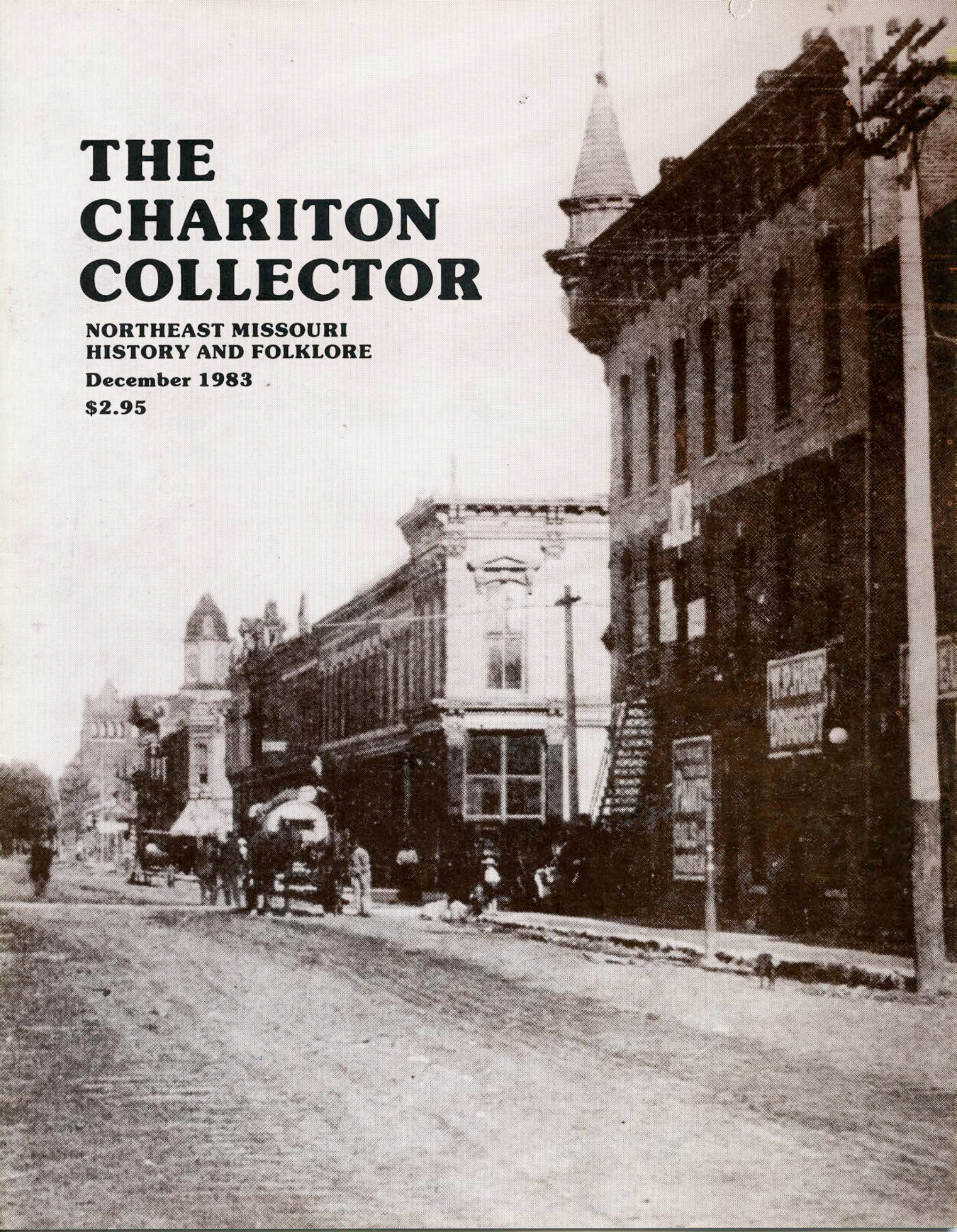


THE CHARITON COLLECTOR

**NORTHEAST MISSOURI
HISTORY AND FOLKLORE**

December 1983

\$2.95



THE CHARITON COLLECTOR

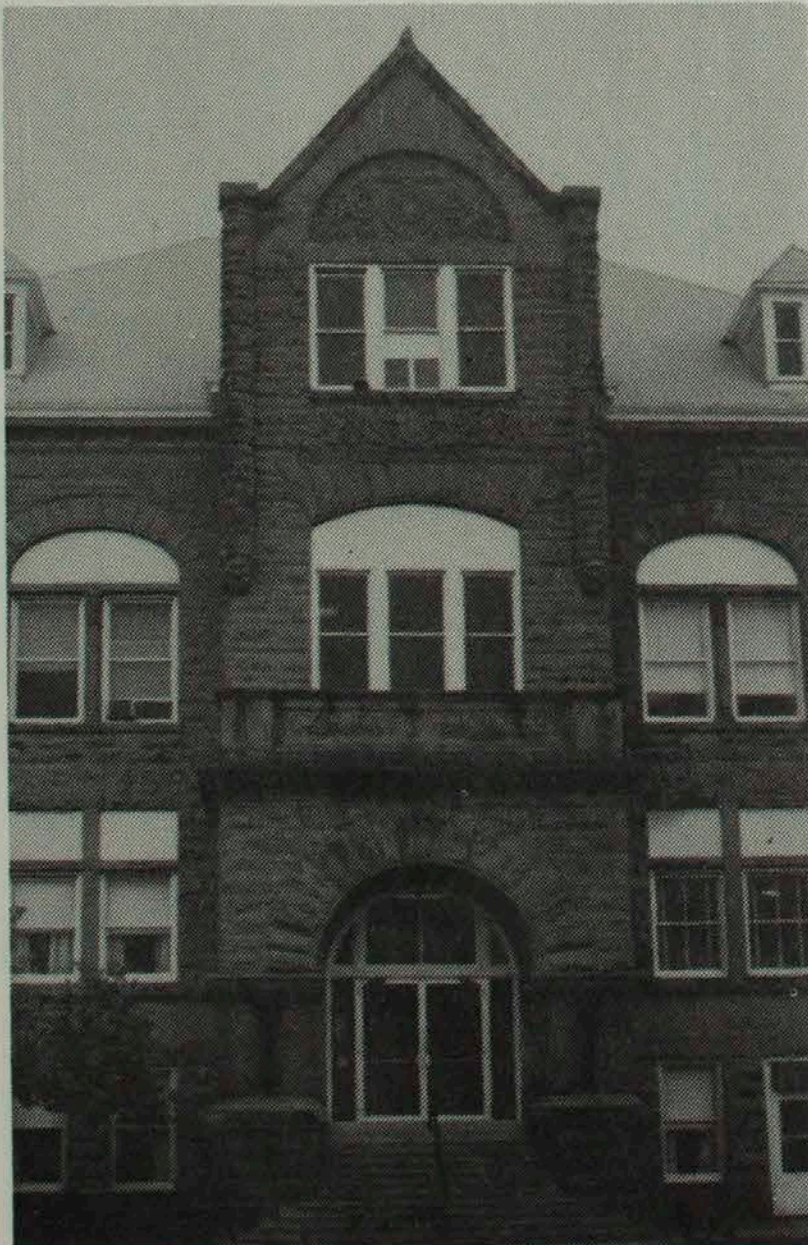
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COVER PICTURE

This is a view of Washington Street taken from the Pool Hotel in the 1900's by Thompson for his book *Picturesque Kirkville, Souvenir Gems of 1900 As Seen Through the Camera*. The Pool Hotel, owned by J. S. Pool, was located off the southwest corner of the town square.



The south view of the Adair County Courthouse shows the elaborate detail of the Richardsonian Romanesque style of architecture which was popular in the early 1900's. See related story page 8.

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FISHIN' IN THE OL' CHARITON

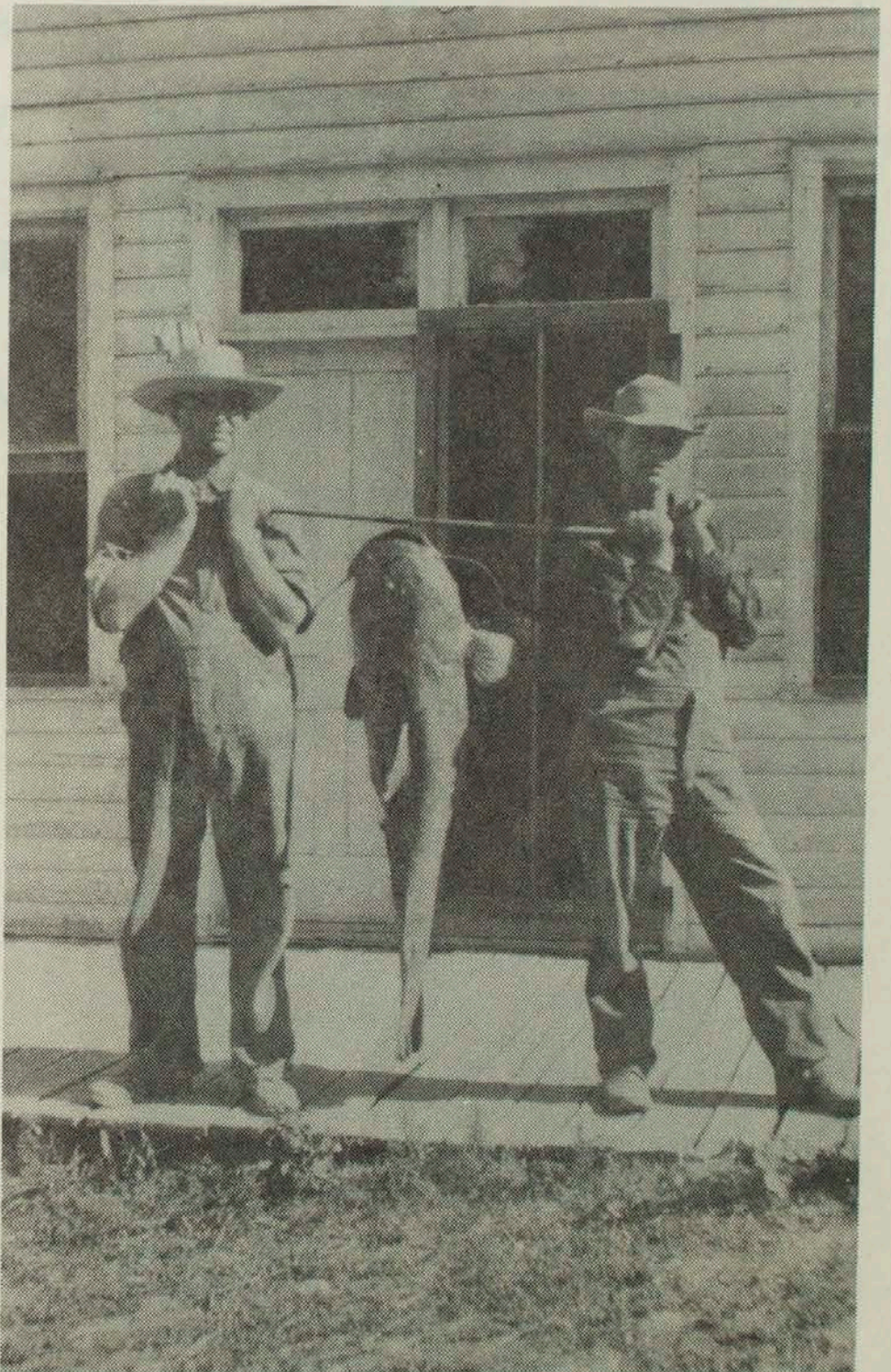
Times are changing even down at your favorite fishing hole. The Chariton River has provided many fishermen with the thrill of sport and meals for the table. The big fish from this river is not as common as the monster of yesteryear. In the early 1900's it was not uncommon to see a 70-80 pound catfish being taken from the Chariton. The methods of fishing on the Chariton River have changed since the early 1900's because of conservation laws and changing habitat. The times have changed, but many fishermen can still remember the old methods and the fish they caught in the Chariton.

One of the most common methods of fishing, that is now illegal, was hand fishing. Hand fishing was outlawed because it took advantage of the catfish while they were breeding. Generally, fishing by hand caught big fish but not many in numbers. Hand fishing was done with the hand, hay hooks, or large fishing hooks. The catfish would lie under logs and rocks. The fisherman would wade into the water and feel under the debris in the river with his hands. When he found the fish, the fisherman would reach his hand or place a hook into the mouth of the fish and through its gills. He would then be in for a battle with the fish, which usually fought vigorously. A fisherman who used his bare hand would often have his hand and forearm torn by the teeth of the fish. Local conservation agent Wayne Martin stated, "Fishermen who illegally hand fished would often come into town during a hot day wearing long-sleeved shirts." They did this to cover the wounds from their battle. Although the method is now illegal, it is still known to be used today.

One of the most interesting ways of fishing was used at the Yarrow Mill in Yarrow, Missouri. Although this method is not

illegal, it is not used today. Kenny Weber, whose father operated the mill, explained, "The fish were caught in the forebay of the mill." The forebay is a reservoir or canal from which water is taken to operate equipment, such as a water-wheel or turbine. Mr. Weber continued, "When the gates of the forebay were opened, fish swam into this area but could not swim out because the current of the river was too strong. When the gates were shut, the water drained and the fish would be left in the bottom of the forebay in about a foot of water. Trying to catch the catfish out of the forebay was much like catching a greased pig." Many large catfish were caught by this method. It is known that Henry Weber, Kenny's father, captured a one-hundred-pound catfish out of the

Right: Mr. Crawford (left) and Mr. Kinkaide hold the giant catfish they caught in the Chariton River in 1906. Below: A group of fishermen surround their catch from the Chariton River.





George Vanlaningham (left) and Arthur Nardini display the 45 lb. catfish and the 22 lb. carp they caught on the same night in 1947.

forebay of the mill. Kenny Weber commented, "After the catfish was caught, he released it in the farm pond. He fed it corn and scraps from the mill to fatten the fish to be butchered."

Trammel net and seine fishing are examples of restricted fishing. The trammel net consisted of three pieces of net. One six-inch mesh would be placed on each side of a two-inch mesh net. The nets would have a cork line on the top and a lead line on the bottom. Mr. Weber explains, "The cork lines would keep the net upright in the water, while the lead line would keep the net from floating down river. The net was stretched across the river so no fish could get by. The fish would swim through the mesh holes in the first net and would then get caught in the middle net." Because this method caught several fish at a time, it was outlawed in 1939.

Catfish like slow-moving, muddy water that is not too shallow. The Chariton River once had holes in the river bed 20 to 30 feet deep, and many logs and rocks created an ideal catfishing habitat. The channelization of the Chariton River changed catfishing drastically.

In 1904 Peter Vitt started a campaign and survey to determine the cost of straightening the channel of the Chariton. Following the 1903 flood, people sought relief from the untamed river. A total of \$180,000 was raised to straighten the Chariton.

The channelization of the river destroyed this ideal catfish environment. The Chariton now flows swiftly with shallow, fairly clear water. There are not as many deep holes and not as much cover for the large fish the Chariton used to harbor. The large catfish weighing over 50 pounds is not common in



Henry Weber (left) and Charles Hays are shown releasing the 100 lb. catfish into the farm pond. This fish was caught earlier in the Chariton River.

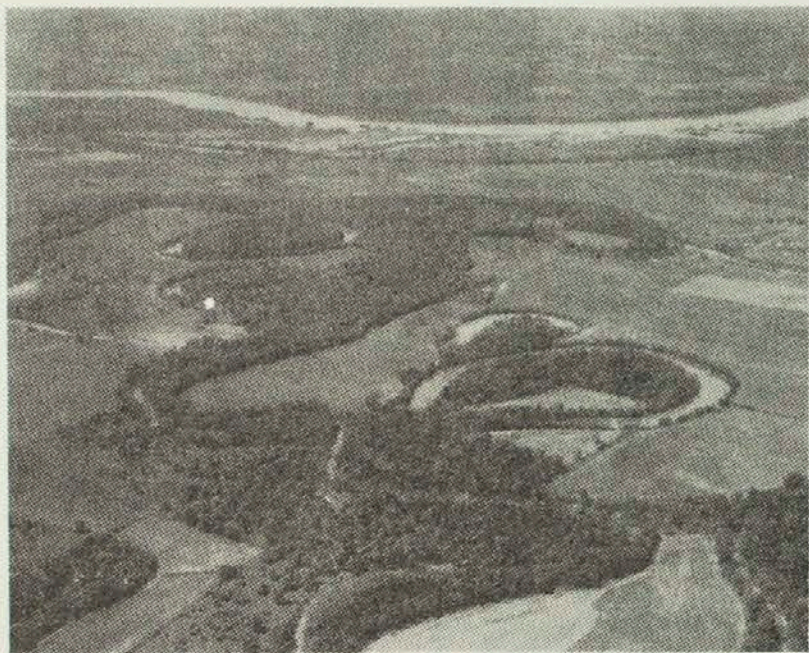
By Darren Schneider Kent Snipes

the Chariton River since it was rechannelized.

Fishing methods in the river have changed and so have the species inhabiting it. Where the bass and large catfish haunted dark holes of the former winding, sluggish stream, now the smaller catfish and carp feed in the shallower, much-straightened water course. The rechannelization of the Chariton River was a step forward in progress, but a step backward for fishing.



Henry Weber (left) and Sie McAninch display another example of the huge fish caught in the old Chariton.



These photographs of the old Chariton (above) and the new Chariton, after rechannelization, were taken on the same day in May, 1949. (Photos courtesy of the Missouri Conservation Department)



BUY 'EM BY THE SACK

Many Kirksville residents can recollect going downtown to see a movie. Before or after the movie they would walk over to the White Cabin for a nickel hamburger and a Coca-Cola.

The White Cabin was built in 1927 by G. D. Whiteside. It was a small, stucco frame building, 12 feet by 16 feet. According to Mr. Whiteside, it cost \$800 to build and took about three days to complete. The White Cabin started out with just an eight-stool counter. In 1929 Mr. Whiteside added eight more stools.

In 1930 he started selling ice cream and moved the original building from the corner of the block to the area next to the alley. He sold only ice cream, malts, shakes, and the like in the structure. At the same time, he built a new building with a basement and a few booths on the corner spot.

The White Cabin was located on the corner of Jefferson and Elson. With the osteopathic college across the street, it was a very popular restaurant. It was situated so that anyone in the downtown area could walk over and order a cup of coffee and a hamburger. There would always be people there that they knew and could talk to. Mr. Whiteside can remember how busy he was when the osteopathic college had noon recess. He would just pull the lever on the coffee urn and run one cup after another through. He didn't have to worry about the cups piling up because there was always someone there waiting for another cup of coffee.

White Cabin hamburgers were a nickel each and on Saturdays a person could buy a sack of six for a quarter. This special was the reason for the sign on top of the building, "Buy

'Em By The Sack." On orders over fifteen cents, Mr. Whiteside would deliver. His Austin delivery cars accumulated many miles in the early years.

On Fridays the White Cabin ordered 1,200 hamburger buns from the Palace Bakery. By Monday they needed to order 500 more. Everybody loved hamburgers and the White Cabin had them.

The price of hamburgers was kept at a nickel until World War II when Mr. Whiteside had to increase the price to a dime due to meat rationing. Even though the price doubled, quite a few were still sold. The price of hamburgers stayed at a dime until 1952.

In 1952 Mr. Whiteside leased the building to Dolly and Raymond Cross. Many people liked Mrs. Cross because she was so friendly. If you had gone into the White Cabin then, most likely you would have seen her. She was always around the White Cabin during the day and most of the night.

Mrs. Margaret Parrish worked for Mrs. Cross in 1955 and 1956 as a waitress. She liked working there with Mrs. Cross. Since she was working her way through college she had to work nights. There were only three or four employees that worked at night: one or two waitresses, a cook, and a dishwasher. Mrs. Parrish recalls the cook as a tiny, older woman who was easy to get along with, "She was a good cook and people liked her cooking."

The White Cabin stayed open until midnight giving everyone a chance to stop by. The majority of customers were KCOM and KSTC students. Mrs. Parrish recalls that they did



Above: The new White Cabin building in 1933, with a basement and booths, was bigger and could handle more customers.

Left: The White Cabin in 1931. This is the 12 feet by 16 feet building in the original corner spot.



Above: In 1933 the original building was moved next to the alley to sell ice cream. Mr. Whiteside and his daughter stand beside one of the Austin delivery cars. Right: G. D. Whiteside and his family pose in the White House Ice Cream Parlor.



not have any drunks or hooligans in the White Cabin. Never was there an uproar or scuffle, just people wanting to grab a bite to eat.

Mrs. Parrish recalls humorous events that happened to new employees. A new waitress was required to make a milkshake and it was to be thick. The new girl put the glass on the machine and left it for quite some time. Mrs. Parrish asked her, "Don't you think that shake is done by now?" The waitress replied that it was to be thick. Mrs. Parrish retorted, "Honey, you're going in the opposite way. That shake is so thin that it's nothing but milk!"

The cooler, the automatic dishwasher, and the potato peeling machine were downstairs in the basement. One of the duties of the dishwasher was to prepare the potatoes for the next day. Mrs. Parrish recalls a time that the dishwasher left the potatoes in the machine too long. The peeling machine was similar to a sander, shaving off the peeling very quickly. When he returned, the potatoes were no bigger than a quarter!

In 1958 Eldon Yantis leased the White Cabin. He operated it for a few years and then Mr. Whiteside and his son-in-law, Harold VanSickle, ran it for awhile. In 1968 Bill LaCore leased the White Cabin and ran it until its closing in 1972.

In 1972 the White Cabin was sold to the Sandy's fast-food chain. The fast-food era was entering Kirksville, Missouri, and the time of cafes and small restaurants was leaving. In



Above: The White Cabin stood at the corner of Jefferson and Elson from 1927 until it was demolished in 1972. Only the sign was left intact. (Photo courtesy of Kirksville Daily Express)
 Top right: The White Cabin as it looked in 1955. Notice the neon light fixtures and the sign that reads "air conditioned."
 Mrs. Margaret Parrish, an employee of Dolly Cross, worked her way through college here in 1955 and 1956. Bottom right: A public thank you from G. D. Whiteside to the people of Kirksville in 1972. The white box in the center is the reminiscent menu for the White Cabin in 1927. (Photo courtesy of Kirksville Daily Express)

By Dan Sullivan Terry Baker

April, 1972, the White Cabin building was replaced by the modern steel and glass housing for Sandy's. The sign for Sandy's was placed in the same spot that the White Cabin building had stood. About three years later, the Sandy's chain sold out to Hardee's fast-food chain. Hardee's kept the same building and are still in operation there today.

Although G. D. Whiteside was not always associated with the White Cabin after leasing it, he is best known for it. He remembers that in those early years he bought beef by the dressed carcass and ground it himself. "We sold a pretty fair size herd of cattle each year," said Mr. Whiteside. Recalling the demolition of the White Cabin, Mr. Whiteside said, "It kinda gave me the jitters to see them tearing it down. I almost wished I hadn't sold it." The people of Kirksville will always hold the White Cabin dear to their hearts. They will never forget the White Cabin and neither will Mr. Whiteside.



THANK YOU, KIRKSVILLE

White Cabin Restaurant

at Jefferson and Elson Streets

stood for 45 years.

Building removed for Sandy's Systems, Inc.

G. D. Whiteside,

owner and operator from 1927 to 1952.

FEATURE 5¢ HAMBURGERS

Buy 'em by the sack!

—MENU—

HAMBURGER	5c	ICE CREAM	
HOT DOG	5c	—12 Flavors—	
HAM	10c	DOUBLE DIP CONES	5c
TENDERLOIN	10c	PINTS	15c
CHILI	10c	QUARTS	25c
HOME-MADE PIE	10c		
COFFEE	5c	With a purchase of 15c, we would	
ALL SODA WATER	5c	deliver all over town.	

(We bought beef by the dressed carcass at 3c per pound and ground our own hamburger)

WHAT A CLASSIC!

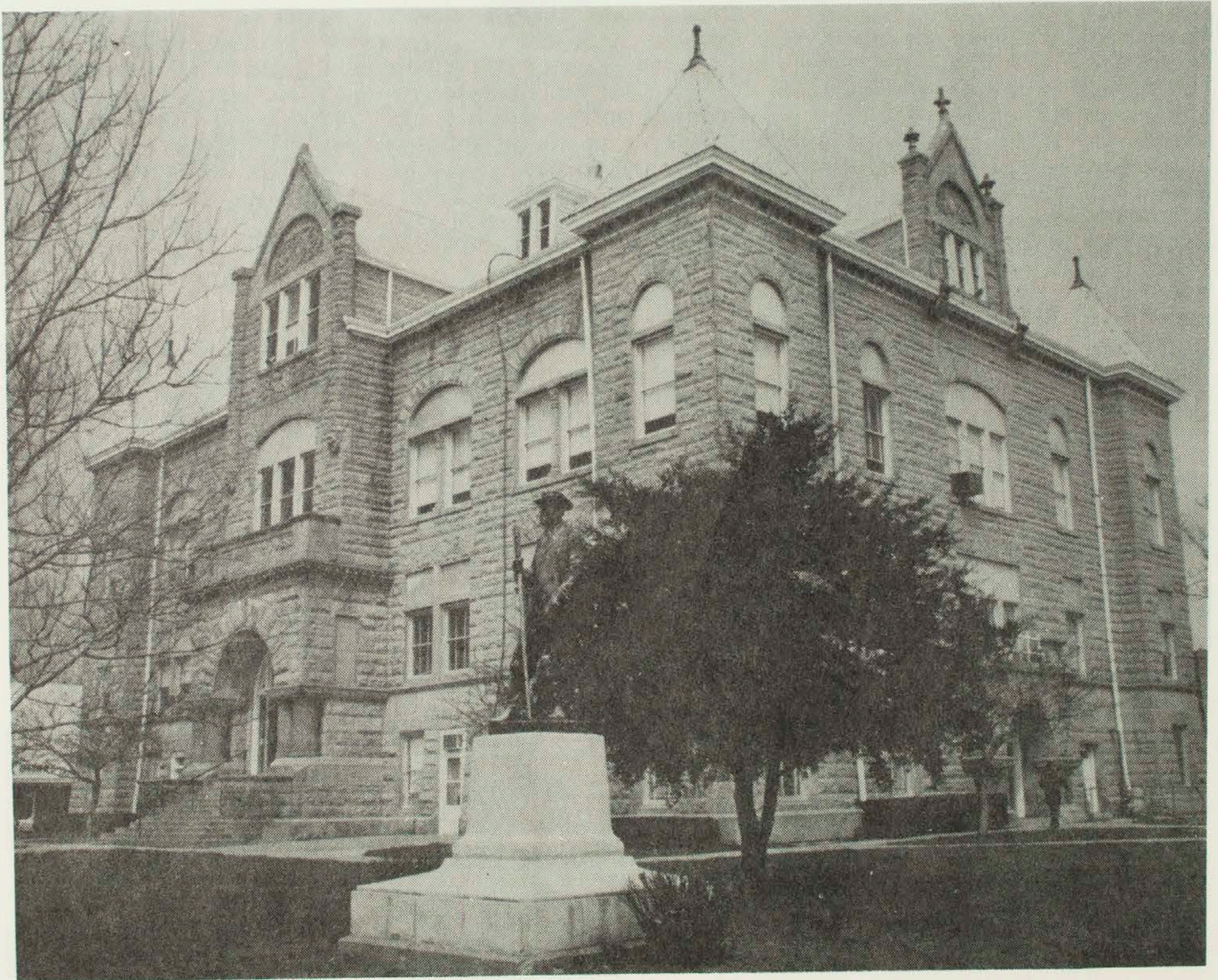
Who says a courthouse is just another building where courts of law are held? The Adair County Courthouse proves that a courthouse can have a surprising factual history as well as magnificent architecture. Even though the courthouse is a prominent building of Adair County, even listed on the National Register of Historical Places, most people do not realize the many changes from the 1800's.

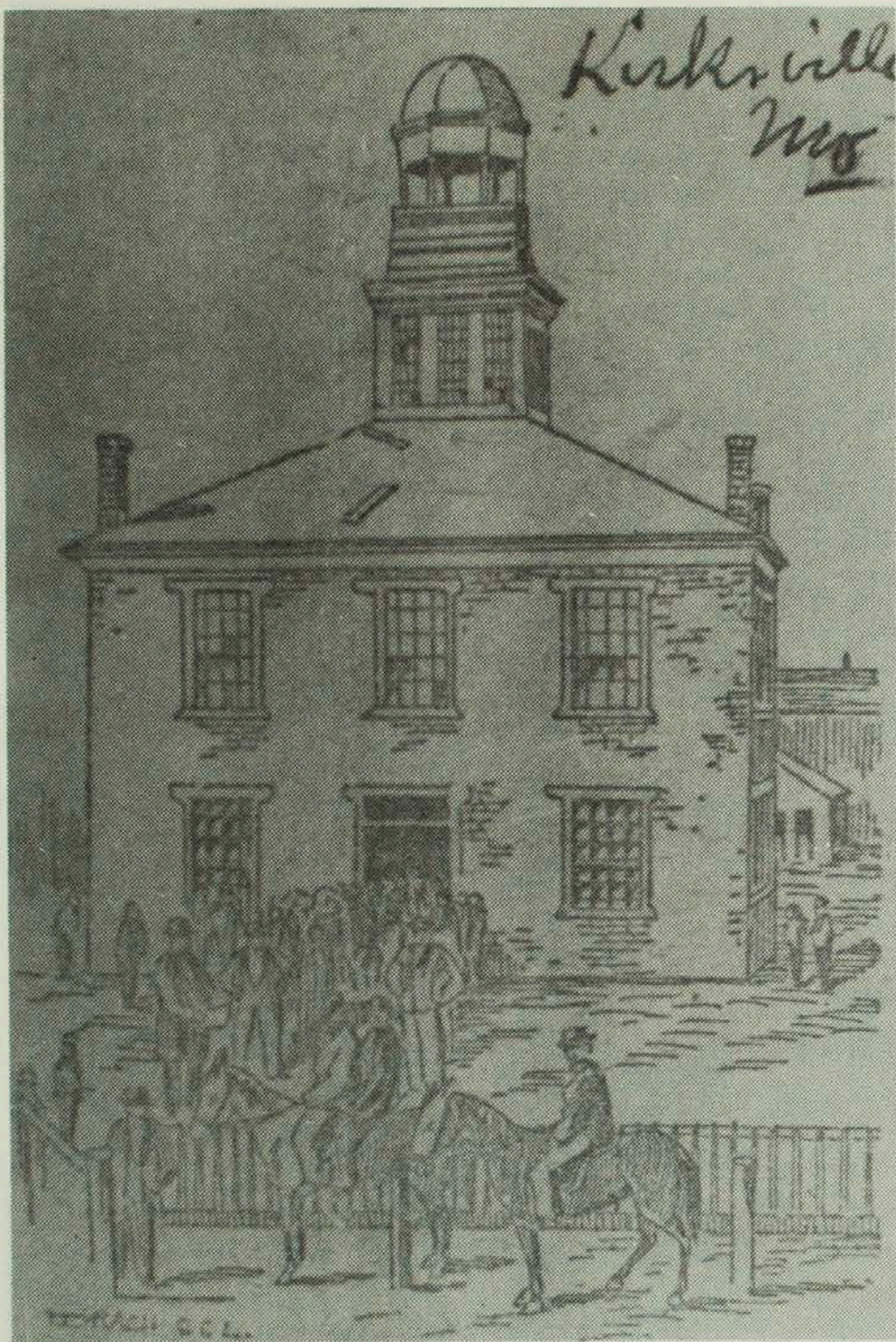
Construction on the first Adair County Courthouse began in 1843, two years after Adair County was organized and Kirksville was selected as the county seat. This one-story, brick structure was built on the northwest corner of the town's square, where the First National Bank now stands. The cost was \$1,000 and Mr. John B. Earhart was hired as the builder. Mr. John D. Callison was employed as the carpenter and Mr. Caleb Barnett was superintendent. The first court met July 3, 1843, and during this time the building was also often used to hold church services, since there were no churches in the new city.

Construction began in 1852 on the second Adair County Courthouse. William H. Parcels was appointed superintendent and was sent to Knox City, just east of Adair County, to

get the plan of the recently completed courthouse in Edina. It was then decided by Adair County that the courthouse would be located in the middle of the town square. On March 8, 1852, the contract was awarded to Gaylon and Douglas who completed the work in 1853 at the cost of \$2,250. The brick, two-story structure contained offices, a few additional rooms, and a small courtroom. This building served a very important part in the Battle of Kirksville. It was occupied by Confederate recruits in an effort to withstand the attack of Union soldiers. It is reported that the Confederates shot from windows and doors of the building before some of the Confederates fled, and the others were killed or surrendered. On April 12, 1865, just three days after the Confederate army under General Robert E. Lee surrendered in Lynchburg, Virginia, at the Appomattox Courthouse, this second Adair County Courthouse burned to the ground. Land and marriage records were saved, but the county court records were destroyed.

The third and present Adair County Courthouse stands tall and prominent in the middle of Kirksville's town square. (Photo courtesy of KTVO)



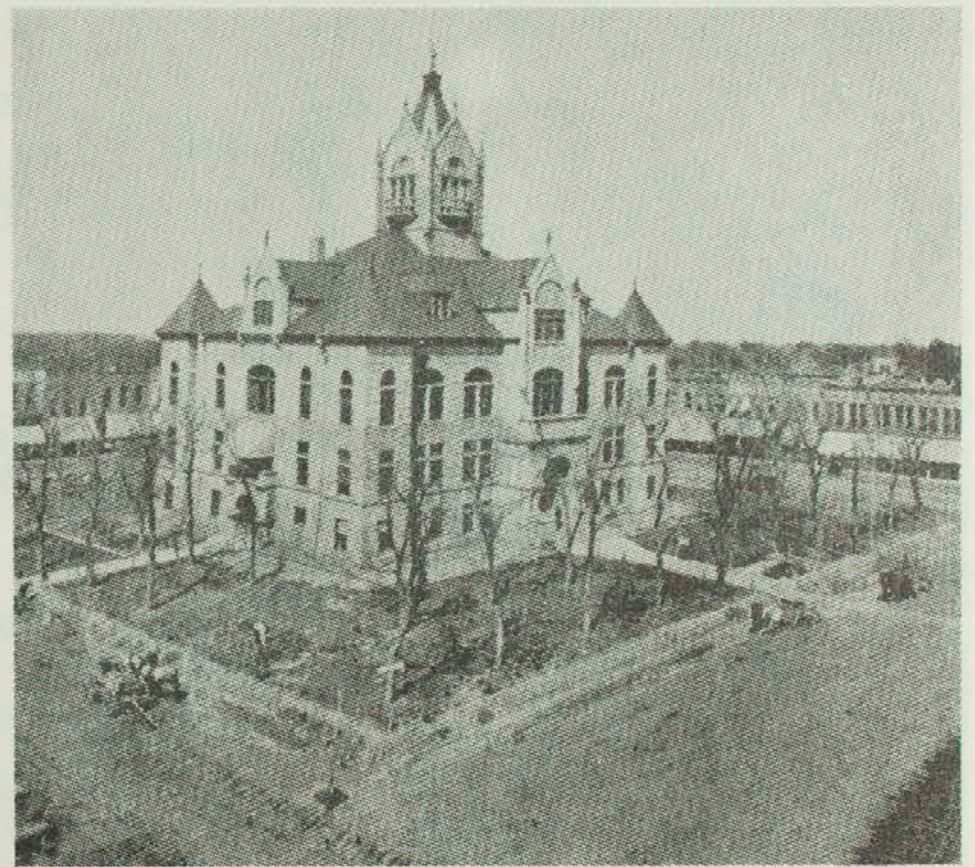


Above: Adair County's second courthouse which served a major part in the Battle of Kirksville. (Photo courtesy of the Adair County Historical Society)

Adair County did without a courthouse for the next 33 years. Upstairs rooms were rented in the 1890's along North Elson Street, a half-block from the square. They contained the Circuit Court and all the county offices. These rented rooms also served as the meeting place of the Masonic Lodge.

A bond issue was necessary to build a new courthouse. Four separate times the county court proposed that the county issue bonds to build a new courthouse, but each time the bond failed. It is believed that these bonds were defeated mainly due to the poor economic state of the county. Finally in 1897, the required two-thirds majority affirmative vote was given to a \$50,000 county bond issue to erect the present courthouse and a jail. The County Court, after considering a number of plans, hired Kirsch and Company, an architectural firm with headquarters in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. They were to design a three-story building, with the ground floor being an above-ground basement.

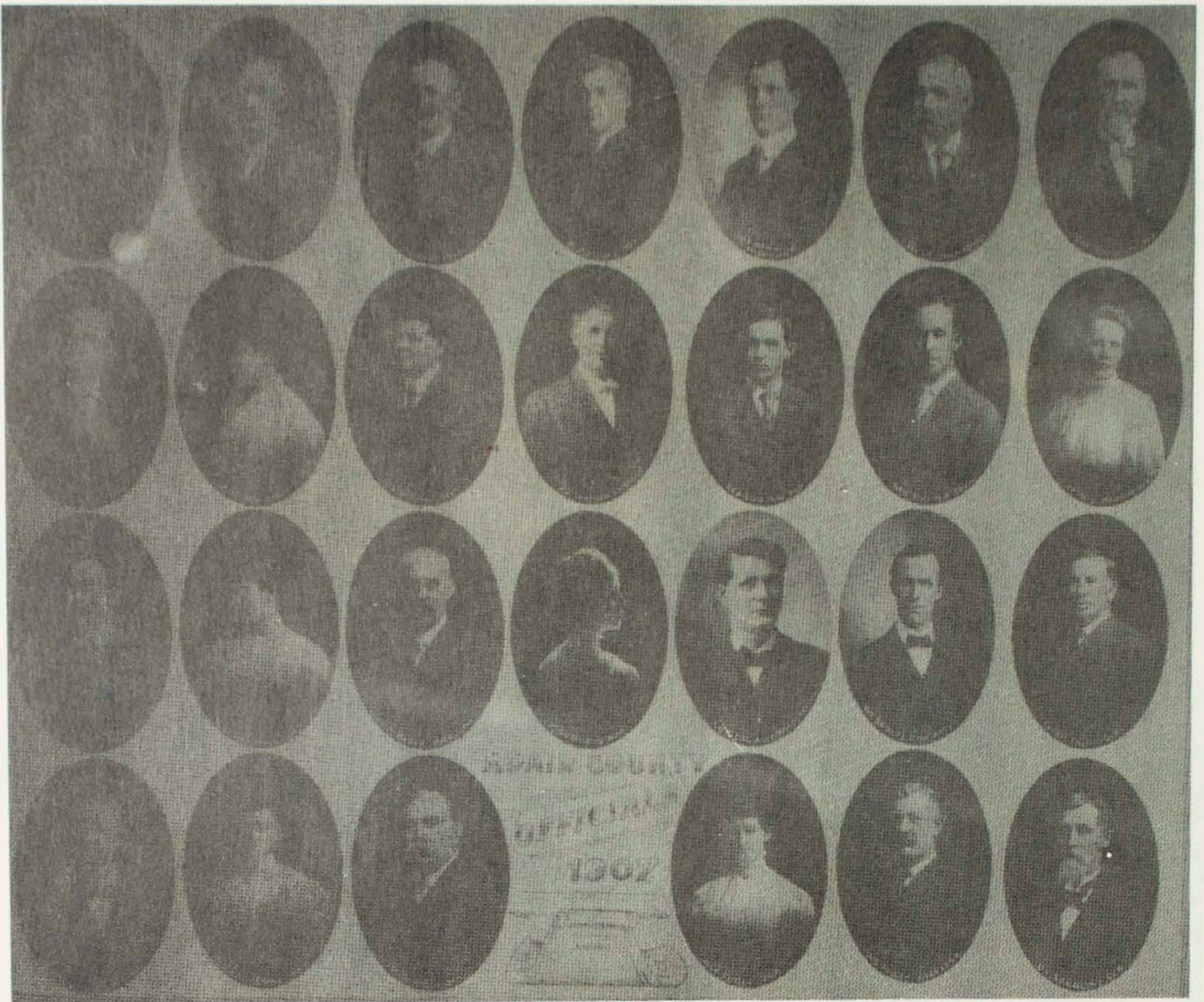
The laying of the cornerstone for the third Adair County Courthouse attracted a crowd estimated at 15,000, despite intermittent rainfall. The town was decorated with Cuban and American flags, and largest parade ever was held on dedication day, May 2, 1898. Mr. Charles H. Lee, a Kirksville resident, had prepared the cornerstone, and the Masonic ceremony was conducted by Mr. Andrew Fisher of La Belle, Missouri, who was acting for the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Missouri.



Top: A view of the town square during the construction of the present courthouse. Bottom: A bird's eye view of the Kirksville square from Harp's Drug Store, on the southwest corner, as shown in Picturesque Kirksville, Souvenir Gems of 1900 as Seen Through the Camera. (Photo courtesy of the Adair County Historical Society)

This three-story structure was built at a cost of \$50,000. One of the main attractions of this building was a square tower which contained a lookout platform, a clock with four faces, and a pyramid surmounted by the Statue of Justice. This tower was removed 50 years later, in 1949, due to the fear that its weight was endangering the stability of the roof. The removal cost of this tower was \$20,000. The Statue of Justice was placed at the center point of the roof, and one of the clock dials is now in the Adair County Historical Society's Museum.

The building, a rural courthouse style of architecture, features a square design with ornamentation on the corners and an arched entranceway on all sides. This design, referred to as Richardsonian Romanesque, features Aegon dart molding, Greek faces on the entranceway columns, and leaf motifs. These patterns are repeated on the building facades. The structure has blue sandstone walls, but due to the sandblasting a few years ago, the blue sandstone now has a



Top: Adair County officials who occupied the third courthouse in 1907. Bottom: The third Adair County Courthouse, shown here before the removal of the square tower, was referred to as the "gem of all courthouses in northeast Missouri" at the time of its construction. (Photo courtesy of the Adair County Historical Society)

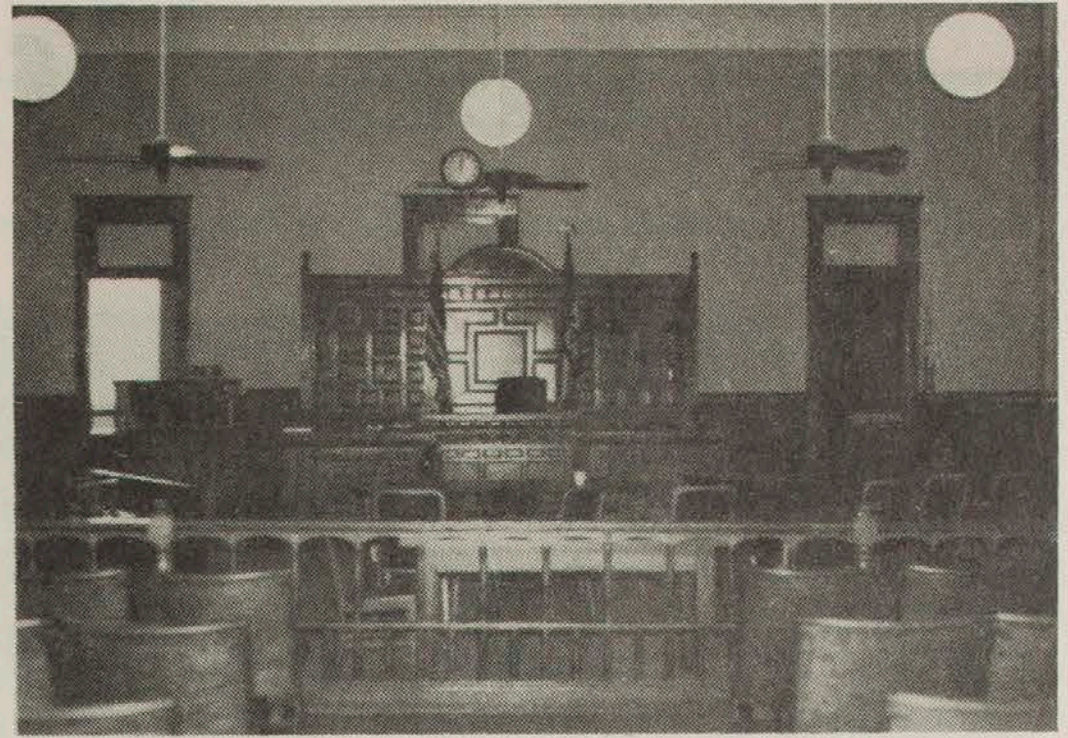


By Leigh Klinginsmith Kristy Mollick

yellowish tint. At the time of its construction, this third courthouse was referred to as the "gem of all courthouses in northeast Missouri."

The building is considered fireproof with a steel staircase and two fireproof vaults. It is heated by steam and lighted by electricity. The main purpose of the courthouse today is to house the county offices such as the Probate and Associate Judge and courtroom, the Circuit Clerk and courtroom, the Collector, the Assessor, the Treasurer, the County Clerk and court, the Drivers' License Bureau, and the Adair County Historical Society's Museum.

"A true definition of history is that you are what you live in," said Linda Harper, historical preservationist for the Northeast Missouri Regional Planning Commission. Adair County can be proud of the interesting history of its courthouses. In taking a final look at these three buildings, much can be learned about the past; we are able to see troubled times accompanied by memorable events. The *World Book Dictionary* sums up these Adair County Courthouses best with its definition of classic: "likely to remain in style for a long time." We, the writers, are sure that the present Adair County Courthouse will never have to worry about losing its style!



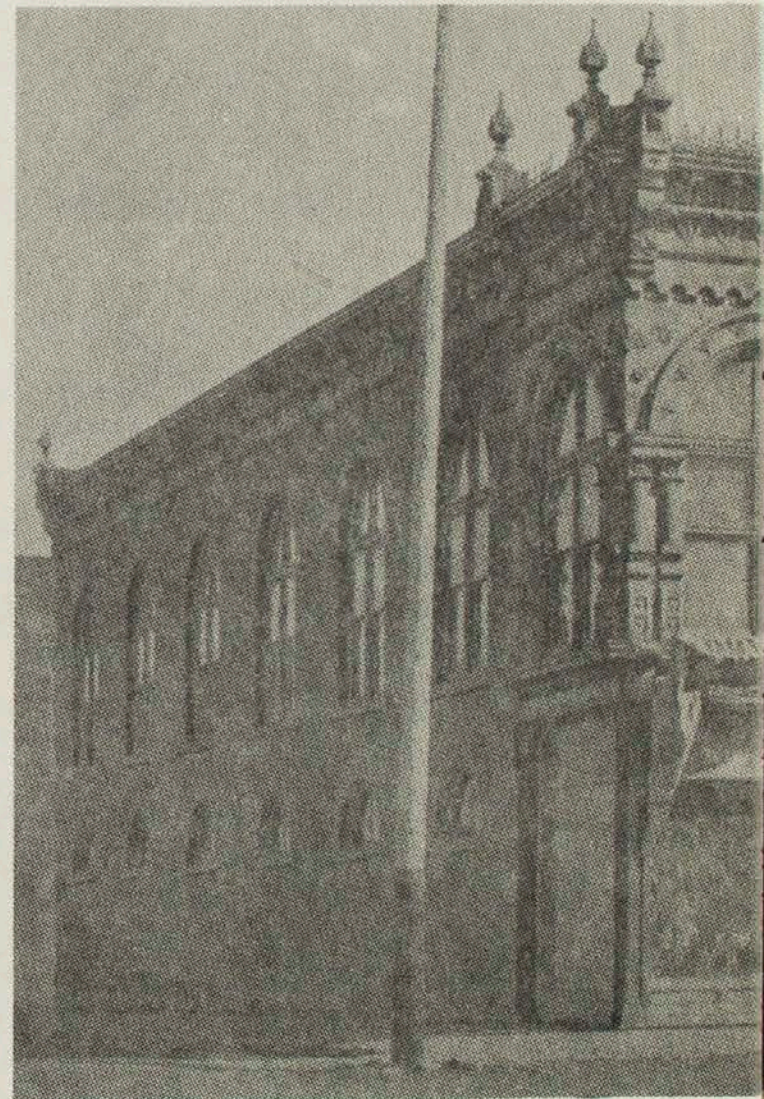
This view of the circuit courtroom shows the elaborate judge's bench made of golden oak. The courtroom has an organized division of space, with a balustrade spindle dividing the audience from the court proceedings.



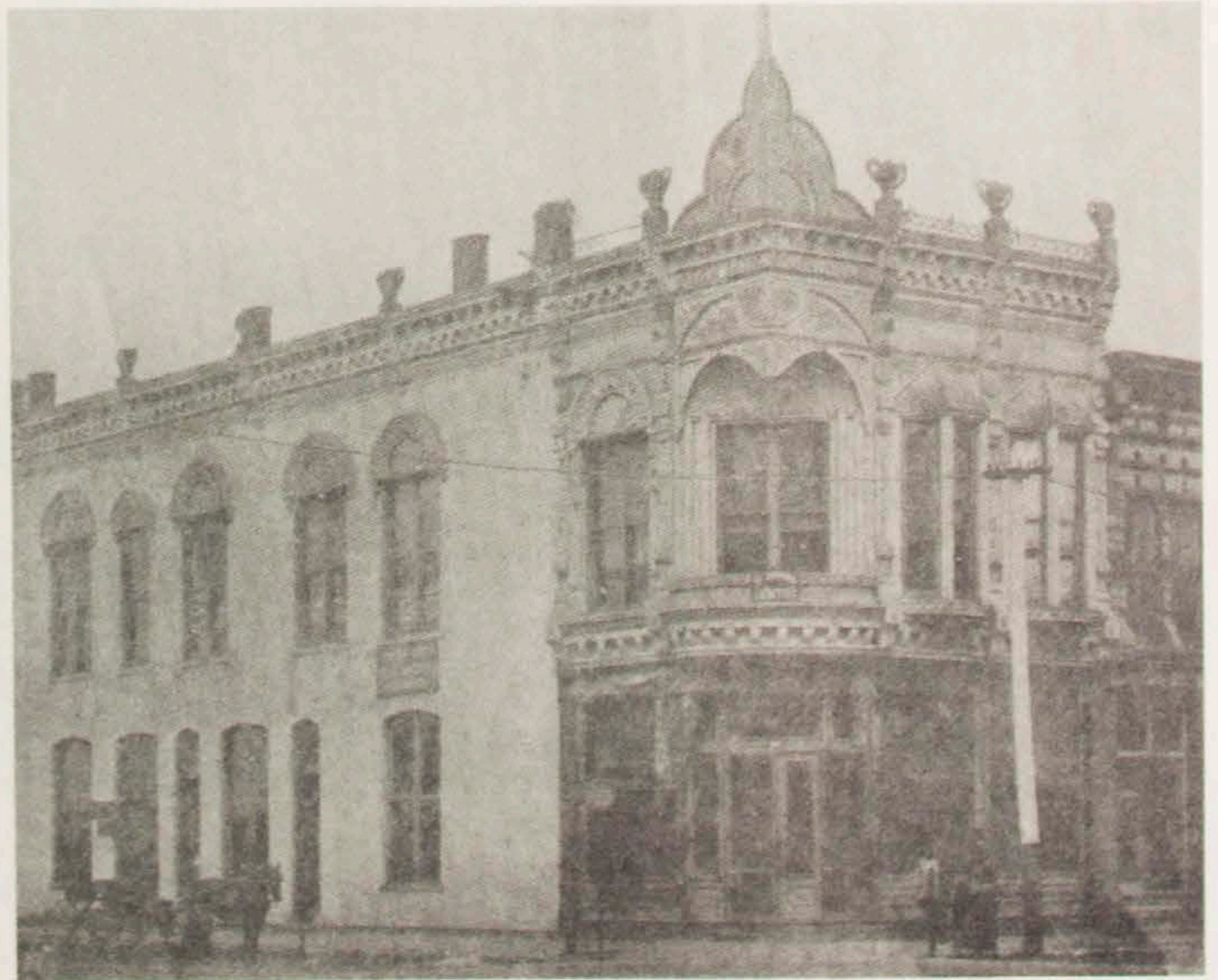
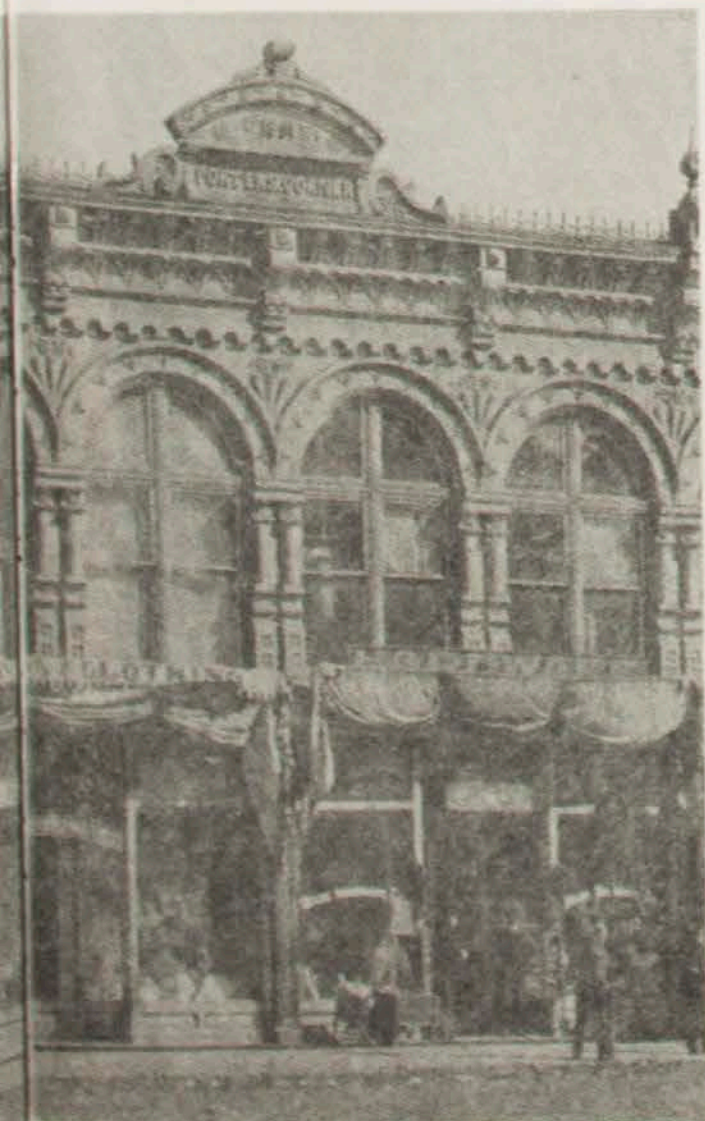
Top: This view shows one of the bosses found on the base of the tower. The faces give an interesting and grotesque relief to the courthouse. Bottom: Did you know that this female head is on the third floor of the courthouse? This plaster work is painted with enamel and ties together the interior and the exterior of the building.

Scenes from the Past

The square, located in the center of downtown Kirksville, continues to provide townspeople with a variety of merchants. Pictured to the right is the west side of the square in the early 1900's. This picture appeared on a McKeenhan Drugs' postcard. The far right pictures the northeast corner of the square where the Baxter-Miller apartments are today. It was known as the post office block and owned by the Kirksville Real Estate Company. Pictured below is the southwest corner of the square, the Updyke block. This section was occupied by Harp's Drug Store, the Bee Hive Saloon and the Ben A. Taylor Cigar Manufacturer. Minn's Tea House and Western Auto are there today. The next picture, of John L. Porter's corner, was on the northwest where R & R Western Wear and the Chariton Book Store are today. The dry goods store, Lowenstein and Marks, and the Helme Hardware Company are shown. To the far right is the National Bank on the southeast corner of the square, which today is Pagliai's. These pictures appeared in *Picturesque Kirksville, Souvenir Gems of 1900 as Seen Through the Camera*.



Photos courtesy of Adair County Historical Society



WE WOULD JUST LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU

It was the year 1950. The small town of Kirksville had doubled in population since 1900. Kirksville was growing and a new water supply was needed. Since the amount of water supplied by the Chariton River was inadequate for the prospering community, the idea of a reservoir came into being. After a survey of the Adair County region, it was decided that Big Creek, a tributary of the Chariton River located two and one-half miles southwest of Kirksville, offered the best possibility for a reservoir site.

The project of Forrest Lake, named after Missouri Governor Forrest Smith, was complicated. One problem during this period of surveying and planning was that Kirksville needed and was building a new disposal plant. With all of the city's available funds tied up in this endeavor, Kirksville had no funds to start the reservoir operation. In Jefferson City, Missouri, about this time legislators passed an act enabling

An overview of Thousand Hills State Park which was dedicated in 1952. This land offers wildlife areas, camping and picnic grounds, cabins, boat docks, and a beach. (Photo courtesy of Gary Fisher)



(Photo courtesy of Pickler Library at NMSU)



cities to issue revenue bonds to raise additional money. This enabling act looked like a good way to obtain funds for the new reservoir.

During this time Mayor Pete Anesi and the councilmen of Kirksville embarked on a campaign to interest the people of the community in their plan for a reservoir and began to push for a bond issue. The entire plan might have died, except that local civic clubs such as the Jaycees, Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis, and the Chamber of Commerce worked very hard to convince the community. Their hard work paid off when the bond issue passed on the first ballot with an overwhelming 90 percent of the voters backing the new reservoir.

What the voters did not know was that they were not only backing a new water supply but a place of historical significance, a scenic wonder, a flowing spring, a geological formation, and a recreational area. Forrest Lake can even boast of Indian petroglyphs dating from the year 900 A.D.

The fall of 1950 saw the initial work begin, though it wasn't until the spring of 1951 that construction really got underway. Based upon the average rainfall per year in Kirksville, it was estimated that one full year of rainfall would be needed to fill the lake with water. One rainy August night in 1952, an



Top: Today, Thousand Hills State Park consists of over 3,000 acres. Coal mines, a spring and an apple orchard, which made up most of the natural surroundings, were covered by water. Left: Members of the construction crew take time out. With the help of modern equipment, the clearing of the land was an easier job. (Photos courtesy of Gary Fisher)



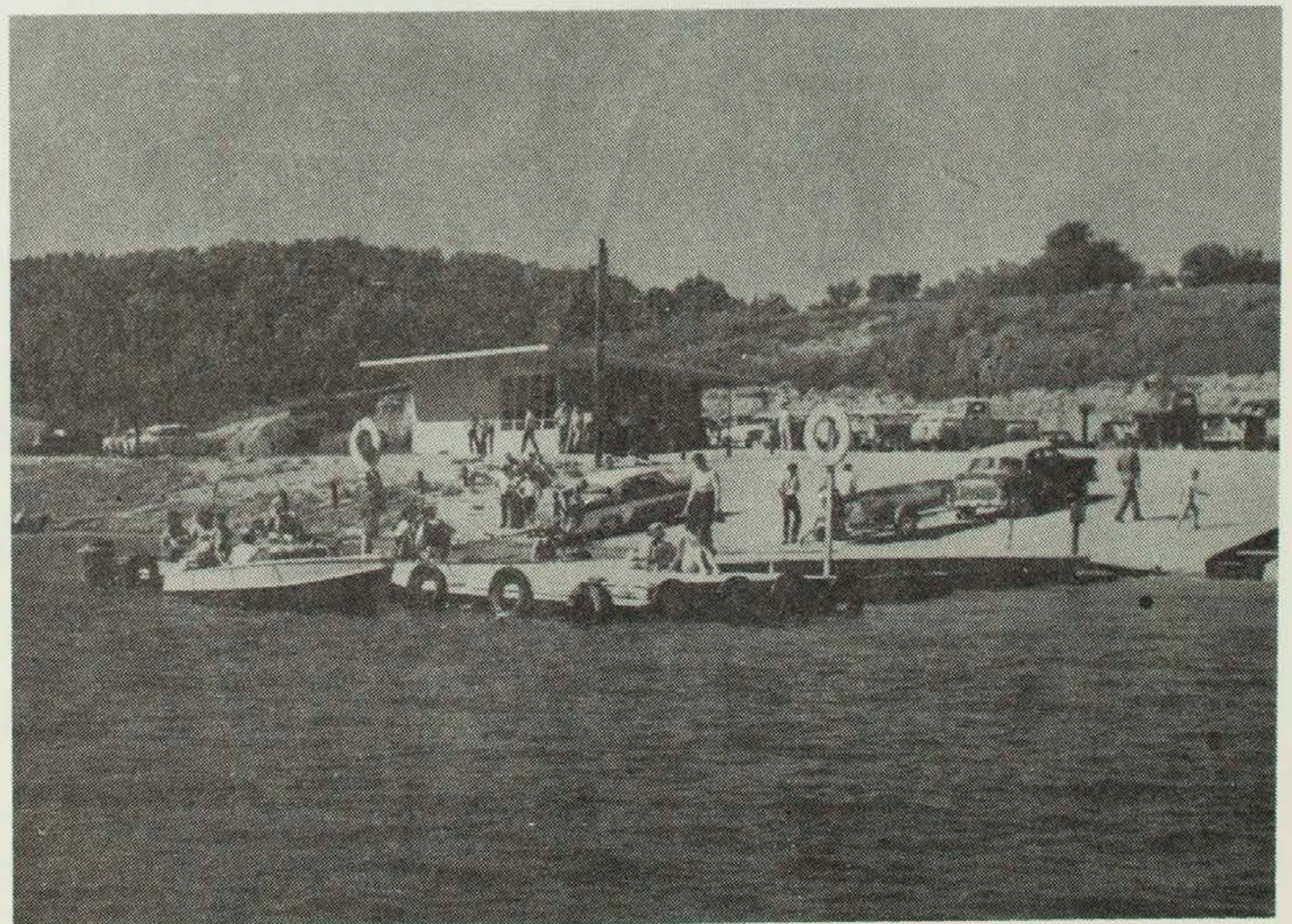
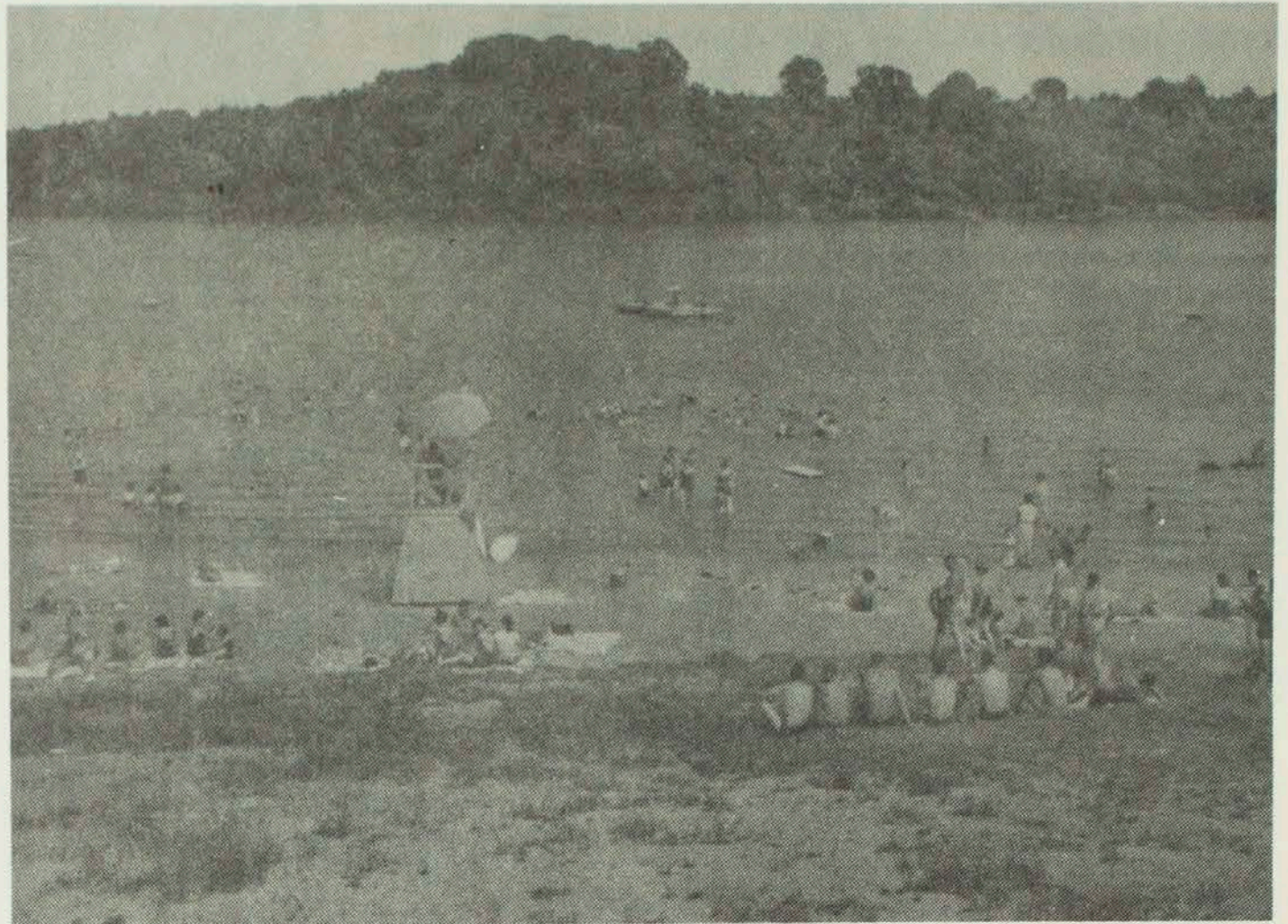
By Chris Sieren David Snyder

eight-inch downpour fell and Forrest Lake was born. "Shocking" was the description of Mrs. J. S. Denslow as she stepped outside to view the large body of water in the morning sun. The 700-acre project was complete!

There was a definite need for a recreational area in our part of the state. Long-range plans had, in fact, called for such a

project in the northeast region as soon as funds permitted. A Kirksville citizen, W. O. Mackie, aided in fulfilling this idea. The State Park Board listened to Mr. Mackie and began a study of the matter. The State Park Board accepted the lands already acquired by the city of Kirksville and developed them into a state park. The city of Kirksville turned over the 2,667 acres of land, including the 700-acre impoundment of water, for administration by the State Board. It had cost the city \$631,000; it cost the state of Missouri not even one cent. Since the lake was funded by a bond issue, the city of Kirksville could not turn it over to the state. Today Kirksville technically still owns the water.

Top: In the late 1950's, the swimming beach at Thousand Hills Lake was a popular summer hang-out. Bottom: Thousand Hills boat docks were constructed in the early 1950's. The docks serve as an outlet to the water and a prime fishing spot. (Photos courtesy of Pickler Library at NMSU)



PURE AIR, MISSOURI

According to the story, on a hot, sultry day in the late 1800's, "Granny" Johnson, who managed the General Store, had been down in the gullies to get her cows. As she walked up from the pastures below, she could be heard saying that it sure was good to be back in pure air again! This supposedly is how Pure Air, Missouri, received its name.

The Pure Air community is located approximately 18 miles southwest of Kirksville. The town came into existence in the late 1800's on land donated by Francis Miller. Pure Air had two roads, the main road running from east to west, the other diagonally southwest. When Pure Air was a flourishing community it consisted of a church, a general store, a drug store, a blacksmith and a sawmill. Early citizens remember that Samuel Vice's General Store was situated in the area where these two streets intersected.

Prior to 1905, the Union Church was located east of the General Store. A more adequate facility was needed and in 1906 a new church was built across the road, where it stands today. Construction costs were greater than the townspeople anticipated. The Methodist Church agreed to pay the one hundred dollars to complete the building, if the church building was deeded to them. As a result, it was operated as a Methodist Church until the early 1940's.

Another building remembered by the residents was the pool hall. It was housed in a log cabin owned originally by Johnny Bozarth and was located across from the Union Church. Mr. Dan Swisher bought the pool hall in 1900 and moved the equipment across the road just west of the General Store. The log cabin was then used for an ice house for a few years. It was torn down before the building of the Methodist Church in 1906.

Charlie Dixon operated a drug store which was located between the General Store and the pool hall. It went out of business in the early 1900's. A short distance southeast of the main row of stores was a harness shop. Fritz Vice was the owner and area farmers depended on him for new harness and gear; he also did repair work. Mr. Bill Ziegler later purchased the harness shop and operated it for several years.

Bob Severe owned and operated a sawmill just west of the business area. As

the only sawmill operator, Mr. Severe did a thriving business in the community.

Near the sawmill, Mr. Jesse Kriner owned a dry goods store, supplying the families with clothes and shoes. The dry goods store went out of business before 1920. Mr. Kriner also owned the blacksmith shop, which Grover Yowell later owned until there no longer was a need for a blacksmith.

"Billy" Williams and his son-in-law, Bill Daniels, operated a small general store a short distance north of the sawmill. Mr. Daniels bought Mr. Williams' share and continued to run it for about two years before going out of business.

Just after the turn of the century, medicine shows were common in the Pure Air area. The members of the company presented magic acts, plays, and animal acts. One of the medicine shows brought back humorous memories for Mr. Glen Jones. "I remember one time when I was a young boy, my family went to one of these medicine shows. There was a big tent set up, and this fellow had some children ride his mules, and then offered any adult ten dollars if they could ride one. Several people attempted, but none succeeded." How were the citizens of Pure Air to know that the mules were trained!

Doctor W. E. "Ed" Munn was the only doctor in the Pure



The General Store of Pure Air in the late 1800's.

Air area in the early 1900's. He and his family lived a short distance east of the Union Church. In 1910 Doctor Munn and his family built his home, that included his medical office, just south of the business area. From this office he served the area for 45 years.

In the early 1920's, square dances with the music provided by local talent were held on an outdoor platform east of the Methodist Church. Mr. Ray Sanford, guitarist, and Mr. Buddy Bozarth, fiddler, were among the many musicians who could be heard on Saturday night. Many young people had their first square dancing lessons on this platform. The older persons enjoyed listening to the music, watching the dancers, and visiting. Others danced until the fiddler played "Home Sweet Home." These dances continued off and on until the mid-1930's.

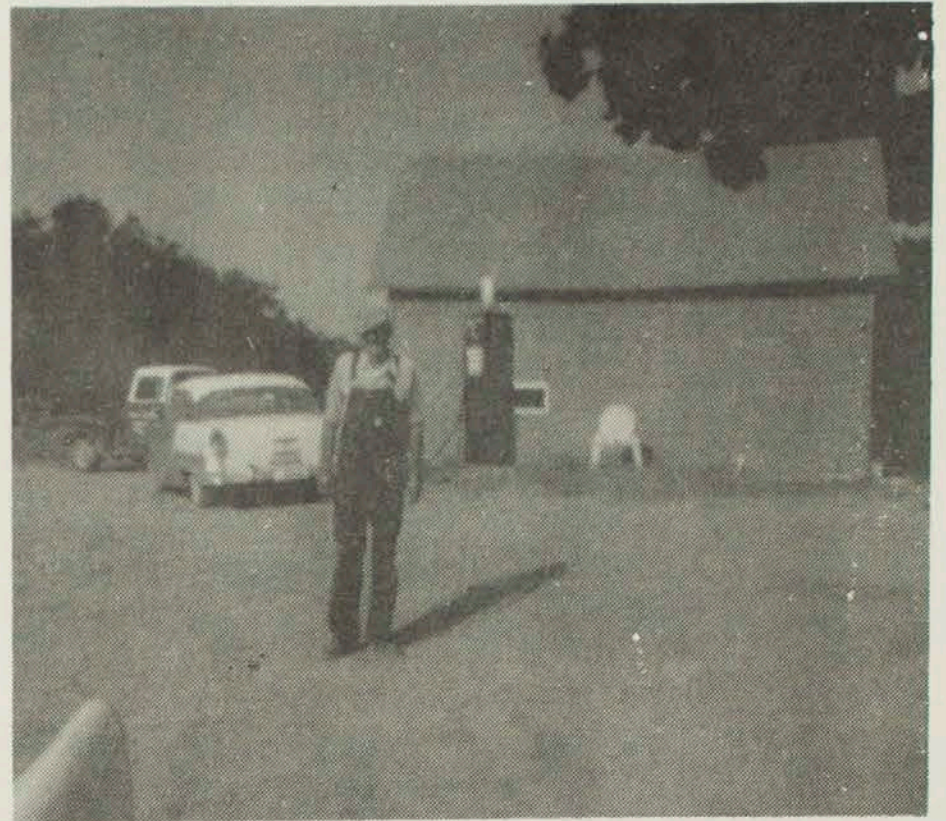
One of the holidays celebrated in the Pure Air community

Below: Laura Daniels saws down an abandoned telephone pole to help clear the land for the church while Max Dimit and Vernie Jones brace the pole. The feed house can be seen in the background.

was the Fourth of July. "Billy" Daniels remembers the Fourth as being celebrated with an all-day picnic south of the business area. One of the highlights of the day was the shooting off of a pile of gun powder. It was placed on the blacksmith's anvil. A strong arm wielded the hammer and the resulting explosion could be heard for many miles. For the children, there was a merry-go-round, which cost five cents a ride. The merry-go-round was pulled by hand, but sometimes a mule was available to supply the power needed. Merchants would set up booths to sell refreshments of lemonade, peanuts, popcorn, and ice cream. Mr. Jesse Yowell, one of the first participants, also made sure that fireworks were there to be enjoyed by the entire community. The evening of the Fourth was topped off with a dance, the platform being left to be reused for dances held later during the summer months.

In 1907, Jesse and Eva Yowell and James and Nellie Yowell bought the General Store. A few years later, Jesse Yowell bought his brother's share. Jesse and Eva Yowell con-

Below: Mr. Grover Jones shown in front of his service station in the early 1950's.



The community chipped in to help clear land for the church in 1952. Pictured (l to r): Loretta Ellsworth, Laura Daniels, Evalea Shafer, Jim Daniels, Reverend John Fox, Ross Athon, and Leslie Ellsworth.



tinued to operate the General Store for many years. In 1927 they sold a section of land just east of the General Store, where the harness shop had stood, to the Farmers' Exchange of Novinger. The Exchange erected a tile building to operate a branch office for the area. They served the area for about eight to ten years.

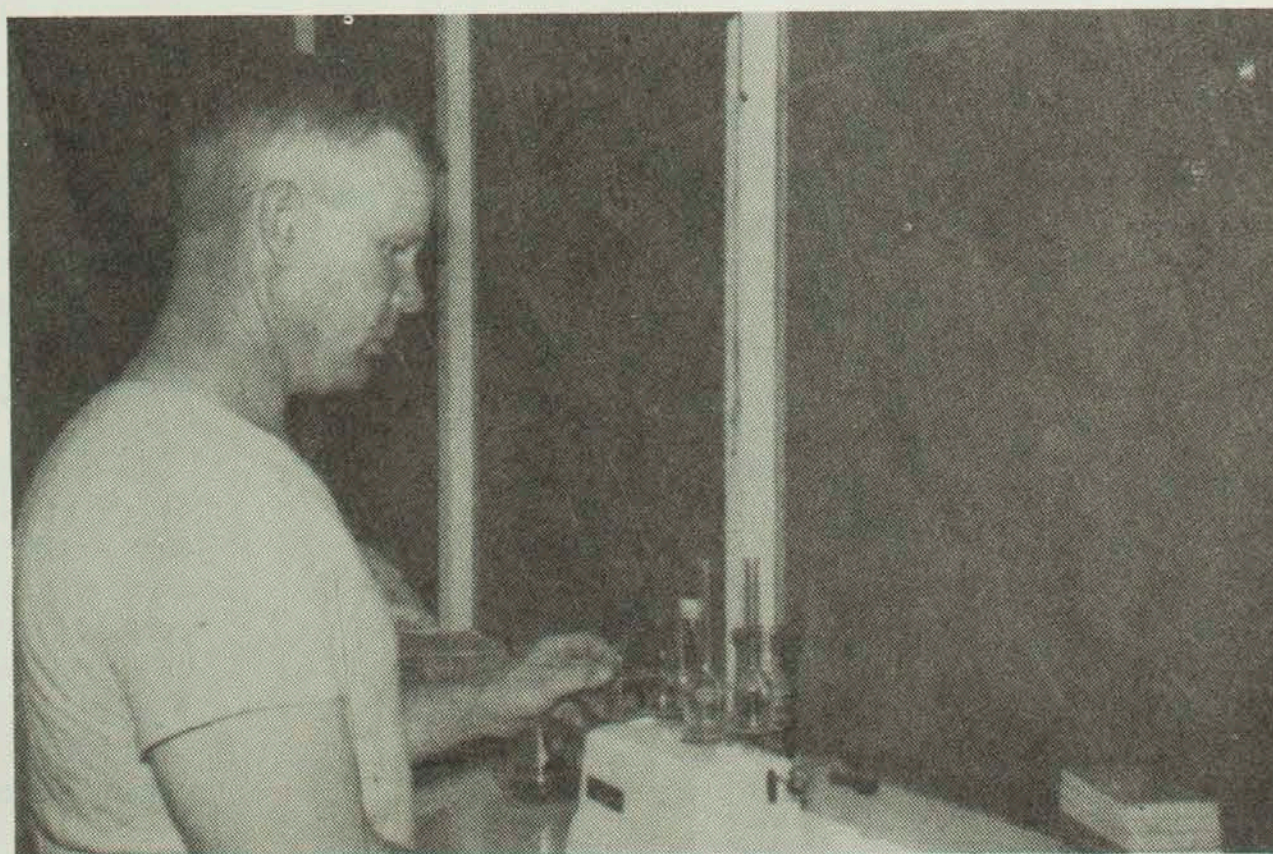
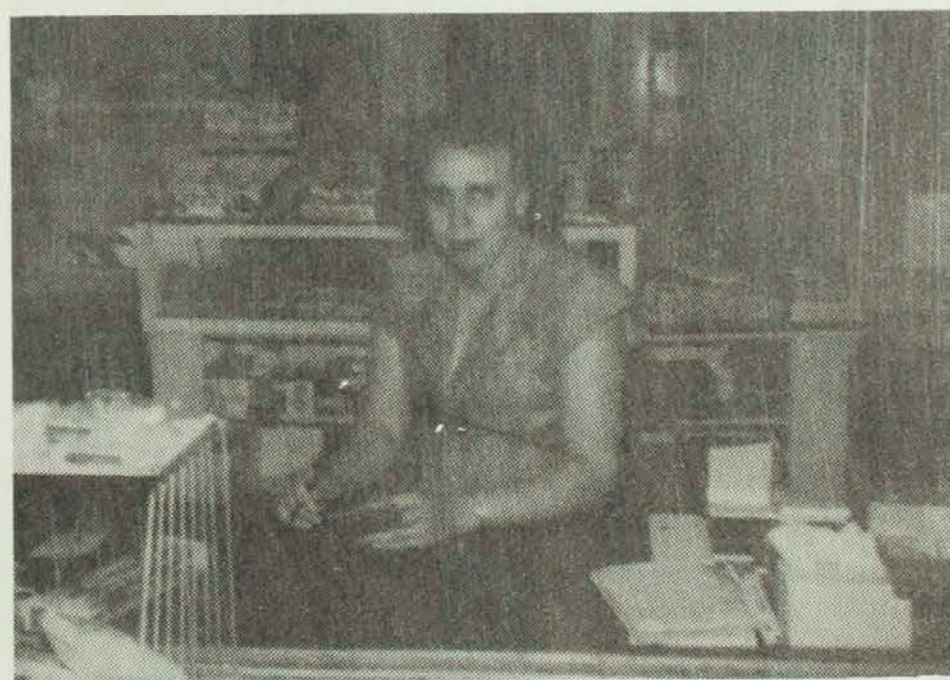
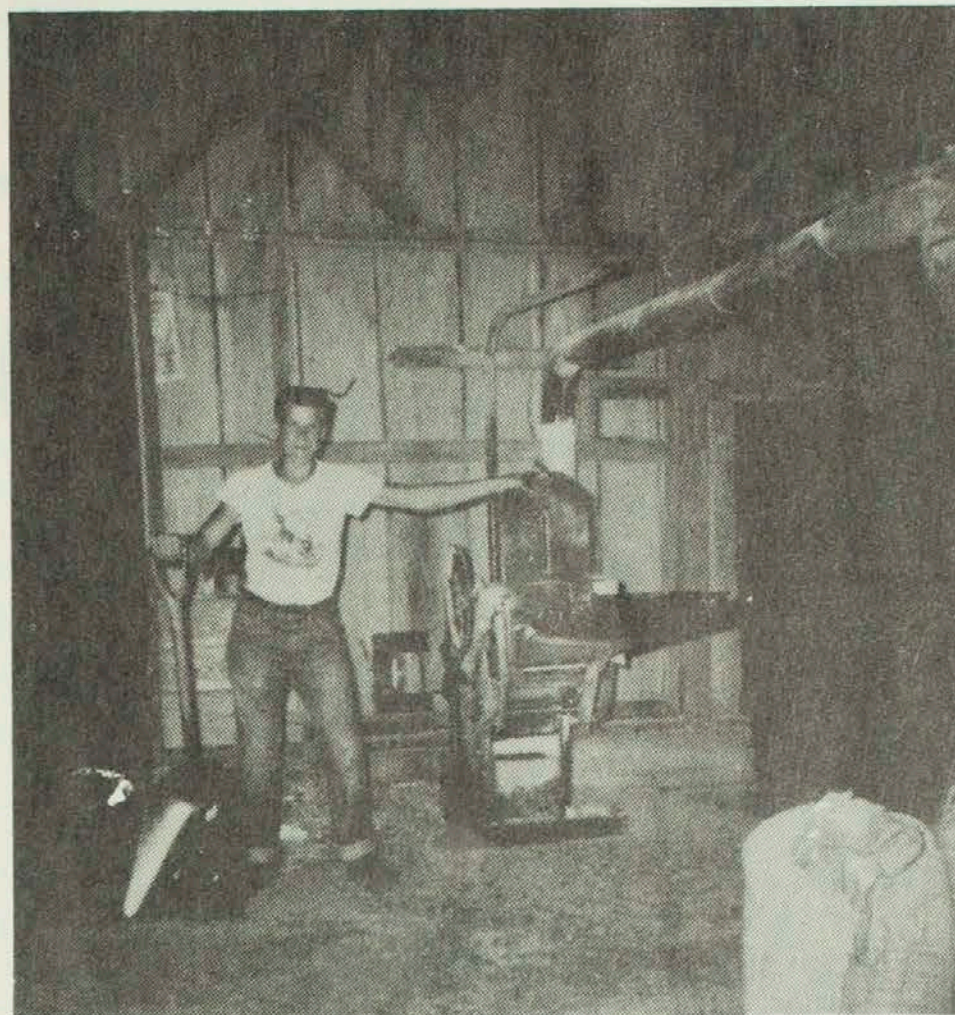
The Farmers' Exchange discontinued the service of the branch office because people no longer needed their services. Milk routes were established to transport their livestock and poultry to market. Later, the buildings and land were sold back to Mrs. Eva Yowell. Jesse, her husband, died of typhoid fever in 1933.

As cars became more common in Pure Air, a service station was needed. Mr. Grover Jones and his cousin, Clyde Jones, opened a garage west of Pure Air. A few years later, Grover Jones opened his own garage just east of the Methodist Church, operating it from 1934-1936. In 1936, he bought the area of land just east of the first station and moved his family and garage to the new location. Mr. Jones then added gas pumps and continued to operate it until 1950 when he accepted a job as chief mechanic with the Novinger School District to service the buses.

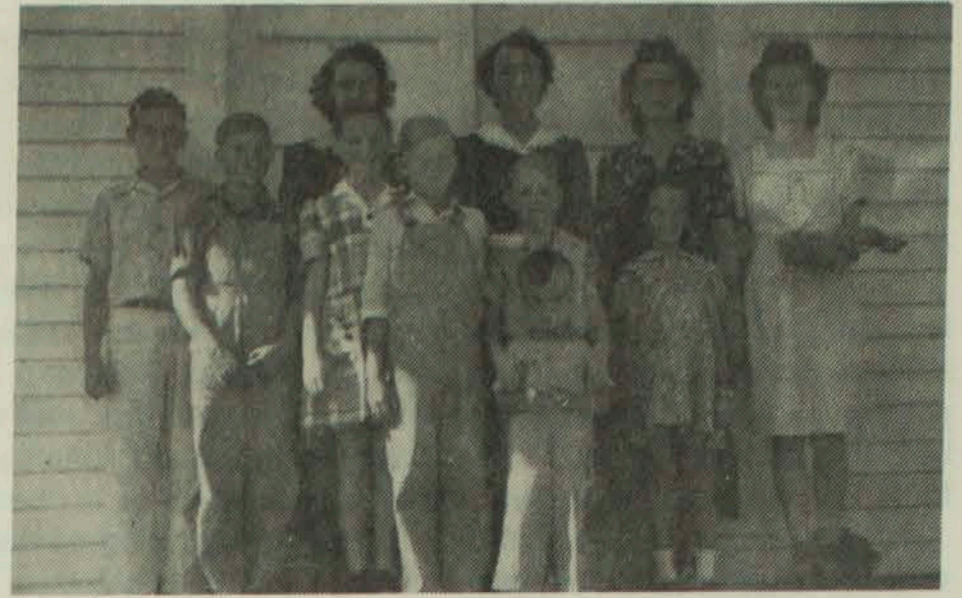
From 1940 to 1941, John H. and Geneva McVay ran the General Store owned by Mrs. Jesse Yowell. From 1941 to 1944, Mrs. Yowell, with the help of Oscar Thomas, operated the store. Due to poor health, Mrs. Yowell closed the store from 1944 to 1947 and moved to Kirksville where she lived until her death in 1949. Mr. and Mrs. Carl Howell leased the store and buildings from her in March of 1947, moving the business from the original building to the former Farmers' Exchange building. The original shelving and counters were used in the new building.

In the summer of 1947, Carl Howell erected a frame for an outdoor movie screen. Wooden benches were provided for the audience. Refreshments could be purchased at the General Store. The movie projector and films were brought to Pure Air by Mr. Odis Williams from Kirksville on Thursday nights. Some of the movies shown were *Ma and Pa Kettle Back on the Farm* and *Tarzan*. The show started with a cartoon and several minutes of a continuing serial, usually just segments of a movie, before the feature film started. The movie was followed by previews of upcoming attractions. The price to see a movie was only ten cents for children and a quarter for adults. Thursday night movies were discontinued in 1954 because Mr. Williams quit coming to Pure Air due to low attendance. Television had taken the audience from the movies.

Mr. John H. McVay purchased the General Store and building in March, 1950, from the Yowell estate. He settled his wife, Geneva, and two children, Mary Kathryn and Johnny, into the house shortly after. Soon after taking over the store, they remodeled the inside of the main building. A new look was achieved when knotty pine



Top: Johnny McVay is working with the grain bin and helped with the making of his own feed "Dairy Feed." Middle: Mrs. Geneva McVay behind the counter of the General Store in 1954. Bottom: John 'Jack' McVay, who was owner of the General Store, is shown in the creamery, testing some cream.



Above: The Jones family made up a large part of the Bible school in 1945. Back row (l to r): Bill Jones, Dorothy (Sanford) Hall, Orpha Jones, Margie (Jones) Sanford, Maxine (Jones) Golden. Front row (l to r): Gerald Jones, Gwen (Jones) Athon, Jewell Jones, Kermitt Jones, Tommy Jones, and Elaine Jones.



Top: The outdoor movie seats where many have enjoyed a good show. Pictured (left to right) are: Mary Ruth McVay, Mary K. McVay, Johnny McVay, Wilma McVay, Bob McVay, Betty McVay, Geneva McVay and Francis McVay. In the background is the feed house; it stands on the foundation of the original General Store. The gasoline motor that ran the hammer mill is next to the building. Bottom: The Pure Air baseball team, back row (l to r) are: Carol Burchett, Harold Hill, Dee Daniels, Howard Snyder, Ivan Daniels, and Kermit Jones. Front row (l to r): Larry Jones, Donald Athon, Duane Jones, Asa Athon, and Johnny Shoop. Kneeling in front is 'Jack' McVay, coach.

In the early 1950's, John H. McVay started and coached the Pure Air baseball team, more commonly referred to as the Hog Creek team. The baseball team, consisting of ten regular players, played many surrounding towns such as Nind, Green Castle, the Ralph Banner team of Kirksville, and the Yarrow team. Baseball games were a popular social event of the community.

In 1958, Mr. Kermitt Jones gave Mary Kathryn McVay a puppy, which was the runt of the litter. He became known as Yogi. Yogi grew up at the General Store. He acquired a taste for candy bars and Pepsi, which he drank out of the bottle, and he became a favorite of the customers for his unusual behavior.

Reverend Ralph M. G. Smith was interested in involving the rural areas in religious education. The church at Pure Air had stood empty for several years. In the summer of 1945 the first Baptist Church of Kirksville held a Vacation Bible School at the Methodist Church. Reverend Smith, with the help of some members of the Kirksville church, conducted a Bible study. From 1945 to 1954 the church operated as a Baptist mission. In 1952 the church was remodeled and a basement added. In 1954 the community bought the church and land and continued to operate as a Baptist Church with the Reverend John Fox as the first Baptist minister. In 1964 a new church was built adjoining the old. Reverend Clyde Enyeart was the minister at that time. The current pastor is Don Noble.

The Golden Rule school house was purchased by the Pure Air community in the late 1950's and turned into a community building. Many gathered there on Friday nights and played cards. Pitch and pinochle were the most popular games.

Dances were another favorite pastime in Pure Air. Many enjoyed going to the indoor dances held at the school house. They danced to live music played by three or more persons.

The General Store was leased to James and Ivan Daniels in 1960. They kept the store open for six to eight months. It was then closed, never to be open for business again, because the dwindling population no longer made it a money-making proposition. The buildings and land were sold a few years later to the Pinkerton family. The General Store has been empty for 20 years.

Pure Air today, which consists only of the church, is just a peaceful farming community—a faded reminiscence of the past.

paneling was installed. A feed house and grinding mill were built on the foundation of the original row of stores.

Mr. McVay also had a trucking business. During the winter he usually hauled coal and in the spring he hauled cattle and corn to market. Mr. McVay purchased feed wholesale from Davis Cleaver of Kirksville to resell. He also mixed it with grain that he had ground in his mill. This he bagged himself to sell as his own brand, "Dairy Feed." A cream testing room was set up in the corner of the store. Cream and eggs were purchased from the farmers, who in turn purchased groceries and feed from the McVays. Wool and poultry were also bought in season. About this time a gasoline pump was added for the convenience of their customers. When the pump was added, gasoline sold for 18 cents a gallon. Truly, the general store operator was a versatile person!

**By Tina Campbell
Molly Upton
Kelley Moots**

A HOME NOT FORGOTTEN

In the 1840's Mrs. Josephine Nihiser's great-grandfather, Zephiniah Atteberry, built his homestead just west of LaPlata, Missouri. The home has been recently torn down by Mike Ferrel, who plans to rebuild the house just west of Kirksville.

"I felt a little sad to hear that my old house was being moved away from where it was built, and had stood for so many years. I keep reminding myself that things never remain the same. I am glad it is being preserved, and would like to see it when it is finished," Mrs. Nihiser, a life-long resident of LaPlata, wrote to a relative about her childhood home. The house was built by her grandfather, Zephiniah Ellis Atteberry, before the Civil War. Mr. Atteberry purchased 640 acres of land for five dollars per acre. He chose the location because the land was fairly cleared, close to water, and suitable for farming.

Zephiniah Atteberry came to Missouri in the 1840's from Barren County, Kentucky. He built the house with hand-cut

logs and wooden nails. In viewing the home for our story, we saw how large the logs were. One could barely put his arms around them. Each log was approximately 12 inches by 24 inches by 12 to 14 feet long and very heavy to lift. The house was sturdy and built to last. Mrs. Nihiser explained, "While relatives were visiting, a bad storm began brewing. They were trying to find a place to get shelter from the storm, but the storm came too fast so they decided to wait out the storm at the old house, and through the whole storm, the house never shook once."

The original house had four rooms: two bedrooms upstairs, a kitchen and dining room downstairs. Mrs. Nihiser described, "In the dining room there was a place where the logs were cut out and a medicine cabinet placed into the wall." In those days the beds were made of straw ticks covered with a

After the siding was removed, you could see the original structure built by Zephiniah Attebery in the 1840's.

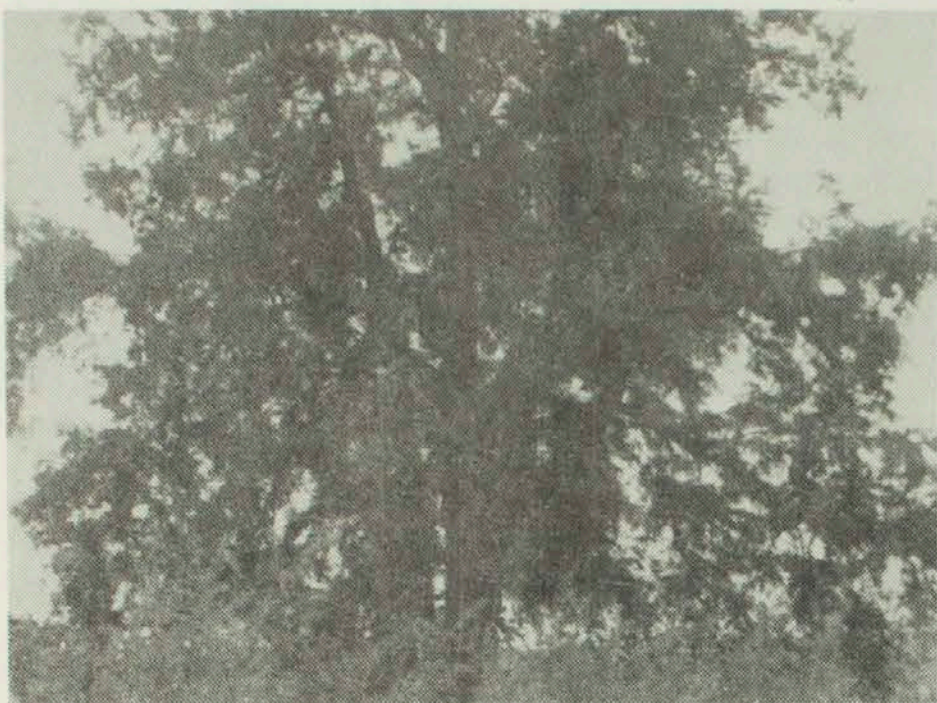


feather mattress. There was an open porch across the back of the house, which was later closed in with a frame and made into three rooms: a bedroom, kitchen, and a dining room. About ten years after the Civil War, siding was added to the house which gave it a more "modern" look.

There was a closet in the back stairwell in which Mr. Atteberry hid his money in a fruit jar. "When Grandpa Atteberry and his family went to church, a bunch of Confederate soldiers came into the house and turned everything topsy-turvy. They didn't find the money, but they did manage to take Grandpa's overcoat," Mrs. Nihiser said.

"I can remember as kids our excitement mainly consisted of playing ball, can't remember the exact name of the game, but it had two bases and you had to hit the ball and then run to one base and back again to score," recalled Mrs. Nihiser. She added, "We had to walk over a mile and half to get to school. The schools were three miles apart. Schools didn't have the classes we do now either; the main objective in school was

By Paul Attebery Todd Johnson

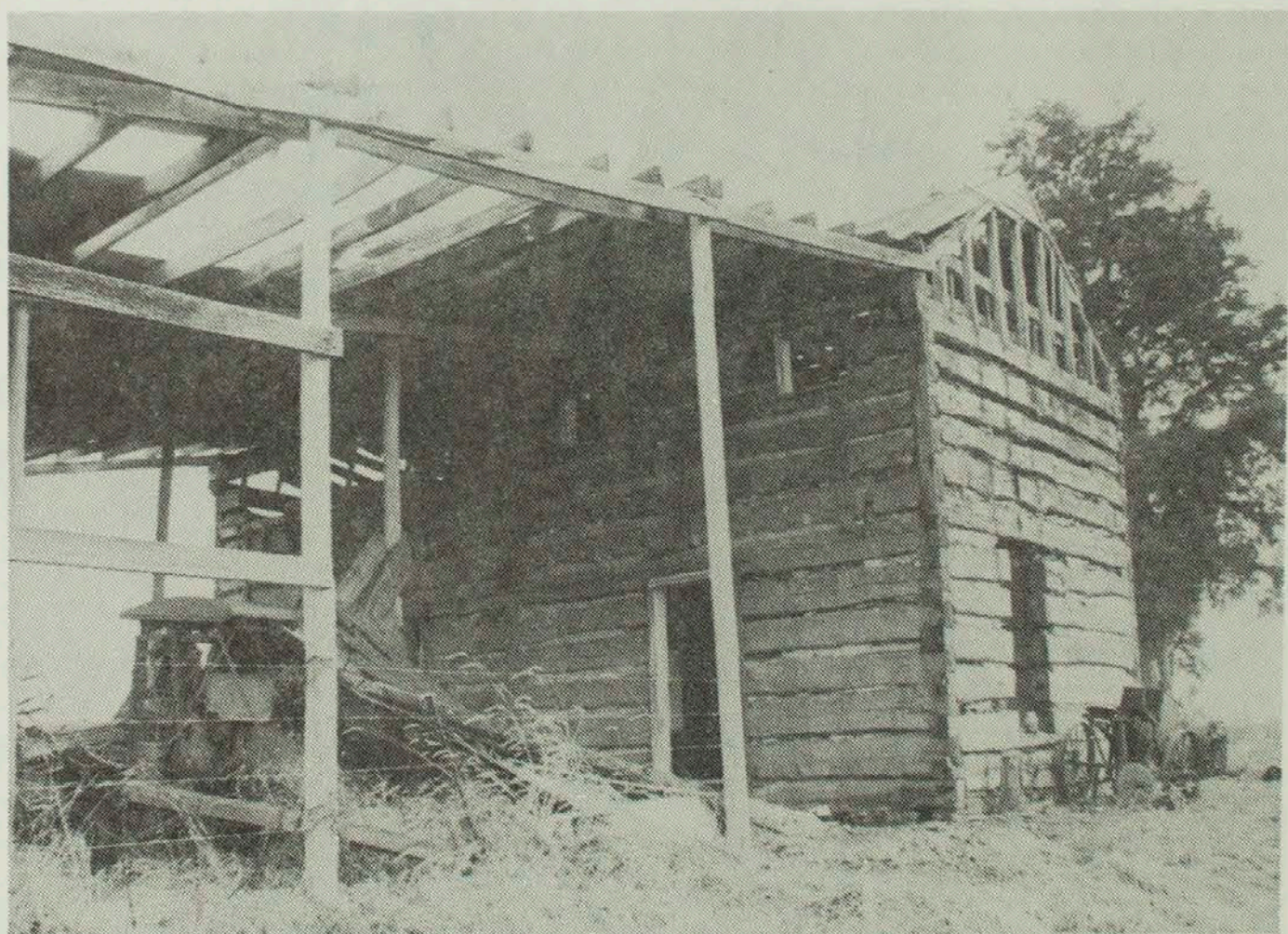


This cedar tree was planted by Zephiniah Atteberry in the 1840's.



Zephiniah Atteberry, who built the house, and his wife Eliza Jane.

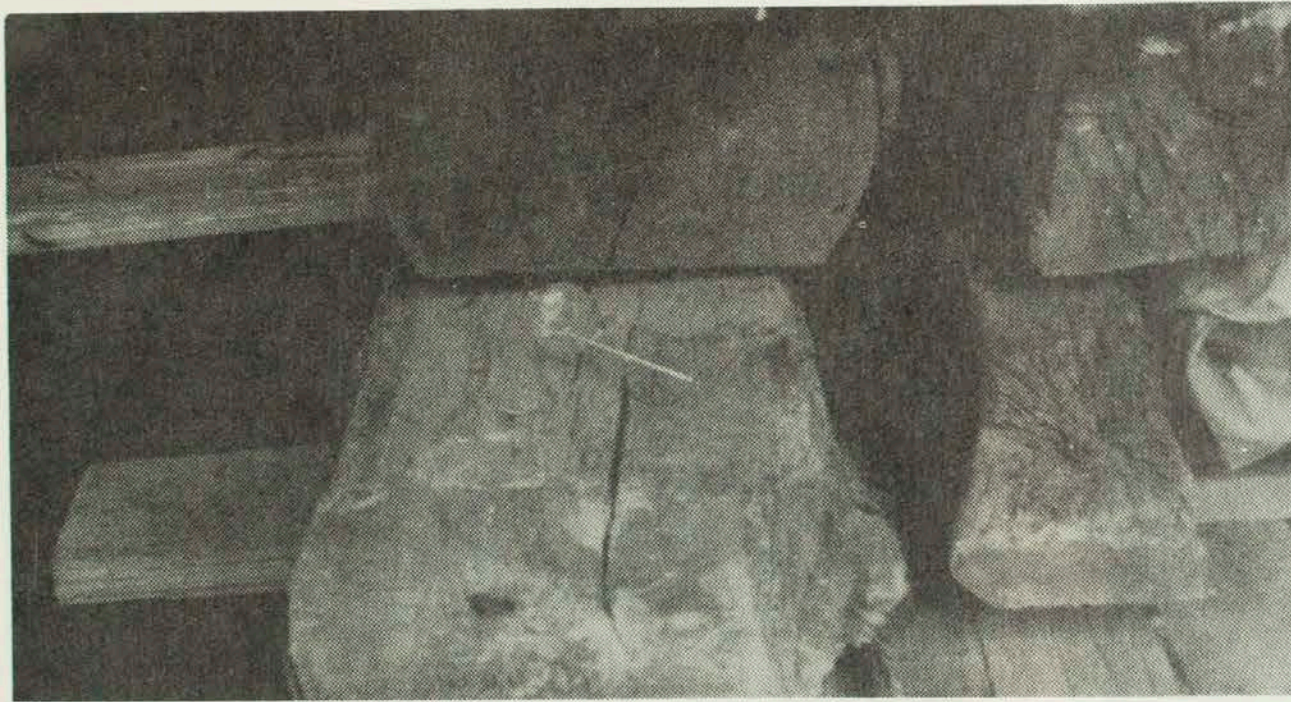
Right: A back view of the original structure built by Zephiniah Atteberry.





to learn the ABC's and how to count. When children were bad, they didn't stand in the corner or stay in after class, they got a good whippin' from the school master. I can also remember paying ten cents for a loaf of bread, and every now and again going to a movie for a dime."

The Atteberry family planted white pine trees and a spruce tree on the west side of the house. In the southeast corner they planted two Scotch pines, but most of the trees died during the dry years from 1934 to 1936; however, one cedar tree stands today. There was a rose bush planted in front of the parlor door by Mrs. Nihiser's great-grandmother over 100 years ago. Before the house was torn down, Gary Nihiser, Mrs. Nihiser's son, moved part of the bush to his home in Exline, Missouri, and the remainder to Mrs. Nihiser's new home in Green Castle. "The rose bush was in full bloom last



Top: The hand in the picture is for comparison, showing how large the logs are. Middle: A pair of old, wire-rim glasses were found inside the house when it was disassembled by Mike Ferrel. Bottom: Mrs. Nihiser attended a one-room school in LaPlata, Missouri. She is shown (second row, sixth from the left) in this 1907 class portrait of the White School.



year," said Mrs. Nihiser.

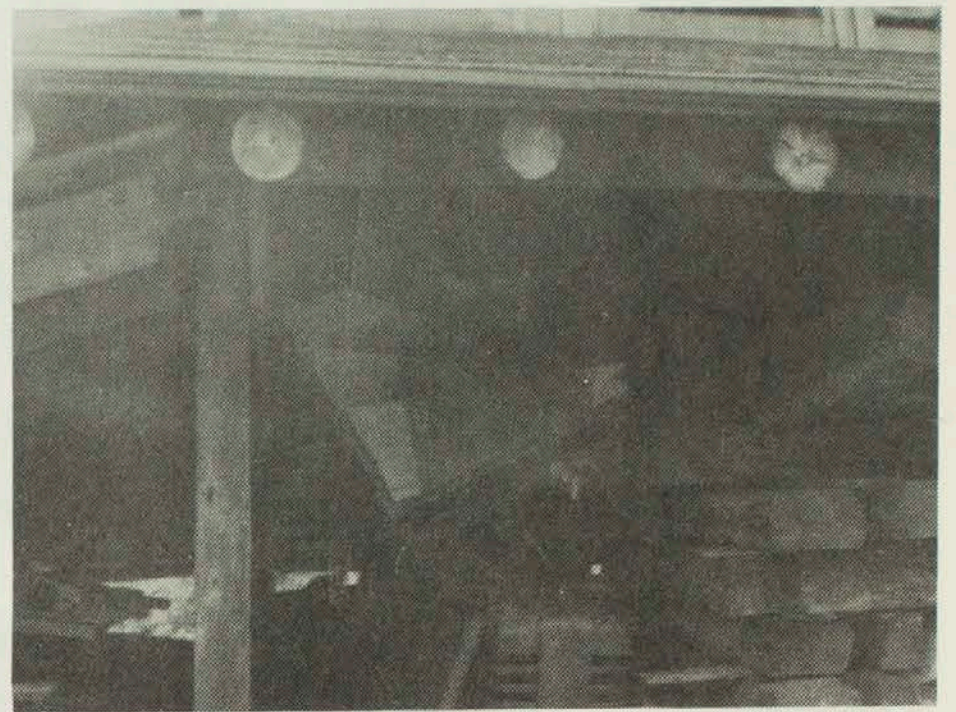
Although Mrs. Nihiser's family had lived in the house for almost 100 years, the last few years the house had been rented. Mike Ferrel of Kirksville recently purchased the home. He has disassembled the house and has plans to rebuild it. Mr. Ferrel currently has the house stored at his farm, just outside of Novinger. Each log has been numbered so the house can be rebuilt as it stood so many years before. Mrs. Nihiser's childhood home, which has gone through five generations of her family, shall be preserved and not forgotten.



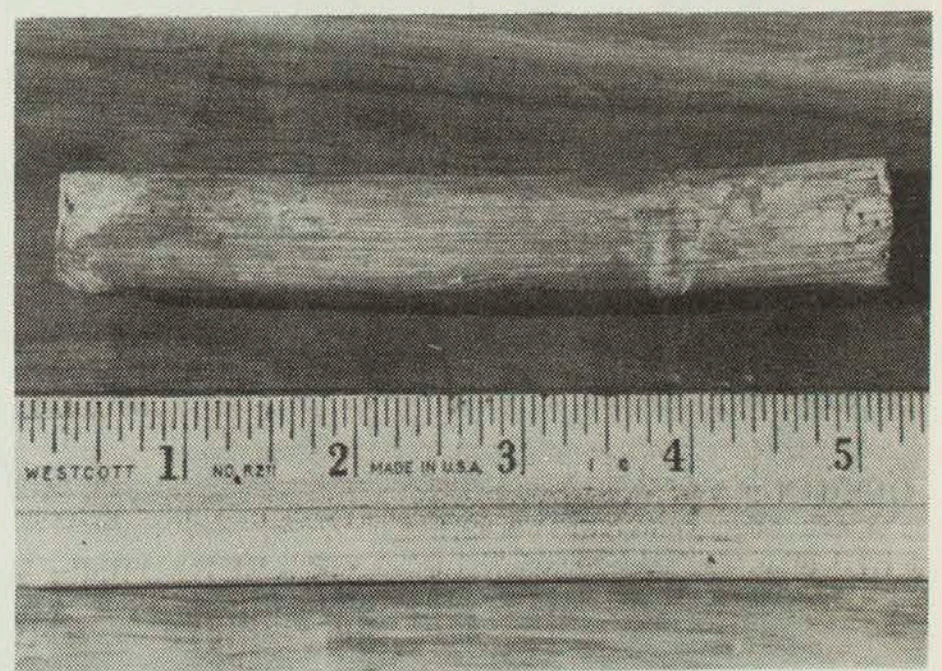
Susanna Prudence, daughter of Zephiniah Atteberry, lived in this house until she married John Plemmons at age 16.



The logs from the house are stacked in sections and numbered to aid in reconstructing the home.



The spiral staircase, resting on the logs, is one of the original stairways from the house.



This wooden nail was used in the construction of the Atteberry home.

