 tons of wild hay baled that summer. Frank O'Brien, son of Mike O'Brien, one of Kouts' first storekeepers, and William Hofferth, then boys, helped with the haying during the summer. Frank Kise and Lawrence

Starkey whose son Gordon lives in Kouts, was one of the cowboys.

The following spring Lauer and a half dozen men started on their first big trail drive with 450 cattle to Herscher, Illinois in the heart of the corn belt 80 miles away. They traveled 20 miles a day with no trouble until they made the mistake of driving the herd through Kankakee. Curious people stood and stared, and as the crowd gathered some steers got nervous and stampeded. The people did, too, and luckily they took off in opposite directions. The cowboys finally got the herd stopped two miles out of town and finished the drive without further incident.

During the next two years, they made a half dozen similar cattle drives without serious trouble.

But the cowboys in Indiana were short lived. The ranch owners failed to reap expected fat profits and welched on pay promises. In 1890 Lauer quit and went to work on the railroad. A few years later the Burke ranch declared bankruptcy.

Clanricarde still remains; there has been a grain elevator there since 1907 owned and operated by William J. Dahl. In the early part of the century it was a regular stop for the accommodation trains on the Erie. The old ranch boarding house was moved out to the main road (Dunn's Bridge Road), remodeled and is a dwelling now owned by the Kirsten Brothers. The ranch manager's home built at Log Heap, just south of Joe Dahl's place on the hill, was destroyed by fire.



Telephone Service

Telephone service in Kouts was first established in 1899. It was owned by Abe Halleck, father of Charles Halleck, long time Republican congressman. The office was located in the building now owned by Desilver Lyon and was operated by Harry Reiter and his family, local service only. He also had a jewelry store in connection with the telephone office.

The franchise was sold in 1903 to H. R. Ball and James McGill of Valparaiso; the company was known as the "Northwestern Indiana Telephone Company." The office was moved to the Benkie Drug Store. There were twenty subscribers and one Valparaiso line. The first manager was Carrol Stanton and chief lineman was George Stanton. The first operators in that location were Etta Benkie, Sylvia (Wandry) Berrier and Fred Behrends.

The office was moved again in 1910 to the Gust Kosanke residence now owned by Joe Susdorf.

The managers during the years were George Burk,

James Walsh, Harry Wells and Paul Gordon. The operators were Kenny (Cunningham) Reder, Mabel (Hall) Gordon, Margaret (Lane) Bradney, Mabel (Wells) Carichoff, Annetta (Kosanke) Humphrey, Lena (Kosanke) Brodus, Rie Maxwell, Lenore (Kosanke) Buechner, Laura (Kosanke) Wulf, Agnes (Lauer) Stark, Lyle (Dangerfield) Smith, Milne Trinkle Bruder, Caroline Hamann, Orma Sandberg Wellsland, Margaret James, Alice Hough, Margaret (Hough) Billet, Margaret (Cannon) Graham, Joe Susdorf, Ruby Susdorf, Lulu Schneckeburger, and Louise A. Benkie.

In 1937 the company was sold to the Indiana Association Telephone Corporation, predecessor of General Telephone Company of Indiana. In 1950 a new office was constructed and the equipment converted to dial on October 17th. Kouts outgrew the equipment installed at that time and a new building was erected. Another conversion was made on May 5, 1963 to completely modern dial equipment, seven digit numbers and direct distance dialing.

Heinold Hog Market

Since Kouts is surrounded by fertile farm land producing good crops of grain and hay, stock raising has always been an important occupation.

Gust Kosanke and George Wolbrandt bought and slaughtered animals for local consumption, for each had a meat market in town.

George Childers, Art Maxwell, William Detlef, Jerome Bartholomew, and William Denzine were stock buyers too, who rode through the area buying up hogs, cattle and sheep to be shipped to the Chicago Stock Yards. There were stock pens on both the Erie and Pennsylvania Railroads, to which stock was driven on foot in the early days and hauled later by wagon, and then by trucks.

It was in 1948 that Vernon Reibly of Valparaiso started a hog market on the southeast edge of town at the end of Mentor St. It was bought in 1950 by Harold

Heinold and today an average of 60 farmers and truckers pass through Kouts daily to bring hogs to market, coming from distances up to 25 miles.

Mr. Heinold has 20 other markets in Indiana, Illinois, and one in Iowa, and last year a total of 2 million hogs were handled with a gross of 70 million dollars. The garage originally built by George Knoll, an early Ford dealer, later owned by Chris Daumer to house the milk trucks of Bowman Dairy days, was completely renovated and remodeled, and is the main office of the Heinold Hog Market with Joseph Vogel, Jr. as general manager, and in Kouts a total of 11 persons are employed.

William Reinke, a native son, is local manager of the yards, while another native son, Ray Pfladderer, is manager of a newly opened yard near Liberty, Indiana.

From Then To Now

Since you have read of the earliest business men and their stores, an attempt will be made to trace the sequence of business in the building and shall try to avoid being repetitious.

The first Kouts store (Cunninghams), a one story frame structure, was remodeled in 1911 by adding a second story providing office space for rent and laying up a block stone exterior. After Mr. Kouts no longer used the building Wolbrandts had a meat market here. Mrs. Celia Childers had a millinery store for over a quarter century. Mrs. Childers was followed by Mr. and Mrs. Amos Cunningham who had a notions, dry goods and candy store which closed in 1963 due to age and health of the owner, Mrs. Mary Cunningham.

The Rosenbaum Store operated under that name and by members of the family until the 1930's. Linkimers of Valparaiso had a store for a short time. Then the building was razed and the Cities Service Station built on the site.

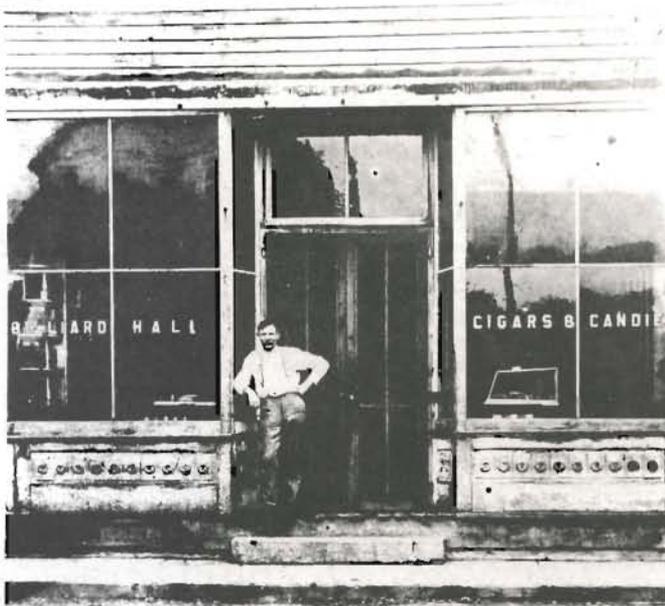
The Rosenbaum Hardware Store was last operated under that name by Gus who sold out to Harve Stanley in 1929. Mr. Stanley intended to have a meat market but his plans did not work out and he sold it to William Denzine, who operated a grocery and meat market from 1930 to 1947. Mr. Denzine sold to Wayne Mallett who had an electrical appliance shop until he sold to Tabler who had a fire which left only the lot to the owner.

As you've read O'Briens sold out to Luers in 1916. Luers sold to Shutske Brothers (John and Leo) in 1921 and in 1924 Shutskes sold back to Luers who continued a general store until 1932. The building was then used by the American Legion as a meeting place. Penny dances were held there, too. In 1937 August Gessa and brother-in-law, Ellis "Cap" Snow, bought the building and opened it as a grocery and meat market. In March 1946 William Hefron bought out Snow and he and Augie were partners until 1955 when Bill became sole owner. The same year a locker plant, a much needed service, was built on the south side of the store. But on October 28, 1955 the building and contents were destroyed by fire.

Kosankes Furniture Store sold out to Carol Root in the early 1940's who opened it as a hardware store. Root sold to Roger Schnurlein, who sold to Jack Keehn. The latter operated the store until February 1965 selling to Paarlberg the present proprietor. All the owners since Kosankes have come from Crown Point.

Kosankes Meat Market became a restaurant in the early 20's with Louise Hamann in charge, and when it was destroyed by fire in February 1927 she built a new building on the same site. Her brother and wife, William and Caroline Hamann conducted the business until his death in 1928. McIntires then operated the restaurant for two years, succeeded by Gordon and Harriet Spencer. In 1932 the building and business were sold to Fred Perry.

The Potter Building which stood next to Kosankes Store (west) and shared a common stairway, was a general store operated by Bettertons and then H. V. Deopker. When Mr. and Mrs. James L. Nichols and family came to Kouts in 1908, he bought the Potter Building and opened a Pool Room where he, too, was dealer in tobacco, cigars, and candies. In 1916 this business was discontinued, the building bought by Fred Perry and used in constructing the Gem Theatre on the north side of newly opened Will Street. When the Gem Theatre was razed in the 30's the usable lumber was incorporated in the present Christian parsonage where the Rose Yoder home was destroyed by fire in February 1927. Mr. and Mrs. Luers and daughter were living in the house at the time of the fire.



The Potter Building - James Nichols Prop.



THE LEADER AND LIBERTY CAFE
The first brick business building in Kouts was built in 1893 by Barney Kouts who rented it to Massey and
KOUTS 125th ANNIVERSARY



The Hiatt Building (built by Jim O'Brien) Prop. Floyd Nichols.



Mr. Gus Rueger
"Indiana's Largest Man" (475 lbs.)

Freeman. It was then leased to H. V. Deopker and the store was known as "The Leader". As such it carried groceries, dry goods, shoes, carpets, etc. Deopker was succeeded by Ordman and Shapiro who used the same trade name. In 1914 the building was unoccupied. Later it opened as "The Liberty Cafe" with John Ketchmark as proprietor. Gatlif and Morningstar had a business there and William Hamann had it until he moved to the site of now Hilliards restuarant. Gus Krueger had a hardware store in the 20's. Howard Edwards operated a tavern coming here in 1937. Edwards moved their business and the Kouts building housed a package liquor store. Then back to a restaurant with a frequent change of proprietors. Mrs. John Stoddard and Mrs. Ora Gut are two names recalled, and the building was last used by Sam Myren who operated a bakery and short order restaurant until 1963.

After the frame store building on the site of Fritz's

Tavern was destroyed by fire, H. V. Deopker bought the site and in 1911 erected a large block stone building to use as a general store. In this grocery section were seen the first fresh green vegetables ever to be on sale in Kouts in the winter time. One solicitous mother was heard to remark, "Indeed! I wouldn't feed my children that raw stuff in this cold weather." After a decade of successful business, Deopker sold to J. T. Cannon and Sons, who sold to Russell and Gilbert Prevo. In 1927 Prevos sold to Combs and the store closed in 1929.

In 1926 Mr. Deopker sold the building to Thomas Quirk, Sr. In 1931 Mrs. Kate Quirk opened the I.G.A. Store and operated it until 1940. Mrs. Quirk sold the store building to Howard Edwards who had a tavern until he sold out to Stowers in 1943. Stowers sold to Fred Maul in 1945 and it is Fritz's Tavern today.



Mr. and Mrs. Tom Mason, Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Mason and daughter Lois and son Donald about 1915.

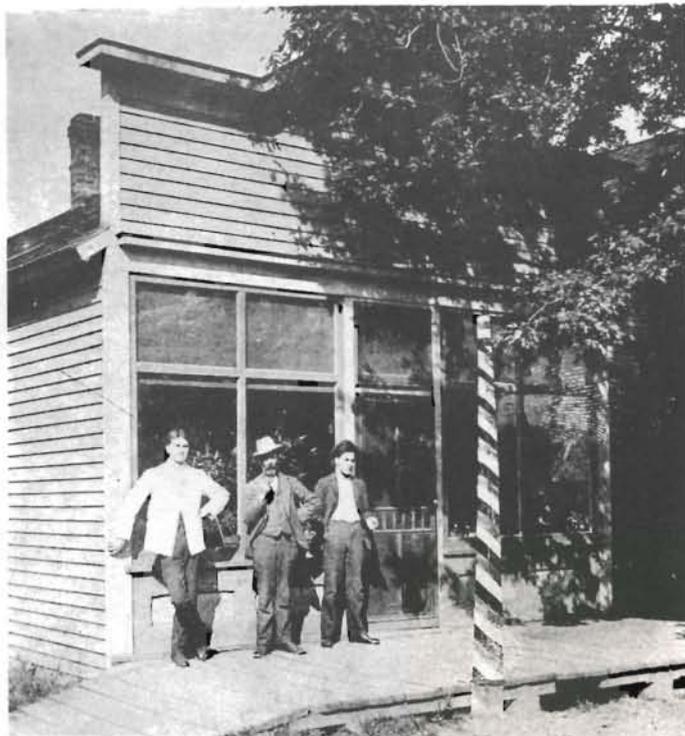
Gina's Pizza Shop was built by Link Arnold for a poolroom but he sold it to August Wandrey who had a saloon until he sold it to Runyons who lived upstairs. The two brothers, John and George Runyon, continued the saloon business until Prohibition. Rudolph Kuss moved his meat market from the Leser Building and had a store. Heine Dux succeeded his father-in-law, Mr. Kuss, and had a store from 1927 to 1951. Since then it has been used as an electrical repair shop by Wright and Scott, a toy and gift shop by Mrs. Kasl, a dress shop by Rhynards, followed by the G. & G., then as an office by Dr. Hott from 1961 till he moved into the Medical Arts Building.

The P. Lyons Building now the Kouts Inn was built in 1916 on the west side of Main Street where the second Kouts building was destroyed by fire in 1893. It has a restaurant in the basement conducted by Luther Wise for a number of years, while the main floor had Bowling and Pocket Billiards conducted by Andy Trinosky. By 1928 it was known as Jim's Place with Jim Herring as proprietor, where Near Beer (Prohibition Days), Candy Cigars and Pop were advertised. With the repeal of the 18th Amendment in 1933, it became a tavern and poolroom. Milas and Kowalczyk are in charge now.

HIATT BUILDING

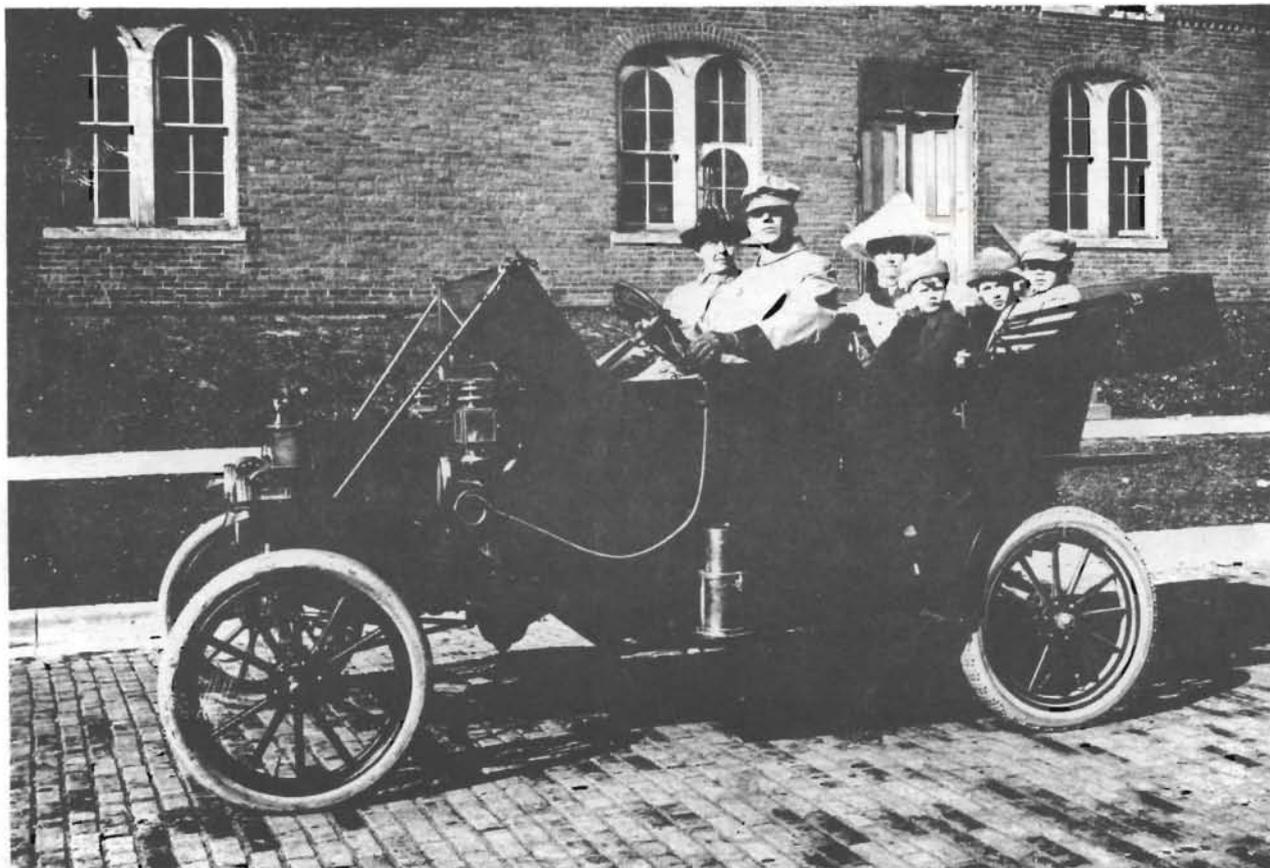
Floyd, the only son of Jim Nichols, married a local girl, Lillie Metherd in 1914. As newlyweds they bought the restaurant business of Luther Wise and moved it to the Jim O'Brien Building now Hiatt Building. Here they served short order meals with Ed Rosenbaum's restaurant next door serving regular meals. In 1917 Nichols sold to John Jarnecke; Jim and Ethel Garrigan, and Mansfield had restaurants there too. From then until the 1930's when Thoma of Valparaiso opened a store with Walter Newsom in charge, the businesses are unknown. Newsom sold to Snow and the store closed. Hiatt bought it and had an electrical and plumbing shop.

Floyd then left Kouts for 7 years returning in 1924 as a meat cutter in Prevo's Store. In 1944 he bought

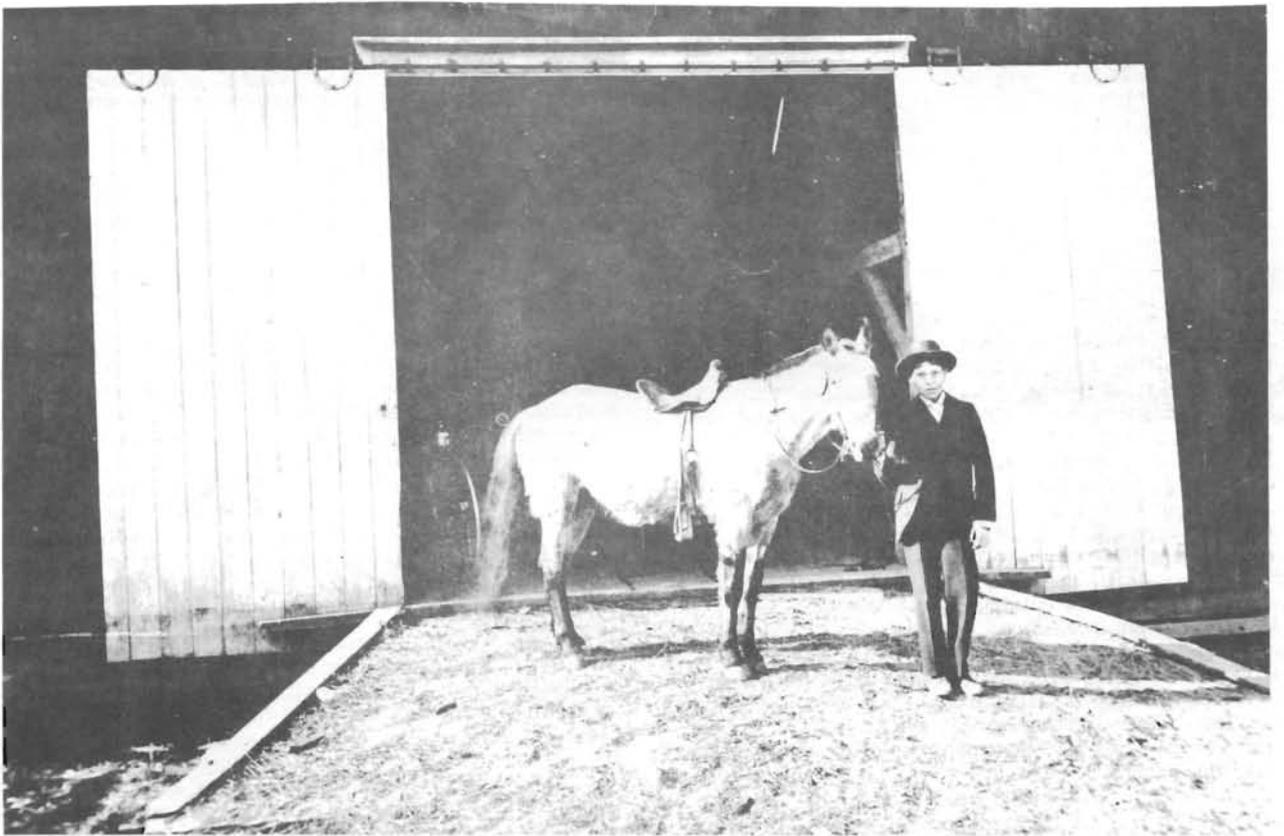


Goodpasture's Barber Shop

Rasmussen's stock and had a store there for two years. He and Paul Martin had a restaurant on the east side of Main Street for year when bought Paul out and had a grocery store until 1958.



Mr. and Mrs. Walter Bush, sons Wayne and Judd and daughter, Gladys and Miss Edna Wright.



Dwight Mason with Mason Hitch Barn in background

**THE REITER BUILDING NOW LYONS BUILDING
VACATED BY SWING REFRIGERATION**

Harry Reiter operated a jewelry store, watch repairs, lunch counter, confectionery, ice cream in season and housed the telephone exchange in this place until 1903 when William Trinkle traded the two homes on East Mentor St. (Masts and Meinders) for the building. Mr. Trinkle rented it to Johnson who had a restaurant and ice cream parlor for a short time and then to Fair-

childs who moved on to Monon. From 1905 to 1912 William Denzine and his widowed sister, Mrs. Trinkle, carried on a successful restaurant, at which time Mrs. Trinkle sold the building to Desilver Lyons and built the hotel on Rose Street. Mr. Denzine married Martha Chael and together they continued in the business for two years selling out to Nyle Pierce. From Pierce it sold to Ed Rosenbaum who sold to Gus Rueger. Ruegers were from Chicago and had lived on a farm near Kouts



Pete Lyons Building -- Kouts Inn



Henry Herring's Dredge

before buying the restaurant. Mr. Rueger found business so good he bought the site of the Unruh Bakery just north and here built a brick building.

From then the Lyons Building housed many and varied businesses. Art Hurley had a poolroom for a few years and Eva Jaspersen a notions store, a recreation center for minims, etc.

The living quarters of this building might be called "Honeymoon Inn" for several couples can claim it as their first home.



Left to Right: George Wilcox, Dr. P. D. Noland, Charles Wolbrandt.

LESERS BUILDING

(home and saloon combination) on East Mentor Street. You've read that Wolbrandts had a tavern here selling in the mid 80's to Knolls of Medaryville who moved here with 7 sons. George, Ralph and Otto later had business places in town. After Mr. Knoll's death his widow married Joe Leser and they continued in the saloon business until Prohibition. Then Rudolph Kuss started a meat market on this site until he moved into the Wandrey building on N. Main. The store part was cut away from the home, moved south, faced east and made into a dwelling. The remaining part has had two fires recently but is still standing.

In the new building Ruegers built they continued with the restaurant until 1923 when they traded it to Earl Inman of Valparaiso for property there. Earl Inman sold to Frank Klemm who in the mid 30's sold to Rasmussens who continued the business until 1944, when Floyd Nichols took over until 1946 when he sold to Bob Heath. Bob Heath sold to Scherers, Scherers sold to Stowers and closed it out as a grocery store to reopen as the G. & G., a ladies' ready-to-wear and notions in 1954. When the G. & G. partnership dissolved, it became the Kouts Department Store as it is today.

ELEVATORS

The Wright Elevator along the Erie, destroyed by fire in 1901, was never replaced.

The Kouts Elevator built by Stanton Dillingham was sold to J. J. Overmyer early in the century. Overmyer sold to Charles Ray who moved here from LaCrosse in 1919. He had the business until 1945 when he sold to Eldon Kuehl. The latter sold to Heindold, his competitor, and the elevator was razed in 1963 to make room for improved buildings.



Kouts Elevator with Charles Ray Prop.

KOUTS 125th ANNIVERSARY

You've read that Ben and Jack Anderson had a livery barn on the east side of N. Main in the 90's but sold out to Rhinolt Klott. After a few years Mr. Klott sold the business to Jay Kilday who had the place till it burned to the ground around 1910.

Early in the 1900's another hitch barn was located south of Kosanke's Butcher Shop about where the Kouts Stop and Shop is now. Besides livery service draying was also conducted by Herman Werner, the proprietor.

And in the same era Mr. and Mrs. Tom Mason and son, Dwight, came from north of Aylesworth to Kouts and built a home on the corner of College and Main (originally the site of Cincoski's blacksmith shop) and the Mason Hitch Barn and Livery Stable to the west of the home. Here, especially in cold and rainy weather, churchgoers left their horses and buggies, for their son, Dwight, would take the people to the church door and bring the horse and rig back to shelter. The pupils attending high school left their horses here too, for the day, just a short block from school.

With the coming of the automobiles, the horses gave way to the cars and hitch barns to garages. By 1920 Kouts had three garages, all still standing - they were of block stone construction.

The first garage was built by George Knoll on Mentor Street, now the headquarters of the Heinold Hog Market and Kouts Investments. He built it adjacent to his mother's place of business. In the 1920's it was advertised as Ford Sales and Service and Ford Hospital. When George Knoll left Kouts, John Kuss had an agency for Maxwell, Chalmers, and Chevrolet in that location. John Kuss was followed by the Cannon Brothers (Harry and Leon) who previously had a garage in the block stone building just north of Deopker's Store (purchased as the first town hall in December 1922). The Cannon Brothers had the Willys Knight and Overland Agencies with Auto and Tractor Repairing for a few years.

Although the Bowman Dairy came in 1925 the garage was not taken by Chris Daumer for several years. The trucks were kept in Hebron. But from 1930 till 1951 it was here that the trucks were housed and kept in first class mechanical condition for their daily trip to Chicago.

A. L. Arnold built the second garage on Main Street (now the Kouts Stop and Shop Store) and in 1916 it was operated by Mr. Arnold and William Peters with the Maxwell Agency and Livery Hire. Dwight Winchell and Grover Lain were competent mechanics in the Main Street garage in that era. Arnold and Peters were followed by Harold DeArmond, Beals, and George Hanaway, and in the early 1930's Luther Wise was operating the garage selling Plymouths. From a garage it changed to an International Harvester sales and service under Mr. Rheinhertz.

In 1939 Glenn Crouch took over and it became a Hudson agency with Dodge and Plymouth for a time. Then Glenn built a new garage north of the four corners of 8 and 49 on the west side of the road with construction beginning in the fall of 1945 and completed by July 1947. Here he had the Hudson agency. Unable to carry on the garage work, the building was rented by Herschel Maple for about three years followed by Victor Krug, who closed in 1956 when both 8 and 49 were under construction. In 1960 Glenn Crouch opened the Kwik Wash Laundromat and Dry Cleaning establishment in the building.

All the garages had gasoline pumps as did the hardware stores. The first filling station as such was a Standard Station operated by E. H. Ling and Fred Behrends on the corner where the Marathon Station is

now only much closer to the road. Lee Murray had a Conoco Station where Kosanke's Bottled Gas is and Roy Wandrey had the Shell Station for twenty years before selling to Bob Claussen. You've read before that Oscar Maxwell had a Cities Service Station on the site of the Rosenbaum Store. He also drove a tank truck delivering gasoline and oil products to farms and homes of the territory.

Charlie Krueger had the first horse drawn Standard Oil truck that predated the gravel roads. With mud roads it was an occupation for the brave and strong. Overpack, Murtaugh and Floyd Kerlinska are some drivers that preceded Arden Mendel on the Standard truck.

Besides the garages which provided taxi service generally to the county seat, this service was also furnished by Charlie Pullins, George Lane, Bert Tillotson and Caroline Hamann. Various attempts were made to establish bus service between Kouts and Valparaiso - in the 1920's a bus operated for a couple years and again in the 40's but always quit because of no patronage.

The building occupied by Alco Aluminum was a one story building just east of the alley beside the old post office site and was moved in the early 1900's to its present location by W. N. Anderson and here he had a harness shop. A second story was added. The front rooms upstairs were rented for business offices with an apartment to the back.

Theodore Pietsch started a bakery in 1921 and the family lived upstairs until 1939 although he sold the bakery business to Fred Perry in the late 20's. With the death of W. N. Anderson, Edward M. O'Brien bought the building, remodeled the main floor and opened a realtor's office. Here he conducted his business until 1947 when he built the brick office building in the space just north of the bank. Paul Martin used the Anderson building as a restaurant where Floyd Nichols joined him in the enterprise. When Paul Martin returned to the service, Floyd closed out the restaurant and opened a grocery store which he operated until 1958 when ill health forced him to retire. Mrs. Kasl rented it for a year as a variety store, followed by Mona's Beauty Shop for another year and then the present business operated by Joe Krueger.

The building next south was built by Winfield Pierce and shared a common wall with the Anderson building. Mr. Pierce had a grocery store for many years followed by Jim Hodgins and William Detlef who had a butcher shop for a time. Jim Galbreath succeeded them and again it was a grocery store. From this grocery store it became a saloon with Ed Stibbe as proprietor. In the 30's Gus Krueger used the building as a hardware store. Besides hardware Mr. Krueger repaired furnaces, plumbing, and did sheet metal work. The next business was that of a pool hall operated by Herman (Luke) Schultz, who sold out in 1946 to William E. Reinke and Fenimore Biggart. With the accidental death of the latter in November 1951, Joe Horak became Reinke's partner until July 1955 when they sold to Ed Felker. After a couple years Felker sold to Howard Bailey. After Bailey went out of business, Orin DeWitt opened the Sports and Hobby Shop.

In Ed O'Brien's brick office building, a second office was first used as a Dress Shop by Mrs. Rhynard. In 1954 he built an addition to this building and here in December 1955 William Hefron opened the Royal Blue Store which operated until February 1964. W. A. Butler took over Mr. O'Brien's business July 1, 1951.



WHILE THE TRAIN STOPPED FOR WATER, TRUMAN CHATTED WITH INDIANA CHILDREN



Our own beloved Governor Schricker aboard the Presidential Special.

Great was the excitement when the "Presidential Special" train stopped in Kouts that October day in 1948. It had come in on the Erie from a political rally in Hammond and wanted to continue on the Pennsylvania to a like event in Logansport. This change over was possible in North Judson or Kouts but the latter was the chosen place.

Since this event was known beforehand, vast preparations were made by the section men who did a thorough job of cleaning the right of way. Never before nor since had it been so meticulously cleaned. Not a stone was out of place. One still wonders if they have ever found all that was hidden from view for those brief history making minutes. An extra rail was laid for the crossover for the armored car of the "Presidential Special" was too heavy for the rails already in use.

With school dismissed for the occasion the children and townspeople made a sizable crowd. While the train stood on the track near the Erie depot, President and Mrs. Truman and daughter, Margaret, came out on the rear platform of the train. Someone asked President Truman to make a speech but his answer was, "I've said too much already." However, he and family radiated friendliness.

When the picture appeared in "Life" magazine it carried the erroneous caption "While the train stopped for water, Truman chatted with Indiana children." It was a diesel not in need of water and it had stopped for a change over.

The Tornado

The longest officially recorded tornado traveled 293 miles in Illinois and Indiana on May 26, 1917 and lasted 7 hours and 20 minutes. Its forward speed was 40 mph, which is about average. But tornado speed has varied from 5 to 139 mph, and this tornado found Kouts.

It was a hot May Saturday becoming sultry in the afternoon, the storm clouds began to gather, the winds shifted to the southeast and gained strength, the thunder rumbled faintly in the west and steadily grew more audible. The black clouds gathered to the northwest and hung heavy. As the thunder became ominous, the strong southeast wind suddenly stopped blowing and not a leaf moved. An observer noted that the black clouds had two funnels as they roared in from the west after devastating Hebron and countryside. It then struck a bewildered townspeople most of whom were gathered for supper for the hour was 6 p.m.

In the town it dipped and rose and on one dip it completely destroyed the Christian Church, and on another dip the Catholic Church, creamery, and roller mills. Not a business building nor home in town escaped undamaged. Accompanying the furious wind was a hail storm with some stones as large as hens' eggs and a torrential rain. The once beautiful trees in the Pennsylvania Park were felled or sheared off or were wrapped in corrugated metal roofing from the coal docks two miles west of town. Other trees throughout the town were uprooted, twisted and snapped off.

But the countryside near Kouts perhaps was the scene of the worst damage. The farm home of Joseph

Cannon north of Kouts was twisted, torn away from the foundation, and the furnishings scattered to the four winds. All members of the family were more or less injured.

South of the Joseph Cannon home, the John Dunkle home was destroyed and the son injured. And on the road running east, south of the Cannon home, the power of the tornado seems to have bent all its energies. Here the homes were swept away completely. Since they had no basements, scarcely any mark of their whereabouts could be found. In this area the storm brought death to D. B. Resh, an aged farmer, and Julia Lane, fifteen, when their respective homes were swept away, and Wilbur Dunkle and the Lane baby were hospitalized.

Dr. Dittmer's home at Kouts was used as an emergency hospital. Here, those suffering with minor injuries, were treated and a comfortable home found for them.

The storm then proceeded northeastward toward Wanatah; here it turned and came back and struck Marshall Grove, causing heavy loss at the homes of John and Tom Hannon, John Welsh, George Koontz, Nelson Hughes, and Jerome Bartholomew.

Few of those in the stricken district were protected by tornado insurance for the great majority had never believed this protection necessary in this part of the state. After the storm the agents had all they could do to attend to the demands upon them for policies.

And a tornado of much lesser proportion did strike Kouts on May 28, 1935.



Hollandsworth Home



The Joe Cannon Home

The Saga Of The Kankakee



The Kankakee River which rises near South Bend and flows languidly southwestward forms the southern boundary of Pleasant Township on its course to join the Illinois River. In fact it was called the eastern branch of the Illinois at one time.

Many tribes of Indians lived in this beautiful wilderness and the Kankakee was named by a band of Indians of the Mohican Tribe who called themselves the "Wolves." They were driven from their homes by the mighty Iroquois Tribe and took refuge at the headwaters of the Kankakee thus the name "The Ak" (wolf) and "A Ki" (land) meaning Wolf Land.

It was here also that the Pottawotomi Indians settled before the Civil War. Their first settlement was called Mayesville and was located across the road from the George Wilcox home (now the home of Clayton Reif). The large tree standing at the entrance of the Reif home was the first Indian Trading Post. Many arrowheads, human bones, and Indian beads have been found here through the years. Porter Childers whom many old timers remember had an uncle that once owned a general store in Mayesville.

The Kankakee River and Baum's Bridge which spans it are both very familiar to the people of the area. The bridge is located about five miles southwest of Kouts on the Baum's Bridge Road. The road still winds around and up and down just like the Indian Trail it was for centuries. The bridge was named for Enos Baum who came to that place in 1860, started a sawmill and went into the lumber business. Years before the bridge was built there was a ferry located there.

In early days this territory was known as "Hunters Paradise" because the natural wilderness was the home of all kinds of wild life and plentiful fishing. Two creeks added to the riches of the township; Crooked Creek on the east so called because of its very crooked course and Sandy Hook on the west, both emptying into the Kankakee.

Fox, wolves, rabbits, ducks, geese, jacksnipes, brants, plover, deer, mink, coon, skunk, beaver, and muskrat were all abundant. The ducks and geese stayed and nested all year round. The river and creeks yielded channel cat fish, dog fish, pickerel, bass, bull heads, carp, buffalo and suckers. The marsh was a blaze of color from wild flowers of all kinds with the golden rod a sea of yellow in the early fall. Huckleberries, wild black berries, dew berries and raspberries were plentiful.

No early settlers could enter Pleasant Township by

road from the south but must follow a round about route to LaPorte where land was purchased and then south until they found the spot where they decided to settle. Others came up the Illinois River to the Kankakee and settled along its banks and lived in the land of game and plenty.

Land had to be cleared and homes built on the high spots because those were the only places not inundated in the spring. A boat could be rowed from the Pennsylvania Railroad to far below the river in Jasper County when the winter snows melted and spring rains came. And that is the reason the Erie Railroad has such a high road bed. The Pennsylvania was covered by water in the '70's and '80's and the Erie was determined to be out of the water.

Two well known high spots are Lone Tree Island and Grape Island; the former is at the mouth of Crooked Creek and is better known as Hyde's Island as Hiram Hyde built his home there. He farmed and taught a few terms at the Bowman School. Three of his children died (presumably of diphtheria) and are buried on the island because the water was too high to take them farther away. Grape Island was covered with fox grapes, wild grapes about the size of the Concord variety, and the island would be entirely surrounded by water.

To this "Hunters Paradise" came not only the local hunters but affluent sportsmen from Chicago,





Louisville, Pittsburg and from cities in the then distant parts of our state as well as from Europe. These hunters formed clubs and had large club houses built near Baums Bridge. Perhaps the best known and most favorably remembered were the Louisville Gun Club (1878) which was located on the south corner of the Baum's Bridge Tavern property, and the Pittsburg Club which was owned by Harry and Joe Wainwright, brewers from Pittsburg. Tad Starkey, a pioneer of this vicinity, still living, pushed the hunters' boats, and also bottled the beer that was brought here in barrels by wagon from the depot in Kouts where it had been shipped from Pittsburg. Other names most easily recalled are Ira Brainerd, captain of the Pittsburg Gun Club, Ned and Jim Brainerd; John Streater and guest, Joe Gomez, who was superintendent of the Eastern Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad. Leaders in the Louisville Club were Short, Thompson, Grissel and Garnet Munn.

Two other club houses built at this time were the White House Hunting Club Building built in 1878 and the Rockville, Terre Haute, and Indianapolis Club House built in 1879. Most of these men were millionaires and would bring with them their servants who did the cooking and other household chores. They bought bread (or baked it themselves), butter, milk and other food from nearby residents. The then "small fry" from Kouts remember how they caught frogs for fishermen's bait at night and sold them to the sportsmen for a dime a dozen.

Many times parties were given at the club houses to which local citizens were invited. There for the first time these early settlers saw the fine linens, gleaming cut glass, and silver and other appointments common to gracious living in the homes of these wealthy sportsmen.

It was during this time that one of our well known authors, General Lew Wallace, used to cruise the Kankakee on his houseboat. He made many journeys from his home in Crawfordsville, Indiana and anchored his houseboat with George Wilcox. These journeys were made in a luxurious stage coach which was imported from France. It is said that during one of these cruises on the Kankakee that Lew Wallace received the inspiration to write the novel "Ben Hur."

Years after his death in 1906 the old houseboat was dismantled and the better parts used to build a

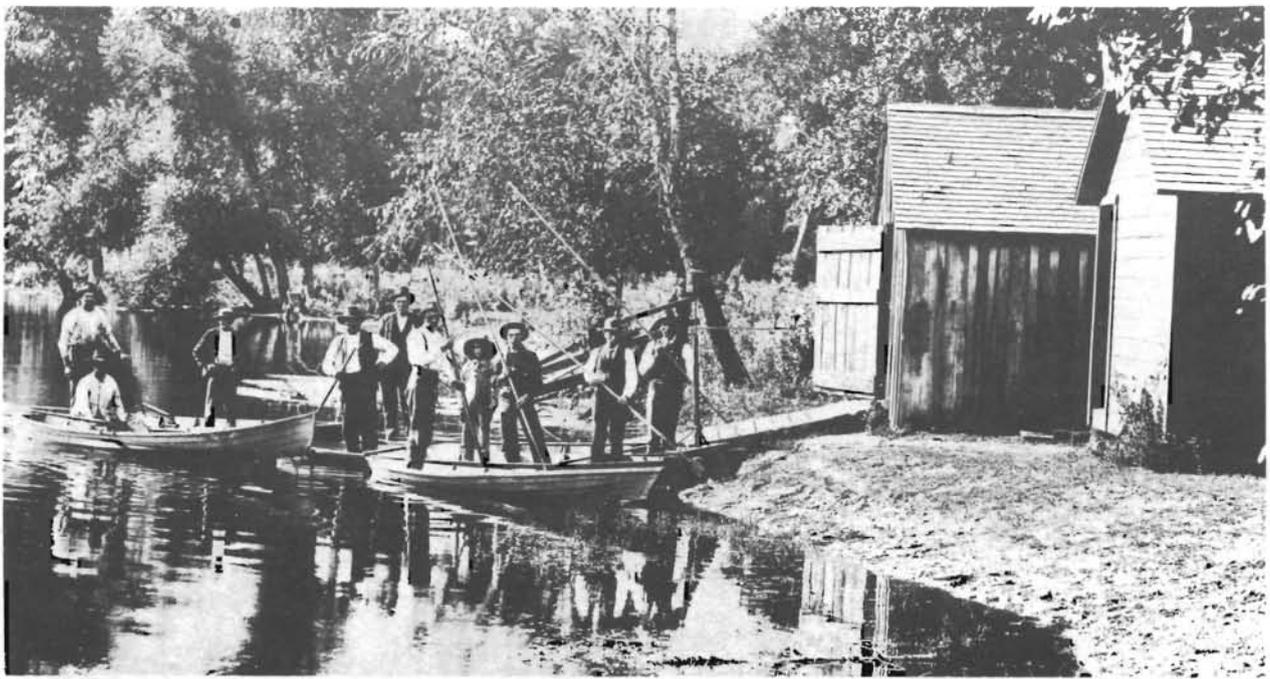
small home for Harry Neusbaum, an old timer who is still residing in it directly south of Reifs on the side road. The autobiography of General Lew Wallace, signed by him, is now in the possession of Clayton Reif.

Many people came to this beautiful area to make their homes. One of the better known families was that of Rolla and Bertha Morehouse. Mr. Morehouse was born in Dowlagic, Michigan and when 18 years old made the long journey with his brothers and sisters in a covered wagon drawn by a team of oxen. It was a long and tedious trek, and they had to bring cows along to furnish the children with milk. The Morehouses built three homes during their lifetime and the last home place still remains. They reared two daughters, Mrs. Mary Gibbs Thatcher and Mrs. Albertina Sprague. Mary was brought into this world with the aid of an old Indian doctor. She is now living in the old home place.

A granddaughter of the Morehouses, Mrs. Mary Sprague lives in Kouts.

Another old timer was Lafayette Clouse. He was a boy of nine when he came to Valparaiso from Ohio in 1857. He always enjoyed living near the river and his first home was a tent with a wooden front right by the river. He did much hunting and fishing and one of his greatest pleasures was in "stealing" a bee tree. The wild honey had superior flavor. Mr. Clouse known





as "Lafe" spent the latter part of his life in that vicinity and reared a family of eight children. He died in 1938 at the age of 90. A daughter, Mrs. Nora Maxwell a grandson, James Upton, and a granddaughter, Mrs. Lowell Mansfield are Kouts residents.

Mr. Elwood Collier was another pioneer who came to Baum's Bridge from Brook, Indiana. He and his wife had a hotel known as Collier's Club House and earned their livelihood by lodging and serving meals to the many hunters and pleasure seekers. With the death of Mr. Collier and the draining of the swamp, the hotel was no longer needed, and the son, Jim, converted to a general store. In his spare time he turned to painting especially the beauty and wild life of the Kankakee. The old home is a landmark of the Baum's Bridge vicinity.

Directly across the road from Collier's place was another large club house which housed a tavern. Before the dredging of the river, many people came in their row boats right up to the bar to quench their thirst.

In those days as in ours, people sought some recreation from their working week and the first dance hall was built next to Rosenbaum's river cottage located just north of the tavern. Through the years this place changed hands many times and then a huge dance hall was built around a large oak tree. Many people well remember the fiddlers tuning up, the old time square dances, the children put to sleep on chairs or any other available space. The Fourth of July and Labor Day were always celebrated in a special manner

and in addition to those days, the Saturday night dances were usually attended by the families of: Morrisons, Morehouses, Landfads, Lipperts, Starkeys, Firebaughs, and bachelors George Bancroft, Frank Johnson, Sam Lane, and Frank Sims.

In 1908 a Jim Donley had the first licensed tavern at Baum's Bridge succeeded by Johnson, Carl Rehm, Jesse Smith, Dick Lane (dance caller also) and in 1933 George and Zina Coyer purchased the spot from Jesse Smith. They made their home there until 1947 when an overheated stove caused a fire that completely destroyed the building. Later they built a smaller tavern which they sold to Carl and Stella Klemz now deceased. From them it passed into the hands of Margaret and Harold Lang, then Sam Strong, and presently is owned and operated by Jim Tabler and his wife.

While the Baum's Bridge area of the Kankakee River was closer to Kouts and had most of the club houses, the river southeast of Kouts was also visited by the sportsmen. Prior to building their club houses at Baum's Bridge the Louisville Gun Club pitched a large tent in the woods on the edge of the marsh (now Chris Pfladderer's farm) and there, with a negro cook who did the kitchen work and baked for them at a neighbor's kitchen, enjoyed the fruits of "hunters paradise."

In 1875 President Grant's son, Fred Kent Grant, and the president's son-in-law, Algernon Sartoris (Nellie's husband), were on a hunting expedition detached from any club and came at the close of the day to the Peter Lauer home and asked for food and lodging.





Dunn's Bridge over the Kankakee River. (Built from part of the Ferris Wheel used in World's Fair in 1893).

Nellie's husband, a wealthy Englishman, who had hunted in the best known game areas of Europe, Canada and other parts of the United States, declared the Kankakee marsh was superior to any place he had ever been. Evidently board and lodging were satisfactory for they stayed several days.

Another special visitor got stuck on a sand bar in the same area and after being assisted to free his boat identified himself as President Benjamin Harrison. He asked the name and address of his helper and in appreciation, free seeds came for at least two decades from Wahington, D. C. President Harrison became a regular visitor of the Baum's Bridge district of the Kankakee.

In the late 1890's a gun club of Marion, Indiana hunters pitched a tent in the same place as used by the Louisville Club.

Of interest to these parts is Dunn's Bridge that spans the river on what used to be Dunn's farm which was on both sides of the river. The steel arches of the Ferris Wheel used in the 1893 Columbian Exposition (World's Fair) in Chicago, were used in 1894 to build a bridge 180 feet long and 16 feet wide. North of the bridge on the east side of the road was a large

club house known as Burrows Camp. It was the scene of much revelry on weekends and holidays until it was destroyed by fire.

The drainage of the Kankakee by the Marble, Reeves, Cook and other ditches has in recent years been a controversial subject between those who claim that the construction of the vast network of ditches has resulted in thousands of acres of land being thrown open to cultivation, and those who claim that the destruction of wild animal life of the Kankakee territory for hunters and fisherman from all parts of the country removed one of nature's greatest works of art, and robbed Porter County of one of its greatest assets.

It all seems bleak and desolate by comparison. With the beauty vanished, the fishing, the celebrations, the dancing and roller skating all memories, it is ably stated by a poet:

Alas! No longer the old river flows,
 Long years have passed us by;
 And when the evening twilight grows,
 Old echoes wail and die.

The wilderness paradise completely wrecked and the friendships formed are put away in the corner of the heart to be cherished and recalled as a pleasant chapter of history.

--by Mrs. Lowell Mansfield



Baum's Bridge Today



River Bridge on Highway 49

"Gala Days"

In the early days in Kouts there was an abundant supply of entertainment and as an old timer once said, "Most of it was legal." It was entertainment of active participation and no one wanted to just sit back and be entertained. Fortunate were those citizens to have lived before the era of the debunking of the Fourth of July for that was the greatest of days and was looked forward to for months. By the time the last snow melted the girls and their mothers were planning their Fourth of July dresses and other finery. If it couldn't be made it would be purchased, for everyone in the family had something new to wear. With well filled picnic baskets and hard earned and long garnered nickels, dimes and perhaps even a whole dollar carefully pocketed in that new suit or purse, the entire township set forth for Kouts where the public spirited townspeople had everything in readiness.

The celebration opened with a parade which no one could afford to miss and while there were variations, a typical parade would be one led by Jim Hodgins riding a spirited horse or walking like a drum major. He would be followed by a band playing lustily. Some of the band members whose names you will recall are; Charlie Betterton, Sr., John Diskivich, Fred Rosenbaum, Gus Rosenbaum, George Richmond, Frank Tromble and Porter Childers.

Mr. Hodgins had also decorated a box hay rack with bunting and equipped it with benches. All the young teen age girls wearing new white dresses were given blue sashes and star spangled blue caps and a flag. As the parade moved grandly on its route the girls sang old favorites such as "America", "Hail Columbia", "Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean" and "Battle Hymn of the Republic" waving their flags in unison at appropriate times. An honored and envied position on this hay rack was that of the "Goddess of Liberty" who wore a crown and stood at the front of the rack with the ladder as a support. Two girls who had that honor were Tillie Hofferth (John's daughter) and Amanda Wandrey (August's daughter). Some of the singers were; Cecelia (Biggart), Kate and Bertha Mishnick, Emma Honehouse, Grace Herring (Wise), Minnie Chael Schreiner, Bertha and Agnes O'Brien, Anna, Cecelia and Josephine Radilyack O'Brien. In later parades Abraham Lincoln Arnold (Link) dressed as Uncle Sam added color to the parade. Other patriotic citizens decorated their buggies, hay racks and surreys and joined in the procession. It wended its way to Hodgins Park, a shady wooded area where a temporary rostrum had been erected. After much effort peace and quiet reigned and the Declaration of Independence would be read followed by a speech that extolled the price and value of our liberty. From this same rostrum the fireworks would be shot off as soon as it was dark.

At noon those well filled picnic baskets were soon devastated and the young patriots hastened to supplement their meal with lemonade which was mixed up in tubs, and ice cream (by the gallon) as well as all kinds of candy and such rare fruits as oranges and bananas.

Then the races were next, sack races, foot races and horse races. Where the horses did their paces in the late 19th and early 20th century, the high school track boys are put through their paces today. Besides horses owned by local citizens horses were entered from Hebron, LaPorte, Wanatah and other neighboring towns. There were pacers, trotters, and running horses with names such as Betty Bea, Buckskin, Onward, Henry Pryor and Fanny Willgo, but Fanny should have been called Fanny Won'tgo, because she always broke track.

While the sports minded watched the ball game, those with dancing feet could be found at the bowery, an open dance floor built up three or four feet high on the sides with seats around the outside, and a dais for the orchestra in an offset resembling a bay window. The musicians were Leon Kouts, first violin; Steve True, second violin; Porter Childers, bass horn and Charlie

SOCIAL LIFE

A common and most enjoyable evening was afforded by the so called "calico necktie party" when the young ladies of the town and outlying community would make a new calico dress and a man's necktie of the same material. The tie was sent to a young man of the lady's choosing.

Imagine, the night of the party, how anxious the gentleman must have been to find the wearer of the dress, matching the tie he was wearing. And then imagine the consternation when a popular young man got a tie and gave it to an undesirable fellow who arrived inebriated. Due to his size and strength it required muscle to eject him after stratagem failed and not until he had done some solo dancing and yip-yipping-hi-yi in true cowboy style for he was a cow puncher from the Burke Ranch.

Betterton, Sr., drums. Jim True and Lew Goodpasture fiddled, and besides square dances, the waltz, polka and schottische were popular. The Fourth of July dance ended when everyone became too exhausted to go on. The bowery was built just east of the present elementary school playground.

This bowery was bought by St. Mary's Church and in 1921 moved to the lot across the street from the old school house. Here it was reroofed, cloak rooms and a kitchen built on and it served as a social center. As such it witnessed card parties every two weeks at which Five Hundred, Pedro, and Euchre were played. A lunch was served and then the tables and chairs were cleared from the floor and Paul Titus and daughter Marion (Newsom) furnished music that urged everyone to dance. These card parties were well attended by the townspeople and friends from adjacent towns. Since the admission was a free will offering they were indulged in even during the Depression. Like many other Kouts buildings the hall was destroyed by fire in October 1941.

While the bowery you've just read about served the longest time, perhaps the first one was an open air floor (no roof - no sides) built at the end of the street going west from Fritz's Tavern where Church's Asphalt Paving business is located. It was on the edge of a heavily wooded area.

Dancing was not just a Fourth of July event. O'Brien's Hall was the center of activity when it was too cold or disagreeable to be outdoors. Besides the musicians already mentioned Rhoda Coleman Callahan played the organ accompaniment where a dais was built for the musicians.

Other entertainment perhaps less exciting but no less enjoyable were house warmings, barn warmings, charivaris, quilting and carpet rag bees, spell downs when one district school challenged another, and box socials held annually at all the district schools - entertainment for young and old.

Labor Day was celebrated too in much the same manner as the Fourth of July. The most memorable one occurred around 1914 when a balloon ascension was the big attraction. The big cloth bag was tied securely to stakes driven in the ground and it lay limp like a rag. At the appointed time a fire was built which heated the air that filled the balloon causing it to rise. When it was completely inflated the basket holding the man was attached and readied. The ropes were cut and away he went leaving the gaping crowd admiring his skill and bravery. When he reached the desired height, he bailed out of the balloon and with parachute landed on a garage a couple blocks from the point of ascension. As the balloon lost gas it came down and was retrieved from a tree a couple miles away. Then on with the ball game and the dance.

The town of Kouts consistently had a first class baseball team chosen from the boys in the community.



Front Row: Leonard Wyant, Burt Hofferth, Ray Mennefee, Herman Chael. Second Row: Jim Herring, Ernest Lane, John Dwyer, Managers: Bill Rosenbaum,

and Turner Eadus. Last Row: Herman Kosanke, Lee Herring, Henry Kosanke, and Gust Rosenbaum, Umpire. Bat Boy.

The Kouts Athletics of 1903 played against teams from Hebron, LaCrosse, North Judson, Crown Point, Chicago, in fact any team that challenged them to a game. Railroad transportation, as it was then, permitted teams to travel here in the morning from east and west on accommodation trains on both the Erie and Pennsylvania, and return home at a convenient time in the late afternoon the same way. Excursion trains from Chicago brought passengers at 50¢ a round trip and the train would discharge a team and their fans who came on what was a gala picnic to the "small" town. The old ball park hummed with activity, the ball game was the high light and it was a weary but happy crown that entrained at the close of day. The Athletics won their share of games and furnished first class entertainment for their enthusiastic fans.

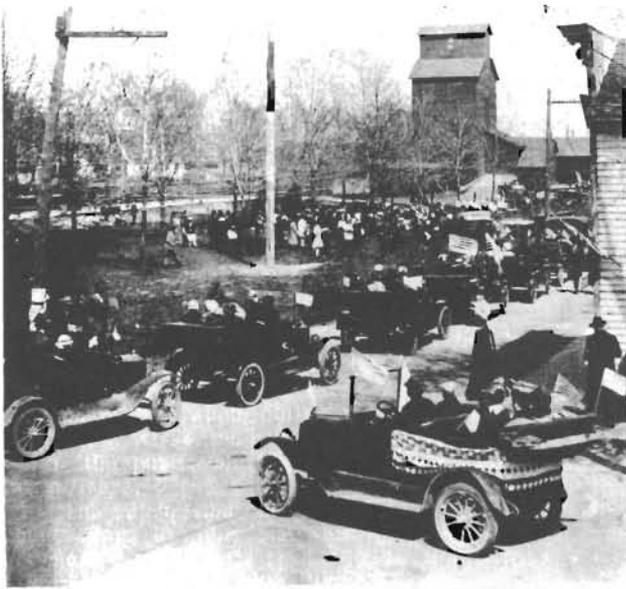
The motorcycle races displaced the horse races and with Indian, Harley Davidson, and Flying Merkle machines, the racers, Otto and Emil Lippert, Fred Kosanke, Martin Radilyack, and others, roared around the track to the amazement of interested spectators. And great was the shock when Otto Lippert's cycle left the track and plowed through the dense brush with the emerging hero looking as if he had encountered a lair of tigers.

Another contest was known as the slow races. Its purpose was to see who could drive the track slowest in high gear and not kill the engine. Bill Rosenbaum usually won that in his Lexington.

A favorite spot for winter enjoyment was Smith's Pond (on Simic property today) where all the young and old hiked to skate when conditions were favorable. It



Two Motorcycle Enthusiasts; Emil and Otto Lippert.



was physical fitness at its best, the hike out, the large area on which to exercise, and the hike home in the brisk air.

In a decade beginning in the 20's, the Kouts Bull Dogs played a superior brand of baseball for their own enjoyment as well as for the pleasure of their fans. The admission was 50¢ and the gate receipts were usually several hundred dollars a game, the highest being \$460.

Lowell, Crown Point, Chesterton, Valparaiso, Waukegan, LaCrosse, Hebron and Kouts formed a league and in 1925 Kouts won the northwestern Indiana pennant. With that claim to fame they challenged Argos who had won the pennant in that section of the state. In October Kouts won the first game on the home diamond and lost the second game at Argos. Enthusiasm was at a high

pitch so the umpires recommended that the tie be played off on a neutral field.

Accordingly the two determined teams met on the Plymouth diamond and in a rugged hard fought game the score was tied five times and the final score was 14 to 13 in favor of Argos.

With only the manager, the bat boy, and one player deceased, this club can reminisce of their prowess in America's favorite sport.

An attempt will be made to list some of the clubs of the present: Kouts Neighbors, Kouts Lamplighters, Kouts Starlighters (all Home Demonstration Clubs), American Legion Auxiliary, Band Boosters, 4-H Clubs, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce, Guys and Dolls Dance Club, Farm Bureau, and several neighborhood Bunco and Card Clubs. In addition to these each church has its own activities listed under their respective church histories.

The Kouts Volunteer Fire Department which it seems is all work and no play, deserve special mention for their splendid work.

Other worthwhile activities are band concerts and Junior and Senior class plays. The school field is lighted for night games and several nights a week games are played with rivalry gaining momentum as the close of the season approaches. Basketball engulfs the entire community from the opening till the closing of the season.

An old, old skill, pitching horseshoes, was revived in 1961, members forming the Kouts Horseshoe Club. It is open to anyone wishing to participate. The six courts are on the school grounds and lighted for night games. Enoch Edwards is president and Roger Adams secretary. The club is affiliated with the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association and in Indiana the sport ranks second to basketball. In tournaments the players are classified and a participant is matched with one of his own rank and our local men rate at these contests.

On November 6, 1964 a youth center was opened in the O'Brien building on the east side of Main Street. Future history can appraise its value.

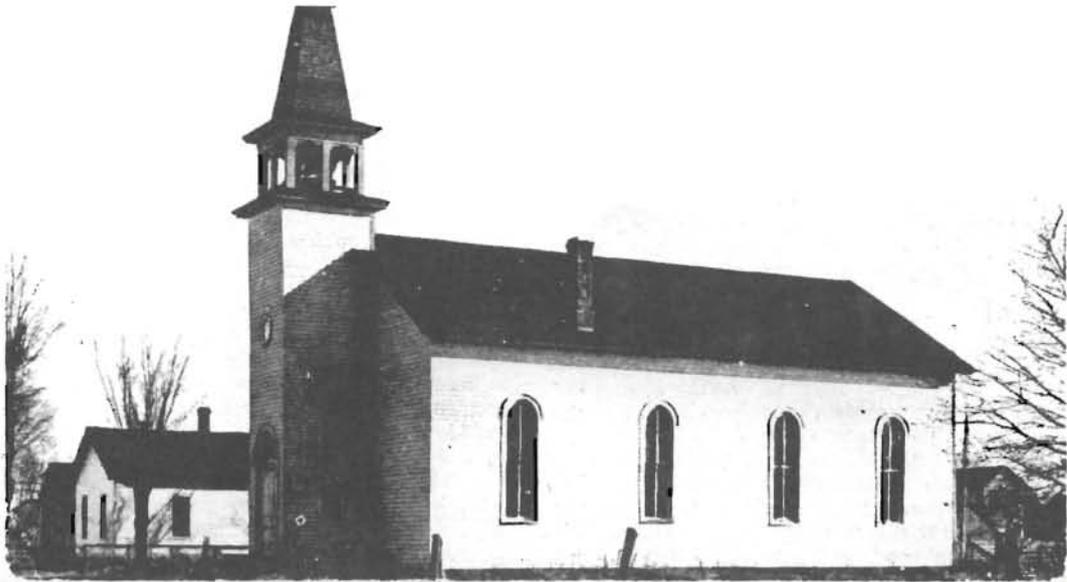


Front Row Left to Right: Pinney Sommers, Stewart Hofferth, Roy Sawatzki, Herbert Ellenson, Elmer Werner, Marshall (Mike) Sommers, George Sandberg. Back Row: Lee Riley, Bob Hofferth (deceased), Lee Sommers, Paul Ketchmark, Manager Bill Rosenbaum (deceased),

Walter (Bud) Sommers, Floyd Kerlinska, Fred (Rosie) Hamann, Roland Graham, Lawrence Ketchmark.

The bat boy, Marion Wise (deceased) and players Don Crowe and Jim Lauer were not present for the picture.

Kouts Churches



Old Kouts Christian Church, facing North on Highway 8.

Christian Church

In the spring of 1885 Ellis B. Cross, an evangelist and singer of the Christian Church, came to Kouts and in cooperation with the Lyman Adtkins family, the town doctor and druggist who was a staunch member, held a four week meeting in the O'Brien Hall. Mr. Cross, a forceful and consecrated preacher, aided by Mrs. Adda Adtkins Betterton, a good singer, was successful in bringing more than a dozen people to Christ. The following June these members were baptized in the waters of the Kankakee near Baum's Bridge.

Soon afterward, Messrs. Cross, Adtkins, and Joseph Barnes with the latter's horse and buggy rode through the township as well as the town explaining the urgent need of a Christian Church in the community. A piece of ground was donated by Mrs. Rose Yoder and construction was begun on a frame church which was finished and dedicated in 1887 with Rev. Carpenter officiating at the dedicatory services. This church faced north on the site of the present church.

Some of the early members were: Mrs. Rose



Present Kouts Christian Church

Yoder, Mrs. Margaret Williamson, Mrs. Loey Aylesworth Unruh, and the families of Johnny Spencer, Rhynear Blachly, Jack Shea, James (Buck) Jones, George Taylor, Jay Kilday, Fishers and Isminger.

From the first the church grew and prospered with various pastors officiating and among them Mr. Martin and Mr. Harrington who were both capable and forceful ministers of the gospel.

On May 26, 1917, a cyclone which struck Kouts doing extensive damage to the town and surrounding area, leveled the Christian Church.

About this time, Pastor John Whitt came to Kouts to visit in the home of his daughter and son-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. Meyers, and to recuperate from a recent illness. With improved health Mr. Whitt consented to hold Sunday services in the hall meanwhile planning with the congregation to rebuild the church.

Immediately the members began salvaging as much of the old material as possible that might be used in the new building. Likewise Mr. Whitt sent for his cement mixing machine that he had used in making blocks for another church and with perseverance and effort, had the present building completed and ready for dedication on March 17, 1919. Mr. Whitt was assisted in the dedication services by two other ministers, J. H. Smith and Mr. Carpenter. A few years later a belfry was added and the bell from the original building was installed. Mr. Whitt continued as pastor, with the exception of two years at the Hobart church, until the summer of 1928 when an illness resulted in his death.

As it had no minister, the church remained closed and later it was rented to the Reformed Mennonite congregation.

In May of 1943 the Christian congregation took over and the following have served as ministers: Mr. Brewer - 1943; Mr. Hartlipp - 1944; Mr. J. K. Woerner - 1944-45; Don Johnson 1945-47; G. B. Gordon - 1947-8; Gene Dye - 1948-9; James Cline 1949-50; Robert Rowe - 1950-52; Charles E. Johnson - 1953-55; Marple Lawson - 1955-57; Mr. Dunkleberger - 1957-58 and

Mr. Lamb Aug. 1958 until his death in November 1958. Mrs. Lamb continued on with Mr. Leeper preaching to the end of May 1959. Mr. Schreiber served from June 1959 until February 1965.

During his time the congregation has grown and property improvements have been completed. The major project was the interior repair and redecorating, the building of a new pulpit, communion table and choir rail. New seats had been purchased and installed during the time Marple Lawson served the church.

With the demolition of the Gem Theatre the materials were salvaged and a Christian Church parsonage was built at the present location south of the church under the direction of Mrs. Unruh who donated it for that purpose.

The church participates in the Chicago District Evangelistic Association and actively supports the Lincoln Christian College in Illinois and the summer camp program at Cedar Lake.

The regular services are Sunday School with usually a hundred in attendance, church with eighty to ninety, and at various times throughout the year there are Sunday evening services.

The church operates under the guidance of the elders who are elected for three year terms. All the active members of the church are eligible to participate in the annual church election.

The elders elected in January 1965 were Neil and Edward Pumroy, Harold Walter, Jerry Hitz, Fred Sturgis and Herbert Nichols.

The deacons elected were: Ted Hitz, Lloyd Berndt, George Taylor, Dale Eichelberger, James Yergler, Marion Fleming, and Kenneth Theis.

The trustees are Ed. Pumroy, Bob Arnold and Herbert Nichols.

The Sunday School Superintendent is Lloyd Berndt, Assistant Superintendent Jerry Hitz, Secretary Gloria McCrum, Assistant Secretary Carolyn Taylor, and Treasurer Herbert Nichols.



Present First Baptist Church

First Baptist Church

The original idea of establishing a Baptist church in Kouts was that of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Spohn who reside in the southern part of Pleasant Township and who for years attended the Calvary Baptist Church of Valparaiso. Shortly later in about 1958 other people in the general area, namely: Supt. and Mrs. Ernest Francis who had established the Indiana Baptist Children's Home, also had a desire to see a church started in Kouts.

The final realization of a church materialized in January of 1960 when the First Baptist Church of Hobart offered assistance, and one of their members who had just finished schooling came to be the pastor of this new work.

Rev. Clifford Boessel led the first meeting which was a midweek service, in the parsonage on January 27, 1960 with thirty-two persons present. Final organization took place on March 24th at which time a constitution and articles of faith were approved, a board of deacons was established, and Rev. Boessel was formally called as the first pastor.

Through the generosity of Harold Heinold and Pete Hudson the church services were held in their offices until the first phase of construction was initiated and completed.

Four lots were purchased in the southeast corner of Pleasant View Subdivision and a ranch type building was constructed during the summer of 1960. The congregation met in this structure for nearly four years. During July of 1964 this same building was converted into the parsonage. Construction followed shortly on the first main unit of the church proper. This was completed in February of 1965, and will be the place of worship for an indefinite length of time until the main sanctuary can be built.

Present membership is seventy with an average Sunday School attendance of approximately eighty-five to ninety. The church is affiliated with the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches. This fellowship of nearly eleven hundred churches is conservative in doctrine and theology, dedicated to the historic Christian faith as found in the Bible, the inspired Word of God.

Hopewell Mennonite Church



Old Mennonite Church

The first Mennonites to purchase land in this vicinity were Dan Litwiller and Lewis Birky of Hopedale, Illinois, a farm near Wilders.

Sometime later, Samuel Litwiller, a minister at Hopedale, purchased the farm where Allen Good now lives.

In 1916 the John Reinhardt family also from Hopedale moved to the farm that Samuel Litwiller had purchased and Lee and Iva Sutter moved on the farm that Lewis Birky owned.

In 1917, William Martin and family likewise from Hopedale moved to the 160 acre farm which he had purchased. The Ivan Sutter family lives there now.

Worship services were held each Sunday in the homes or in the Lauer School. Others attending services with this group were the families of Alva Baughman, Louis Lampl, Aaron Egli and Sommer Smith.

In 1918, Andrew Good of Cowden, Illinois, Andrew Gingerich of Beaver Crossing, Nebraska, Dean Birky of Beemer, Nebraska, William and Lewis Birky and their families joined the group at Kouts.

Bishop John C. Birky of Hopedale, Illinois accepted the responsibility of the oversight of this new colony and guided them in establishing the Hopewell Mennonite Church. In naming it Hopewell he said, "We Hope Well for the new church."

The following eighteen people were charter members: John, Lizzie and Mabel Reinhardt; Lee

and Iva Sutter; William and Anna Birky; Dean and Hazel Birky; William and Amelia Martin; Andrew and Emma Good; Lewis and Bertha Birky; Andrew, Mary and Nellie Gingerich.

During the year 1918 services were held in the Cook School each Sunday with preaching services once a month by a visiting minister.

The first Sunday School superintendents were William Martin and Dean Birky. The first trustees were William Martin, John Reinhardt and Lewis Birky. The attendance grew from 46 in 1918 to over 300 in 1964.

In September 1918 the church was united to the Indiana-Michigan Conference District with J. K. Bixler as Bishop.

On February 4, 1919 the land where the large communications tower stands one mile south of Kouts was purchased for a site for a new church with the church being built that summer and dedicated on September 28, 1919. Many visitors from Illinois and Indiana as well as people from the town of Kouts filled the church to overflowing on this day.

It was also during this year that Ben, Leah and Lulu Birky of Hopedale, Dick and Emma Fleenor and family of Iowa, and Amos, Mary and Orville Birky of Beemer, Nebraska came to make Kouts their home.

The first converts to this new church were Joe and Ed Gingerich, Olen and Ora Reinhardt, Clifford Gibson and Roy Birky.

Others locating in the vicinity at this time were the Chris Goods, Jonas Birkys, Reuben Birkys, J. Z. Birkys, Lloyd Yoders and the James Buchers.

In March 1920 James Bucher was ordained as minister to this church. He served with J. D. Birky who was a Bishop at this time and came here in 1922. James Bucher moved to Daviess County, Indiana two years later.

In 1923 J. Z. Birky was ordained a Deacon and he worked with J. D. Birky until the latter's death on July 12, 1926.

The following men have served as ministers to this church: Dean Birky, Millard Lind and Chester Osborne.

Other families settling here during this time were the Eichelbergers, Chris Sutters, Art and Anna Martins, Levi Birkys, and the Ed Bechlers.

The first church building became over crowded and in 1952 plans were made for a new building. The present church was located on State Road 49 on the north edge



Present Hopewell Mennonite Church

of Kouts on land donated by Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Birky and was dedicated on October 26, 1952.

In 1953 Rev. Samuel Miller moved with his family

from Topeka, Indiana to take oversight of this congregation as pastor and bishop and he is still with them.

In April of 1961 John Murray was installed as a licensed minister to assist Rev. Samuel Miller in the duties of the Hopewell congregation. Then in 1962 John Murray was ordained to the ministry and is serving as assistant pastor.

During 1949 a survey was taken in the area about the needs of a church and it was disclosed that the English Lake vicinity had no church of any kind. The Hopewell congregation decided to start a Sunday School service there and obtained the English Lake School for that purpose.

After several years of voluntary service by different families to this cause and the increased growth of the Sunday School there, it was decided by the Kouts Hopewell congregation to build a new church building at English Lake.

Emanuel Birky was licensed as minister to this place and ordained the following year. He has been serving this church since that time.

--By Lester Martin

THE HOPEWELL MENNONITE CHURCH

Visitors Always Welcome

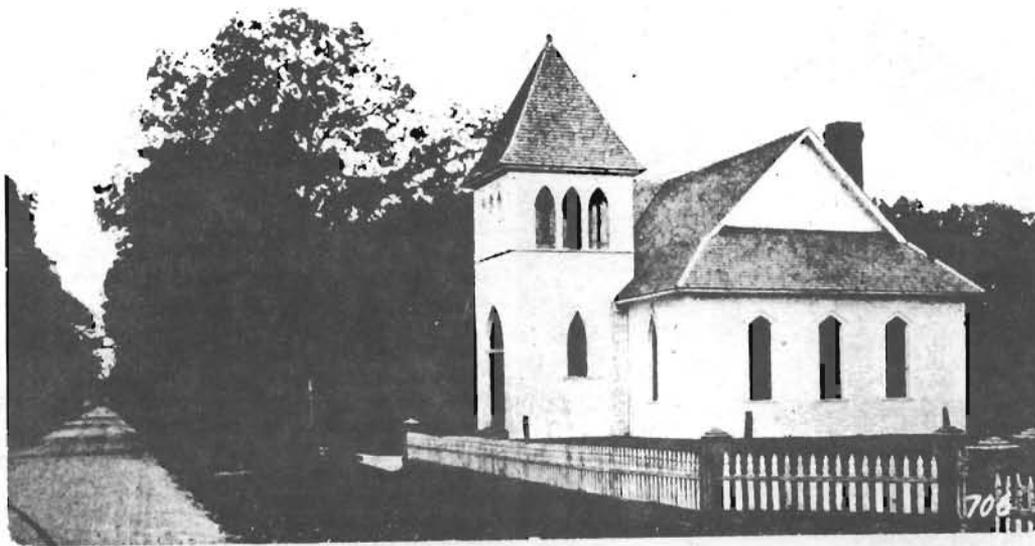
Sunday Worship Service - 10 A.M.

Sunday School - 11 A.M.

Sunday Evening Service - 7 P.M.

Pastor - Samuel Miller

Assistant Pastor - John Murray



Presbyterian Church - 1904

Presbyterian Church

The Presbyterians were the first to organize a congregation and build a church in the southern part of the county. At the first session recorded August 24, 1848 Rev. Spencer Baker presided with Elders George Biggart and John Freer who laid plans. Meetings had been held in the various homes in the community and later in a school house. Enough interest was shown to warrant the building of a church and in 1855 construction was begun. Joseph Bartholomew and George Biggart each gave \$150 toward the building while other members assisted in the construction of a church costing \$800 in the town of Tassinong. It was built with the understanding that other denominations should have free use of the house of worship at times when the Presbyterians were not using it. Rev. James C. Brown was a liberal contributor to the cause and for some time acted as pastor, holding services in the morning at Valparaiso and in the

afternoon at Tassinong. Other ministers who preached in this church were S. C. Logan, Robert Williams, S. R. Baker, Henry Cullom, Frank Ferguson, and two men named Kinney and Moore.

As the town of Tassinong was gradually abandoned, the old church was closed and the congregation reorganized in Kouts. The building itself was moved here and later used as a family dwelling.

The Presbyterians then held services in O'Brien's Hall. Following the death of one of the members, funeral services were of necessity held in the hall and immediately the group began a fund raising campaign, the proceeds to be used in building a new Kouts Presbyterian Church.

Ed Snodgrass was engaged as carpenter to build a church and with the help of interested members the new

house of worship was ready for services in February 1904.

Members of the congregation at that time were the families of J. N. Anderson, Sam Anderson, Joseph, John and William Bartholomew, Robert Biggart, J. T. Cannon, James Jones, Dr. P. D. Noland, H. A. Wright, and Norval Smith.

Some of the ministers who have served this church are: The Reverends Roy Brown, James Baroda (a Syrian), Samuel Bauer, J. Finn, John Dunkel, Richard Archer, and Ernest Armstrong, who married a local girl, Louise Kosanke, a church member. During his pastorate the church was reroofed and sided with brown shingles.

In 1936 the need for more room was felt and a house was moved in and added on the north side. A big cookstove was installed and a social center was then available to the members. Rev. Williams of Hebron was minister at this time.

For lack of attendance the church closed during the early 40's and due to the efforts of Howard Corson and Richard Anderson, the church was reorganized and opened for services in 1948 with Rev. Robert Vander Hart as minister.

He was succeeded by Paul Chalfant, a student Pastor, and during his time a large addition 30' x 48' called the Annex was built on the north side. This addi-

tion houses a kitchen, rest rooms, and Sunday School rooms.

When Desilver Lyon remodeled the old Kouts School he kindly donated the school bell to the Presbyterian Church.

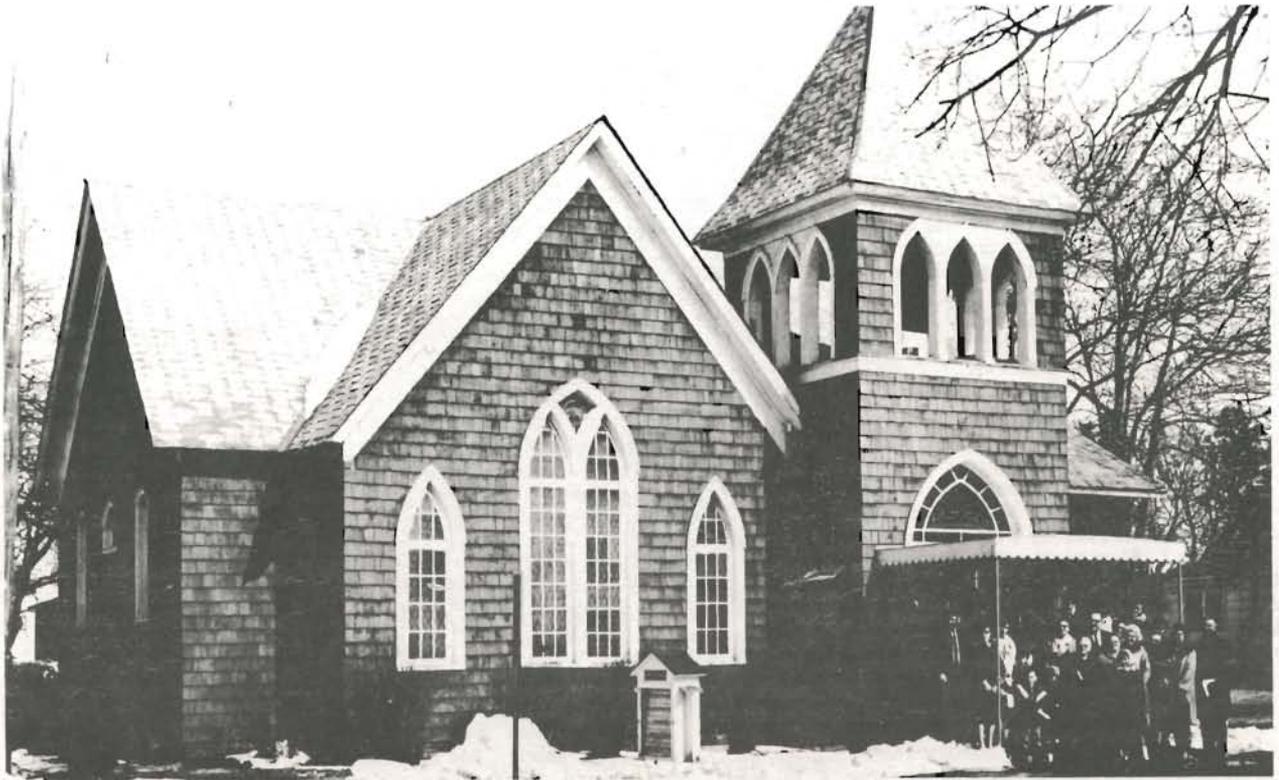
In 1957 after extensive remodeling and redeccorating of the interior, new draperies were installed in the chancel, a new organ, doors, and a canopy over the entrance, again with all the work done by the men of the church. Rev. William Edelen was pastor when these improvements were made.

In 1960 the present pastor Rev. Donald Darling took charge.

Serving as Elders of the church are: Richard Anderson, Mary Hamann, Melvin Taylor, H. P. Hudson, and Myrna Tuesberg. The Trustees are: Melvin Colton, Clayton Reif, Phillip Reif, David Rogers, and Art Trede, with Louise Benkle as treasurer.

There are 52 families and 104 members on the Prebyterian records now.

Kouts Presbyterian Church has given one son to the ministry. Allen Gene Hamann, son of Mrs. and Mrs. Fred Hamann, was ordained to the ministry on June 30, 1963 at the local church. He was installed as pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Forest, Ohio on July 7, 1963 where he is now serving.



Present Presbyterian Church

St. Mary's Catholic Church

According to the recollection of the oldest living Catholic in 1903 at Kouts, Father Stephan, later Rt. Rev. Msgr. Stephan, Director of Indian Missions, who died in September 1901 at Washington, D.C., was the first priest who administered to the then few Catholics at Kouts and said Mass a few times in the old log house of Anthony Dyszkiewicz (Diskavish). This log house stood just across the alley from the Thomas Quirk home.

Father Michael O'Reilly, pastor at Valparaiso, took charge of the Kouts mission in August 1864. Between 1864 and 1883 he came once in two months and then up to May 1887, once a month. As the few Catholics

were too poor to build a church the services were held in different residences, but mostly in the home of Jerry McCarthy, one mile east of town (the Sam Birky home now).

In 1883 a meeting was called to build a church and about \$700 was subscribed. A church dinner was held for the same purpose July 24, 1884. Father O'Reilly then bought the present church lots from Hilary A. Wright with the deed for Lots 3 and 4 in Block Two in Wright's Addition dated September 5, 1885. Soon afterward the frame church was built where the rectory is now. Since Kouts then had two railroads, Father



St. Mary's Catholic Church - 1885

O'Reilly entertained great hopes that the congregation would soon be large enough to have a resident pastor, therefore the church was built in such a manner that it could easily be converted to a schoolhouse.

The charter members of the parish included the names of: Baranowski, Barry, Best, Burke, Callahan, Casey, Cincoski, Czyzewski, Deegan, Diskavish, Drazer, Dwyer, Feeley, Flavin, Griffith, Hannon, Kee, Keil, Kneifel, Lauer, Lukoski, McNeff, McGrath, McCarthy, Mishnich, O'Brien, Quirk, Radilyack, Ryan, Shutske, Schoepp, Smith, Tromblee and Welsh.

From then on Father O'Reilly administered spiritual care and held services for the members once a month until May of 1887.

Father Kobylinski of North Judson was given charge for the next three years and came by train twice a month from there.

In 1890 Father Frericks, C.P.P.S., of Pulaski, was appointed to serve the parish for two years. He was succeeded in 1892 by Father Dominic Shunk, C.P.P.S. of Wanatah. During his two year tenure, a belfry was built beside the church and a thousand pound bell purchased August 26, 1893 at a total cost of \$257.00. This bell was transferred to the new church. The bell bears the inscription:

Vanduzen and Tift
Cincinnati, Ohio
Ave Maria
Buckeye Bell Foundry 1893

In 1894 the Kouts parish became a mission of Monterey and was attended by Fathers: Charles Thiele for four years; Gregory Zern for three; and Joseph Bilstein from October 1900 till October 1913. At that time the parish consisted of 31 families numbering 165 souls. There was no debt whatever on the church property.

Father Bruno Soengen of Monterey succeeded Father Bilstein and served as pastor until June 1921. Father Soengen, a Capuchin, had served in the mission field in India.

The tornado of May 26, 1917 completely destroyed the church; services were held for nearly a year in the old Kouts High School.

A building committee was chosen consisting of Messrs. Max Cincoski, William Drazer, Charles Lauer and J. J. Overmeyer, and plans were made to rebuild at once - a basement that would serve as a church until more funds accumulated. C. Weatherhogg of Ft. Wayne was employed as architect and the lone bidder, William

Wiley of Chicago, was awarded the contract with Ed O'Brien and Thomas Britton appointed supervisors over the construction work. Ground was broken in the fall of 1917 and the basement was ready for use April 21, 1918 and had cost about \$7000.

In June 1921 Father Joseph Suelzer was appointed as first resident pastor with Wheatfield and Kniman as missions. He enjoyed the hospitality of the Edward O'Brien home during the building of the rectory which was completed in November 1921. Then in 1923 the Catholic families of Hebron who had formerly attended St. Mary's in Crown Point, were transferred to this parish for church attendance.

Services were held in the old Community Hall during the building of the superstructure which was begun in February 1926. The new church costing approximately \$25,000 was dedicated on October 31, 1926 by Bishop John F. Noll of Ft. Wayne. The last Sunday of October had been established that year as the Feast of Christ the King. Father Charles Thiele, who had served as pastor of Kouts from 1894 to 1898, was celebrant of the Mass and was assisted by Father James Nickels as deacon and Father Augustyn Kondziela as sub-deacon. The men's choir of St. Peter's Church, Ft. Wayne, furnished the music.

In June 1928 Father James Nickels succeeded Father Suelzer and guided the Kouts parish until April 1932 when Father Augustyn Kondziela was appointed.

During his nineteen years as pastor many improvements were made - a pipe organ, a gift of Mrs. James Dwyer was installed and readied for dedication on June 24, 1934.

Kouts was again struck by a cyclone on May 28, 1935 which did minor damage to the church when a tree toppled against the west side of the building necessitating repair work.

Over twenty-five years ago Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters were introduced to take charge of religious instruction of the youth.

On the material side the most important event was the retiring of the debt which had been heavy for a small congregation. The mortgage was burned on December 19, 1948 at a parish party. After placing the mortgage on a tray held by Robert Danielson, Charles Lauer, the oldest member of the parish, placed a lighted match to the mortgage. Other needed improvements were made to both church and rectory and the present parking lot was purchased from the Hollandsworth estate.

Since 1951 the following have served as pastors:

Father Gilbert Wirtz 1951-1953
Father Bernard Shank 1953-1959
Father Raymond Derrick 1959-1962
Father Thaddeus Popek, O.F.M. 1962-1963
Father Paschal Wodek, O.F.M. 1963-1964

Each pastor in his turn exercised spiritual solicitude for the members of his parish. They also made necessary improvements too numerous to mention in the physical plant thus keeping St. Mary's in first rate condition.

On July 10, 1964 Father Ambrose McGinnity was appointed to Kouts, his first pastorate. The Dawson property was bought in October and the house razed in January.

As the history goes to press there are 80 families and 390 souls in the parish with 88 children in the grade school and 36 in High School.

Three organizations are active in the parish.

The Holy Name Society with Paul Drazer, President, Roger Adams, Vice President, and Joseph L. Vogel Secretary-Treasurer. They hold a monthly

meeting on the second Wednesday night of each month September through May.

The Altar and Rosary Society meets the first Wednesday night of the month. Mrs. John Dwornik is President, Mrs. John Cowger, Vice-President, Mrs. Thomas Quirk, Secretary, and Miss Ann Lauer, Treasurer. Over fifty dues paying members belong to the organization whose chief aim is care of the altar and sanctuary.

The Catholic Youth Organization includes all young people of high school age and meets the third Wednesday of every month with spiritual, cultural and social objectives. The President is Mary Drazer, Vice-President, Judy Higgins; Secretary, Ava Vogel; Treasurer, Larry Shutske.

The following men are Trustees of the parish: Paul Drazer, Rudy Dolezal, Roland Graham, Thomas Quirk, and Joseph L. Vogel.

Organists who have served through the years are: Mrs. Louis Rivet, Kate Lauer, Bertha O'Brien, Mame Hannon O'Brien, Marie Quirk Lauer, Evelyn Childers, Mary Ketchmark, Helen Hannon, Cecelia Shutske, and Joseph and Judy Vogel. Our present organists are: Mrs. Richard Hannon, Mrs. Russell Girton, Ava Vogel and Brenda Mendel.



Present St. Mary's Catholic Church

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

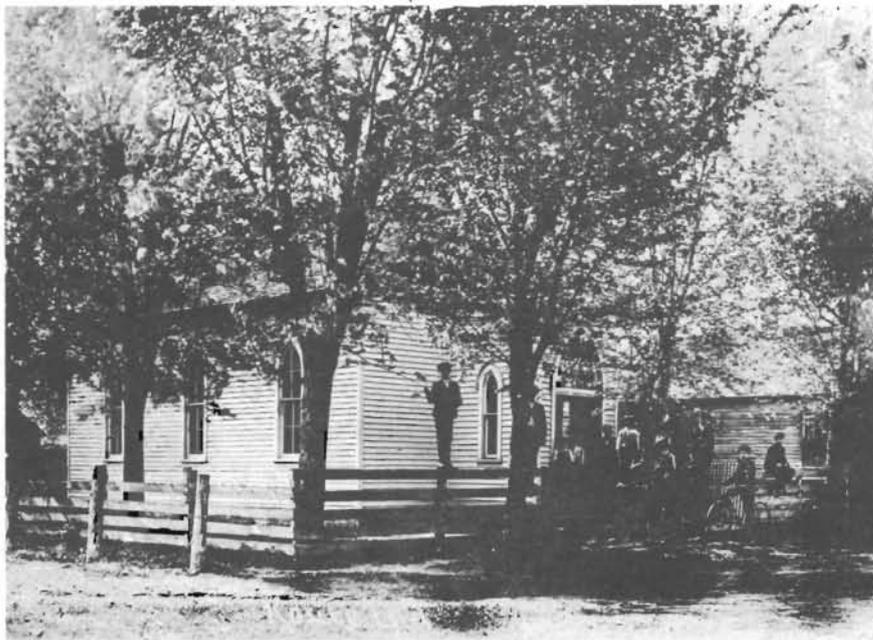
The first Lutheran worship service in Kouts was conducted August 1873, in the old one room school building in the east end of town on Road 8. Services were often held in the homes of the various members, usually on a Sunday afternoon. Among the first German members were: Gottlieb Pontow, August Steinke, Frederick Tight, Ludwig Pahl, John Hofferth, F. Wolbrandt, Stephen Bed, Gottlieb Wandrey, William Klemm, Ludwig Schultz, and John Guelow.

During this period until 1880 there was no resident pastor. The following pastors traveled from nearby towns to conduct the services: Rev. Phillip Schmidt, Rev. W. J. Lange, Rev. Adolph Dunzing, and Rev. George

Heintz. The first child baptized was Carl August Huebner, July 15, 1873.

On the first Sunday in September 1880, the first Lutheran church - the first church in Pleasant Township - was dedicated to the glory of God and the welfare of the congregation at a cost of \$600. This frame building built by men of the congregation, still serves as the Parish Hall. Mrs. John Kneifel had donated an oak tree from their yard for lumber from which Sam Steiner (carpenter) built the altar and pulpit.

The first confirmation class (1880) was the following: Frederick Wandrey, Edward Steinke, Emma Rosenbaum, Mathilda Rosenbaum, Catherine Wolbrandt, Anna



Old St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Wolbrandt, Wilhelmina Kruell, Anna Roñr, and Therese Wittenberg (Mrs. August Hofferth). The first marriage was that of Ferdinand Wittenberg and Irene Rosenbaum, who established one of the first general stores and post office at Boone Grove.

In 1894 Rev. Albert Bauman was called to be the first resident pastor and served until 1899. The congregation began its growth with regular services and confirmation classes. He organized and directed the first choir in 1895. The members were: William Hofferth, Gus Krueger, William Rosenbaum, Fred Rosenbaum, Gust Rosenbaum, Otto Kosanke, John Wandrey, Chris Reinke, Bertha Klemm (Mrs. Fred Rosenbaum, Sr.), Tena Rosenbaum (Mrs. George Schults), Lena Wiesjahn (Mrs. William Wandrey), Minnie Chael (Mrs. Shreiner), Julia Steiner (Mrs. Gust Rosenbaum), Emma Steiner (Mrs. Rombolt), Adeline Rosenbaum, Tillie Wojahn, Anna Wolbrandt (Mrs. John Wandrey), Emma Wandrey (Mrs. J. Young). Adeline Rosenbaum was the organist and served from 1880 to 1906.

Rev. Otto Schumm was the pastor from 1899 to 1905. During his pastorate a steeple was built on the church to house a bell donated by Mrs. Thieln which she purchased from the old Lutheran church at North Judson.

During the pastorate of Rev. Both (1905-1906) the first English services were conducted every third Sunday of the month. German services were conducted all other Sundays and holidays.

English services were likewise conducted with the German by Rev. Hicco Hicken who loyally served the congregation for forty years (1907-1947). Rev. Hicken saw the need for a larger church. The present brick church was dedicated December 13, 1908. It was built by the Foster Lumber Company under Charles Leidel, Chief Carpenter. The cost was \$3500.

The first class confirmed in the new church (1909) was: Edward Wandrey, Albert Honehouse, Arthur Heimberg, Arthur Bandemer, Martin Walters, William Walters, Delbert Hicken, Henry Kechel, William Kechel, William Schultz, Idalene Trinkle, Alvina Schultz, Metha Miller, Mabel Kneifel, Mabelle Salzer, Bertha Wandrey, Tillie Wandrey. The first baby baptized was William Salzer. The first wedding was Metha Walters to Mr. Grose.

Rev. Hicken organized the first Ladies Aid Society of St. Paul's, with twenty members. The officers were: President, Mrs. Ernestine Rosenbaum; Vice President, Mrs. Charlotte Heimberg; Secretary, Mrs. Marie Hicken; Treasurer, Mrs. Minnie Denzine, the last two serving for

approximately thirty years. Each member served as hostess for the monthly Thursday afternoon meetings at her home. Occasionally members were treated to a Sunday chicken dinner. The last ones were given by Mrs. Edwina Salzer (age 91), Mrs. Emil Grieger (87) and Mrs. Laura Weise (82). Other first members still living are: Mrs. Minnie Schreiner, Mrs. William Denzine, Mrs. Mary Cunningham (age 91), and Emma Honehouse.

Through diligent effort this organization paid many of the congregation's financial expenses, such as carpeting, decorating, and organ donations, as well as the mission work. In 1938, \$1408 was paid for the kitchen addition; purchase of lots north of the church (1941); Parish Hall rest rooms \$800 (1953); carpeting \$1200 (1955); and \$500 toward the new electric organ (1965). The only public help came from the former Mission Daychickendinners and the recent turkey suppers and bazaars. Present membership is 65.

Also, Rev. Hicken organized the St. Paul's Lutheran Choir of 30 members in 1924. In addition to the choral sheet music, the advanced book "Festival Anthem Gems for Mixed Voices" by Geo. Kessel was utilized. Three Easter and Lenten Cantatas (the first was directed by R. F. Boening) were given. Ruth Wandrey was organist and director. Previously, Martha Chael (Mrs. William Denzine) was the regular organist after 1906 and served for several years directing a small choir for special occasions. Herman Heimberg became organist in 1908 and organized the Men's Choir. In 1932 Mrs. Lulu Schnekenburger became the organist and choir director. Estrella Hofferth served as organist from 1935 to 1939. A Junior Choir of 12 members was organized and directed by Mrs. Emil Hofferth for a few years. In 1954 Mrs. Minnie Koepke became organist and with Mrs. Robert Bodamer organized the Young People's Choir.

Because of the growing number of children, Mrs. Hofferth was instrumental in organizing the Lutheran Sunday School. Together with the Church Council - Emil Grieger, Emil Hofferth, and Gust Lippert - and the Voters' Assembly with Rev. Hicken, the Sunday School was sanctioned and opened, May 12, 1931, with an attendance of 81. Mrs. Hofferth was the first superintendent and also taught for 19 years. Other first Sunday School teachers were: Alma Rosenbaum, Henrietta Denzine, Doris Miller, and Margaret Rosenbaum. Wilbur Lippert served as superintendent from 1947 to 1952; William Roeske 1953; Ted Schroeder 1954; Merle Schoon carried on after the latter's death. The



Present St. Paul's Lutheran Church

present superintendent is Paul Rommelmann, with a staff of 16 teachers.

The first Young People's Society was also organized by Pastor Hicken. Meetings and parties were held at the various homes for many years. Because of the dwindling group Mrs. Emil Hofferth conferred with him as to the wider social benefits of the Lutheran Walther League. Hilbert Roeske, then president of the Valparaiso Immanuel Walther League, was invited to discuss such organization. The Kouts St. Paul's Walther League was then established (1946).

Following the resignation of Pastor Hicken, Rev. Schwane became pastor. During his pastorate (1947-1954) the congregation was incorporated and the modern system of church officers was instituted. The parsonage was remodeled, the church redecored, new altar cloths and an electric organ purchased, and new furnaces were installed in the parish hall and church. The Lutheran Women's Missionary League was organized (1948) for the purpose of discussing and contributing to the work of missions throughout the world. The first officers were: President, Mrs. Wilbur Lippert; Vice President, Mrs. Ella Williams (later served as Zone Officer); Secretary, Mrs. Herbert Roeske; Treasurer, Mrs. Robert Haman.

During a six-month vacancy, Rev. Koch of La-Crosse acted as pastor. Later Rev. Dr. Luther P.

Koepke, Dean of Men at Valparaiso University, conducted the church affairs. His services were so satisfactory that the congregation called him as the regular pastor. He was installed on September 5, 1954 by Rev. H. H. Kunnick of Valparaiso University.

Under Pastor Koepke's pastorate many material improvements were made, such as the landscaping, selling of the parsonage and purchase of the Wandrey house for the Sunday School annex, new cement steps and walk, and cleaning of the church brick, redecoration of the parish hall and church, installation of new pews, carpeting, and a new Hammond organ, besides a projector, slides, and other modern materials for dissemination of the Gospel.

The Sunday Evening Social Group has been organized and meets once a month with an average membership of 25.

Greatest of all has been the growth of membership souls of the congregation which has risen from 394 to 463 with a voting membership of approximately 65. Since 1954 communicant growth has been from 273 to 327. Rev. Koepke has had 92 baptisms to date, totaling 381 of the St. Paul's church history; 103 confirmations, totaling 446; 41 marriages, totaling 173; and 69 funerals, totaling 224.

--By Mrs. Emil Hofferth

Schools Of Pleasant Township



Kouts High School opened in September, 1937 (on right)
Kouts Elementary School opened in November, 1959 (on left)

Since schools touch most lives and most pocketbooks in a community it is apropos it should take much space in a history.

EARLY SCHOOLS

As most of the very early settlers located in the eastern part of Pleasant Township between the county line and Crooked Creek, it was a natural sequence that the first school would be in that area. In 1838 a small log school house was erected on section 13, township 33, range 5, a short distance south of where the Pennsylvania railroad entered Porter County in 1864. It was built by the patrons of the school and had the customary clay fireplace and greased paper windows. A pioneer teacher said that these windows possessed a great advantage over glass ones, in that they admitted light but prevented lazy pupils from gazing out the windows instead of studying. A larger school house was erected upon the same section a little later. Several years later the first frame school house in the township was built on the north-side road (Dunn's Bridge Road) running past the Raymond Sommers and Mrs. Helen Olson's home across the road and midway between. It was called the Bowman School since the Thornton Bowman family lived a a house directly across the road from it. The first teachers were men and "boarded round" but had a way of lingering in the homes where the cuisine was best. Two men that taught the Bowman School were Hiram Hyde and Florence McAuliffe in the late 1870's and early '80's. A Miss Mary Grimes and Jennie Wells succeeded them and the last teachers in the Bowman School were Sadie Breyfogle (Mrs. Clyde Aylesworth), Margaret Anderson (Steinke) and Nora McNeff (Tracy). Patrons of that era were the families of Ben Anderson, John Kneifel, Peter Lauer, Thornton Bowman and Abigail Burke.

Another log school house was erected the same year 1838 on section 13, township 33, range 6 about a mile and a half west of the present town of Kouts. It was built by the cooperative labor of the patrons and at the first term in the fall of that year eleven scholars were enrolled. Perhaps this was the Spencer School. No record of the early patrons could be found.

DISTRICT SCHOOLS

From studying district school locations in 1876 and 1895 county atlases, Pleasant Township must have experienced population shifts or population explosions or

both. Only four districts maintained the same number and name throughout their long history.

The following schools show on the 1876 map:

(a) Marshall Grove School built on the Robert Anderson property has always been District 1 and built on the same spot. The first school burned and the second one was built on the same site with Charles Lembke as architect. Early patrons were the families of Robert Anderson, Michael Hannon, John Welsh, William Bartholomew, and George Biggart, Sr.

(b) Kouts School as District 2

(c) Spencer School District 3 - this school was just north of State Road 8 on the northwest corner of the Baum's Bridge Road.

(d) Five Points, District 4, was built on the George Brown land.

(e) Bowman School as District 5.

(f) Morrison School, District 6, diagonally across from the block stone school within the memory of many people today. The first two frame buildings were, too, destroyed by fire.



MORRISON SCHOOL

MORRISON

In the early 1880's the old Morrison School became overcrowded so the patrons bought the Ellis School which was not being used due to lack of pupils. It was located on the corner of the Ed Ellis farm, a mile east and a mile north of Kouts across the road from the Harley Birky home. They moved it on skids to a site on the east-west road near the Wilcox farm and southeast of the Morrison School.

While there is no record of early teachers at this school, three early men teachers at Morrison were the Messrs. Wiley, Huffman and Boomersshine who "boarded round". The early patrons were the families of John Coleman, William Betterton, Rhinear Blachly, William C. Wells, Eleazer Starkey, the Lindys, Featherlings, Wagners and Duttons. Two women teachers of the early days were Angie Downs and Ida Winslow, the former from Valparaiso.

The block stone school was built during the trusteeship of Stanton Dillingham.

Alta Coleman Falls and E. E. Starkey of Kouts and Mary Betterton Glass of Florida are pupils of the early days that are still with us.

(g) Brumbaugh School, District 7, a school on the northwest corner of the Conrad Shutske farm.

Then by 1895 the Spencer School wasn't shown and District 8 had been established with Stowell School built on the southwest corner of Sam Stowell's farm.

District 9 was a school on the Betterton land just north of and bordering on the Kankakee River.



LAUER SCHOOL

LAUER

Due to the dilapidated condition of the Bowman School and a change in population (the marsh became farm land) a new block stone school was built in 1904 on land leased from the McWilliams Land Company. It had a large room that often accommodated forty or more pupils in all the grades. The first teacher when the school opened was Grace Cannon followed by Kathryn Kring, the former now living in Kouts.

It was located just across the road from Chris Pfledderer's home and was called Lauer School because Peter Lauer was the earliest settler in that community. The first pupils were third generation Kneifels and Lauers, newcomers named Deyos, with Larsens, Olds, Meadows, Mattocks, and Sommers, Watsons prior to 1910.

STOWELL

In 1880 a committee composed of Abraham Stowell, Chairman; Fred Hamann, Sr., Henry Smith, and William Miller drove to the Court House in Valparaiso to petition for a school in their area. Since this was in the far southeast corner of Pleasant Township it necessitated a journey of over twenty miles over dirt roads and a long days time.

Chairman Stowell agreed to donate the land and by



STOWELL SCHOOL

the fall of 1880 a frame building was readied for school on the southwest corner of the Stowell farm. The site is diagonally across from the Baptist Children's Home.

The first pupils in the school were Billy Miller, Herman Heimberg, Martha, Annie and Sarah Smith, Elizabeth and Star Stowell, Olie and Jessie Posten, Louise and Edwina Hamann - eleven in all. Of these only Mrs. Edwina Hamann Salzer, 91, is still living.

The first teachers were Flora Wilcox, Mina Vosburch, Delia Sargent, Breck Sherman, Mr. Small, Star Stowell and Mattie Bowman.

Through the years Stowell was the school to which beginning teachers always were sent to work out their apprenticeship. Practice teaching was unheard of prior to 1927 and to be teacher, principal, janitor and arbiter in a country school really tested the mettle of an aspiring candidate for teaching. The enrollment averaged in the 30's and 40's in all eight grades.

Three present elementary teachers taught at Stowell School: Hazel Watson Filer, Mabelle Salzer Hofferth and Loretta Lauer.

FIVE POINTS

While several school buildings in the township burned out of existence, the old Five Points School was so badly damaged in the cyclone of May 26, 1917 that it was necessary to build a new one. The old frame structure was moved and a brick structure replaced it on a site diagonally across the road. Some of the early settlers in that area were: William Arnold, William Henderson, George Alles, John Barry, Edward Maxwell, and William Welch, Joseph Cannon and Homer Porter.



FIVE POINTS SCHOOL



COOK SCHOOL

COOK

With further settling of the Kankakee marsh land a new school was needed 2 miles south of Kouts which was built of brick and ready for use in the fall of 1917. It was called Cook since the Cook Brothers took over the McWilliam Land Company and developed the area.

The Aaron Egli; J. Z. Louis, and Rueben Birky; Andrew Heiniger; John, Joseph, and Matt Heinold; Ben Kaufmann; Andrew Gingerich and John Reinhardt families were some patrons of the school in the 1920's.

Prior to 1894 the schools were in the hands of a school board composed of patrons of their respective schools. This board was in complete charge of the school, hiring and firing the teacher, keeping the building in repair, furnishing the fuel, etc. One of the conservative members replaced broken window panes with sheets of galvanized steel because the children could not break them. Eyestrain was unheard of.

In 1894 the trustee and advisory board system came into being. The trustees of Pleasant Township since then are:

- 1894-1896 William Trinkle
- 1896-1900 Parmenius (Pete) Lyons
- 1900-1904 John G. Benkie
- 1904-1908 Stanton Dillingham died in office and his term was finished by son, Clarence.
- 1908-1914 W. N. Anderson (a change in the law so that the township, county, state and national elections would not be at the same time gave Mr. Anderson a 6 year tenure.)
- 1914-1918 William Betterton
- 1918-1922 Verner Blachly
- 1922-1926 Dr. P. D. Noland
- 1926-1934 Jerome Bartholomew - Mr. Bartholomew died in a traffic accident in 1931 and Mrs. Bartholomew finished his term.
- 1934-1938 Albert Honehouse - due to ill health



MARSHAL GROVE SCHOOL

Mr. Honehouse resigned - Mr. Lippert was appointed to finish his term.

- 1938-1946 Gust Lippert
- 1946-1954 Chris Pfladderer
- 1954-1962 William Salzer
- 1962- William R. Reinke

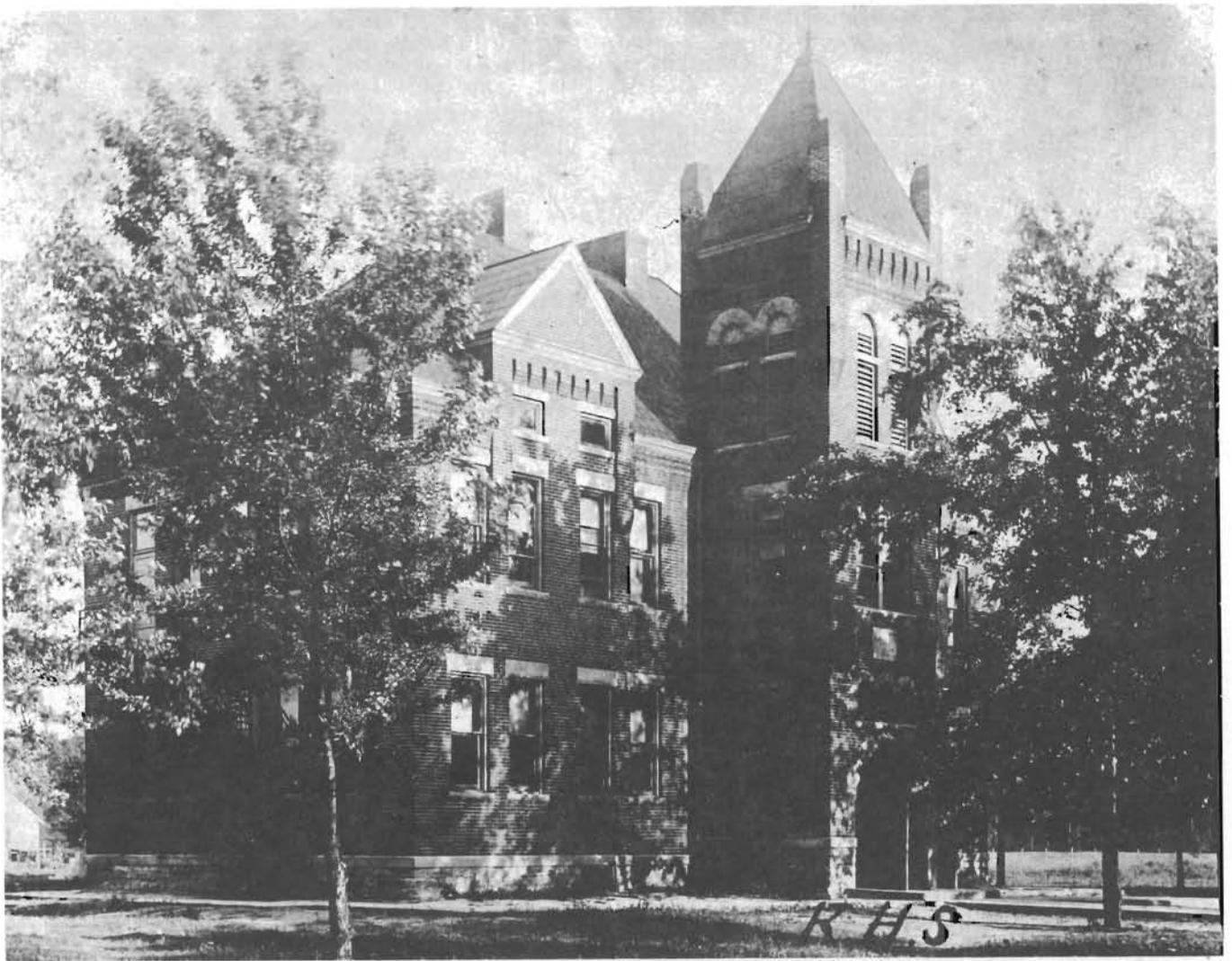
With consolidation in 1937 the Stowell School was moved and made into a residence occupied by the Lloyd Miller family. Marshall Grove and Five Points were converted into residences on their original sites; Harry Railings live in the former and Francis Hawbrook in the latter. Lauer, Morrison and Cook were razed and the sites reverted to the owner on whose land they were located. The old Kouts School was purchased by Desilver Lyon and used as a storage space. Through the years with much effort and determination apartments have been and are still being built in the building.

Despite all the seeming deprivation of the district schools those pupils enjoyed a privilege from 1914 to 1918 not offered today. There was a music and art teacher who visited every school on a regular schedule, teaching music one day a week and art on another day. In the art course such mediums as scissors and paste, crayon, charcoal and water color were used. The work was all free hand and was directed according to the best art practices.

Miss Fannie Hannon held this position and traveled by horse and buggy from school to school. She is an aunt of Richard Hannon and resides in Gary.

EARLY SCHOOLS IN TOWN

There have been two wooden frame school houses in the town of Kouts. The first of these was built on the south side of what is now State Road 8 where Rocks reside. It was a two story two room building with an enclosed stairway. The two teachers within anyone's memory in that building were Nell Donahue and Loey Aylesworth who taught there in the early 1880's. Teaching is a family tradition for today Nell Donahue has a granddaughter teaching in Kouts High School. Nell



KOUTS SCHOOL

married Tom Hannon in 1885 and Mary Hannon Drazer inherited the yearn to teach.

When the Chicago and Atlantic Railroad was built in 1881 the patrons feared for the safety of their children so close to the "iron horse". Their anxiety over a period of years resulted in the second school building in the town of Kouts. It was a two story four room building and stood on the southwest corner of State Road 49 and Elizabeth Street where Krugs live. The first building was moved across the Erie Railroad to the present site of the water tower. Her it was added to and made into the "Hunters Home" a hotel that accommodated some of the many hunters that invaded the Kankakee area during the hunting season.

Gird Bartholomew was principal of this school for a time and some of the teachers during its short period of usefulness were Gerald Stoner, Eugene Skinkle, Liza Anderson and Flora Massey. It was the latter's brother Joe that kept the general store in the first brick building in Kouts. Birdella Anderson, Leon Kouts and Ned Jones were graduates of this school in 1895. And Kouts School today has a relative, of Eugene Skinkle teaching in the High School in the person of Karen Fritz whose mother was a Skinkle.

This second building was destroyed by fire on March 9, 1896, a fire that threatened to destroy all the buildings in the block. People had their belongings packed ready to go but by throwing water on their roofs with buckets managed to save them. The classes that term were finished in O'Brien's Hall for the older children while the first and second grades attended school in the old Catholic Church. Miss Witham, who

influenced and molded the lives of Kouts children for 43 years was the primary teacher then.

The first brick school building was completed in time for school in the fall of 1896. It had four large rooms, two upstairs and two downstairs. The architects were Krutsch and Laycock while George T. Pallisson was the contractor and the building was constructed at a cost of \$5000. It was built to house the first eight grades and was soon inadequate. In 1906 an addition of two rooms and two hallways was made. In 1910 it became a commissioned high school. In 1914 a domestic science room was built in the basement.

With the large rooms upstairs divided and the office used as a classroom this building served the pupils of District 2 as a grade school and the entire township as a high school until 1937. High school pupils from the southern part of Morgan Township also attended high school in Kouts until their own building was completed in 1922.

Since 1920 pre-dates the era of busses and many automobiles, those living too far to walk drove horses and kept them in Mason's hitch barn during the day. It stood just west of John Stark's home.

The history of the attempts of the people of Pleasant Township to modernize their plant was for many years that of failure and disappointment one after another. With each new attempt, always something conspired to block it. A bank failure in 1927 impounding township funds, loss of interest during the depression, and the death through accident of a trustee and advisory board member followed by an advisory board unfavorable to building a new school were the leading adverse factors.

The first successful step in the direction of a new school plant was taken in 1929 by Trustee Jerome Bartholomew when he purchased a twenty-one acre tract of land in the southeast part of town in the Hodgins Division.

Since funds were not available for an entire grade and high school plant and by constitutional limitation the township could not be bonded in excess of two percent of its taxable property, plans were pushed forward for the erection of just a high school. The elementary grades were still to be housed in the old building.

An architect was employed and plans prepared for the new high school. With these plans in hand Architect Brook, Trustee Jerome Bartholomew, and Eli Kruell, Chairman of the Advisory Board, motored to Indianapolis to confer with state department officials relative to the new building. While driving through Indianapolis the architect's car had a collision with a street car resulting in the death of Mr. Bartholomew and Mr. Kruell and the end of the proposed building program. For when the advisory board was reorganized as the result of Mr. Kruell's death, a majority of the new board were opposed to the erection of a new building.

In the fall of 1934 Albert Honehouse became the trustee with Ed Kosanke, Gust Lippert, and Nelson Methard on the advisory board, all of whom were in perfect agreement on the necessity of a new school plant. The newly organized Public Works Administration came into being at this time with its offer of 45 per cent grants to communities that wished to take advantage of them.

The township under the administration of Mr. and Mrs. Bartholomew not only had purchased the school site but also had provided a surplus fund to aid in financing a new building.

Again an architect was employed because the Public Works Administration would not consider an application for a grant of funds until pencil sketches of the proposed project were submitted by a licensed architect. Accordingly Callix Miller of South Bend was awarded the architect's contract contingent on the grant of federal funds.

After many surveys, reports, communications, and conferences the application for funds was granted.

In the meantime, Albert Honehouse, Trustee, resigned because of poor health. The Board of County Commissioners appointed Gust Lippert to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Honehouse and at the same time appointed Burney Maxwell to the advisory board.

This was followed by many and seemingly interminable legal proceedings in the fixing of tax levies, advertisement and sale of bonds, letting contracts, conducting of public hearings, etc., each step of which met the organized opposition of groups of taxpayers.

Finally, in March 1936, the general construction contract was awarded to the J. I. Barnes Construction Company of Logansport, Ind., with Russel Easterday of Culver in charge. Edmund J. Wiczorek of South Bend was the architect's inspector on the job. Construction was begun on May 1, 1936 and completed in August 1937. When it opened in September 1937, a combination grade and high school, the enrollment was 402 with 209 in the first six grades and 193 in the upper six. Brick, concrete and steel were used to produce a fire resistant building. Unlike so many school buildings of this era with a combination auditorium and gymnasium, the new school provided them separately. The auditorium is at the center front, the gymnasium at the center rear with a beautiful corridor between, with its cathedral arches and appropriate lighting. The auditorium had a seating capacity of 460. The gymnasium had a seating capacity of 405 in the balcony and space for several hundred more by the use of movable bleachers on the main floor.

The building of modified English-Gothic architecture was built of tan brick with Indiana limestone trim and had 14 rooms exclusive of auditorium and gymnasium. The total cost was \$190,000.

Very great credit is due to Mr. Lippert and his advisory board who assumed responsibility for this

community project. It required both courage and character to meet successfully responsibilities of this kind.

Upon the completion of the school term in May 1937 all the district schools were closed and the pupils were brought by busses to the newly consolidated school whose faculty consisted of 6 grade teachers and 6 high school teachers with Mr. Charles McMurtry as principal.

As such it served Kouts and Pleasant Township until 1951 when a new shop and two classrooms were constructed in a separate building southeast of the main building, costing \$68,000. The original shop was converted into a kitchen and cafeteria.

By 1958 overcrowded conditions in the 1937 building were acute and caused the polling of public opinion concerning more building. Open meetings were held with Trustee William Salzer and Advisory Board members Edward Kosanke, Carl Hefner, and Kenneth Temple. Most everyone was in agreement that more classroom space was sorely needed.

Bids were submitted and again J. I. Barnes Construction Company of Logansport was awarded the contract for a twelve classroom, all purpose room and kitchen, lounge, boiler room and janitor's room and storage space. It was of modern design one story and joined the shop and original building with closed corridors. Work was begun in May 1959 and it was ready for occupancy the following November. It cost approximately \$220,000.

In 1961 with the national emphasis on science Kouts science department needed up-dating to measure up to specifications. The 1937 science room was remodeled into a modern office and the commerce room renovated and equipped as a science room at an approximate cost of \$28,000. Of this \$13,000 was supplied by federal funds.

Constant state inspection and checking of our school plant necessitated further change in 1962 and '63. Two Home Economics rooms (one for sewing and one for cooking), a Physics room and a Guidance room were remodeled and equipped in the original building at a cost of \$18,000 of which \$4,000 was reimbursed from federal funds.

In 1964 overcrowded conditions in the cafeteria necessitated expansion of the existing room and while building a band room was added on the second floor. Construction was begun in September 1964 and opened for use.

Owen Sommers was awarded the contract for approximately \$90,000. Three full time employees, one part time and student help is needed to man the cafeteria.

At the present time Kouts is a fully accredited school in the North Central Association that offers five curricula (a) Academic (b) Commercial (c) Vocational Home Economics (d) Vocational Agriculture (e) Industrial Arts.

There are 30 teachers including Mr. Taylor, the principal, all experienced and trained, many with advanced degrees. The school is operated on the 6 - 6 plan with 11 full time elementary teachers, 2 part time, a county speech therapist and county nurse on certain days, music teacher and grade principal. There are 30 classrooms, 18-1/2 acres in playground, track, and a ball field lighted for night games.

With the School Corporation Reorganization Act passed by the Indiana Legislature in 1959 and amended in both the 1961 and 1963 General Assemblies the problem is with us. What should we do? The plan offered to the South County has been defeated twice in general elections by the voters of Kouts and Pleasant Township.

A bigger school does not necessarily mean a better school. But with a new rash of growing pains it is fitting to close this chapter with "Kouts School, Quo Vadis?" And it remains for the historian of the next hundred years to answer it adequately.

PRINCIPALS OF KOUTS SCHOOL

Grade School - Gird Bartholomew, Lew Kelly,

A. C. Moose, W. M. Vaughn, James Kintner.

High School - S. P. Shull, E. E. Wright, R. A. Robertson, J. A. Alexander, Helen Hutchins, H. C. Claus-

sen, John Bell, R. A. Roberts, Franklin Burrus, J. H. Baker, Guy O. Vaughn, Kirby Payne, Frank O. Null, Charles McMurtry, Orrin Farris, Merritt Hague, Floyd Oberholtzer, Melvin Taylor.

Of all these principals three deserve citations for ability and length of tenure.

S. P. Shull is remembered for his tireless efforts and devotion to furthering the young people's education. With his coming in 1902 he established a three year course of study for the high school. The first graduates in 1905 were Lulu Mae Benkie, Claire Hannon, Nyle Pierce and Florence Young and in 1906 Marie Beckwith and Anna D. Propp. Likewise he encouraged the young graduates to teach and of the first six graduates five became teachers.

In 1930 a young man, Charles McMurtry, came to teach in Kouts High School. He had a gift for imparting knowledge and inspiring a thirst for it. After teaching three years Mr. McMurtry succeeded Mr. Null as principal and his administrative ability was on the same plane as his teaching ability. The consolidation of the seven district schools and the move from the old school to the new was so well planned and executed that the days' work moved so smoothly it seemed everyone had always been in the spacious new building. And when he left Kouts in 1944 the new building and equipment had been so well cared for under his constant supervision it seemed still a new building. Mr. McMurtry returned in 1948 and served three more years but resigned in 1951 to become supervisor of elementary education of the Porter County Schools a position in which he coordinated elementary effort in the county. Now he is county superintendent.

Kouts School has kept abreast during the past twelve years in the educational world through the direction of Mr. Taylor, who is a native of Wheeler. He received his A.B. degree from Valparaiso University in 1943 and completed his Master's degree at Indiana University in 1952. This educational background, plus three years in the U. S. Marines, and seven years in the Portage School system, where he served as coach and assistant principal in addition to his teaching duties, made him well qualified for the principalship here at Kouts.

Under Mr. Taylor's administration, enrollment has increased from 383 in 1952 to 620 during the past school year. To keep pace with the increasing enrollment and curriculum, the faculty has increased in size from 16 to 30, a faculty to which he is intensely loyal and considerate of all their problems. With all the improvements you have read about in the physical plant, it is obvious that Mr. Taylor's objective has been quality education. Mr. Taylor would be the last one to lay any claims to being wholly responsible for all those improvements in our educational facilities and opportunities, but we are indebted to him for his leadership, without which, many of them would have been more difficult if not impossible.



MISS FREDERICA WITHAM

To Miss Frederica Witham goes an honor never before nor since attained by any Kouts teacher, for she taught 40 of her 43 years in the same room in Kouts School. The other 3 years were spent in country schools - the first at Marshall Grove and two at Five Points. Her largest class during all that time was 64 in second and third grade. Her average was 40. Her starting salary was \$1.25 a day and after three years experience it was \$2.00 a day. Not until Indiana Legislature passed the minimum wage law in 1920 did Miss Witham earn the fabulous minimum of \$800 a year. And when she retired in 1935 it had not doubled that figure.

But the salary was secondary to this truly dedicated teacher who taught boys and girls, saw them grow up and marry and happily send sons and daughters back to her to be taught not only the 3 R's but good sound principles both by word and example. Miss Witham's nobility of spirit inspired all who were privileged to have been in her classes.

Tale Of The Bottle Of Ink

In the good old days (?) every pupil had an ink well in the upper right hand corner of his desk. (Remember how we dunked the ends of the girls' braids regularly.) The school furnished the ink which was bought in quart bottles that had a pouring spout. A penny wise school official observed that a great deal of money could be saved by buying ink by the barrel and ordered it. In due time it arrived at the Pennsylvania depot. Draying charges were another enemy of thrift.

To circumvent that, the school official wrestled the barrel of ink onto his wheelbarrow and began the trek from depot platform to the school. In jostling across the four sets of tracks the barrel rolled off the wheelbarrow and broke, furnishing a lot of merriment to onlookers and later to school personnel when the tale of the barrel of ink reached their ears. They were waiting for ink but with no joyful expectation as they dreaded the mess in transferring from barrel to bottle.

Pleasant Township Clubs

Lodges were formed in Kouts to satisfy the needs of many for fraternizing with friends as well as carrying an insurance feature.

The Modern Woodmen of America Camp 4572 was formed in the 1890's and the Odd Fellows Lodge of Kouts No. 822 in 1905 with Fred Albright as Noble Grand. In 1912 there were fifty members in the latter.

In July 1905 Miriam Rebekah Lodge No. 691 was instituted with sixty-three charter members and Lettie Turner as Noble Grand. The Foresters of America Court No. 8 was listed at this time, too. The Royal Neighbors were formed in 1908 with twenty-one charter members and of all the lodges they are the only one still functioning.



American Legion Hall

American Legion Post No. 301

After World War I the American Legion was organized in 1920 under the leadership of Luther B. Wise who served as first Commander with J. Raymond Benkie as Adjutant. In 1921 under the commandship of Dr. S. E. Dittmer the membership increased to 52 members. It was named the William Radilyack Post since he was the first veteran that Kouts lost from its

ranks - not in active duty but the result of a traffic accident near Kouts.

As the town approaches its centennial there is a prodigious number of clubs, some service, some social, some both, but in the words of a news reporter of the dim past "a bounteous lunch was served and a good time was had by all" is the ending of the club meeting.

The Kouts Woman's Club

"Let there be no strife between me and thee, because we are all brethren."

This motto was adopted in 1909 when three prominent women of the Kouts community, Mrs. H. V. Deopker, Mrs. Frank O'Brien and Mrs. C. P. Hockett, decided to enlist other women in the town to form a woman's organization. They sent invitational cards to all women who might be interested and the meeting was set for May 21, 1909 at O'Brien's Hall in Kouts. Nineteen women responded and the Kouts Woman's Club was organized that day. The first officers chosen were Pres. Mrs. J. J. Overmeyer, Vice Pres. Mrs. Robert Biggart, Sec. Mrs. Frank O'Brien, and Treas. Mrs. C. P. Hockett.

In the beginning the purpose of the club was social. Plans were made to meet every other Friday from 2 to 4 p.m. and dues were set at 10¢ per member.

The charter members were Mesdames, Jerome Bartholomew, Robert Biggart, Porter Childers, H. V. Deopker, C. P. Hockett, J. E. Jones, Ned Jones, George Maxwell, P. O. Norris, Frank O'Brien, M. P. O'Brien, J. J. Overmeyer, W. Pierce, and Elijah Wood.

Through the years rules and regulations were adopted to fit the needs of the club. Membership was

originally set at 21. This was later amended to accept 40 members. Social affairs continued into the second year, members with musical ability entertained and later, members of their families performed for the group.

Interest in the Federation of Woman's Clubs began with Mrs. O. P. Kinsey's invitation to attend the Woman's Club Convention on May 9, 1911. Mrs. Deopker and Mrs. Ned Jones were delegates of the Kouts group but it was not until 1915 that three members of the Valparaiso Woman's Club attended a Kouts meeting to apprise the members of the advantages, privileges, and benefits of affiliating with the Porter County Federated Clubs. In 1921 Kouts joined the Indiana Federation of Clubs and hosted their first convention in 1923.

The first member of the Kouts Club to serve as president of Porter County Federated Clubs was Mrs. Emil Hofferth, and two others have served since, Mrs. Art Carpenter 1944-46 and Mrs. John Starks 1952-54.

The overall objective of the Federation is human welfare and as such they contribute to: Student Loan Funds, Latin-American Fellowship, Red Cross, Penny Art Fund, Musical Pennies, Salvation Army, Y.M.C.A.,

Nurses Scholarship Fund, C.A.R.E., Cancer Control, and many other worthy causes.

The present club has 22 active members and is now governed solely by Roberts Rules of Order. The club colors are pink and green, club flower is the carnation, and the emblem is the circle.

Mrs. Ed Pumroy is president, Mrs. Neal Pumroy is vice-president, Mrs. Edgar Kruell, secretary and treasurer.

IN MEMORIAM

And the stately ships go on,
To their haven under the hill;
But, O, for the touch of a vanished hand,
And the sound of a voice that is still.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Victoria Wells | Ruth Rampke |
| Grace Biggart | Cecelia Childers |
| Johanna Hannon | Kathryn Hockett |
| Margaret Winchell | Barbara Lampl |
| Emma Rueger | Dora M. Lyons |
| Eliza Faye | Nelle Bartholomew |
| Mame Klemm | Rebecca Folsom |
| Emma Griffith | Mabel Dittmer |
| Clare Olson | Adele Huffert |

Time passes quickly, the past is gone;
The future has not yet come; the present
is all we have. We cannot change the past,
nor can we draw upon the future; but we can
use the present.

Kouts Chamber of Commerce

This first established business men's group was organized on May 22, 1944 with the following 24 men attending a dinner at Green's Restaurant:

Father A. S. Kondziela, Carol Root, Dr. S. E. Dittmer, Herman and Edward Kosanke, Harry Carr, Emil Hofferth, Cedric Hiatt, William Denzine, Frank Weiniger, Glenn Crouch, Roy Wandrey, James Herring, Elmer Stowers, Howard Jensen, Howard Reed, Oscar Maxwell, John Schumacker, Frank Green, Desilver Lyon, Harold Jaspersen, Alfred Rasmussen, J. Raymond Benkie, and Henry Dux.

Carol Root acted as chairman and gave suggestions as to the purposes of the group.

Nominations were made for officers with these results: Pres. Carol Root, Vice-Pres. Harold Jaspersen, and Sec-Treas. J. Raymond Benkie.

It was to be called the Chamber of Commerce and other business men, members of the Town Board, area ministers, Farm Bureau members, and others interested in community improvement were invited to join.

Some of the accomplishments of the Chamber of Commerce alone or in cooperation with other civic groups in and around Kouts are: bank organization, widening and paving of Main Street, lighting of the softball diamond, Highways #8 and #49, subdivision growth, town planning, cumulative sewer fund, industrial foundation, street lighting and utility improvement, and starting of the local newspaper.

The group meets the second Monday of each month. President and Year or Years Served

Carol Root.	1944-47-48-49
Luis French.	1945
Joseph Vogel, Jr.	1946-61
John Collins.	1950
Walter Newsom.	1951-52
Roy Wandrey.	1953
Louis W. Marquardt.	1954
James E. Kosanke.	1955
J. C. Hiatt.	1956
William Hefron.	1957
Richard Chael.	1958
John B. Rogowski.	1959
Raymond Dahl.	1960
John R. Schnurlein.	1962
H. P. Hudson.	1963
John Hilliard.	1964
Virgil Heindol.	1965

Clubs

Kouts and vicinity has three Home Demonstration Clubs. The aims and goals are the same for all three clubs and shall be given once with the history of each club in the order of inception:

The aims of the club are as follows:

1. To interest more young homemakers to form home demonstration clubs.
2. To provide lessons that meet current needs of homemakers.
3. To encourage chorus membership.
4. To encourage and support 4-H work.
5. To pass on leaflets and bulletins to someone new when through with them.

The long-time goals are:

1. To improve relationships among family members.
2. To develop better management of time and money and thus increase income.
3. To develop leadership through community responsibility.
4. To improve family health through good nutrition.
5. To reach every family in the community with helpful information.

The Kouts Neighbors Home Economics Club

1. The Kouts Neighbors Home Economics Club was organized in 1931 at the home of Mrs. Herman Chael. Among the charter members were the hostess Mrs. Chael, Mrs. William Denzine, Mrs. Caroline Hamann, Mrs. Gus Krueger, Mrs. Nelson Metherd, and Mrs. Herman Wieberg. This club ceased meetings but was reorganized in 1942 and since then has shown continuous growth and interest.

The officers for 1965 are: Pres. Mrs. Junior Miller, Vice-Pres. Mrs. Joseph Shutske, Sec. Mrs. Fred Deli, and Treas. Mrs. Glenn Crouch.

Lamplighters Home Demonstration Club

2. The Lamplighters Home Demonstration Club was organized on October 18, 1949. The charter members were the Mesdames Loren Betz, Paul Drazer, Luis French, Fred Hamann, Richard Hannon, William Hefron, Walter Heiniger, Gerald Hitz, John Hilliard, Miles Jones, James Kosanke, Wilbur Lippert, Alden Miller, Leslie Oehlman, Albert Olsen, George Struve, Joe Vogel, Jr., Paul Wadsworth, and Roy Wandrey.

The first officers were: Pres. Marge Lippert, Vice-Pres. Naomi Betz, Sec. Mary Drazer, Treas. Kathryn French, Publicity Chrm. Fern Wadsworth.

There have been many interesting lessons presented to the club with the first lesson on Pasteurization of Milk and Dishwashing given in October 1949. Other lessons dealt with throughout the years are: Color in the Home, Fabric Painting, Glove Making, Brighter Wash Days, Care of Electrical Appliances, Broiler Meals, Weight Control, Reupholstering, Outdoor Cookery, Lampshades, Effective Speech, Cake Decorating, In the Freezer and Out.

In January 1961 the Lamplighters helped organize the sister club in Kouts, the Starlighters.

At Christmas time each year club members, their husbands and guests go caroling to the shut-ins in the community and distribute boxes of fruit, home made cookies, and candy to older residents.

The present officers are: Pres. Mrs. Russel Girton, Vice-Pres. Mrs. Leonard Antrim, Sec. Mrs. Conrad Shutske, Treas. Mrs. Merle Schoon and Reporter Mrs. James Kosanke.

Starlighters Home Demonstration Club

3. The Starlighters Home Demonstration Club was started in February of 1962.

The charter members of the Starlighters are: Mrs. Jack Nuest, Mrs. Victor Martin, Mrs. Donald Gingerich, Mrs. Robert Hott, Mrs. Gene Wise, Mrs. Marion Birky, Mrs. James Heindol, Mrs. Charles Schnekenburger, Mrs.

James Yergler, Mrs. Frank Holzapfel, Mrs. Monty Helmuth, and Mrs. Harold Fritz.

Serving the club as first year officers were: President, Mrs. Harold Fritz, Vice President Mrs. Jack Nuest; Secretary, Mrs. Monty Helmuth; Treasurer, Mrs. Donald Gingerich; Reporter, Mrs. Charles Schneckeburger.

Present officers are: President, Mrs. Charles Schneckeburger; Vice President, Mrs. Gene Wise; Secretary, Mrs. Larry Strong; Treasurer, Mrs. Roland Good; Reporter, Mrs. Gordon Williams.

The Morrison Community Club

The Morrison Community Club was organized in May 1911 at the home of Mrs. Bert Tillotson now known as the Gordon Smith place. The only surviving charter member is Mrs. Lulu Starkey.

Some of the activities engaged in through the years were quilting, tying comforters, sewing rag rugs, serving lunch at auction sales, sewing for the needy of the locality, and helping members in time of sickness and sorrow.

The membership today of 17 is unusual in that there are four mother-daughters represented by: Mrs. Rebecca Minton and two daughters, Mrs. Allie Russell and Mrs. Anna Robbins; Mrs. Minnie Neuschafer and daughter, Mrs. June Hanselman; Mrs. Mae Pegg and daughter, Mrs. Betty Conner; and Mrs. Emil Lippert and daughter, Mrs. Wilda Mitzner.

The present officers of the club are: President Mrs. Emil Lippert, Vice-President Mrs. Esther Neuffer, Secretary Mrs. Wilda Mitzner, and Treasurer Mrs. Allie Russell.

Farm Bureau

Farm Bureau is the voice of agriculture in Indiana and in the United States. It is an organization of Farmers. It is voluntary, non-governmental, non-sectarian, and is non-partisan in development of its policies, working with both political parties in getting its programs into action.

Farm Bureau's programs are aimed at improving the economic and social environment of farmers and improving their net income.

Their many youth programs and social events contribute much to family enjoyment of rural living and development of future agricultural leaders.

The Farm Bureau was organized in 1919 in Pleasant Township with O. B. Wells, J. A. Warren, William Kneifel Sr., E. E. Starkey, and Somer Smith giving much of their time to the development of the organization.

The first officers were: President, O. B. Wells; Vice President, John Dunkel, Program; Vice President, J. A. Warren, Educational; Vice President, Mrs. Frank Johnson, Women; Vice President, Mrs. John Dunkel, Poultry; Vice President, Joe Heindold, Crops; Vice President, Albert Heimberg, Stock; Vice President, Mrs. J. A. Warren, Boys and Girls; Vice President, Edward Klemz, Finance; Vice President, Paul Titus, Social; Secretary, Mrs. Steve Mockler; Association Director, E. E. Starkey; Fair Director, Harry Mockler; Marketing Instructor, John Dunkel.

In 1964 there were 197 members with only E. E. Starkey, Emil Lippert and Elmer Werner the lone survivors of the charter members.

The 1965 Farm Bureau officers are: Pres. Elmer Werner, Vice-Pres. Kenneth Temple, Sec.-Treas. Mrs. Kenneth Temple, and Mrs. Herbert Hamann, Women's Leader. Mrs. Elmer Werner is Porter County Women's Leader.

The annual dues were \$5.00 a year in the beginning and now are double that amount.

Quad County Organ Club

Following several monthly gatherings of interested organ players, twenty-two persons gathered at the home of Mrs. and Mrs. Floyd Gratner of Rensselaer on Sunday, April 29, 1962 to organize the Quad County Organ Club.

Officers elected to serve the new organization were: Mrs. John W. Selman of Kouts, President; Mrs. Floyd Gratner of Rensselaer, Vice President; and Miss Minerva Wuethrich of Francesville, Secretary-Treasurer.

The name of the club was derived by the fact that the membership came from four counties, namely - Jasper, Porter, Pulaski and Tippecanoe.

Charter members are: Floyd and Etta Gratner; Dale and Vera Ledman; Ralph and Gladys Neville; John and Charlotte Selman; Josephine Speicher; and Jay and Effie Spencer.

The meetings of the Quad County Organ Club are held on the last Sunday of each month at the various members homes.

Present membership consists of: Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Gratner of Rensselaer; Mr. and Mrs. Dale Ledman and Betty of Lafayette; Mr. and Mrs. Arden Mendel, Brenda and A. J. of Kouts; Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Neville of Rensselaer; Mr. and Mrs. John W. Selman, John Francis, Neil and Matthew of Kouts; Mr. and Mrs. John Speicher, Beverly, Leah and Johnny of Francesville; and Mr. and Mrs. Jay Spencer of DeMotte. Mr. and Mrs. Regal Spencer of DeMotte are honorary members, Mr. Spencer having taught a number of the organ club members.

Pi Epsilon Kappa Sorority

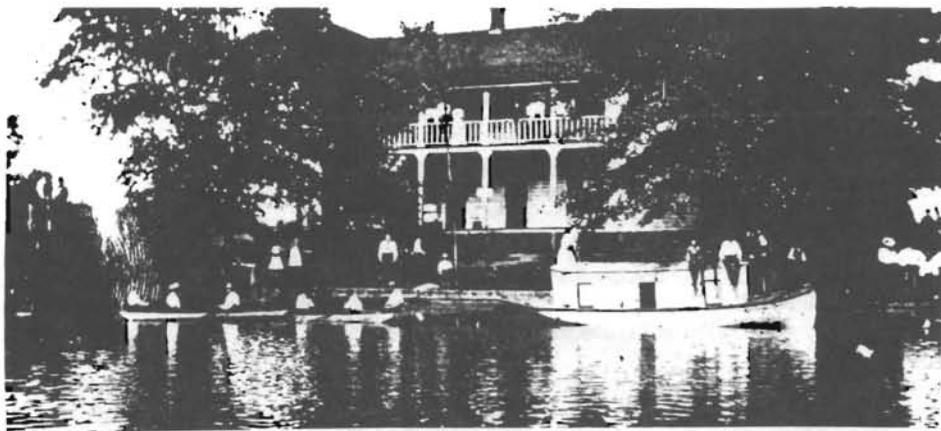
A group of young Catholic women met at the home of Mrs. John Smutko on August 8, 1947 to organize Psi Chapter of Pi Epsilon Kappa Catholic Sorority. Pi Epsilon Kappa was founded by Mrs. Edward McCullough of East Chicago in 1939, dedicated to charitable works and the study of the Catholic faith. It is well known in the Calumet region and Psi made the thirtieth chapter.

Mrs. John Smutko, as the organizer, called the first meeting and the charter members were Mrs. Leonard Kunzler and Mrs. Leonard Weinkauff of LaCrosse, Mrs. Joseph Vogel, Jr., Mrs. William Hebron and Mrs. John Smutko of Kouts. The first officers were president Mrs. William Hebron, secretary-treasurer Mrs. Gerald Shutske, chaplain Mrs. Leonard Weinkauff, and publicity Mrs. Conrad Shutske.

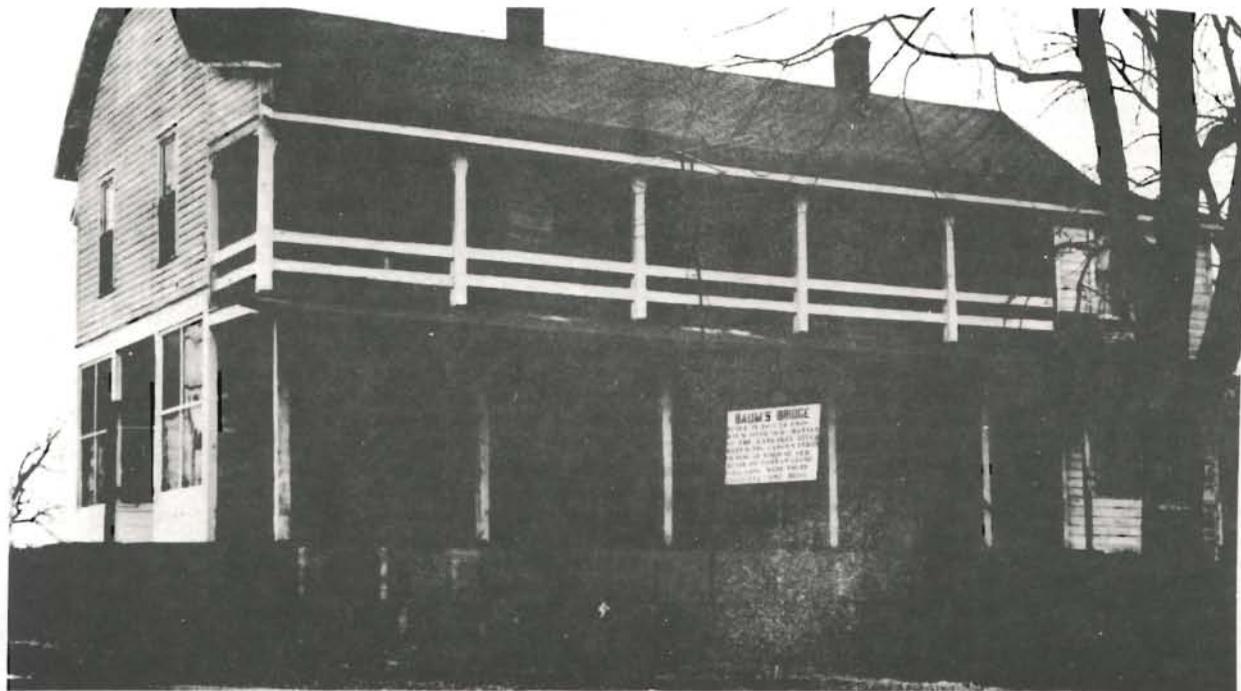
Meetings were held twice a month, the first meeting of each month devoted to the study of the Catholic faith, and the second a social meeting. All money raised by Psi Chapter is used for charitable works without undue publicity, such as St. Jude's Orphanage in East Chicago, Boys Town in Schererville, and 500 bags of candy yearly to Beatty Hospital at Christmas time. Many needy families in the Kouts area also benefit. Scholarships were given to a number of students through the years. A Sweetheart Dance held annually and a biennial convention both held in Chicago are social events.

At present there are two provinces with 40 chapters.

The 1965 officers are president Mrs. Richard Hannon, secretary Mrs. Raymond Hall, treasurer Mrs. William Hebron, and chaplain Mrs. Joseph Vogel, Jr. The sponsors are Mrs. Joseph Simic and Mrs. Roland Graham.



Collier's Club House Then



Collier's Now

Kouts Lions Club

The Kouts Lions Club, a member club of Lions International, was chartered on Thursday, February 4 1960, with 25 members. The charter banquet was held at the American Legion Post in Kouts with a large group of Lions on hand for the event from 15 clubs, in surrounding communities.

The original Charter Officers were: President, H. P. Hudson; First Vice President, William Gesse; Second Vice President, Al Miller; Third Vice President, Vernon Dye; Treasurer, Lester Rhynard; Secretary, Tom Quinn; Lion Tamer, Richard Claussen; Tail Twister, William Johnston; Directors, Russell Girton, James Kosanke, Gilbert Swing, and Floyd Gesse.

The Lions have sponsored and participated in many community projects such as: building a picnic shelter for the community (which was destroyed by wind later), co-sponsor of a boy scout to the scout jamboree, support of the IFYE program, aid to needy families within the community, assistance with the building of the horseshoe and basketball court at the school grounds, sponsored the United Nations Contest at Kouts High School, assisted with the Porter County Bloodmobile, participation in the Porter County Fair and the sponsoring of a Queen candidate, and furnishing eyeglasses to needy residents.

The prime state and national projects of Lionism are of great importance to the Lions. These are, Eye Bank (the transplant of corneal tissue), Sight Conservation, Leader Dog School at Rochester, Michigan, and the Cancer Clinic for research and treatment at Indianapolis. The Kouts Lions have been very active in all these projects as has been evidenced by their many fund raising activities such as Candy for Cancer day etc.

In 1964 the club also had many beautiful trees placed around the Kouts School yard for future beautification, as well as to provide a good subject for study for the students.

Another real highlight in the club's activities has been the annual Auction sale. This provided the club with funds to carry on its work and provided the farmer and housewife with a market for their non-essential items of machinery and personal items.

The motto of Lions is "We Serve". The Kouts Lions always welcomes suggestions as to how 'it can better serve its community and mankind.

There are currently 26 members in the club. Meetings are always held in the evening, of the first Thursday of each month with dinner. Guests are always welcome as are new members.

“A QUARTER PAST ONE”

HISTORY OF KOUTS 1965 to 1990

The year 1965 stands out in memory as the year the town of Kouts celebrated its Centennial – and indeed, the citizens did celebrate that note-worthy occasion with many and varied activities throughout the year enjoyed by all.

The history of our town compiled at that time encompassed the first 100 years of its existence, and recorded the growth and progress of the community. It was natural that great changes were seen during that span of time as the county moved from horse-and-buggy days to a motorized age, and the historian noted that the citizenry accepted and adapted to the changes in their way of life while still retaining the warmth and friendly spirit which typified their town.

Now, twenty-five years later, that same spirit is evident in the people of the community, who have joined in planning this up-date of the history of our town. They want people to know that a visitor to Kouts will find a busy, thriving place with a large variety of establishments to serve the needs of the surrounding area, and to experience the neighborly feeling so evident here among folks who care about one another.

The first official census count for the town of Kouts listed the population at 214 residents in 1880. With figures available at 10 year intervals, the 1960 count was 1,007. The latest statistics we could obtain are from 1980, and show 1,617 residents, reflecting a stable community with slow but consistent growth throughout the years.



Main St.

125th HISTORY COMMITTEE

Chairman - Carl Hefner

Sue Schoon

Glen Olsen

Harold Haman

Duane Gesse

Fred Untch

Betty Werner

Anne Drazer

Pam Parker

Clarence Schreiner

**KOUTS
INDUSTRIAL
&
COMMERCIAL
FOUNDATION
INC.
KOUTS, INDIANA**

**John Lauer-President
John Schoon-Vice President
Board Member**

**Paul Chael-Secretary
Board Member**

**Wilbur Lippert-Treasurer
Pam Parker-Board Member
James Kosanke-Board Member
George Maul-Board Member
Harold Heinold-Board Member**

KOUTS INDIANA

**A
Small Town**

**With
A
Big
Heart**

Come Grow With Us

MEMBERSHIP
Charles Goodwin
Linda Goodwin
Kouts Hardware
William McGriff
McGriff Construction
David Riley
Gainer Bank
Fred Untch
Kouts General Store
Donna Werner
Century 21
Willard Paarlberg
Robert Hott D.D.S.
Wilbert Hamstra
Hamstra Builders
Maurice Mason
Earl Sommers
Willard Sutter
James Yergler
Heinold Commodities
Phil Johnson
Builders Reality

KOUTS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Kouts Chamber of Commerce was founded in the early 1950's by the town's businessmen.

Through the years the Chamber has been active in promoting the growth of business and the quality of life the residents of the town now enjoy.

The Porkfest and Annual Arts & Craft show is a Chamber of Commerce sponsored event which will be celebrating it's 16th year. The town board, fire department, park department, police department, schools, businesses and residents work united in promoting the southeast corner of Porter County on the 3rd Saturday of each September.

The Prayer Breakfast hosted at the Mennonite Church takes place each spring uniting the townspeople with the spirit of brotherhood.

The town garage sales and sidewalk sales are hosted every summer by the town's businesses and the Kouts Golf Outing in August continues to grow and links us to all facets of business throughout Porter County.

Increasing membership in the Kouts Chamber of Commerce keeps it an intricate and productive association throughout south Porter County.

BUSINESSES IN KOUTS

The research done for the business places within our city limits shows much change in 25 years. Some establishments have moved to another location, some have renovated their existing sites, some have changed ownership or management during that time, some are new to our town, and a very few are still in the same location and offering the same services they did in 1965.

The following listing identifies as much as possible by local address the many and varied types of business and the variety of services available to the community. Members of the committee who compiled this list have used the information given by someone at each location, and we hope it reflects accurately our business profile.

Approaching Kouts from the north, on State Road 49 the present businesses of the town located on Main Street are the following:

MEDICAL ARTS BUILDING

705 N. Main

It is owned by Dr. Robert Hott who has had his dental practice there since 1962. He employs 2 nurses. Through the years some of the office space was used at various times by 2 optometrists, 2 different physicians, and at present 2 full-time businesses occupy parts of the building.

705 N. Main

C.M. Financial Group is managed by John Lauer, the registered Representative. John is a Kouts native and has been in business for 7 years, first in his home, now for the past 4 years at his present location. His business employs 1 full-time assistant and 1 part-time accountant.

705 N. Main

Dr. Carl L. Valvo III and Dr. Nila Lippert Valvo, Chiropractors. The couple moved to Kouts with their two children from Armonok, N.Y. and established their practice in November, 1989. Dr. Nila is a Kouts native. They have office hours 4 days a week and are closed on Thursdays. They employ one chiropractic assistant and 2 part-time office workers.

705 N. Main

Darlene Kitteridge, CPA. Sharing another space in that same building since February 1990 is the newly-opened branch office of Darlene Kitteridge of Chesterton who is the owner of her own CPA business. Lynn Duttlinger of Kouts who is her partner is also a licensed CPA. At the present time their business hours are spent with some days in Kouts and some in Chesterton. They hope in the future to offer more service to the residents of this area.

THE WOOD MILL

412 N. Main

Marion Birky had been associated with American Legacy at one time, but started independently at his country home in 1987. His move to town was effective in August of 1989, where he offers hand-crafted wood furniture for sale, as well as doing custom work for customers. He participates with an Open House in his shop in conjunction with the December Walk in Kouts. Mr. Birky is in his shop daily except when assisting at Kosanke Funeral Home when needed.

WERNER HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

403 N. Main

In 1967 Willard Werner opened his business in property formerly occupied by the Reverend Emmanuel Birky family. A large barn on the property accommodated the extensive equipment and supplies needed in that business. Since 1988 a son, Andy Werner, is the owner, and employs 4 full-time helpers.



MOSER TIRE SERVICE & AUTO PARTS

105 N. Main

Since 1978 this business is housed in the building originally erected and operated by Glen Crouch as a garage and car sales. It was later operated and occupied by various tenants, then stood vacant until 1960 when Crouch opened the town's first and only Laundromat. Today that is still functioning in the section of the original building adjoining Moser's garage and auto parts.

OAK CABLE SYSTEMS

101 S. Main

Oak Cable Systems was established in Kouts in 1985, with offices on Mentor St. They moved to the present location in 1986, occupying the former Kosanke Bottle Gas Co. building on the corner of State Roads 8 and 49. Locally they service Kouts, LaCrosse, Wheatfield, Wanatah and Westville, with construction and service departments for Cable T.V. in those areas. The office employs 2 full-time and 2 part-time workers.



KOUTS LUMBER CO., INC.

104 S. Main

This business was formerly known as Kouts Lumber Co., and still occupies the same location on Main St., although the old headquarters was razed in 1990, replaced by a new and larger building to accommodate an expanded line of building supplies. In 1965 Richard Chael owned and operated the business, and the present manager is Glen Olsen.

Judy & Howard
Wahl

CONGRATULATIONS KOUTS

404 S. Main
Box 486



"Your friendly hometown grocer"



PHONE: 766-2535

*Carolyn's Beauty Studio
The Boutique*

Ladies Leisure Wear & Jewelry

Tuesday - Saturday 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Open Thursday Evening

CAROLYN BEACH
OWNER/OPERATOR

209 S. MAIN
KOUTS, IN 46347

Happy 125th Birthday Kouts

American Legacy
Furniture Company

Mfg. Division
304 E. Mentor St. Kouts, IN 46347

"Turn Your House Into A Home"
JOHN 3:16

Retail Division
9 East Lincolnway Valparaiso, IN 46383

(219) 465-7174

(219) 477-4363

BUSINESSES IN KOUTS

Continued from page 64

KOFFEE KUP 105 S. Main

The frame building used in 1965 for the Jorgensen Sheet Metal business was originally the Benkie Drug Store. Since that time it was remodeled and converted to a restaurant by Eloise Jarnecke. Owners in succession since then were John Selman, Verda and Bill Proctor, Clayton and Laura Eichelberger, Barry and Barbara Lobody and the present owner, Kathleen Nuest.

KOUTS TIMES 111 S. Main

Our local weekly newspaper was established in 1952 by Maurice and Catherine Mason of Hebron. It was sold to the Vidette-Messenger in January 1980, and in turn sold to the Thompson Newspaper, Inc. in 1985. It is printed elsewhere, but has always employed an office manager for the local office. The present manager is Dorothy Sandberg.

MAINSTREET PIZZA PLUS 115 S. Main

Carolyn Taylor is the present proprietor of this pizza shop, opening for business in November, 1988. The first pizza place was known as Geno's Pizza; then it became Mom's Place until that business moved to a different location. Fayette Zeiters owned and operated the business from March, 1982 to June 1988. After remaining closed for a few months it is again in operation and offering the public a favorite food item.



LITTLE RESTAURANT 205 S. Main

The site of this business was once "Bake" Perry's restaurant and soda fountain. By 1965 it had become Hilliard's Restaurant, owned and operated by John and Janet (Perry) Hilliard. It was sold to the James Tsolias family, who in turn sold to Nick and Judy Karantonis. They have owned and operated the business since coming from Gary in 1976. Their full-time and part-time employees number 20.

SHUTSKE'S "66" STATION 206 S. Main

This was the former Claussen's Shell Station, owned and operated by Bob Claussen in 1965. It is now owned by Brian Shutske, who purchased the business in 1987 and employs one full-time and one part-time worker.

CAROLYN'S BEAUTY SHOP 209 S. Main

Carolyn Beach opened her beauty shop in Kouts in June, 1980. The building is owned by Kenneth Landstrom of Valparaiso. It was previously the property of Mr. Hagar who did extensive remodeling of the entire structure, providing business offices on the second floor. At one time the area housed the Nichols Grocery Store and later Doris' Beauty Shop.

A.A.L. OFFICE 209 S. Main

A.A.L., the initials denoting the Aid Association for Lutherans established an office in Kouts in April, 1989. Raymond H. Kurtz, F.I.C. is the district representative, offering a variety of services to members of the Lutheran faith. The office is open every Monday through Thursday from 9-1, and there is one part-time employee.

HEINOLD COMMODITIES B E B, INC. 215 S. Main

This is a recent addition to the business community, which opened in 1986. The agents in charge are Harold Heinold and James Yergler. They are commodity agents to serve customers in buying and selling future contracts or options, or for hedging purchases. They also are commodity brokers for those who desire to speculate in the Market.

Continued on page 68

KOUTS 125th ANNIVERSARY



KOUTS TRUE VALUE HARDWARE 204 S. Main

The Hardware store changed ownership on March 1, 1990 after Mr. and Mrs. Willard Paarlberg had been in business more than 25 years. The building was originally the Kosanke Furniture Store, bought by Carol Root, who was the first to operate a hardware store in that location. The succession of owners was Carol Root, Roger Schnurlein, Jack Keehn, Willard Paarlberg and the present owners, Chuck and Linda Goodwin, who are busy making changes in the store to fit their own ideas of the business.

CONGRATULATIONS KOUTS

Kouts, IN 46347
KOUTS: 219/766-3451 or 2570



Kouts and Aylesworth Elevators
AYLESWORTH: 219/996-2500

CONGRATULATIONS KOUTS



COUNTRY CUTTERS

PHONE 766-2731

902 S. St. Rd. 49
KOUTS, IN 46347

CONGRATULATIONS KOUTS

CHURCH MACHINERY COMPANY

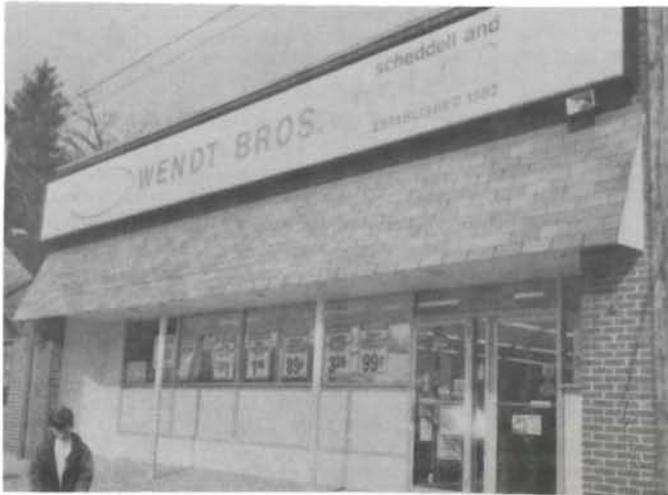
USED TRUCKS AND CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY

CARL R. CHURCH
219-766-2108

1202 S. Main St.
Kouts, IN 46347

BUSINESSES IN KOUTS

Continued from page 68



WENDT BROS. DRUGS, INC. 207 S. Main

In 1965 Louis and Dorothy Marquart owned the Drugstore, called Marquart's Stop and Shop. It was sold to Lloyd Medansky who retained the same name for his business. In turn, Mr. Medansky sold to Scheddell and Wendt Drugs. Today it is managed by Tom Strain, Pharmacist, and uses the name Wendt Bros. Drugs, Inc. There is 1 full-time employee and 10 persons who serve on a part-time basis.

LANDSHIRE FOOD SYSTEMS OF IN., INC. 217 S. Main

Landshire Food Systems of In., Inc. has been in the food business for 23 years. A local operation was established in Kouts in 1977, with Hubert Jessup as manager. Packaging of sandwiches and other food items is done in the local assembly line facility, with the products distributed by trucks to locations in various areas of Indiana. The franchise was sold to Bill Dickey in January, 1989. Twenty-two workers are presently employed by the business.

VANCE'S KOUTS INN 222 S. Main

This business has been owned and operated by Vance Williams since 1971. The brick building was formerly named Kouts Inn, with Albert Milas and Albert Kowalczyk as co-owners in 1965. It was originally the P. Lyons building, erected in 1916, and had a variety of owners and uses up to the present time.

K AND B ENTERPRISE Corner of St. Roads 49 & 8

What was in 1965 the Standard Gas Station, with Edsall Miller in charge has had a succession of owners and managers through the past 25 years. Following Ed Miller are the names of Clem Gorski, Fred Sturgis, Ray Heinold Oil Co. Inc, McGrath Enterprises, and at present it is listed as K & B Enterprises with Cy Young as manager. The building is newly renovated, and offers a variety of food items as well as gas service.



FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF VALPARAISO 221 S. Main

The premises presently occupied by the First National Bank has an involved and unusual history. At the time of the Centennial in 1965 it was occupied by the Kouts State Bank, which then merged with the Northern Indiana Bank of Valparaiso, and in 1968 moved to a newly erected building at another location. The building at 221 S. Main was then used at various times by an assortment of businesses including the Heinold Market, Lucille Danielson's Beauty Shop, Antiques by Mary Vogel, and Rose-Lin Dress Shop. In 1979 the building was completely renovated and became a branch of First National Bank of Valparaiso. The two-story building has a large conference room on the second floor. It had been used as an apartment but serves now as a place for bank business meetings.

Page 68



KOUTS FLORAL AND GIFTS 224 S. Main

This floral business changed hands in May, 1990, the new owner being Mrs. Betty Irelan of Valparaiso. The shop is managed by her daughter, Lynette Gant. The former owner, Jamie Fox, had been in business approximately one year. She had purchased the business from Janet Schweizer who had the Flower Cart first at the corner of State Roads 49 and 8, and later at the Main Street location.

COUNTRY CUTTERS 230 S. Main

Julienne Koepke opened her newly-remodeled beauty shop in September, 1989. It is located in the back section of the building housing the new General Store, with a separate entrance at the side. The area had at one time been an apartment and had been vacant for some time.

Continued on page 70

KOUTS 125th ANNIVERSARY



HOG WILD VIOLETRY

Home-grown African Violets and
other Gesneriads since 1982.

—Retail and Wholesale—

Irregular hours for your convenience.

Please phone first:

Judi Nuest
524 East - 1000 South
Kouts, IN 46347

(219) 766-2172

**Show
Results
Per Products
inc.**

P.O. BOX 377 KOUTS, IN 46347
Toll Free 1-800-223-8629
Fax 1-219-766-2789

CONGRATULATIONS KOUTS

Martin & Son's Inc.

"WE MOVE THE EARTH FOR YOU"

508 Indiana
Kouts, IN 46347

(219) 766-2563

1072 S. 325 E.
Kouts, IN 46347

Steve Cadwell
President
(219) 766-2140



R.S. CADWELL PAINTING, INC.

SANDBLASTING

"BLASTING KOUTS INTO THE 21ST CENTURY"

BUSINESSES IN KOUTS

Continued from page 68



KOUTS GENERAL STORE 230 S. Main

Kouts General Store is located in the building that housed a variety store in 1965, operated by Eve Jaspersen. Prior to the renovation of the building for this new business, the premises had been occupied by the Ted Hitz Photography Studio. The proprietor is Fred Untch of Portage, who also owns a similar store in Boone Grove. It is patterned after the type of store which was common in times past. It offers a wide range of merchandise for the customer, including an old-fashioned soda fountain which is popular with people of all ages.

KOUTS LIQUOR STORE AND VIDEO 302 S. Main

On the site of the former Mary Cunningham store a new building was erected in 1971 which houses the Liquor Store, with Ron Kontas owner/operator. In the rear of the building Bill Johnston had his barber shop. Since Johnstons retirement that space houses the Video store. William Sherfey is the present owner.

PAUL CHAEL, ATTORNEY 306 S. Main

Paul Chael, a native of Kouts, opened a law office in Kouts in 1985, using space in the building at 209 S. Main on a part-time basis. In 1987 he decided to devote all his time to his business in Kouts, and moved into his newly-erected office building in December, 1988. Two full-time attorneys occupy space in the building, namely Dennis Healy since the fall of 1987, and Tamala Johnstone since May, 1990. The office clerical staff consists of one full-time and one part-time worker.

JOHN'S CORNER TAP Main Street, Corner Main and Mentor

This business is located in the building which, in 1965, was the Fritz Maul Tavern. John Arends was the next proprietor, and the present owner is John Campbell. The stone block building, built in 1911, housed a variety of business establishments. At one period it was known as the Kouts IGA operated by Mrs. Kate Quirk. Later it was converted to a tavern listed under several different names before being purchased by Maul.

Page 70

MOM'S PLACE 401 S. Main

This Pizza business was formerly located farther north on Main Street, where Betty Carichoff had served her pizzas for 4 years. It moved to its present location on the corner, in what had been the Hudson Insurance Co. office. It is owned and operated by Bob Carichoff and his daughter Diana.

J & H FOODS 404 S. Main

This was the Kouts IGS in 1965, owned and operated by Paul Miller. In October of 1985 the business was purchased by Clayton Bahr, coming from Lowell. In August 1990 Judy & Howard Wahl purchased the business. They offer a complete line of groceries, a meat counter, fresh fruits and vegetables, and home delivery when requested.



GAINER BANK 309 S. Main

In 1965 this was known as the Kouts State Bank. In 1968 they moved to the present white brick building which was newly built for their business. In January of 1967 it became Northern Indiana Bank, then in September of 1987 it became a branch of Gainer Bank, as it is at present.

COUNTRY CONNECTION 406 S. Main

This building was for several years the Kouts Post Office until that facility needed room to expand and moved to its new location in 1971. It now houses Country Connection, an area filled with many hand-crafted country items plus a variety of baby articles. Barbara Tholl of Knox is owner of the business and Paul Miller owns the building. This location has been the site of a number of businesses since 1955, among which are: Forste Carpets, Pete Hudson Insurance, Sanders Floral, Cannon's Country Collectibles and American Legacy.

Continued on page 72

KOUTS 125th ANNIVERSARY

DR. CARL VALVO III
&
DR. NILA LIPPERT VALVO

CHIROPRACTIC PHYSICIANS

Family Practice

24 HR. EMERGENCYCARE

7 Days A Week

MEDICAL ARTS BUILDING

KOUTS, INDIANA

766-3401

BUSINESSES OF KOUTS

Continued from page 70

DORIS' BEAUTY SHOP 708 S. Main

Doris Schultz opened her first beauty shop next to Mrs. Cunningham's store on Main St. in July 1944. She remained in that location for 23 years. She then moved her business to 209 S. Main where she remained for 12 years. In 1977 she moved to the present location in her home on S. Main St. In July of 1990 she will have completed 46 years of beauty work in Kouts, permitting her to claim the distinction of operating the oldest continuous business in Kouts that has the same owner-operator for all 46 years.

KOSANKE FUNERAL HOME, INC. 105 E. Indiana

This enterprise was established in Kouts in 1882 by four brothers: Ewalt, William, Herman and Edward, and that circumstance influenced the choice of the name of their business which was known as Kosanke Brothers. Not all of them remained with the Kouts firm, and by 1965 it was owned and managed by Edward and his son James. Upon the death of his father James became sole owner. In 1940 there was extensive remodeling done to the original family home and a chapel incorporated into the structure. From that time it has been exclusively a mortuary, with the family living elsewhere. Mr. Kosanke is assisted by Mr. Marion Birky, also a licensed funeral director.

LULU'S ANTIQUES AND "STUFF" 107 E. Indiana

This newly-opened shop is housed in the home that for many years was the residence of Elbert and Lulu Schneckenberger. The mother-daughter team of Joan Kosanke and Sue Schoon have completely renovated the home and have filled it with antiques, collectibles and "stuff". An item in the Centennial book in 1965 states that Mr. and Mrs. Gust Denzine built the first house on the north side of State Road 8 in town, which today is the little blue house used for Lulu's Antiques.

MARTIN AND SONS INC. 508 E Indiana

The firm of Martin and Sons moved from their rural location in Morgan Township in July, 1989 to their present facility to accommodate their extensive equipment and expanding business. They offer excavating and trucking services and have 23 full time employees at present. In 1965 this property was used by KAT, Inc., and later by Sawyer Transport. It had been vacant for a time before the present owners moved there.

CARGILL ELEVATOR CO. **ELEVATOR AND GRAIN MARKET** Brown St.

This set of buildings was the former Heinold Elevator Co., and was bought by Cargill in 1977, as well as the Aylesworth Elevator on St. Rd. 8 West. They handle and deal in grain produced by farmers in this agricultural area. Transportation is done by trucks since the demise of the railroad system in Kouts.

Page 72

KOUTS READY MIX Corner of Kimball and Railroad Streets

The cement business owned by George (Corky) Maul was started in April, 1960 with 2 employees. As the business expanded more trucks and workers were added, until at the present time there are 7 full-time employees, with 2 persons as part-time help. The business accomodates the area with delivery within a 25 mile radius and their red trucks with red and white revolving drums on the back are a familiar sight on the highways in this area at all times. The business has been in the same location since it was established, with George Maul, owner and John Sandberg, office manager and dispatcher.

BIRKY CONSTRUCTION 306 Melody Lane

In 1985 Dean Birky, a native of Kouts, assumed the Birky Construction business. It was formerly owned and operated by his grandfather Orville Birky who had been an active and well known builder in the area for many years. Dean employs 4 regular workers and 5 persons as part-time help in his business which he classifies as general construction.

DAWN'S HAIR DESIGNS 207 W. Indiana

Dawn Burns opened a beauty shop in her home in 1988. The home had for many years housed the Clarence Sommers family. Memorabilia found in the structure during recent remodeling indicated that at one time it was the home and office of Dr. Hockett, a physician practicing in Kouts.

JOHNSON'S DRIVE IN West State Road 8

Ruth Johnson is the present owner of Johnson's Drive In. The Johnsons have owned and operated the business since 1975. Harlan Ison and family operated it for 3 years previous, with the Howard Cannon family being the original owner-operators. Remodeling in recent years has added space for tables in the building, accomodating customers who prefer to eat indoors, and eliminating the "Car Hops" of earlier years.

BUCHER CONSTRUCTION 307 Melody Lane

Dean Bucher located in Kouts in 1985. He was then employed as a construction worker but felt a desire to establish his own business, so began as an independent builder in 1986. He identifies himself as a general contractor. He is sole owner and manager of his business and employs 1 full time worker and 3 who help on a part-time basis.

MERIT STEEL CO., INC. West State Road 8

This business came to Kouts in 1978 as a division of the Nackman Corporation. In 1983 this was changed to the Liggett and Platt Corporation. The building space was expanded in 1988 to allow for increased business. At present Merit Steel is managed by William Avise, and employs 46 persons full time with 1 part-time summer employee.

Continued on page 74

KOUTS 125th ANNIVERSARY

Established
1889

Porter County's Hometown Bank
"OUR SECOND CENTURY
OF SERVICE"

"Pride in Service,
Dedication to Excellence"
101 Years in Business



FIRST NATIONAL BANK

OF VALPARAISO



PORTAGE CHESTERTON HEBRON KOUTS

WE ARE GLAD TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CELEBRATION OF

KOUTS

On 125 Years of Progress



PHONE (219) 766-3397
(219) 766-3322

PHONE (219) 766-3397
(219) 766-3322

Richard Gingerich Livestock Trucking, Inc.

1402 South Main Street
Kouts, Indiana 46347

DEPENDABLE INSURED SERVICE

RICH GINGERICH

JEAN GINGERICH



AUCTIONEERS

COL. BILL GESSE
Kouts, Indiana

COL. DUANE GESSE
Kouts, Indiana

Ph.: 219-766-3988

Ph.: 219-766-2432

"26 Years Experience"

BUSINESSES IN KOUTS

Continued from page 72

J.C. SCHOON AND CO. West State Road 8

John Schoon started in the trucking business in 1979 by hauling for Kouts Ready-Mix. In 1985 he expanded his enterprise to transporting perishable foods for grocery chains ranging from Chicago to the Carolinas. By 1987 he had started brokering loads for other trucking companies. The latest addition to his business in 1990, is a warehouse for storage, under construction St. Rd. 8 West. His firm has 3 employees and 3 brokers.

SCRATCHWORK 105 E. Alice St.

Carol Kehler Hemdal is a wild-life artist specializing in scratchwork drawings. Hemdal operates her business from her home at 105 E. Alice St. Her artistry is on display at many craft and art shows throughout the Midwest. She started her business in 1953.

H and A Auto 310 Kouts St.

The former Church building on Kouts St. became the site for the H and A Auto business in 1984. Steve Howard and Terry Wray are co-owners, and both work full-time at auto body repair and painting of autos. They also offer a towing service.

YOURS IN STITCHES 207 W. College

Jeanette Rommelmann opened her basement shop in her home in 1981. She stocks a wide assortment of sewing and quilting supplies, plus having many pieces of her own handiwork for sale. She is also an avid quilter and is available for quilting consultations.



HEINOLD FEED, INC. 207 E. Mentor

This business is owned locally by the Virgil Heinold family, and their company trucks distribute a variety of livestock feed milled and mixed at their set of buildings on Mentor St., where their office is located. There are 32 employees. Vic Heinold is the present business manager. An office in that same building directs the merchandising and distribution of Show Results Pet Products, Inc. through the agency of Heinold Feeds. Mr. Hahn is president and manager of this enterprise, which has been in Kouts since 1982.

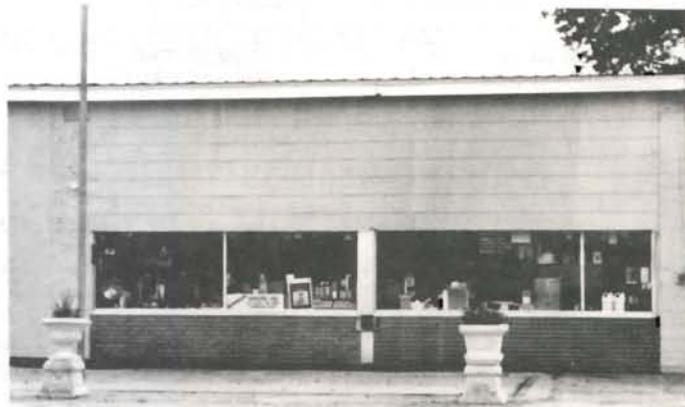
Page 74

HEINOLD HOG MARKET West State Road 8

Due to expansion of the livestock purchasing activity of this firm, a new location for the Heinold Hog Market was chosen in 1973, moving from a Main St. building in town. In 1972 they became a subsidiary of DeKalb Corporation, and in 1987 it changed to an employee-owned firm. At present there are 21 persons at the office on St. Rd. 8. They purchase and sell hogs at a number of markets located throughout the Midwest in farming areas.

AMERICAN LEGACY 305 E. Mentor

In 1982 Jeff Miller and Marion Birky were partners in a wood-crafting business located in a building on Mentor St. where they featured handcrafted country-style furniture and accessory pieces. Mr. Miller is now the sole owner, and employs 5 persons full-time in his workshop. He also maintains a show room in Valparaiso where his products may be purchased.



KOUTS BUILDING SUPPLY 502 E. Mentor St.

The name "Kouts Building Supply" has been known in Kouts since the early 1900's. The business was purchased by John B. Rogowski, a native of Kouts, in 1958 from Hofferth Brothers. It was re-located at that time to 502 Mentor St. and remains at that same place with the same owner for the past 25 years. John and his wife Lila are still active in the business and manage it together.

HEINOLD STOCK YARDS End of E. Mentor St.

This business was started in 1948 by Vernon Reibly of Valparaiso along the Erie Railroad tracks which at that time carried rail traffic daily. The intent was to purchase hogs from the surrounding farm area. In 1950 it was sold to Harold Heinold, with a business office on Mentor St. in the former Jim Daumer garage, with Joe Vogel as business manager. That site was destroyed by fire in 1971 and the office moved to what was then the Kouts State Bank building. Later the business moved to a new building erected on State Road 8 west of town. The stock yards still purchase hogs on a daily basis, with George Fort as manager, and Robert Fort the assistant. Trucks are used to transport the stock to markets throughout the Midwest and Eastern states. An average of 4000 hogs per month are shipped out of Kouts.

Continued on page 76

KOUTS 125th ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations Kouts on Your 125th Year



"A FAMILY TRADITION OF QUALITY SINCE 1936"

≡ HEINOLD FEEDS, INC. ≡

P.O. BOX 377 • KOUTS, INDIANA 46347
219-766-2234 IN • TOLL FREE 800-223-4281

FEED • FARM SUPPLIES



BUSINESSES IN KOUTS

Continued from page 74

STONE JUNCTION 104 Railroad St.

Debbie Kuhns is the present business owner of the toning and tanning salon. She opened her business approximately one year ago. The Pennsylvania Depot was purchased from the First National Bank by George Ribik in 1983. He then completely renovated it and it became Shear Expressions, a beauty shop managed by Mr. Ribik's daughter, Kathy Arndt. She closed the shop in 1988 and the building remained empty until 1989. Mr. Ribik still owns the building.

JACK AND JILL PRE-SCHOOL Christian Church-Polland St.

Barbara Press started her Day Care Center in June, 1985. She was involved in that until she was asked by Lois Barnhart to take over her pre-school operation located in the Kouts Christian Church. Barbara discontinued the Day Care Center and opened the Jack and Jill Pre-School in the Fall of 1988. She had 48 students this past school year, ranging in age from 3 to 5 years old. Children come from this area as well as Hebron, LaCrosse and Morgan Township. She is assisted by Norma Hathaway.

Added to that extensive list there are businesses in the immediate surrounding area which also offer products and services helpful to the community to enlarge the shopping opportunities close to home.

Among these are a landscaping service, artisans in wood-crafting, flower and seed supplies, repair service for heavy equipment, trucking firms offering specialized transportation needs, beauty shops, a bait shop for avid fishermen, a local farrier, and a brazing compound manufacturing business.

KOUTS CHURCHES

HISTORY OF CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Cornerstone Community Church grew out of English Lake Church, North Judson, Indiana. Several families from the Kouts area attended English Lake and as it grew it became obvious that the building was too small to contain those who the Lord brought in. The leadership began praying for direction and it was affirmed that a new work was to be established.

The people from the Kouts area began to meet corporately on a monthly basis beginning in 1985. We met in such places as the Northern Indiana Bank basement, the Kouts Fire Station, and individuals homes.

By January of 1986 we had rented the church building located on the corner of Church Street and State Road 8 and began meeting weekly on Sunday Mornings. We continued to meet at English Lake Church for our Wednesday Night Services.

Our first building was sold in September of 1987 which required our body to seek a new home. We began to consider such options as building or purchasing an existing building. There really weren't too many existing buildings in Kouts that were appropriate for a church. Then we heard that the Dix Enterprises (formerly Page 76

the old American Legion Hall) building was for sale. As it turned out we did purchase this building, however much work had to be done in order to make it usable for our needs. This still left us without a place to meet since we had to be out of our first building by September.

From September 1987 through December 1987 we met at the Kouts High School Auditorium on Sunday mornings. During this time the people worked hard to make ready our new home. By January 1988 we had completed enough of it to begin meeting there on a regular basis. It wasn't until October 1989 that we were able to hold an Open House for the community to join us in celebrating its completion.

While our history at this point is rather short, we are looking forward to what God has for us here in the Kouts Community. We believe He has established us here to serve the people of this community in a very special way. Some of the ministries which have been established thus far are: Home Fellowship Groups, for the purpose of spiritual strengthening, fellowship and outreach; Youth Group, an outreach to teens; Latch Key Program, serving those children whose parents both work outside the home, giving them a place to come after school; Missions Outreach, sending teams of people to such places as Nigeria, Africa, France, Germany, and Costa Rica; Love Fund/Food Pantry, meeting the physical needs of people in the community; and Vacation Bible School, an outreach to the children.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

St. Mary's parish celebrated its Centennial in 1984 recording the fact that there had been a church building and congregation of worshipers for 100 years. During that time members saw their original frame church destroyed by a tornado in 1917, and faced the task of erecting a new edifice. That was started in 1918 with a basement for the new building, which was completed and dedicated in 1926.

In 1965 there were 80 families registered, and the children of school age attended religious instructions given by members of the parish. Our pastor in 1965 was Father Ambrose McGinnity who served until 1969, followed in succession by Father John Bargielski, Father George Kashmer, Father John Siekerski, Father Joseph Panavas, and Father William Vogt. The present pastor since 1986 is Father Thomas Tibbs.

Through the years each pastor cared for the spiritual welfare of the parishioners and for the physical condition of the church and property. In recent years an addition to the front of the building serves to enclose the steps and entrance to the church and adds to the appearance of it. The windows were replaced recently, and a transparent covering was installed to protect the two original stained-glass windows.

A Parish Council was organized during the pastorate of Father George Kashmer and functions as an advisory committee to the pastor.

The Altar and Rosary Society has as its primary purpose the care of the altar and sanctuary, linens and vestments and helps provide flowers and seasonal decorations. The organization is also affiliated with the National Council of Catholic Women and incorporates their worldwide mission projects within the local group.

A Liturgy and Music committee has been established to work with the pastor in developing more meaningful ways to enhance each service.

Members of a committee called "Helping Hands" are persons who wish to bring practical help and comfort to families in time of stress of any kind. This extends to anyone in the community when there is a need for service. Also our parish offers the courtesy of a luncheon following the funeral of any member if the family wishes that service.

The vigorous growth of the parish since 1965 is indicated by the figures noted here. The number of families has increased from 80 to the current count of 135, with 102 children attending religion

Continued on page 78

KOUTS 125th ANNIVERSARY

Excellent products and great people.

Dave Riley
Manager

Betty Werner
Assistant Manager

Member FDIC

GAINER[®] BANK

KOUTS OFFICE

CONGRATULATIONS

KOUTS

On your

"Quarter Past One"

DR. ROBERT HOTT D.D.S.

Compliments of

HAROLD J. HEINOLD

COMMODITIES

P.O. BOX 577-215 S. MAIN ST.
KOUTS, IN 46347
PH. 219-766-2228

JAMES E. YERGLER
HOME: 219-766-3614

HAROLD J. HEINOLD
HOME: 219-766-3495

KOUTS CHURCHES

Continued from page 76

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

classes from pre-school through high school. The instruction to the children is provided by dedicated teachers of Religion each Sunday morning.

Two fund-raising endeavors each year involve the members in those activities. We operate a food stand at the annual Pork Fest and it is always supported generously by the public. Each December the women offer their "Soup, Salad and Dessert" meal to customers coming into Kouts for the popular December Walk in town.

Our parish supports the local Food Pantry and Mission work through CSA which distributes aid world-wide to all who need help.

As a parish family our members endeavor to enrich community life by Christian example and by extending friendship and support to persons of all faiths.

Names still in the parish which were listed as charter members in 1884 are: Drazer, Hannon, Lauer, Quirk and Shutske.

KOUTS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

This short history of Kouts Christian Church is a story about people. People who have given their lives to the purpose of the Church. "The Renewing of Peoples Lives by the Power of God." is our primary purpose at K.C.C. To this end we strive daily to meet the needs of people. This is a history of how we have met and will meet those very needs.

Much has happened to the Kouts Christian Church in the last 25 years. In the mid to late sixties, it became apparent that the old church building, located on the corner of S.R. 8 and Rose Street, had outlived its usefulness. More space was needed. In those days, Sunday School attendance exceeded worship attendance, a reversal of today's expected pattern. The old block church had very little space for classrooms, and the parsonage offered only limited classroom space in the basement. Land was secured and the present building, located at 208 S. Pollard Ave., was launched during the ministry of Mr. Hassel Justice. Mr. Justice's tireless efforts included donating his salary to the building program while living on his teacher's salary. The building was completed and a dedication service held on April 18, 1971. A bell tower was constructed on the church lawn, enshrining the original bell, the last vestige of the frame church of 1887. The parking lot was paved, creating a very modern, appealing and accessible structure.

Since 1971, many additional improvements have been made to the structure, including a modern baptistry, a large industrial stove and a new Allen Digital Computer Organ.

However, the work of the church cannot be measured in material accomplishments. The purpose of the Kouts Christian Church, as has been stated, is "The Renewing of Peoples Lives by the Power of God". To that end, the congregation currently dedicates herself.

Significant progress has been made in the areas of adult education (Three Adult S.S. Classes, the Bethel Series, and Home Bible Studies), youth work (groups for children age 4 through high school), and missions (Several Missions are supported. Two foreign missions, two Bible Colleges, two Christian Children's Homes, one church planting Association, our local church camp, a scholarship fund for those entering Christian Service, and our community's local food pantry). Our prayer is that we not only influence our lovely community of Kouts, but that we also share the Gospel with the world.

Since 1965, the Kouts Christian Church has been served by five ministers. They are listed below.

KOUTS CHRISTIAN CHURCH MINISTERS 1959-1990

1959-1965 - Mr. Wayne Schreiber

1966-1972 - Mr. Hassel Justice

1973-1974 - Mr. Stan Lindsay

1974-1987 - Dr. Kingery Clingenpeel

1987 - Mr. Mark Wilkinson (current minister)

This is the conclusion of the written history of the Kouts Christian Church for the past 25 years, but not the end to the story. Many years may come if the Lord tarries. Our hope is that this history will include all who wish to dedicate their lives to follow Jesus Christ our Lord.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author wishes to thank the following persons for assistance in the writing of this history.

Dr. Kingery Clingenpeel the author of "A Brief History of the Kouts Christian Church 1885-1985"

Joyce Pumroy - Church Clerk

To those involved in making this history a rich and fulfilling story.

HOPEWELL MENNONITE CHURCH

By John F. Murray

Several noteworthy events have occurred at Hopewell since the publication of the 1965 Centennial History.

Because of the over-crowded conditions at Hopewell, in 1967, 25 families living in the Valparaiso area decided to form a new congregation called the Valparaiso Mennonite Church. The first meeting house was purchased from the Reformed Mennonite Church on the corner of Willow and Napoleon Streets. As the congregation out-grew the facilities, a new building was constructed on Sturdy Road north of Evans. The pastors at Hopewell, Samuel S. Miller and John F. Murray, served the Valparaiso congregation during 1967 and 1968 until Etril J. Leinbach was called to be their pastor.

In 1972 the English Lake Mennonite Church, started by the Hopewell Church in 1949, became independent. Emanuel S. Birky served as Pastor until 1971 when Arthur Good became Pastor. Emanuel Birky then served as an interim pastor for one year at the Burr Oak Mennonite Church near Rensselaer, Indiana.

In 1973 the Hopewell Church added a Board of Elders composed of the pastors and three lay persons, Marlin Birky, Velde Good and Ivan Wengerd. Jay Bechtel has also served as an Elder in the 1980's. The present Elders are John Birky, Marty Good and Dave Overholt.

In the Fall of 1975 the congregation began construction of a new fellowship hall. Lee M. Birky served as construction foreman. Members donated labor, materials and money. At the dedication on July 4, 1976 the hall was completely debt free. The project included a kitchen, restrooms and a pastor's office.

In 1977 Samuel S. Miller resigned as Pastor and John F. Murray was installed as Pastor on July 3. Samuel Miller continued serving another six years as Area Overseer for Hopewell, English Lake, Valparaiso and Burr Oak congregations.

In 1989 the congregation called Jerry W. Kandel to serve as Pastor with John Murray continuing as Senior Pastor. Jerry, Denise and Joshua Kandel moved to Kouts at the end of July in 1989. They live in the church parsonage on State Road 49.

Over the years one of the strengths of the congregation has been singing. During the 1960's the Hopewell Quartet, composed of Earl Sommers, Don Gingerich, Marion Birky and Ron Gibson, who was later replaced by Roland Good, started a singing ministry - traveling to several states and making several long play records.

January 1, 1970 marks the beginning of the Hopewell Singers. Presently the group is composed of Don and Claramae Gingerich, Roland Good and Lewis Graves with Joan Johnson, pianist, Jim Graves on the synthesizer and Gail Graves, base guitarist. Janet Good serves as Business Manager and schedules programs

Continued on page 80



"1950 - 1990"

HEINOLD

40 Years of Service to the Pork Industry

CONGRATULATIONS KOUTS

on your 125th Birthday

KOUTS CHURCHES

Continued from page 78

HOPEWELL MENNONITE

which have taken them as far as Pennsylvania and Nebraska. They have long play records and cassette tapes available.

During the 1970's a young people's group called "Out Reach" gave programs several places. This group was composed of Sandi Helmuth, Ann Birky, Ann Wengerd, Kendra and Brent Gingerich, Kathleen and John C. Murray, Jay Birky, Douglas Freyenberger and Steven Good. Of this group the following are now serving in the pastoral ministry:

Jay Birky with wife, Sandi (Helmuth), Word of Life Fellowship in Goshen, Indiana;

Steven Good, North Side Mennonite Church, Lima, Ohio;

John C. Murray, Emma Mennonite Church, Topeka, Indiana.

Other young people who grew up at Hopewell presently serving as pastors or pastors' wives are:

Art Good, English Lake Church, North Judson, Indiana

Terry and Kay Owen, Bethany Chapel, Lowell, Indiana

Larry and Mary Owen, Bethel Chapel, LaPorte, Indiana

Becky Birky (Mrs. Dave E. Mishler), Blough Mennonite Church, Davidsville, Pennsylvania

LaVonne Birky (Mrs. Bruce Bennett), Frost Road Chapel, Streetsboro, Ohio

Andrea Lampl (Mrs. Jay Ulrich), Trinity New Life Mennonite Church, Henry, Illinois

James Good, Assistant Pastor, Cornerstone Community Church, Kouts, Indiana

Others who have served as pastors in recent years are: Kenneth Birky, Dennis Good and Keith and Valerie (Good) Freyenberger.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

The construction, of the original part of the First Baptist Church was completed in 1965, and since that time has had further structural development.

Following the move of Pastor Boessel, in 1966, to a church in Toledo, Ohio, the Rev. Gerald Wagnitz, the Rev. David Williams and the Rev. George Adleman ministered consecutively until 1969. At that time, the Rev. Gerald Titus of Baptist Mid-Missions (an independent Baptist mission agency) became missionary pastor. The building was remodeled to include a baptistry and two new Sunday School rooms. The congregation grew and in October 1973, the church became self supporting. In January of 1974, Pastor Titus moved to a mission work in Iowa.

In June 1974, the Rev. George A. Heyboer was called as pastor. The congregation continued to grow and Sunday School classes

had to meet in homes. In 1975 the church became completely independent of Baptist Mid-Missions and in April 1977 became completely debt free. In December 1977, ground was broken for the third phase of building. This third building was dedicated September 17, 1978. Pastor Heyboer continued to faithfully minister until July 1982.

November 28, 1982 was the first Sunday of Rev. Michael E. Wilhite, his wife Cheryl and their three children. Pastor Mike is the present pastor of First Baptist Church.

The present church membership is 103. We have an average attendance for Sunday School of 100. Morning Worship of 115 and Evening Praise of 70. On Wednesday evening during the school year we have an Olympians program for children grades 1-6, a teen Bible study and an adult Bible study. During the summer we have Prayer Meeting on Wednesday evenings. The church is affiliated with the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches. This fellowship of nearly sixteen hundred churches is conservative in doctrine and theology, dedicated to the historic Christian faith as found in the Bible, the inspired Word of God.



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Since 1848 the Presbyterian Church has had a presence in southern Porter County. The congregation began with meetings in members' homes. The first church building was erected in 1855 in the community of Tassinong. In 1904 the congregation moved to the corner of Route 8 and Church Street in Kouts.

There were several additions and renovations to the building over the years, and additional property east of the church, was purchased and converted into a Sunday School facility.

The congregation received a very generous bequest in 1968 from Arthur Trede, a trustee of the church. The congregation, after much prayer and deliberation, decided to purchase property on Highway 49, one mile north of Kouts. A building committee was established. Groundbreaking occurred in 1971 and the dedication worship service occurred on June 11, 1972. Many of the memorial items from the old building were transferred to the new facility.

A Homecoming Celebration was held during the fifth anniversary year in 1977. Another milestone was celebrated on the fifteenth anniversary date in 1987.

But churches are more than buildings! Churches are people working together for God, people in fellowship, people in mission, people growing in their knowledge and understanding of God and His Son, Jesus. Churches are people led by the Holy Spirit into ever-new adventures and experiences.

Churches are dedicated people working together with their ministers to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. The organizing pastor was Reverend Spencer Baker. Numerous ministers have conducted worship services including J.C. Brown, Roy Brown,

Continued on page 82

KOUTS 125th ANNIVERSARY

76 FOOD MART

St. Rd. 8 & 49

Kouts, IN

766-2728

CONGRATULATIONS KOUTS ON 125

Cy Young
Manager

KOUTS GENERAL STORE

Established 1889



We are happy to be privileged to conduct our business within your community.

The citizens of Kouts have a right to feel proud of their past and they are confident in their future.

A salute to 125 years of Progress!

FRED & LORELIE UNTCH

Owners

Kosanke Funeral Home

Continuous Family Ownership Since 1882

105 EAST INDIANA STREET
KOUTS, INDIANA 46347

Telephone

(219) 766-2224

— OUR 108TH YEAR —

KOUTS CHURCHES

Continued from page 80

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

James Baroda, Samuel Bauer, J. Finn, John Dunkel, Richard Archer, Ernest Armstrong, who married a local girl, Louise Kosanke, a church member, and E. Lindsay.

During the 40's the church was closed until 1948 when the Reverend Robert Vanderhart began leading worship. Several student pastorates followed, including Paul Chalfant Jr. and William Edelen, until 1960 when the Reverend Donald Darling was called. In 1965 there were 112 members on the records. In 1990 the membership is 139.

The Kouts Presbyterian Church gave one young man into the ministry. Allen Gene Hamann, son of Fred and Mary Hamann, was ordained to the ministry on June 30, 1963 at the local church.

Other ministers in the past twenty-five years have been Loren Scribner, David Haines, Charles Gordon, William Brooks, Lee Martin, Darrel Parker. The Reverend James Uttley was the pastor when the new building was built on Highway 49. Lyle Franzen, Richard Selby, Michael Kuner and Stan Terry served the church until the present pastor, Sue A. Burton was installed in February of 1983.

Christian Education has always been an important aspect of the ministry of the people in the congregation, as they sought to be obedient to the Great Commission of Jesus: "Go...and make disciples, baptize them...and teach them to obey all that I have commanded you..." (Matthew 28:19-20).

The Session and committees have functioned as co-operating parts of the body of Christ. Ecumenical services have been encouraged, as well as the inclusiveness of men and women in the decision making of the church. Benevolence giving has increased by 10

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - TASSINONG 1848

EARLY CHURCH MEETINGS WERE HELD IN THE HOMES OF MEMBERS - THIS BUILDING WAS THE 1st FORMAL CHURCH BUILDING -



BUILT IN 1855

percent each year, and the church has opened its doors to a variety of groups meeting in the church, such as the Boy Scouts and Girl Scout leaders. The Kouts Food Pantry, Porter County organizations, as well as Presbyterian mission projects have been supported with money and participation.

A group of widows and widowers, the Merry W's, have been meeting for Bible Study and fellowship. The congregation was divided into fellowship groups which brought people closer together.

The Presbyterian Women, have been actively supporting worldwide mission projects, and church projects. The "Cookie Caper" has been their primary fund raiser, in conjunction with the Kouts Christmas Walk.

The latest and largest mission project the congregation has ever endeavored is the Day Care Ministry, approved in January, 1990. This is a ministry to young families in the community and south Porter County. It will provide care for children 3-6 years old from 6:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. with educational activities included. The Day Care will open on August 13th. The Spirit of God has led this congregation from 1848 to the present. Many dedicated and loyal members have served the Lord as servants in the Kouts Presbyterian Church, in conjunction and cooperation with the many dedicated servants of all the churches in Kouts.

As the Apostle Paul said: "Christ is the one who holds the whole building together, and makes it grow into a sacred temple dedicated to the Lord. In union with Him you too are being built together with all the others, into a place where God lives through his Spirit. (Eph. 2:21-22)

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The first Lutheran worship service in Kouts was conducted in August of 1873 and our original constitution is dated November 28, 1873.

St. Paul Lutheran Church, the first church in Pleasant Township, was dedicated on the first Sunday in September of 1880. It was a frame building directly across the street from our present church. This later served as the Parish Hall.

The present brick church was dedicated on December 13, 1908 under the pastorate of the Rev. Hicks Hicken and seats around 200 people.

In 1965 the pastor serving our Congregation was the Rev. Dr. Luther P. Koepke who served 1954 to 1984. The Rev. Lester Kuker served as vacancy pastor 1984-1985, and the Rev. Neil Andersen 1985 to present.

St. Paul Congregation grew and flourished under the guidance and direction of these leaders. A number of physical improvements have taken place in the last 25 years including a new organ in 1965, air conditioning of the church building in 1968, new furnace installed in church, steeple repainted, new sidewalk installed, and blacktopping around church. The parking area on the north side of the church was blacktopped in 1969. New electrical service was installed in 1970.

The Sunday School, a very important area of church life, was begun in 1931 for the purpose of regular religious instruction for the children of our Congregation. This group had been meeting in the Parish Hall, the church basement and the Sunday School Annex (formerly the Wandrey property). With the ever-increasing number of children in Sunday School, it became apparent that there was a need for more space and better facilities for Sunday School.

This brought about one of the largest projects undertaken by the Congregation. In 1971 the Building Committee under the guidance of Rev. Luther Koepke recommended that a new Parish Hall - Sunday School facility be built. Plans for the new Parish Hall were completed on May 2, 1971. On July 22, 1971, the Sunday School Annex was torn down and the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the new Parish Hall was held on July 25, 1971. Work began on the Parish Hall on August 15, 1971. Total Cost of building and furnish-

Continued on page 84

Compliments of

**KOUTS
BUILDING
SUPPLY**

HARDWARE, FARM SUPPLIES, BUILDING MATERIALS

**KOUTS, INDIANA
766-3652**

John and Lila Rogowski

KOUTS FLORAL & GIFTS

Flowers & Gifts For All Occasions

- WEDDINGS
- SILK ARRANGEMENTS
- SPECIAL OCCASIONS
- BASKETS
- GREEN PLANTS
- BALLOONS
- GIFTS
- WIRE SERVICE
- VISA & MASTERCARD



OWNERS
Betty Irelan
Lynette Gant

766-2673
224 S. Main
Kouts

FLORAL DESIGNER
Mary Solich

Delivery Service

KOUTS CHURCHES

Continued from page 82

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

ings was \$180,500.00. In December of 1971, the outstanding debt amounted to \$80,000.00

St. Paul Congregation, with the help and support of Rev. Koepke, became a very active congregation with the common goal of paying off this large debt as soon as possible. Various fund raising projects were carried out such as the first Blueberry Social sponsored by the Sunday Evening Social Group, a cookbook containing favorite recipes of members was printed and sold under the direction of the Youth Fellowship Group, a Blueberry Cookbook was compiled, the Ladies Aid Society held Turkey Dinners, bake sales, bazaars, and rummage sales in order to help the needs of the Congregation, and the Quilting Group gave sums of money toward this project. A Gift Shop was operated by the Ladies Aid Auxiliary and proceeds were given to the Building Fund.

The Dedication of the new Parish Hall took place on May 14, 1972 with 287 persons in attendance.

The total indebtedness on the Parish Hall was retired April 9, 1978, several years ahead of schedule. A symbolic burning of the mortgage was held on April 16, 1978.

The Parish Hall has proved a blessing to the Congregation by serving the Sunday School with adequate facilities and by providing a large hall for church activities and community gatherings. The first event to be held in the Parish Hall was the Easter Breakfast on April 2, 1972 with 260 persons in attendance.

The Sunday Evening Social Group was organized June 12, 1960,

under Rev. Luther Koepke for the purpose of members getting better acquainted with one another through social activities and religious discussion. Many social events were planned by this group and much financial help was realized through their efforts. Some of the activities sponsored by this group include the Easter Breakfast which began in 1963, decorating the church and Parish Hall since 1963, serving coffee and rolls following church services, the Blueberry Social which began in 1971 and is held annually in July, the Mother-Daughter Banquet held annually in May since 1972 and the Father-Son Banquet which was held for three years.

A Nursery for small children was provided during church services beginning on September 7, 1969. Mrs. Arlene Wilson and Mrs. Hulda Rampke devoted much time to this service.

On March 5, 1972, the Congregation decided to dispose of the old Parish Hall and this space was blacktopped and converted into a parking lot.

St. Paul Congregation changed the Constitution of the church to include women as members of the Voter's Assembly if they so desired. Prior to July of 1975, only men were allowed voting privileges. The Voter's Assembly meets four times a year and is in charge of the general business of the Congregation.

Attendance at Worship Services continued to grow to such a degree that it was decided to have two regular church services each Sunday morning beginning on September 7, 1975, at 8:00 and 10:15 A.M.

Plate glass was installed over the church windows June 25, 1978, in order to preserve and protect the stained glass windows.

A major event took place in 1980 when St. Paul Congregation under Rev. Koepke celebrated its 100th Anniversary. Again, various projects were carried out such as decorating and new carpeting in the church, insulation in the attic of the church, an Historical Booklet published, a pictorial directory of members compiled, pews refinished, and a new audio system connecting church and Parish Hall installed.

The official celebration of the Centennial was conducted on September 7, 1980 with the Rev. Armin Oldsen officiating, 323 persons attended both services. On September 14, Rev. Walter Schwane, former pastor of St. Paul was present to preach the sermon. The Rev. Elwood Zimmermann of Ft. Wayne, president of the Indiana District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, officiated at the church service on September 21, 1980. The rededication of the church took place on this date.

The slogan chosen for the Centennial of our Congregation still has meaning for us today: "We may not know what the future holds - but we do know Who holds the future."

On September 27, 1980, a capsule containing information relating to St. Paul Church and Anniversary items was buried. This is to be opened 100 years from this date.

The Choir of the Congregation had its beginning in 1895 being established by the Rev. Albert Baumann. Up to 1948 the church organists also served as directors of the Choir. Since that time a number of people served as directors of the Choir, which lends beautiful music to our church services.

On April 3, 1983, organ music was first amplified from the steeple of the church before and after church services.

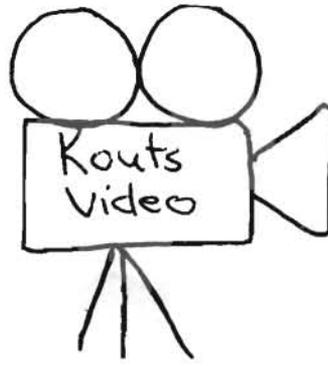
The Rev. Dr. Luther P. Koepke retired from the pastorate of St. Paul Church on August 12, 1984. A farewell dinner and program was conducted to honor Pastor Koepke and his family for his many years of loyal service and devotion to our Congregation.

Following Pastor Koepke's resignation, the Rev. Lester Kuker of Valparaiso became our vacancy pastor for the next year.

On September 8, 1985, our present pastor, the Rev. Neil Andersen was installed as our pastor. Rev. Andersen is a native of Baltimore, Maryland, and a graduate of St. Louis Seminary in 1981. He had served St. Mark Lutheran Church of Shelbyville, Indiana, prior to coming here. His wife, Janice, is a native of St. Louis Missouri. They have two sons, David and Jonathan.

Several improvements have been added since 1985 under the pastorate of Rev. Andersen. Some of these are: new furniture and shelving for pastor's office, an "Apple" Computer and Copy ma-





Sherfey - Chirinos Corp.

302 S. Main St.

Kouts, IN 46347

CONGRATULATIONS

KOUTS



KOUTS LUMBER CO.

ALLIED BUILDING CENTER

KOUTS, INDIANA 46347

GLEN OLSEN

PHONE: 219-766-3756

KOUTS CHURCHES

Continued from page 84

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

chine purchased for church use, new Communion ware (both common cup and individual cup have been used since January 1, 1986), a "Christ Candle," Confirmation robes and new paraments for altar, pulpit and lectern, an "Eternal Candle", the entry area and downstairs hallway of the Parish Hall repainted and new carpeting installed. A new lectionary and new flagon were dedicated in July of 1988. A stained glass door panel for Pastor's office door was installed. A part-time secretary was hired to help Pastor Andersen with the clerical work.

Mrs. Nettie Detlefs donated a hand crocheted wall hanging of The Lord's Prayer for the Parish Hall.

A new pictorial directory was published in June of 1988.

In June of 1988, a "Helping Hands" project was begun. As part of our Social Ministry Committee under the new Constitution of our Congregation which was adopted by the Voter's Assembly in August of 1987. This "Helping Hands" project helps St. Paul members or others in the Kouts area who are in temporary financial need. This project is carried out in the highest degree of Christian confidentiality.

Our Blueberry Social, a yearly event and the largest fund raising activity of our Congregation since its beginning on July 14, 1971, has helped with starting the "Helping Hands" fund. This activity, sponsored by the Sunday Evening Social Group, is supported by the largest number of members working together and giving of their time and talents. The Blueberry Social received financial support of the Kouts area and neighboring Communities by their attendance. A.A.L. and Lutheran Brotherhood have provided matching funds which has been of great assistance to our Congregation.

The Lutheran Youth Fellowship Group was organized by Rev. Hicken and was formerly known as Young People's Society. In 1968 this group became known as LYF and is important in keeping high school students close to the church. At present this group is under the supervision of the Board of Youth Ministry Consisting of Ruth Jarnecke and Violette Martin.

The Quilting Group consists of several women who enjoy quilting. They have been quilting together weekly since the early 1950's. Over the years they have contributed in the way of special gifts to

the Congregation including the quilted replica of the church that is hanging in the Parish Hall.

In September of 1988 the church office in the Parish Hall was remodeled with new cabinets and furniture.

The Ladies Aid Society, first organized in September of 1907 by Rev. Hicks Hicken, has been a most active organization within our church. The ladies of this organization have contributed a great deal of time and talents, as well as financial help, to the work of St. Paul Church.

The Cheer and Sympathy Committee is active in visiting members who are ill and hospitalized. They contact the family when a death occurs and the aid serves lunches following funerals.

The Altar Committee takes care of altar coverings and flowers for the altar and church.

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League was organized in 1948 for the purpose of furthering the work of missions throughout the world. Since January of 1964 this group has been combined with the Ladies Aid Society.

St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery was established in June of 1899 and is located on Highway 8 about a mile west of Kouts. On February 25, 1968, an additional two acres of land was purchased to the east of the original cemetery and separated by St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery. The cemetery is operated by a Cemetery Committee under the direction of the trustees of the Congregation.

PLEASANT TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

A matter of justifiable pride to all our residents is our excellent school. The original building, completed in 1937, faces on College Street and extends to Elizabeth Street. Now with its various additions it encompasses an entire city block with extensive playgrounds to the south, and ball fields and track beyond that.

During the quarter century from 1965-1990, the Pleasant Township Schools experienced many changes. The 60's and 70's were a period of increasing enrollment which reached a high point at the beginning of the 1976-77 school year when 861 students answered the school bell. Since that time, enrollment has decreased gradually and the school year ended in 1990 with enrollment at 661 students.

Facilities continued to expand during this time period to accommodate the increased size of the student body and changes in the program.

In 1969, a nine-classroom addition was constructed at the east end of the elementary facilities. This addition included facilities for a public kindergarten which was added to the school's programs. A sizeable addition was also added to the west end of the existing facilities in 1978 which doubled the size of the junior-senior high school. Included in this addition are a new cafeteria, home economics facilities, two language labs, two science labs, four regular classrooms, and a new gymnasium. Renovations created an elementary media center, the old cafeteria became the secondary media center, the old library became the typing room, and the science lab became a computer lab.

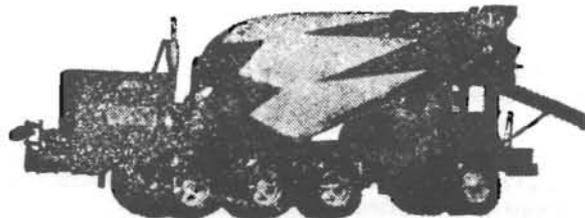
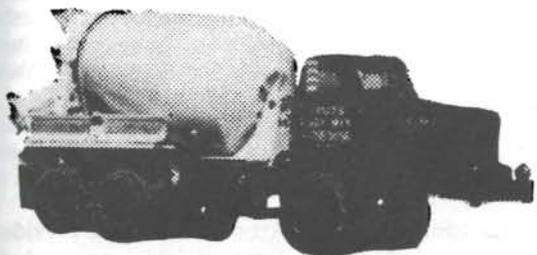
Kouts' schools increased their ability to provide education for all the children in Pleasant Township by becoming part of county cooperatives for vocational education and special education. Several special education classes have been housed in our facilities over the years. The trend currently is for more programs to be operated in the local schools rather than at a centralized special learning facility. The technological age has also infiltrated Kouts Schools with computers being utilized in many disciplines. Graduates of K.H.S. continue to be well prepared for additional schooling or to enter the job market. Elementary and secondary students continue to do well on various standardized tests.

Two significant additions to the secondary activities program



Continued on page 88

KOUTS 125th ANNIVERSARY



KOUTS READY MIX

KOUTS, INDIANA 46347

Right for your job - Right when you want it.

QUICK EFFICIENT
SERVICE
FREE ESTIMATES

George R. Maul
Owner

Phone
766-3656

John H. Sandberg
Manager



LANDSHIRE FOOD SYSTEMS OF
INDIANA, INC.

217 SOUTH MAIN STREET
KOUTS, INDIANA 46347
PHONE (219) 766-3348

Established 1967

CONGRATULATIONS

To The Growing
Community
Of

KOUTS

On 125 years of Progress

William Dickey
Owner

CONGRATULATIONS KOUTS!

We're proud to be citizens
of the past and a business
of the future.

KOUTS *True Value*

204 So. Main
766-3766

New Owners:

Chuck & Linda Goodwin

PLEASANT TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

Continued from page 86

have been girls inter-scholastic athletics and academic competitions. Kouts athletes, Mustangs and Fillies, have been very successful as they compete as members of the nine-school Porter County Conference. The new 1500 seat gymnasium coupled with an all-weather track completed in 1982 and the sodding of the baseball diamond's infield provide Kouts athletes outstanding athletic facilities.

State association sponsored academic competitions have gained popularity in recent years. Kouts teams, in 1988, won the Hoosier Spell Bowl State Championship in both the junior high competition and senior high. In 1983, an elementary parent organization, Parents and Elementary Teachers Together (PETT), was formed and has sponsored numerous special events for elementary students.

The staff at Kouts Schools has grown to 49 certified staff and 29 non-certified which includes secretaries, nurse, playground supervisors, food service, maintenance and custodial, and bus drivers.

A year ago, both Kouts Elementary and Kouts Jr-Sr High School went through the State of Indiana's new Performance Based Accreditation process. Both schools developed satisfactory School Improvement Plans and maintained their respective accreditations by the State. Kouts High School was cited as a "Four Star School" which indicates that K.H.S. scored in the top 25 percent of all schools in the state in each of the four areas measured in the Indiana School Improvement Award Program. Kouts Jr-Sr High continues to also be accredited by the North Central Association (NCA), a voluntary accrediting association, of which the school first became a member in 1941.

Education in Kouts has kept up with the times during these 25 years thanks to the responsible elected officials, a truly dedicated staff, a very supportive community and parents, and an excellent student body. However, as we celebrate, there are many questions on the horizon about the future of Kouts Schools as the County Reorganization Committee studies the future of education in Porter County.

ORGANIZATIONS

SOUTH PORTER COUNTY SENIOR CITIZENS

In 1972, at the invitation of the Lamplighters Home Demonstration Club, a group of senior members of the community met at the St. Paul Lutheran parish hall to form a Senior Citizens group. Members of the Home Ec. Club served a pot luck supper to all who wished to attend.

At this meeting leaders were selected to form plans to become an independent group. Those elected were Elmer and Hulda Werner. They served as leaders for several years, assisted by various interested persons as other officers.

The plan at that time was to meet once a month for a pot luck supper, with meat and beverage furnished. A free will offering each time covered that expense. The St. Paul Lutheran church graciously allowed us the use of their parish hall free. A hostess committee was appointed for each meeting to arrange tables and also to clean the hall after meetings. The group was very congenial and soon grew in members to nearly 200, attracting others from neighboring communities. The format established at the beginning has followed the same pattern to the present time. Gathering once a month for a pot luck supper at 6 o'clock members enjoy a time for visiting while sharing the meal, then a business meeting, followed by entertainment planned in advance. Through the years the programs have varied, with a mixture throughout the years of Musical offerings, slide presentations, craft demonstrations of many kinds, home talent shows by the members, speakers on a variety of in-

teresting subjects, entertainment by local youth groups, music for dancing, group sing-a-long, a Farmer's Auction each September when members bring garden produce, flowers, hand-crafted items and baked goods. Everything is then auctioned to our members, with the proceeds going to support the local Food Pantry.

The group now meets at the Kouts High School cafeteria, and functions independently although feeling ever grateful for the support and guidance of the Home Ec members who helped start the group.

Present officers are: President, Arno Miller; Vice-President, Muriel Greiger; Secretary, Anne Drazer; Treasurer, Edward Mika.

All seniors in the area are invited and encouraged to share the pleasant evenings with us.

LAMPLIGHTERS HOME EXTENSION CLUB

This organization was formed in 1949. In December of 1989 we celebrated 40 years of Extension work with 7 charter members still active: Mesdames Helen (Albert) Olsen, Fern (Wadsworth) Antrim, Marge (Wilbur) Lippert, Joan (James) Kosanke, Genell (Richard) Hannon, Rose (Ralph) Mast and Mary (Paul) Drazer.

We have enjoyed many lessons over the years, of which many have become out-dated (such as Pasteurizing milk). We have had to learn many new ways of cooking, cooking for 1 or 2, positive parenting, growing old gracefully, investments, retirement, home security, self-protection, microwaves, cholesterol, drugs.

We have learned how to make many crafts such as basket weaving, wheat weaving, Swedish weaving, flower arranging, Christmas crafts, macrame, potpourri, herb gardening.

In the summer we take a day for touring new homes, visiting furniture stores and factories. We have had picnics at the lake home of Rose Mast.

We have done many varied service projects and enjoyed doing them for the community. In 1972 we had a party for senior citizens of the community and helped them organize a club, and for several years we prepared turkey and all the trimmings for their Thanksgiving dinner meeting. We helped with Pre-School Roundup. Since 1952 we have assisted at the Bloodmobile with workers and refreshments. In 1966 we started doing things for patients at Canterbury Nursing Home. We remember patients, especially those without family, with birthday cards and Christmas gifts. For the past several years we have gone to sing Christmas carols as they eat their evening meal, and take a small gift at that time. Some of the patients enjoy singing along with us. This past winter we did a sewing project for them.

We have truly enjoyed being a community organization and helping where ever possible. Many members have come and gone and we are always looking for new members so come and join us.

Our present officers are: Helen Olsen, President; Rose Mast, Vice-President; Doreen Kuehl, Secretary; Genell Hannon, Treasurer; Joyce Snyder, Citizenship; Mary Drazer, Health and Safety.

ROYAL NEIGHBORS OF AMERICA

The Royal Neighbors of America, Maple Leaf Camp No. 5243 received their charter on March 6, 1908 with 30 members on the roster. This is a fraternal organization dealing in Life Insurance. You can also be a social member by paying the monthly dues. All transactions have been transferred from the local Camp to the Main Camp at Rock Island, Illinois.

The present Oracle is Minnie Neuschafer. The meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at the home of Recorder Betty Rhynard, with each member taking a turn at being hostess. After the business meeting Bunco is played and refreshments are served.

Law Offices of
PAUL R. CHAEL

Paul R. Chael
Dennis L. Heling
Tamela J. Johnstone

306 S. Main
P.O. Box 555
Kouts, IN 46347

(219) 766-2271



*We are proud to be a part of
the growth, progress & stability
of Kouts after 125 years and
look forward to the coming decades.*

KOUTS LION'S CLUB

Continued from page 88

The Kouts Lions Club is 30 years old this year. It was chartered February 4, 1960. We have 4 of the original charter members who still belong to the club, namely: Richard Claussen, William Gesse, William Johnston, James Kosanke.

We are very active in community affairs, with such local projects as sponsoring a Youth League Baseball team, donating to the local 4-H Club, conducting a Bingo game each month at the Senior Citizens meeting, buying eyeglasses for anyone who cannot afford them and many state and International projects.

Our money-raising projects are our annual Pancake Breakfast and a Ring Toss game which we set up at the County Fair and the Pork Fest. We appreciate the support of the public for these endeavors.

The motto of the Lions Club is "We Serve" and our local club has served very well. There are currently 24 members in the club, with several prospective persons showing interest in joining us.

Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month, with dinner, as they were 30 years ago. Guests are always welcome and ladies are also welcome to become members.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 301

The William Redilyack Post 301 of the American Legion is seventy years old this year, having been organized in 1920 by the veterans of World War I.

In the Centennial year of 1965, the organization occupied the original Legion building at the Northeast corner of Alice and Maple streets in Kouts and George Taylor was the post commander. This building had been built in the years of 1948 to 1950, under the leadership of commanders Howard Corson and Vernon B. Craig.

In 1974, feeling that a change in location was desirable, the members sold the original building and purchased five acres of land West of Kouts, on the South side of Indiana State Road 8. A new building was started there in 1975 and completed the following year, largely through the efforts of the members. This building is a bi-level, with the club lounge and a meeting room on the ground floor and a hall for large meetings on the upper level. A later two-level addition at the rear of the building serves as storage space for both levels and includes a game room on the lower level. The final payment on the mortgage was made in October 1987 and a mortgage burning celebration was held during that month.

A softball field on the Legion grounds has been used by the Kouts Youth League for a number of years. A recent addition to the grounds has been the placement of two 37 MM cannons at the front of the building flanking the entrance. These date from the World War II period and they were installed in 1989. Negotiations were completed in 1989 for the purchase of two additional acres of land at the West side of the present property and it is planned to build a picnic shelter there this summer.

The post membership totals 142 this year, made up of veterans from World War II, the Korean War and Viet Nam. Post commander for the 1989-1990 year has been Jerry Hessling and the commander for the 1990-1991 year will be Rick Hoover.

One of the main activities of the post is the annual Memorial Day parade, in which many community organizations participate, and the memorial ceremony at Graceland Cemetery. Other Legion activities include sending two boys (one from Pleasant Township and one from Morgan Township) to Hoosier Boys State every year, sponsoring the Kouts womens bowling team, use of the building for the Red Cross blood drive, support of other community organizations and donating fruit baskets to senior citizens at Christmas.

The Ladies Auxiliary of Post 301 has been a great help in support of all of the post activities. Kathy Hoover is president of the Ladies Auxiliary in 1990. A Sons of the American Legion unit has been organized this year, with Mark Hoover as its first commander, to support and carry on the ideals and activities of the American Legion in the future. There are 17 members at present in this unit.

Page 90

LIST OF COMMANDERS SINCE 1965

1966 George Taylor
1967 William Lansdowne
1968 Odus Pegg
1969 Roger Adams
1970 Leslie Oehlman
1971 William Reinke
1972 Enoch Edwards
1973 Michael Gannon
1974 Michael Gannon
1975 William DeWitt
1976 Lester Rhynard
1977 Lester Rhynard
1978 Lester Rhynard

1979 Gerald Brust
1980 Lester Pullins Sr.
1981 C. Ross Clapp
1982 Lester Pullins Sr.
1983 Leland Jarnecke
1984 Rick Hoover
1985 Charles P. Reif
1986 Charles P. Reif
1987 Leland Jarnecke
1988 Larry Rouch
1989 Jerry Hessling
1990 Jerry Hessling
1991 Rick Hoover



DRAZER PARK

Our town park was established in 1965 through the efforts of many interested individuals and some tax-based town funds. Dedicated in 1966, it was named Drazer Park in honor of Thomas Drazer of Kouts, the first Vietnam casualty from Porter County.

There is a fine shelter equipped with tables, also a large pole barn which can be used by groups when weather does not permit using the shelter. Through the years free entertainment has been offered some evenings, events are held on the grounds during Pork Fest days, and all facilities are available to groups who make advance reservations.

A large playground has fine equipment constructed and installed at various times by members of our Fire Department and the Lions Club, with many community-minded individuals also helping. Additional equipment was purchased with funds from donations, memorial gifts, and profits from some events which were planned as a way to start a cumulative fund. That fund is used exclusively for park improvements. Park maintenance is provided by monies from tax-based town funds.

Located at the west end of Daumer Road, it is a quiet, shady place to relax with a picnic or just sit and visit with friends.

KOUTS TOWN HALL

The present Town Hall was erected in 1957 and dedicated in 1958. All official town business is conducted there, including Town Board meetings. The Town Water Department office has space in the building. The office clerks serving the public are Betty Wandrey and Elaine Martin. The original part of the building housed the fire trucks until the fire department moved into new quarters on Mentor St. in 1985.

Once a year the place is transformed by magic into the headquarters of Santa Claus, who arrives in town on a fire truck and adds to the holiday joy of all small children with treats and an attentive ear to their stories.

Continued on page 92
KOUTS 125th ANNIVERSARY

Serving You Since 1977

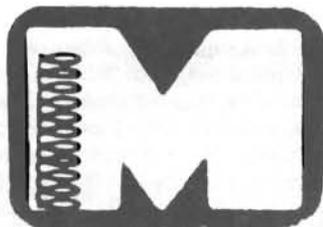
THE LITTLE RESTAURANT

DOWNTOWN KOUTS



NICK - JUDY

MARK - GREGORY



MERIT STEEL COMPANY, INC.

**CONGRATULATIONS KOUTS
ON YOUR 125TH YEAR**

BILL AVISE

Plant Manager

P.O. Box 386
Kouts, Indiana 46347

Phone
(219) 766-2261



KOUTS POST OFFICE

In 1965 the Post Office was located on Main Street next to the IGA store, with Lester Rhynard as postmaster. That space proved inadequate, so in 1971 the present building was erected at 107 E. Elizabeth St., one block west of the Kouts High School. Mrs. Betty Jane Rhynard became the postmaster in 1981 and served until 1988. The present postmaster is Mrs. Claudi Cairns, with 2 office workers. Rural areas are served by 2 carriers - Joy Wood and Art Kneifel.

PLEASANT TOWNSHIP POOL

The Pool first opened on May 28, 1971 and was dedicated on May 29, 1971.

The Pool was built with money raised by the good people of Kouts and neighboring communities during the years 1967 to 1971. Balance of indebtedness was \$14,000 which was all that remained of an obligation for what was an estimated \$75,000 community asset.

The Kouts Lions Club was the first organization to be involved in the Pool Project but decided it would be more appropriately pursued if it were a Community Project. The Pleasant Twp. Pool & Park Foundation was then established with a three member construction committee consisting of (1) Pete Hudson, (2) Loren Scribner and (3) Gene Wise. During this time Mr. and Mrs. Harold Heinold had offered to give land for the pool.

The Township Trustee and the Advisory Board had made a commitment to accept and operate the Pool if it was completely paid for.

John Schnurlein replaced Loren Scribner on the committee and organized a fund raising drive which was supported by local citizens, businesses, and industry as well as some from neighboring communities.

Julian Rangus (Engineer) from Valparaiso was contacted and he drew the Plans and Prepared the Specifications as well as secured approval of The State of Indiana Board of Health Department for the Pool construction.

The New Paris Silo & Pool Equipment Co. were contracted to build the Pool.

The fill around the Pool was from the ditchbank to the North on Mr. Heinold's property and was moved by Bob Church on very short notice and at no cost.

The Bathhouse and filter house, sundeck, fencing, and many other parts of the Pool were built with local help and volunteers, some materials being paid for by local organizations such as Jay-Page 92

cees, Lions and Chamber of Commerce along with other individuals.

The Pool was operated for a couple of years by the Construction Committee but when the Kouts Industrial Foundation sold it's final land holdings the money received was used to retire the final indebtedness and the Pool was turned over to the Township for operation.

This is the 20th year for the Pool and it is hoped that it has served it's purpose well to provide for all children the opportunity to learn to swim.



KOUTS PUBLIC LIBRARY 107 S. Main

Our Kouts Library is housed in the building which, in 1965, was occupied by Swing Refrigeration, with William Johnston's barber shop in one area. The building was purchased in 1969 by the Porter County Library System, and the Library used one part of the building, with Johnston's barber shop remaining on the other side. In 1971 the entire area was extensively renovated and the Library expanded to utilize all the space. Originally the Library was staffed by Irene (Sutter) Billips. Gladys (Press) Villars joined the staff in 1977.

Through the years several women have served the public in various capacities. With the additional space more services were made available such as music records, tapes, framed art, videos and Compact Discs in addition to well-filled book shelves. The children's section has been enlarged in a special area with an ever-expanding selection of reading material for young patrons.

Community groups are encouraged to use the Library for meetings, and a variety of activities are offered to the public. Some things found there through the years are: several Art classes, aerobics classes, coupon exchange, a class in Stained Glass, civic meetings, classes from the County Extension Office, some instruction in needlework.

One of the most popular events in recent years is Story Hour for young children. This has been an on-going feature since the facility opened, and in 1988 our present children's librarian, Susan Check, joined the staff to more fully develop that area of service. Story Time and the parties, treats, movies and excursions that happen during that time make it a "MUST" for little folks.

There is a constant effort to encourage reading among children of all ages with games, contests and much publicity. Our present friendly, helpful, concerned staff members are: Gladys Villars, head librarian, assisted by Annette Chael, Susan Check and Roxanne Shutske.

KOUTS 125th ANNIVERSARY

**MOSER TIRE SERVICE
&
AUTO PARTS, INC.**

766-2249

“Service is our Last Name & No. 1 Goal”

KOUTS, IN

Prescription Service and Health Needs

WENDT BROS. DRUGS

VHS VIDEO CENTER

KOUTS, IN

766-3327

Thomas Strain, R.Ph.

Kouts

MAINSTREET PIZZA PLUS

210 MAIN ST. • KOUTS, IN • 766-2298

Established 1988



**CONGRATULATIONS
KOUTS**

On Your 125th Birthday!

**Carolyn Taylor
Owner**



KOUTS FIRE DEPARTMENT

For fire protection citizens of the town and township are fortunate to be served by the Volunteer Firemen who are truly dedicated citizens with an enviable reputation for their quality of training and quick response to all calls for help. The department added up-to-date equipment through the years so they outgrew the space they occupied in 1965 in one part of the Town Hall. With fund-raising affairs, an allotment from township tax dollars which amounted to one-fourth of the needed funds, and the generous response of local citizens and organizations to appeals for donations a fine new fire station was erected in 1985 on E. Mentor St. Their annual pork chop dinner in conjunction with the Kouts Pork Fest, plus an annual appeal to township residents are the main source of funds. The roster lists 30 volunteers at present. Richard Chael was Fire Chief in 1965, followed in succession by James Kosanke, Tom Oswald and currently Don Sutter.



Firemen l. to r.: Don Sutter, John Schoon, Delbert Collinsworth, Fred Martin, David Rodrick, Chris Birky, Craig King, Jeff Press, Bob Cultice, Kirby Dawson, Douglas Whited, Brian Shutske, Todd Oswald, John Clapp, Richard Herring, Ewalt Jahnz. On Engine: Troy Haman, Carl Albertson.



Policemen l. to r.: Joe Olejniczak, Fred Untch, Dean Pontjeris, Jeff Press, Donald Sutter.

KOUTS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Since the 1880's Kouts has had several Town Marshals. The first Marshal was Don Doon, who also served as janitor at Kouts School. Others that have held the post are: Otto Knoll, Charles Lane, Herman Kosanke, Luther Wise, August Virgin, Burney Maxwell, Walter Jackson, Herman Chael, Grant Shoup, Simeon Rice, Homer Steward, William Schultz, Ewalt Jahnz, C.W. Hiatt, Charles Mason, Leland Jarnecke, Randy Walden, Don Sutter, Edward Blakely, and presently Joe Olejniczak.

Ewalt Jahnz, now 82, still lives in Kouts and served as Town Marshal from 1935-1943. Kouts then only had a population of 753 when Marshal Jahnz was appointed. Jahnz would have remained the Marshal longer, but there was a war on and he was called to duty. When he returned home to Kouts, the marshal's post was filled, so he obtained an appointment to the Porter County Sheriff Department. Jahnz retired from the Sheriff's Department in 1983, but he still puts on that police uniform as a Special Town Deputy and helps with security at the basketball games at the Kouts School.

The present police station is located on Kouts Street in the Town Garage building and is somewhat more modern than those days when Marshal Jahnz was walking a beat on Kouts' Main Street. Marshal Jahnz started his police career with the Town Board issuing him a 45 caliber revolver, a badge and was paid \$40 a month. There were no other deputies, nor a police car, and if transportation was needed for official business, the Town's truck was used. The Town Marshal's duties besides keeping the peace, also included picking up the Town's trash, stove ashes, and maintaining the sewer lines.

If you needed the Marshal you would find him down at the Town Garage, where the Town's Truck and Fire Engine were kept. The garage was located on Main Street and is now the building attached to the northside of John's Corner Tap. Behind the garage was the Town's Jail, built back in 1923, at a cost of \$360. The jail was equipped with 2 cells, cots and a coal stove. The jail still stands in that location today. No longer used in many years and deteriorated over the years, the old jail still holds many memories to the town folks and to the Marshals.

Leland Jarnecke, now 72, lives in Kouts and was the Town Marshal from 1956-1977. He was the last Marshal to use the jail and the old Town Garage on Main Street. Just about the time Marshal Jarnecke was appointed Marshal, a new State Law was passed that would no longer allow the Kouts Jail to be used to lock up drunks or

Continued on page 96

KOUTS 125th ANNIVERSARY

"Happy 1990 Celebration"

A Century plus 25 years.



Vance's Dairy
Kouts, Indiana
1960-1969

1965 was the year of the famous Palm Sunday tornado and also of our centennial in this wonderful town. The end of the first 100 years here was very well celebrated, a lot in one big week with many organizations, including churches having wonderful foods. The fire department had as Honorable Fire Chief our congressman the Honorable Charles A. Halleck.

Now we are having a centennial plus 25 years in 1990 of which we hope to have a bunch of happy memories to pass on to future generations.

Congratulation from Vance and Ann Williams and family who operated the Dairy Wholesale and Retail Dairy Business in this town and now operate a tavern and also serve food.

Congratulations to Kouts
and the people living here.



Vance's Kouts Inn
220 South Main Street
1971-present

Yours In Stitches

207 W. College

Quilts

Quilting Supplies

Gifts for Quilters

Consultations

Rag Rugs - Hand Crafted Decorations

Best to call first:

766-2405

Jeanette Rommelmann

(219) 766-2141



WERNER HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

ANDREW L. WERNER
OWNER

P.O. BOX 333
403 N. MAIN
KOUTS, INDIANA 46347

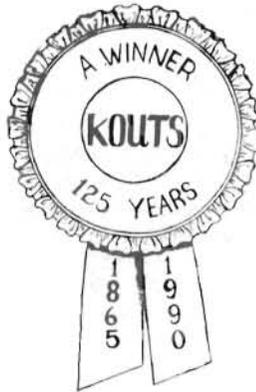
KOUTS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Continued from page 94

transits for the night. When the present Town Hall was built in 1957, the Marshal's Office was moved there along with the two Town Fire Engines. By mid 1960's Kouts had started to grow in population with several homes being built on both the north and south-west boundries. In 1964, the Kouts Town Board purchased it's first official police car and the Kouts Chamber of Commerce purchased Marshal Jarnecke the first police uniform to be worn.

Today Kouts' population is approximately 1700 and it's police department still is under the Town Marshal System. The deputy on night shift still walks a beat in the downtown area, as Marshal Jahnz once did the 1930's, but the department has two new police cars that are fully equipped with the modern equipment needed by todays Law Enforcement Officers. The Kouts Town Board is planning in the future to move the police department back into the Town Hall on Main Street.

Currently there are two full time officers, Town Marshal Joe Olejniczak and Chief Deputy Fred T. Untch. Three part-time officers, Dean Pontjeris, Don Sutter, Gordon Soderholm, and two Reserve Officers Gene Vocke and Jeff Press also help keep the peace and insure the protection of the Town of Kouts.



Recently there has been an up-surge of building in Kouts, with several new homes erected as well as 2 new commercial buildings on Main St. Properties are being renovated and improved by some residents, which adds to their value and to the general appearance of the town.

All these various aspects combine to portray an image of a community which has much to offer its citizens, yet manages to retain the distinctive flavor of a rural hometown atmosphere.

In a recent survey of opinions, when asked the question "What do you like about Kouts?" persons responded by mentioning features such as: people here are friendly; many services are available locally; there is a sense of vitality in the down-town area; the number of churches adds to the feeling of a good atmosphere for family life; there is an excellent school and good library; transportation available for senior citizens provided by PCCAA; our children like the neat park, and the public pool; easy access to major highways; people and organizations cooperate on civic projects.

With such a fine assessment by the citizens themselves it seems right to say that the slogan seen on the sign board at each entry into town is most appropriate - "Kouts, A Good Place To Live and Shop".

The new slogan which will be seen on the sign boards as you enter town truly shows that Kouts is "A Small Town With A Big Heart".
Come Grow With Us

NAMES & NICKNAMES

Nicknames of people living in the Kouts area and vicinity.

Any errors are unintentional

- Augusta (Lenie) Abraham
- Hilda (Beans) Adam
- Raymond (Monk) Adam
- Albert (Boots) Adams
- Curtis (Poodle) Adams
- Roger (Hornsby) Adams
- Harold (Pop) Ailes
- Byron (Beanie) Anderson
- Nelson (Bat) Anderson
- Marion (Pat) Arnold
- Rex (Curley) Arnold
- Clarence (Cooty) Beach
- Nathaniel (Nate) Bell
- Cameron (Jack) Betterton
- Harry (Zim) Betterton
- Margaret (Mickey) Billets (Hough)
- Brian (Twerp) Birky
- Chris (Poo Poo) Birky
- Eldon (Bud) Birky
- Orville (Hummer) Birky
- Wesley G. (Poo) Birky
- Alfred (Punch) Bos
- Valeria (Sadie) Brust
- Dick (Noodle) Bucher
- Lillian (Sis) Cain
- Guy (Buck) Callahan
- Barbara (Pickles) Cannon
- Brice (Andy Gump) Cannon
- Brice (Gramps) Cannon
- Chuck (Wong) Cannon
- Don (Ketter) Cannon
- Harry (T.R.) Cannon
- Harry (Zoby) Cannon
- Hazen (Buggs) Cannon
- Hazen Sr. (Red) Cannon
- Howard (Kize) Cannon
- Kenneth (Joey) Cannon
- Leota (Odie) Cannon
- Marion (Mike) Cannon
- Marion (Tootles) Cannon
- Marvin (Sime) Cannon
- Melvin (Snip) Cannon
- Roger (Pork) Cannon
- Otto (Dutch) Cavinder
- Fred Sr. (Weeds) Chael
- Harold (Unc) Chael
- Herman (Snee) Chael
- John (Hans) Chael
- Richard (2-Dog) Chael
- Richard (Red) Claussen
- Bill (Lump Lump) Claypool
- Martha (Mert) Claypool
- Ed (Tweat) Clites
- Edward (Skip) Cole
- Howard (Doc) Corson
- John (Chic) Covert
- Joseph (Bud) Craig
- Luella (Mugs) Craig (Wilson)
- Vernon (Buster) Craig
- Harold (Bud) Curtis
- Charles (Chuck) Danielson
- Chauncey (Doc) Danielson
- Orin (Spider) DeWitt
- Clarence (Dippy) Deardurff
- Gene (Soupy) Denton
- Russell (Moe) Denzine

Continued on page 96

KOUTS 125th ANNIVERSARY

Like a good neighbor,
State Farm is there.

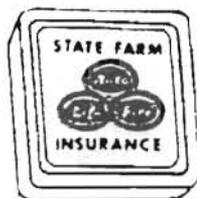


KAREN G. PONTJERIS
Agent

P.O. BOX 256
208 LANE STREET
NORTH JUDSON, IN 46366
BUS.: (219) 896-5756
HOME: (219) 766-3748



STATE FARM INSURANCE COMPANIES
HOME OFFICES: BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS



State Farm

Salutes The

**Town of Kouts
on it's
125th Birthday!**



CARL & GREG LIPPELT

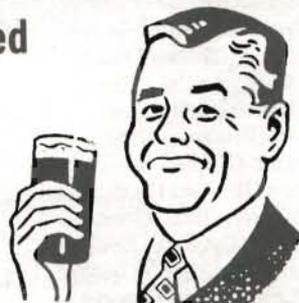
SALES REPRESENTATIVE FOR PIONEER® BRAND SEEDS

840 So. 450 E.
KOUTS, IN 46347

PHONE: (219) 766-2671
PHONE: (219) 766-3843

Established

1978



STOP AND ENJOY YOURSELF
— at the —

JOHN'S CORNER TAP

MAIN & MENTOR ST.
KOUTS, INDIANA

**CONGRATULATIONS
KOUTS**

John & Mary Campbell
Owners

NAMES & NICKNAMES

Continued from page 96

William (BillyMike) Denzine
 Edgar (Bags) Detlef
 Howard (Baldy) Detlef
 William (Bull) Detlef
 Elza (Dutch) Downs
 Frank (Cutie) Downs
 James (JungleJim) Drazer
 Jerome (Babe) Drazer
 Paul (Bud) Drazer
 Catherine (Kitty) Dwyer
 Wadley (Wad) Duggleby
 Henry (Heiney) Dux
 Gerald (Bing) Dye
 Ira (Dutch) Dye
 Robert (Corney) Dye
 Vernon (Dutch) Dye
 Vernon (Dit) Dye
 Enoch (Nuk) Edwards
 Helen (Snooks) Edwards (Bukalski)
 Wayne (Pop) Egli
 Clarence (Shorty) Ellenson
 Harry (Press) Fall
 Gleeron (Mutt) Falls
 Lionel (Bugs) Finney
 Dave (Stony) Fox
 Milford (Mutt) Fox
 Edward (Lard) Fulgraf
 Edward (Tater) Fulgraf
 Eileen (Till) Fulgraf (Rhynard)
 Leo (Cotton) Fulgraf
 Martha (Coolie) Fulgraf (Wandrey)
 John (Slim) Garlach
 Martin (Spud) Garlach
 Dennis (Butch) Gesse
 Walter (Buster) Gesse
 William (Col.) Gesse
 Delmar (Pack) Gingerich
 Irvin (PeeWee) Gingerich
 Haynard (Bones) Goodpaster
 Vance (Buster) Goodpaster
 Marion (Bud) Gordon
 Roland (Cyclone) Graham
 Clarence (Jiggs) Grieger
 LeRoy (Zip) Grieger
 Sanford (Bud) Gruel
 Melvin (PeeWee) Haman
 Fred (Rosie) Hamann
 Lieter (Buck) Hastings
 Harold (Dutch) Hawbrook
 Clifford (Kick) Hayes
 Dale (Duroc) Hefner
 Elmo (Shorty) Hefner
 Paul (Shorty) Hefner
 Margaret (Sis) Heinold (Yergler)
 Harold (Buckshot) Hendrickson
 James (Skeeter) Hendrickson
 Melvin (Skeet) Hendrickson
 Fred (Sid) Henning
 Fred (Sr.) (Plug) Henning
 Phyllis (Pud) Henning
 Ronald (Punk) Herma
 James (Toad) Herring
 Lee (Sandy) Herring
 Owen (Bung) Herring
 John (Pete) Hilliard
 Albert (Catty) Hofferth
 Emil (Mike) Hofferth

Robert (Stu) Hofferth
 Wallace (Red) Hofferth
 James (Bubby) Hollandsworth
 Herman (Zape) Honehouse
 Perry (Percy) Hopkins
 John (Johnny Jump Up) Hoskins
 Ralph (Doc) Hough
 Robert (Turp) Hurley
 Gerald (Bunny) Jackson
 Ralph (Stony) Jackson
 Walter (Buck) Jackson
 Albert (Shorty) Jahnz
 Ernest (Skip) Jahnz
 Ewalt (Jantze) Jahnz
 Raymond (Beezer) Jahnz
 Harold (Skeez) Jarnecke
 Joseph Sr. (Chub) Jarnecke
 Leland (Bing) Jarnecke
 Verner (Buster) Jensen
 James (Buck) Jones
 Henry (Hank) Kackel
 George (Ordie) Ketchmark
 Paul (Butch) Ketchmark
 Karl (Dip) Klemz
 Ralph (Nig) Knoll
 William (Hick) Knoll
 Lawrence (Pinky) Knopinski
 Fred (Spitz) Kosanke
 Herman (Pickles) Kosanke
 Alice (Tootie) Kroft (Grieger)
 Edgar (Bowes) Kruell
 Miriam (Ding) LaCount
 George (Yacho) Lampl
 Shirley (Tuck) Lauer
 Arlin (Farmer) Laurey
 William (Fox) Leut
 Wilbur (Wimpy) Lippert
 Woodrow (Pud) Long
 Amos (Peck) Martin
 Dennis (Bud) Martin
 Maurice (Ben) Martin
 Paul (Hoopy) Martin
 Roy (Bergen) Martin
 Charles (Buzz) Mason
 Carl (Squeak) Maul
 George (Cork) Maul
 George Sr. (Kerr) Maul
 Cecil (Buster) Maxwell
 Ovid (Cobey) Maxwell
 Charles (Mac) McMurtry
 Otto (Swift) Metherd
 Leander (Nick) Minton
 George (Choppy) Misnick
 Jack (Coo-Dots) Misnick
 Charles (Barney) Mockler
 William (Abe) Morehouse
 Felix (Moxie) Mroz
 Howard (Pete) Neuschaefer
 Sarah Jane (Sib) Nichols (Burch)
 (Pop) Odem
 Fred (Bake) Perry
 Marilyn (Mim) Pfladderer (Lampl)
 Ray (Pumper) Pfladderer
 Clarence (Mooch) Phillips
 Aldon (Sprout) Pietsch
 Charles (Fascinator) Pietsch

Continued on page 100

KOUTS

Industrial & Commercial
Foundation, Inc.
Kouts, Indiana 46347

Non-Profit Organization Founded to Promote Industrial and
Commercial Development within the Kouts Community.

CITIZENS — BUSINESS LEADERS
WORKING TOGETHER



Kouts — You have come a long way
You are 125 Years Old in 1990!

CONGRATULATIONS KOUTS

From Your Friends At

★ STAR PRINTING ★

Complete Commercial Printing also Instant Printing

*We Specialize in Giving You The 3
Most Important Elements of Printing...*

● Quality Printing ● Competitive Prices ● On Time Delivery

★★★★★★★★★ See Us First For All Of The Following: ★★★★★★★★★★

Letterheads

Book Publishing

Business Cards

Posters

Envelopes

NCR Forms

Newsletters

Tickets

Brochures

Invoices

Statements

Cards

★★★★★★★★★

We Also Offer You A Complete Bindery Department

Padding - Folding - Collating - Drilling - Stapling - Numbering

★ STAR PRINTING ★

Commercial Printing Division of The Vidette Messenger

VALPARAISO

KOUTS

HEBRON

CROWN POINT

462-5151

766-3932

996-3100

663-4213

"We'll make a STAR out of your printing"

NAMES & NICKNAMES

Harold (Pike) Rampke
 Harry (Hein) Rampke
 Kenneth (Gig) Rhynard
 Lester (Bud) Rhynard
 Simeon (Simie) Rice
 Glearon (Zeek) Riley
 Mark (Dudley) Robbins
 Eugene (Sam) Rogowski
 Frank (Bing) Rosenbaum
 Gust (Slim) Rosenbaum
 Harold (Buck) Rosenbaum
 Herman (Pean) Rosenbaum
 Wm. P. (Buff) Rosenbaum
 George (Tubby) Rueger
 Herb (Tubie) Ruger
 William (Packing House) Ryan
 Margeret (Muggs) Sackett (Murray)
 Bill (Swede) Sandberg
 George (Swede) Sandberg
 John (Sandy) Sandberg
 Elbert (Porky) Schneckenburger
 Don (Bones) Schoon
 Don (HiPickets) Schoon
 Alfred (Coal Oil Johnny) Schraeder
 Albert (Chief) Schultz
 Emil (Booie) Schultz
 Frances (Bobbie) Schultz (Wandrey)
 Frances (Topsy) Schultz (Wandrey)
 Herman (Luke) Schultz
 Donald (Poke) Schumacher
 Joyce (Tude) Selman (Neuffer)
 Georgette (Jet) Shepard (Lowe)
 Reece (Butch) Shepard
 Clarence (Busty) Shurte
 Brian (Shoe) Shutske
 Gerald (Pete) Shutske

Frank (Berdelia) Sims
 Earl (Gabe) Smith
 Elmer (Breezy) Smith
 George (Turkey) Smith
 Hunter (Hunt) Smith
 C. Ellis (Cap) Snow
 Elden (Flakey) Snow
 Elden (Smokey) Snow
 Ronald (Cuppy) Snow
 Lawrence (Si) Snyder
 Clarence (Deke) Sommers
 Justin (Jud) Sommers
 Leo (Legs) Sommers
 Leslie (Slobe) Sommers
 Marshall (Mike) Sommers
 Pinney (Base) Sommers
 Raymond (Duke) Sommers
 Walter (Bud) Sommers
 Jake (Windy) Spiece
 Eleasor (Tad) Starkey
 Evelyn (Sissie) Steffel (Jahnz)
 Ord (Diz) Stoddard
 William (Buster) Struble
 Ruth (Babe) Struve (Rosenbaum)
 Francis (Lefty) Susdorf
 Roy (Swatty) Swatzke
 Gilbert (Gub) Swing
 Verla (Sis) Tauber (Craig/Biggert)
 Melvin (Poots) Taylor
 William (Dummy) Tight
 Nostrogena (Andy) Tollage
 Clifford (Doc) Tucker
 Albert (Jug) Turner
 Donald (Skip) Upton

William (Smacker) Van Dusen
 Eugene (Weenie) Vogel
 George (Red) Walker
 Elmer (Baldy) Walters
 Fred (Dempsey) Wandrey
 George (Coon) Wandrey
 Greg (Bubbles) Wandrey
 Herman (Jack) Wandrey
 John (Peck) Wandrey
 Roy (Slewfoot) Wandrey
 Elliott (Skinny) Warren
 Joseph (Cocky) Warren
 Martin (Spatty) Weise
 Arlin (Odd) Wellsand
 Emil (Squire) Wellsand
 Floyd (Duke) Wellsand
 John (Cobb) Wellsand
 Paul (Dump) Wellsand
 Wendell (Butch) Werner
 Harold (Tiny) Williams
 Leslie (Buckshot) Williams
 Leslie (Percy) Williams
 Vance (Sleepy) Williams
 Gene (Burr) Wise
 Luther (Cy) Wise
 Marion (Bud) Wise
 (Slim) Wood
 Henry (Tip) Woods
 George (Smoke) Woolbrandt
 Austin (Bosko) Wray
 Carroll (Squirrel) Wray
 Charles (Happy) Wray
 Laura (Lolly) Wray (Maul)
 Edna (Nonnie) Wright
 Ernest (Sleepy) Wyant
 Leonard (Cocksey) Wyant

*"Big enough to get the job done,
 yet small enough to do it right."*



ED DRAZER

16th YEAR



**JOHNSON'S
 DRIVE-IN**

WE
 COOK WITH
 LOVE



ICE CREAM

LUNCH & DINNER

SANDWICHES

766-3622 OR 766-3629

ALL OCCASION CATERING

(FOR CARRY-OUT SERVICE)

766-3622

WEST STATE RD. 8

KOUTS, INDIANA



