Monroe County History Center

Where the past and present meet.

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Bloomington, Indiana 47408

monroehistory.org

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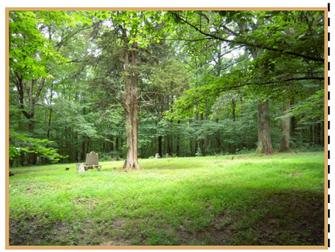
Monroe County Historical Society's

Monroe County Historian

August 2011
Vol. 2011 Issue 4

Society established 1905
Museum established 1980

For subscription information contact the Monroe County History Center at 812-332-2517, or monroehistory.org



Farr Cemetery

Rose Hill Cemetery

Cover painting by Dorothy Bain, courtesy of the Arthur Clark Estate, from the MCHC Collection

Membership Form

Please write your information as you would like it to appear.

Annual Membership Levels

□ Student/Teacher	$20
□ Basic	$35
□ Family	$60
□ Sustaining	$100
□ Patron	$500

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□ Exhibit Supporter	$100
□ Gallery Benefactor	$250
□ History Patron	$500
□ Monroe County History Maker	$1000

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□ Civil War History
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202 East Sixth Street
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August, 2011
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Monroe County History Center

Museum
Genealogy Library
Museum Gift Store
Educational Facility

History Center
202 East Sixth Street
Bloomington, IN 47408
812-332-2517
www.monroehistory.org

Hours
Tuesday — Saturday
10am — 4pm

Museum Admission
Adult — $2
Child (6-17 yrs.) — $1
5 yrs. & Under — Free
Members — Free

Issue Highlights

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Historian Staff
Editor: Diane Ballard
Design: Hillary Detty
Copywriter: Cory Burger

Monroe County Historian

Preserving the Past for Future Generations

Newsletter of the Monroe County Historical Society, Inc.

The History Center's Toy Chest is Opening in September.

Remember electric trains, baby dolls, and teddy bears? How about an extended collection of board games from the 1940s or a 1980s Super Nintendo? All of these and a lot more will be on display in an exhibit that will open September 27, titled "Toys through the Ages."

Many toys we once played with have evolved or fallen out of fashion, but there are many that continue to be entertaining for all or that bring back special memories of our childhood.

Below is a list of additional toys we would be honored to exhibit. If you are willing to share your item, please contact Jenny Mack, Exhibit Manager, 332-2517, extension 5. Let us know if you are willing to have patrons hold the toy, or if you prefer your item only be displayed. Please feel free to write a brief history about your toy.

We are looking for the following toys: slap bracelets, Tonka trucks, Cabbage Patch Kids, Pogo Balls, Legos, Rubiks Cubes, Troll dolls, Care Bears, roller skates (old metal type), the Operation board game, a Betsy Wetsy doll, a Furby, an Etch-A-Sketch, and a Mr. Potato Head.

A Teddy Bear Picnic – September 24

The History Center is hosting a Teddy Bear Picnic for the opening of the Toys through the Ages Exhibit on Saturday, September 24, from 1-3 p.m. Kids are asked to bring a favorite teddy bear, doll or toy and share their story with others. Admission is only $3.00 for the picnic to feature appropriate snacks and drinks, a photo session, a teddy bear walk, and visit to the exhibit. Prizes will be given for the best represented teddy bear, doll, or story, as well as random drawings throughout the event. For reservations call Hillary Detty at 332-2517, extension 2.

An Invitation to our Members:

The Monroe County History Center is collaborating with Cardinal Stage Company to provide a block of discounted tickets to our members for the production **All My Sons** on Friday evening, September 9th at 7:30 p.m. The production is hosted at the Waldron Center.

A wine and cheese reception will be held at the History Center before the production on September 9th from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., hosted by the History Center staff.

Make reservations to Hillary Detty by August 26 by phone, 332-2517, ext. 2 or email admin@monroehistory.org. Tickets are $21.50 per person and must be paid when reservations are made.

Calendar of Events

All events held at the History Center unless otherwise stated.

August

FRI 5– Community Voices Gallery opening reception for Community Advocates for South Central Indiana 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

THUR 11—Board meeting, 4:30 p.m.

SAT 13—WFHB presents Saturday's Child TBA 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

MON 8–FRI 12—Third week of the Junior Historian Program: "Monroe County 1800-1900 ".

THUR 18—3rd Thursday Series: 7:00 p.m. "Farm Security Administration Photography of the 1930's".

September

THUR 8– Board Meeting, 4:30 p.m.

SAT 10—WFHB presents Saturday's Child, TBA 10:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.

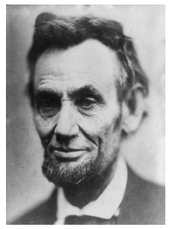
TUES 13- Civil War Roundtable 7:00 p.m.

THUR 15—3rd Thursday Series: 7:00 p.m. "Monroe County's Prehistoric and Early Historic Past", presented by Patrick and Cheryl Munson.

Current & Upcoming Exhibits

Also available at www.monroehistory.org

"Reflections of the Civil War" Photographer Robert Morris **Opens: July 18th Closes: October 30th** Robert Morris has spent several years capturing emotionally evocative images of the historic battlefields of the Civil War. This exhibit features some of the most historically significant sites of the War as they are preserved today.



"The Faces of Lincoln", exhibit on loan from the Indiana Historical Society **Opens: July 18th Closes: August 31st** "The Faces of Lincoln" exhibit explores the image of Abraham Lincoln in three distinct sections, "Developing the Image", "Creating the Image," and "Idealizing the Image".

"Illustrations by an Indiana Naturalist and Artist: Gillian Harris" **Opens: June 11th Closes: September 24th** Gillian is affiliated with Sycamore Land Trust, Indiana Native Plant and Wildlife Society, The Bloomington Watercolor Society, and Bloomington Garden Club. Her illustrations highlight nature's beauty in detail with botanicals that can be found in our own backyards.

CASCI

Citizen Advocacy
of South-Central Indiana, Inc.
Together, we can change our community.

Community Voices Gallery **Opens: August 5th Closes: November 19th** CASCI works to match individuals with disabilities (Partners), who want someone to assist them in improving the quality of their services and to provide practical assistance and freely-given companionship, with citizens (Advocates) who possess personal qualities and talents that fit with the personal qualities and needs of their Partner.

"Toys through the Ages" **Opens: September 27th Closes: February 3rd, 2012** This exhibition looks at the development of toys, games, and childhood memorabilia from the early 1900s to today. Many toys we used to play with have evolved or fallen out of fashion, but there are many that continue to be entertaining for all.

"Making Clothes Making Do: Carol Wise and the Art of Daily Living" **Opens: October 11th Closes: February 4th, 2012** Carol has made clothing, much of it by hand, for most of her adult life. For Carol, clothes-making offers a sense of self-sufficiency and continuity with the past. She can do for herself, as did her ancestors.

Cemetery of the Month for August and September and Cemetery Workshop in October

The Monroe County Historical Society's Cemetery Committee highlights a historical cemetery of Monroe County on the webpage each month. During August, Rose Hill Cemetery, one of the largest and most popular, will be highlighted. Then in September, the focus will be on Farr Cemetery, located in Benton Township. The committee advocates and works toward restoration of the 311 cemeteries throughout Monroe County and currently have work proceeding at Keller, Harmony, White Oak and a number of other cemeteries. Please feel free to contact us about a donation to support these restorations and our instructional programs.

On October 14th and 15th, there will be an Iron Fence Restoration talk and workshop sponsored by the Cemetery Committee, with community support from the Monroe County Fair Board, the Monroe County Cemetery Commission, and members of the community at large. The talk will be October 14th, 6:30 p.m. at the History Center, is free and open to the public, and will be given by Jason Church, a nationally known iron fence restorer. October 15th a workshop will be held at Cole/County Farm, located near the County Fairgrounds to restore the fences and headstones. Please call, 812-332-2517, or email admin@monroehistory.org to register.

Continued from Page 4

its early years. Another music educator, Geneva Phillips, was assistant director. Bert Langdon, a retired high school band director from New Castle, served informally as assistant director after Ms. Phillips' death. Newell Long passed away on 4 January 1999, at the age of 93. In the last several years of his life, he was in failing health, so the assistant director at the time, Tim Moore, took on more and more responsibilities, becoming the de facto director of the band around 1995. The present assistant director is Dr. Joseph Car, a Spencer physician.

The current band has rehearsed in several locations over the years, starting with the JayCees Building that was at one time on Kinser Pike. Other rehearsal spots were Binford Elementary School, the First Presbyterian Church, and the First Christian Church. The band now rehearses at St. Thomas Lutheran Church.

The BCB has played at many civic events and festivals in Bloomington and surrounding communities. For a period of time in its early history, the band teamed up with three other community bands (Montgomery County [Crawfordsville], Detroit Diesel Allison [Indianapolis], and the Shelbyville Community Bands) to play fall concerts as the Hoosier Heartland Band Festival. For many years, the BCB has provided entertainment on the Fourth of July prior to the parade and a concert prior to Picnic with the Pops. Also traditional are holiday concerts at College Mall and in several local retirement communities. In addition, BCB concerts have taken place in Gosport, Ellettsville, Spencer, Nashville, Martinsville, Mitchell, Orleans, French Lick, and other nearby towns, and in Brown County, Spring Mill, and McCormick's Creek state parks.

The Bloomington Community Band continues to provide over twenty concerts per year in Monroe and surrounding counties. Literally hundreds of amateur musicians have enjoyed playing with the band over the years. In 2010, the BCB received two major awards in recognition of its contributions to the community: Downtown Bloomington Inc.'s Cassady Electric Volunteer of the Year Award and the Bloomington Volunteer Network's Be More Award for Arts and Cultural Organizations.

Notes

1. Thanks to Al Olson, Phil Stradling, Tim Moore, and other participants in the 17 July 2010 BCB history discussion.

2. Penelope Mathiesen, "The Sewards and Bloomington Bands," *Monroe County Historian* (October 2008), 5, 6. (http://www.monroehistory.org/about_us/oct_2008.pdf)

3. For a timeline of the bands in Bloomington, see: http://bloomingtoncommunityband.org/?page_id=395

4. "Old Band Men to Take Part in Dedication Tonight," *Bloomington Daily Telephone* (22 August 1928).

Additional References

For pictures and more information on the history of the Bloomington Community Band, see: bloomingtoncommunityband.org/?page_id=18; Mrs. R.F.D. (The Hoosier Farm Wife), "Park Band Concert Is Blissfully Relaxing," *Bloomington World Telephone* (26 July 1961); Mrs. R.F.D. (The Hoosier Farm Wife), "Dusk Slowly Gathers as the Band Plays On," *Bloomington World Telephone* (13 July 1962).

Extraordinary Extravaganza

By Gayle Cook

Once again Monroe County's largest garage sale drew thousands of customers and earned thousands of dollars for the History Center! Our 22,000 sq. ft. warehouse was packed from end to end for the big June 10-11 event. A huge thanks goes to all who donated the good quality merchandise, worked throughout the year hauling and sorting, and—most fun of all—found great bargains to take home—$35,000's worth. A special thanks goes to the helpful folks at Cook Pharmica who contributed to the success by again allowing us to use their warehouse and parking lot.

This year we had access to the warehouse all year-round because of a new heat system, which means that we had more on -site hours to collect and organize donated merchandise. This also means that you can donate items YEAR-ROUND. Call the office for information, and remember: no clothing, no old TVs, no outdated computers or non-working appliances.

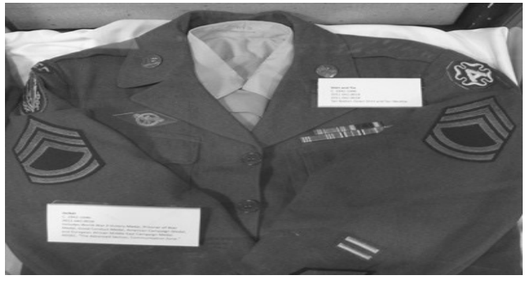
As you can see, our "re-sale sale" business is really helping our budget needs, so let us know if you have items for the annual holiday sale, held at the History Center. We encourage donations of like-new Christmas decorations, holiday dishware and especially small gift items like jewelry, scarves, books and candles. If possible, bring the holiday items now or anytime before November 1.

Thanks again to all who helped make the sale a success.

See What's Been Happening At The Monroe County History Center

to see more pictures from these events please visit www.monroehistory.org

World War II Uniform on Exhibit



Technical Sergeant Vernal L. Snyder wore this uniform when he served in the 95th Division in the European Theatre of World War II, where he serviced communications equipment in England, France, Germany and Belgium. He was one of three brothers who served; his brother Elvin was a Sergeant Engineer in the Army and his brother Harold was a Corporal in the Air Corps.

The new display includes a remarkably complete uniform with many unique and interesting items.

Several of Mr. Snyder's accessories will be featured in the program for Cardinal Stage Company's production "All My Sons," along with other local WWII memorabilia found in the History Center's collection.

The display is found on the first floor of the History Center and is free. It will remain on exhibit throughout Indiana University's next Themester: "War & Peace."

Junior Historian Program

This year we kicked off the Gayle Cook Jr. Historian program, and it has proven a great success!

Week One covered Pre-historic Monroe County and included a trip to Blue Spring Caverns. The children made "fossil cookies," dream catchers, and learned about the ways people dressed, ate, and socialized in the earliest days of this area.

Week Two looked at Monroe County from 1600 to 1780 and included a trip to Hilltop Garden. The children made strawberry jam, talked about the Revolutionary War, and learned about the medicinal uses of common plants.

Week Three is August 8th-12th and promises to be just as exciting as the first two weeks! The time period covered will be 1780-1900 and the field trip will be to Wylie House. Thank you to Amanda Barron for making this all come to life!

Message from the Board President

Dear Members and Friends,

Summer often hints of "lazy days" but not at the Monroe County History Center. The staff and volunteers having been working at warp speed. At the end of July we've been well represented at the Monroe County Fair, hosting the Civil War Encampment, and planning for activities and exhibits through the end of this year – and beyond.

Our first two sessions of the Gayle Cook Junior Historians were most successful. Thanks to Amanda Barron for planning and executing such a great program for our youth. The third and last session of the year will be held Monday, August 8, through Friday, August 12. There is still time to enroll your child for this session.

The Garage Sale was held in mid June and was a roaring success. Please read Gayle Cook's article on page 6.

The volunteers truly work year-round to gather, sort, categorize and merchandise items in this extraordinary event. Thanks to all who participated and attended this year's successful event.

Memberships are an important part of our programming. If you haven't paid your membership this year, please use the form and envelope in this newsletter. And please remember our Legacy program which honors or memorializes individuals and organizations.

And don't forget to frequently visit our webpage: http://www.monroehistory.org - you won't want to miss out on our programming and exhibits. Enjoy your summer and come visit us!

Joanne Cady

News from the Library

genealogy@monroehistory.org

News from the Library

By Penelope Mathiesen

New Finding Aids

A revised edition of *Index Book 3, Deeds of Monroe County, Indiana, 1852–1859* was completed by Genealogy Library volunteer Lee Ehman in June 2011. This is the third of four volumes that index the earliest Monroe County Land Record Books, A–X (circa 1817–1863). The original research for this volume was done by Patricia Mitchell. Each index contains two alphabetical lists, organized by grantor (seller) and grantee (buyer). Most of the records deal with land sales, but some involve other types of transactions, such as the sale of livestock or non-land goods and even the manumission of slaves. The index is available on the shelves in the Genealogy Library and also on the Monroe County History Center's web site at: www.monroehistory.org/genealogy_library/library_indexes.htm

Monroe County Historian: An Index of Names and Topics Related to Genealogy was created in May 2011 by Genealogy Library volunteer Randi Richardson. It offers genealogists and others a means of accessing back issues of the Monroe Historical Society's bi-monthly newsletter from December 2000 to February 2011. The alphabetical index lists the names of individuals, places, and topics (such as "Axsom Family History"). It is available in the Genealogy Library on top of File Cabinet 3, next to the newsletter binders.

New Items on the Shelves

The following publications are now available on the shelves in the Genealogy Library:

DeWhitt, Benjamin L. *Records Relating to Personal Participation in World War II: Military Awards and Decorations*. Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, 2007.

DeWhitt, Benjamin and Heaps, Jennifer Davis. *Records Relating to Personal Participation in World War II: American Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees*. Washington, DC: NARA, 2008.

DeWhitt, Benjamin and Ziemer, Heidi. *Records Relating to Personal Participation in World War II: "The American Soldier" Surveys*. Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, 2007.

Gouldrup, Lawrence P. *Writing the Family Narrative*. 1987.

Monroe County, Indiana, Family Heritage. 1987. Gift from Richard Stewart.

Monroe County 2010 Death Index. 2011.

Plante, Trevor K. *Military Service Records at the National Archives*. Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, 2007.

Taulman, Larry and Wertz, Don (eds.) *The Atterbury File*. Essays by students of Custer Barker Middle School, Franklin, IN, about the military training camps near their school in 1942. Gift from Ariel Green.

Taulman, Larry and Wertz, Don (eds.) *The Atterbury File*. Essays by students of Custer Barker Middle School, Franklin, IN, about the military training camps near their school in 1942. Gift from Ariel Green.

History of the Bloomington Community Band[1]

By Gary Wiggins

A community band has been in existence in Bloomington since Austin Seward's original town band was started around 1838. Penelope Mathiesen has described the early years of the Bloomington town bands.[2] Local bands that traced their roots to the Seward group continued to play well into the twentieth century.[3]

For some decades in the early twentieth century, the Bloomington Town Band had an address at 106½ or 108½ West Sixth Street, a location that also housed the Bloomington Opera Theater. Bloomington city directories document those addresses during the period 1922–1940. The early twentieth-century bands were directed first by Wylie Cathcart, then by Henry O. Crigler. The city directories give no indication of a band immediately after World War II.

From the early 1950s until 1963, the Bloomington Civic Band played summer concerts. Phil Stradling recalls that in 1953 he started attending band concerts under the direction of Carl Frye, music supervisor in the Monroe County public schools. His son, David Frye, played drums with the band. When Mr. Cobb, an early member of the current BCB, was also in that band. The band rehearsed every week from June through August on Wednesday evenings in the Seminary Building at Bloomington High School. They would then present a one-hour concert at Third Street Park on Thursday evenings. The Bloomington Civic Band was disbanded after the 1963 season because funds from the state were cut. It is believed that no civic band existed in Bloomington from 1963 to 1966.

Bloomington Community Band performing at the Monroe County Courthouse mural rededication, 30 November 1993. From the collection of the Monroe County History Center, 1994.079.0082.

Stradling graduated from Bloomington High School, he was invited to join the civic band. Flautist Linda

Another town band in the latter half of the 1960s rehearsed in the basement of a house on High Street. Newell Long was a trombonist in the group, and Phil Stradling played alto saxophone with the band, which included some 30 to 35 members in 1966. Professor Long asked one of the student teachers he was supervising, Al Olson, to direct the band in late fall 1966. Mr. Olson continued to conduct the band through the spring of 1967. During that time, they played concerts in Third Street Park, which then had a bandstand that dated to 1928.[4] They also gave concerts in a few of the local churches, but a rigorous concert schedule was not maintained. After Mr. Olson took a high school teaching position, the band continued for a time under another director. Newell Long supplied some of the music for the group, and they had a small music library that passed to Bloomington High School when the group stopped playing around 1970.

The present Bloomington Community Band was started with a grant from the Indiana Arts Commission obtained by Gary Wiggins with Bloomington JayCees sponsorship in 1978. Responding to an advertisement in the paper for interested musicians, BHSS band director Don Traub revealed that he still had the music from the prior band, which he turned over to the new group.

The first director of the current Bloomington Community Band was Indiana University School of Music Professor Emeritus Newell H. Long. Professor Long was the heart and soul of the band, and without him, it is very doubtful that the band would have survived

Continued on Page 7

Bloomington's First Volunteer Fire Department, 1858

By Lee Ehman

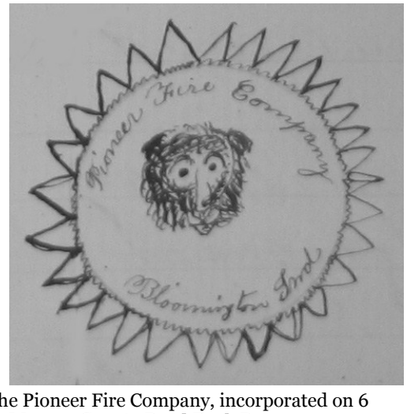
On 6 August 1858, articles of incorporation of the city's first known volunteer fire department were recorded in Monroe County Deed Book R, p. 453. The entry is transcribed below:

Whereas the Town of Bloomington is in great need of a fire department. Therefore We the undersigned hereby associate Ourselves together for the purpose of organizing a fire Company. The object of which is to extinguish buildings or other property when on fire, and also to save property from Conflagration when in Danger of Catching fire. This Association shall be Styled The Pioneer Fire Company. Any free white male Person between twenty-one and fifty years of age may become a member of this association on receiving a majority of votes of the Company and paying to the Treasurer of said Company the sum of Twenty five Cents as an initiation fee, but when any member of this Company shall arrive to the age of fifty years he shall be an honorary member of said Company but shall not be allowed to vote on any question Whatever.

The Corporate seal of said Company Shall be the head of a Watchdog in the center of a circular border With the words Pioneer Fire Company Above the head, and the words Bloomington Ind below the head, the whole of the Inspection being with the border. [See drawing.]

There shall be a President, Secretary, and Treasurer of this Company who shall be elected by ballot to serve as such for the term of one year and who shall remain in office until their successors shall be elected and qualified. All other officers there Election term of office and Duties shall be provided for in the bylaws of said Company.

[signed]
Benjamin Voss
P Hersey Marsh
F M Williams
Jas R Sluss
Jas G Baker
E C Buskirk
Milton Hight



Corporate seal of the Pioneer Fire Company, incorporated on 6 August 1858. From Monroe County Deed Book R, p. 45.

Old Bloomington Ponds and Swimming Holes

By Penelope Mathiesen

The following newspaper article from 1929 describes ponds and swimming holes favored by Bloomington boys "four and five decades ago" (i.e., in the 1880s and 1890s). The Showers Bros. administration building (mentioned in the first paragraph) at Tenth and Morton is now occupied by Indiana University Press. The precise location of the Griffy Creek swimming hole (mentioned in the last paragraph) is unknown, but it was likely in the area north of town where bridges on Business 37 and Old 37 cross the creek today.

Bloomington Daily Telephone, 16 December 1929

LOOKING BACK ON OLD BLOOMINGTON

By Blaine W. Bradfute

Four and five decades ago the boys of the north end of Bloomington found amusement at the Showers pond and the Hunter pond. How many people of today can recall the sites of these two ponds? The Showers pond was located a hundred yards south of the present Showers administration building. This pond was constructed as a water supply for the factory before Bloomington had a water system. It was used by the factory for many years and it was also used by many boys as a playground. Hundreds of youngsters skated on this pond, and sailed boats on its water. With its mud bottom the pond did not offer much of a swimming "hole" and no fish lived in it. Besides its economic feature of supplying water for the factory the Showers pond gave thousands of "play hours" to the boys and girls of the north part of Bloomington.

The Hunter pond was located on the Gen. Morton C. Hunter place at the foot of College avenue hill going north—it was near the I. C. tracks but it pre-dated this railway by many years. The Hunter pond offered a place to sail toy boats, skate and fish. Its waters teemed with small catfish and many a Bloomington lad threw his first hook and line in the waters of this old pond.

The favorite swimming "hole" of Bloomington boys at that time was in Griffy Creek, a hundred yards north of the Griffy Creek bridge. A huge log was part of the north shore of Griffy Creek at this place, and it offered a fine place to dive into the water. The depth of the water was only up to a small boy's mouth but there was a great amount of diving—many youngsters learned to swim and dive in this "old swimming hole." The diving log and pool were in plain sight of the road and the bridge and whenever a horse and buggy approached "with a woman" there was a great splashing as a dozen naked youngsters plunked into the water, much as that many frogs might have done. This was long before the day of the one-piece bathing suit; indeed it was before the day of any type of bathing suit in Bloomington. In the summer the small boys bathed in the waters of Griffy Creek, in the winter they suffered a weekly Saturday night bath in a tin tub in the kitchen. By and large this was before the advent of the bathroom to Bloomington.