Life in Harrodsburg, Indiana, during the month of December 1894 began with a bit of excitement, cryptically noted under “Harrodsburg Items” (Bloomington World, Thursday, 6 December 1894):

“Our school is in excellent condition since last Monday. Prof. Wharton of Ellettsville is at present our superintendent and is carrying on his work over the head of all opposition. The excitement caused by the riot Monday has subsided and we feel there is no need of reinforcements. The militia [sic] have gone into their winter quarters and we don’t think they will be needed for some time at least.”

By mid-month, things in Harrodsburg were considerably calmer. According to the World (21 December), “Rev. Clark of Washington began a series of meetings at the C. P. church on last Tuesday evening.” There was the usual round of visits: “Miss Duck Clay was in Bloomington Tuesday”; “Mrs. Maggie Woodward of Buffalo, is spending a few weeks with relatives here”; and “Mort Mull of Spencer, was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Pedigo, first of the week.” The holidays meant a break for students: “Miss Cora McFadden will return from Terre Haute today where she has been attending college the past year,” and “Our schools will close Friday until after the holidays. Numerous repairs will be added during vacation.”

“Our Christmas tree was well patronized and the little folks were highly pleased,” reported the “Harrodsburg” column for December 31. In other items, “W. P. Dill, of Bloomington, now owns our flouring mill and we hope will continue to operate it,” “H. H. Leonard has returned to Chicago after a visit in the interest of the Giant stone quarry,” and “D. J. Kinser has returned from a business trip to Indianapolis.” With Christmas over, this enterprising community was getting a head start on the new year.

Christmas 1894 in Harrodsburg
By Penelope Mathiesen

The public part of the Founders Endowment Drive is underway. The interest of this account will be used to secure the operating budget. There are a variety of giving opportunities. Pledges can be extended over three years. Call the office for more details.

Get Your Copy of the “Tastes of Monroe County” Cookbook Today!

The “Tastes of Monroe County” cookbook is now available in the Museum Store, Sullivan’s, “Books, Cooks and Spacemen Bookstore”, Oliver Winery, Howard’s Bookstore and Goods Housewares. Thanks to the numerous people and restaurants that submitted mouth-watering recipes, this cookbook will be a must-have gift for the season. The cookbook is $10. Help MCHS celebrate its 100th anniversary by buying a cookbook for everyone on your holiday shopping list.

Don’t forget to do your holiday shopping in the Museum Store. We have lots of new and exciting holiday merchandise along with our usual excellent offering of state and locally-made items, Indiana-related books, pottery, ornaments and toys. Don’t forget our popular used book wagon—it’s packed!
All meetings and programs will be held at the History Center, unless otherwise stated.

General Board Meeting
2nd Thursday of the month, 4 pm
Collections and Exhibits Committee, most Mondays
Members and public always welcome!

Civil War Roundtable Meetings
Meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month from September—May from 6:30–8:30 pm. For more information, please contact John Crosby at 339-2572.

December
13 Volunteer Appreciation Pitch-in Dinner will begin at 5:30 pm. Everyone welcome. RSVP by December 11th. The Society will provide drinks and serving ware.
20 Civil War Roundtable—"Christmas Songs of the Civil War" program starts at 6:30. Presenter is D. Cronin.

January
3 "Hoosiers All" Discover what it means to be a Hoosier. Program begins 6:30 pm.
7 "Writing Your Family History" workshop will be taught by Lisa Halverson, a volunteer in the Genealogy Library, at 1 pm.
14 The Bloomington Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) will have a genealogy help session from 1-3 pm
28 DAR help session from 10 am—noon

February
7 "Pioneer Indiana" program begins 6:30 pm.
?? "Annual Benefit Auction". Date to be determined.

March
7 "Wildflower Folklore" - Find out the secrets of local plants. Program begins at 6:30 pm.

April
4 "Frontier Indiana" program starts at 6:30 pm.

Changing Roles of First Ladies
is a class that will be offered by the Indiana University Continuing Studies Program. It will presented on March 22, 29 and April 5 at the History Center from 6:30–8 pm. Please call 855-5801 for more information.

MCHS Purpose Statement
The purpose of MCHS shall be to collect, preserve, research, interpret and exhibit the genealogy, history and artifacts of Monroe County, Indiana as well as research and interpret the relation of that County's genealogy, history, and artifacts to the State of Indiana and the United States, and thereby to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of Monroe County's history, culture, and natural environment by all.

Society established 1905
Museum established 1980

Monroe County History Center
202 East Sixth Street
Bloomington, IN 47408
Office/Museum                Genealogy Library
812-332-2517                  812-355-5588
E-mail: director@monroehistory.org
Web Address: monroehistory.org

Museum/Store                  Genealogy Library
Tue– Sat                      Tues and Sat
10 am–4 pm                    10 am—4 pm
Sunday 1-4 pm                 Wed-Fri 1-4 pm

Admission: $2/adult, $1/child, 3 & under free. Members and their guests are always free.

OFFICERS for 2005-2006
Rachel Peden McCarty, President
David Musgrave, Treasurer
M. Phil Hathaway, VP Finance
Janice Partenheimer, VP Operations
Laura Newton, Secretary
Marilyn Skirvin, Assoc. Secretary
Liz Knapp, Library Director
“Time” Changes in Bloomington

In light of the current controversy over Indiana’s time zones, the following newspaper article strikes a responsive chord. A look back at Bloomington’s experiences in the early 1950s seems particularly timely and provides a foretaste of the confusion we might face in the future.

**Daily Herald-Telephone**

*Your GOOD EVENING Newspaper*

Bloomington, Indiana, Thursday, September 27, 1951

**The Mayor Gives The Word!**

**End Of ‘Fast’ Time 12:01 A.M. Monday**

Monday morning, October 1 (1951) at 12:01 a.m. Next Monday morning at one minute past midnight. This is the time Bloomington will shift from Daylight Saving Time to Central Standard Time. This information came today from the office of Mayor Thomas L. Lemon. In other words, Sunday will be the last day of “fast” time in Bloomington this year.

When he discussed the time switch, Mayor Lemon pointed out, as he always does, that the shift from one time to another will mean no resetting of City Hall clocks, which are on Central Standard Time all the time. Insofar as the City is concerned, technically, the change means only a one-hour adjustment of working schedules of City employees. The reason for all this is that State law holds that Central Standard Time is Indiana’s official legal time.

Waiving the “official clocks and working schedule” matter, which is nothing more than a formality anyhow, the time shift means that Bloomington residents will run their clocks back one hour Sunday night before retiring and will thereby awaken Monday morning on “slow” time and in step with the remainder of Indiana. (Repeat: Bloomington residents, to keep in step, will run their clocks back—not forward—one hour Sunday night before retiring.)

Indianapolis and most of the remainder of the State and, as for that matter, much of the Nation will make their shift from slow time to fast time approximately 24 hours before the change is made in Bloomington.

The time shift will apply to County Schools and will be made in step with Bloomington, County School Superintendent Clarence Stewart said today. With the exception of two townships, local County Schools currently are operating on “fast” time. The exceptions, which already operate on Central Standard Time, are schools of Bean Blossom and Benton Townships, Stewart said.

One change that will apply widely when the time shift is made is that, beginning Monday, Bloomington parking meters must be “fed” starting at 9 a.m. instead of 10 a.m. as is the case with fast time prevailing. With the return of slow time, however, depositing coins in parking meters here can be legally discontinued for the day at 6 p.m. instead of 7 p.m. as is the case now, with fast time in effect. The 7 p.m., of course, does not apply to Saturday nights when the “feeding” of meters is halted later than on other nights.

In Indianapolis, meanwhile, Rep. T. Miser (R-Garrett) introduced today a bill to repeal Indiana’s 1949 Central Standard Time Law. The widely-disregarded law makes Central Standard Time the year-round official time throughout the state.

**Think Winter Auction**

The Society will be having its annual benefit auction near the end of February at the History Center. Start saving those better-than-garage-sale items now especially the Christmas gifts you just can’t find a use for. The event usually brings in about $4000. The February date will be announced later, but you can bring your auction donations to the History Center anytime.

A current exhibit was inspired by a 1948 New Yorker cartoon that asked the question, “Is there a Mrs. Kinsey?”

Above are some Clara Kinsey’s scouting outfits.

Do you have what we are looking for?

The following items are sought for upcoming exhibits. The loan would be on a temporary basis only.

- Blue and White Quilts
- Items Related to First Ladies

Please call 332-2517 for more information.
News from Other Places

Indiana State Library: New Hours, New Faces
The Indiana State Library’s public service divisions are now open on Thursday evenings until 7 p.m. New staff members at the library include Andrea Ingmire, Indiana State Documents Coordinator, Indiana Division; and Shannon Bloomquist, Genealogy Division. For more information on hours and services, go to: http://www.statelib.lib.in.us, or call (317) 232-3675. (From ISL Connection, September 2005.)

IGS Found Civil War Lineage Society
The Society of Civil War Families of Indiana (SCWFI) has been established by a vote of the Indiana Genealogical Society’s Board of Directors. Those eligible to join this subsidiary society must be members of IGS and direct descendants of ancestors who either served in Indiana Civil War units or were Indiana residents at the time they joined a Union unit outside the State of Indiana. The new society will begin operations on 1 January 2006; the first induction ceremony will take place at the IGS’s Annual Conference in April 2007. For information on the Indiana Genealogical Society and the newly established SCWFI, go to: http://www.indgensoc.org, or write to: Indiana Genealogical Society, Inc., P.O. Box 10507, Fort Wayne, IN 46852-0507. (From IGS Newsletter, October 2005.)

Stinesville Memorial Adding Names
Names of veterans of either war or peacetime service are eligible to be added to the Stinesville Veterans Memorial. For more information, please call Mary Carter at (812) 876-2153. (From the Ellettsville Extra, 10 October 2005.)

Memorial Service Honors Victims of Gosport Bridge Fire
Fifty years ago, the fire that destroyed the old covered bridge across the White River near Gosport also took the life of a fire fighter. Bert Dittemore, Jr., was assistant fire chief, Lions Club president, and a local merchant. The fire, resulting from a Halloween prank, also injured eight other fire-fighters. According to an eyewitness, “The floor was burning a little but seemed solid enough” when they heard a load [sic] crack ‘and I knew we were going down.’” On 15 October 2005, the current Gosport Volunteer Fire Department planned a memorial service to honor Dittemore, Jr., and his fellow fire-fighters. (From the Gosport Express News, Week of 5 October 2005.)

Web Sites
* Weathering the Storm. As Gulf Coast communities pick up the pieces Hurricane Katrina left behind, librarians and archivists are scrambling to contact colleagues and check on their facilities any way they can—often with aerial photos on CNN or police-escorted visits. To follow the reports for libraries, go to: http://www.ala.org/ala/alonline/hurricanekatrinanews/katrinanews.htm; for museums, go to: http://www.aam-us.org/aamlatest/news/HurricaneFirstReports.cfm
* British War Memorial Project. Search more than 98,000 photos of British service members’ gravestones by name, unit service number, service branch, cemetery, county and country. Go to: http://www.britishwargraves.org.uk
* The Plymouth Colony Archive Project. Search wills, probates, court records, biographies and research papers to discover your Pilgrim ancestors. Go to: http://www.people.virginia.edu/~jfd3a

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**News from the Library**

**DAR Workshops in January and February**

The Bloomington Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will conduct two workshops in January and two in February. DAR members will be on hand to help with your research and answer questions about becoming a member of the Society. The dates are January 14 and 28 and February 4 and 18. For information on the times of the workshops, contact the Monroe County History Center after the first of the year.

**MCHS Volunteers Highlight Family History Month**

In celebration of Family History Month, 1 October 2005 was a day devoted to genealogy! The first morning session at the Monroe County Public Library began with Betty Warren, a professional genealogist and President of the Indiana Genealogical Society, who presented a program, “Round Earth, Flat Paper,” on the importance of maps for family history research. A second morning session at MCPL featured a panel discussion, “Getting Started in Genealogy Using Monroe County Resources,” including representatives from MCPL’s Indiana Room (Pam Wasmer, Section Manager), the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Bloomington Family History Center (Mary Decker, Director), the Monroe County History Center (Penny Mathiesen, Genealogy Library volunteer), and the Indiana University Archives (Brad Cook, Reference Specialist and Photograph Curator). In the afternoon, Julian Livingston, who has served the Monroe County Historical Society in many roles, presented a session at the Monroe County History Center on “Using Land Records for Genealogy Research.”

**Library Donations**

The Genealogy Library has received a program from the September 22–24 Stinesville Stone Quarry Festival (celebrating the town’s sesquicentennial, 1855–2005), which includes an updated history of the town and many photographs. Glenda Murray has graciously donated information on the September 24–25 “2005 Tour of Homes: A Stroll through Old Northeast,” sponsored by Bloomington Restorations, Inc.

Images from the “Facing the Inevitable: Mourning and Mortuary Practices in Monroe County” exhibit

This interesting exhibit features many different cultural groups in the county.

Day of the Dead altar (far left) is a traditional element of Mexican mourning. It is a colorful way to remember deceased loved ones.

A Victorian viewing casket (top left) is one of the highlights of this exhibit. Above the casket are examples of hair art.

The Tibetan Cultural Center provided some examples of artifacts (bottom left) related to death and mourning practices.
Airport Roller Rink Fire Sparks
“Hotline” Inquiry

By Penelope Mathiesien

A question to “Hotline” asked readers “if anyone remembers when the airport roller rink burned, back in the 1950s?” (Bloomington Herald-Times, 3 August 2005.) Several Monroe County Historical Society volunteers searched their memories and the resources of the Genealogy Library.

According to one volunteer, “the Airport Roller Rink was located in the northeast area near the intersection of Whitehall Pike and Curry Pike in the 1940s.” (Today, Whitehall Pike is also known as Highway 48 or West Third Street.) Another volunteer recalled that Ernie Baldwin was the rink manager and Virgil Chestnut played the organ. She remembers skating to his music, and also that “it was a place you went with an adult, not somewhere parents dropped off their kids.” The rink was on the far west side of town, outside the city limits on the southern edge of Richland Township.

Because the rink was in an unincorporated area, it wasn’t listed in the Bloomington city directories. The Airport Roller Rink does appear in the Bloomington telephone directories from the late 1940s through 1950. There is no entry for 1951. Therefore, one could surmise that the fire took place after the appearance of the 1950 directory, but before the end of 1951. (At that time, the phone directories were published in December.) Incidentally, there was an airport at Whitehall Pike and Curry Pike, known as Veterans’ Field, which was last listed in the Bloomington Telephone Directory in 1952.

In a subsequent “Hotline” column, a reader recalled that the fire “happened near the end of the school year in 1952. She and some friends from Smithville High crammed into her little car and sped to the rink hoping to save their skates from the flames. They were too late.” (Herald-Times, 12 August 2005.) The 1952 date, however, is later than the last phone directory entry for the rink, which was in 1951. Finally, a follow-up item in “Hotline” (Herald-Times, 22 August 2005), reported that the Bloomington Fire Department’s historian had “checked his records” and found that “the skating rink fire occurred at 10:25 a.m. on Sept. 27, 1951, near the beginning of the school year. Bloomington sent one fire engine, a 1936 Ford pumper, to the rink four miles west of the city limits. The structure was a total loss, and the log book says no water was available to fight the fire.”

Knowing the date of the fire, it was possible to search the collection of newspapers on microfilm in the Indiana Room at the Monroe County Public Library and locate a newspaper story published later the same day (fast reporting!). The transcribed clipping appears elsewhere in this issue.

Note: Thanks to MCHS volunteers Bill Knapp, Dot Spore, and Jerry Spore for their recollections on this burning issue, and also to Dave Horn, “Hotline” columnist for the Bloomington Herald-Times.

The December 1949 Bloomington Telephone Directory listing for the “Airport Roller Rink”. Note the four-digit telephone number!

Museum Store

100% of the profits from the store goes to the Society to operate the History Center. Support MCHS by buying wonderful gifts or gift certificates from the Museum Store.

- Seasonal Items
- Nostalgic Children’s Toys, Books & Crafts
- Monroe County Coverlets
- Clay City Pottery
- Local History and General Interest Books
- Genealogy Items
- Unique Gift Wrap and Note Cards
- MCHS Publications

- Huge Selection of Paper Dolls
- Postcards and Canvas Totes
- Limestone and Glass Paperweights
- Earth Drops Soaps
- Dillman Farms Jams and Jellies
- Products made from Local Honey & Beeswax
- Armelale Metal Plate Depicting Courthouse
- A Wonderful Selection of Used Books
Skating Rink Fire Newspaper Article Located

The following article, from the collection of newspapers on microfilm in the Indiana Room at the Monroe County Public Library, provides a full report of the Airport Roller Rink fire discussed elsewhere in this issue.

Daily Herald-Telephone
Your GOOD EVENING Newspaper
Bloomington, Indiana, Thursday, September 27, 1951

Converted From City's First Airport!
Skating Rink Swept By Fire
Airport Roller Rink Destroyed
Replacement Value Put At $20,000

The Airport Roller Rink, two miles west of Bloomington, was destroyed by fire this forenoon. Breaking out shortly before noon, flames spread swiftly through the big frame and tile building which originally was Bloomington's first airport. It was stated by Ernest Baldwin, 504 N. Prow, who owned and operated the airport and who subsequently converted the building into a skating rink.

"I couldn't replace it for less than $20,000," said Baldwin when asked for an estimate of loss from the fire. Baldwin said he had only approximately $5,000 in insurance on the destroyed building. Baldwin said the building measured 110x60 feet. In addition to the big rink building, located a distance of some two blocks north of the Veterans Airport building, the fire leveled a small storage house—formerly used as a dwelling—just southeast of the rink.

Sighted Smoke

Baldwin said he had been at the roller rink an hour or two before the fire broke out and had then gone to the Veterans Airport building from where he sighted smoke billowing from the rink structure. "I hurried back to the rink," said Baldwin, "and we were able to save about 125 pairs of privately-owned skates stored there but the heat got so bad we couldn't get much else out." Contents destroyed by the big blaze included 200 pairs of skates owned by Baldwin and also merchandise which was stock of a concessions operated in connection with the rink.

Baldwin said he did not know how the fire started but he supposed it may have originated from electric wiring. "The fire started in the furnace room," Baldwin added, "but there was no fire in the furnace." Baldwin burned his hands trying to rescue four dogs, three of them pups, from the blaze. He said he was unable to stand the heat long enough to take the dogs to safety but he left a door open as he ran and a City fireman discovered one of the pups near the blazing rink and took it to safety.

City firemen were called to the blazing skating rink at 11:25 a.m. The rink, however, was practically already a total loss when firemen, who answered the alarm promptly, arrived at the scene. A brisk wind fanned the flames, speeding destruction of the building.

[Accompanying photo caption:]

RAGING FIRE DESTROYED Airport Roller Rink at noon today while City firemen and onlookers patrolled area to prevent fire from spreading to nearby Veterans Airport. Lack of water hampered fire-fighting. Progress of fire is shown in two photos taken by H-T Photographer Bill Dyer. In top photo flames envelop roller rink and threaten nearby storage building. In bottom photo, taken 15 minutes later, only blackened rafters remain of rink and flames have spread to envelop storage unit.

MCHS is grateful to have you as a member, but an extra end-of-the-year donation would be greatly appreciated.

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MCHS Finances
YTD for 2005-2006

This regular feature is designed to give the membership an accurate understanding of the financial health of MCHS.

Income YTD
$69,060.35

Expenses YTD
$77,536.25

Please consider giving an extra contribution to MCHS. All donations are tax deductible to the extent the law allows.
Your membership expiration date can be found on the upper right side of the address label.
The Monroe County Historical Society is a self-sustaining private non-profit organization.
Most of the operating budget comes from membership dues and donations. Thank you for being a member and don’t forget memberships make great gifts.

2005-2006
100th Anniversary of MCHS
25th Anniversary of the Museum

Individual
☐ Basic $35
☐ Friend $60
☐ Century Club $100
☐ Contributor $250-499
☐ Patron $500+

Corporate - Service Organizations
☐ Level 1 $100-249
☐ Level 2 $250-499
☐ Level 3 $500-999
☐ Level 4 $1000+

Method of Payment
☐ Check
☐ MasterCard
☐ Visa

Please Send to:
Monroe County Historical Society, Inc.
202 East Sixth Street
Bloomington, IN 47408
Or Fax to 812-355-5593

☐ Check if you have a special interest in genealogy.

☐ Check if you are interested in volunteering.

Givers Name, if a gift
Name
Address

Method of Payment
☐ Check
☐ MasterCard
☐ Visa

Credit Card # Exp. date
Signature