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THE CHARITON COLLECTOR

NORTHEAST MISSOURI
HISTORY AND FOLKLORE

Winter 1988

$2.95

THE CHARITON COLLECTOR

Kirksville Senior High School
Kirksville, Missouri

Winter, 1988

Vol. 9 No. 1 Issue 17

The Chariton Collector is published by the Missouri State History class of Kirksville Senior High School. This special class attempts to preserve the history and local folklore of Northeast Missouri.

CONTENTS

Marvin Mears harvests his sorghum cane in mid-September just as he has done since he was a small boy. Angela Briggs writes about the craft of making the cane into molasses in ''Raisin' Cane'' on page 16.

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Brian Riley

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COVER PICTURE

The summer's drought caused the fall colors to appear for only a few days in October; however, Mike Whitney was able to capture this brilliant landscape. John Phegley, Jr., owns this farm located five miles south of Kirksville on County Road 356, one-half mile east of Highway 63.

Traditional Ways in Modern Days

Seven miles northwest of Kirksville is the home of Hazel Creek Church. Although the church is almost 100 years old, its impact is still felt by the congregation and the surrounding community.

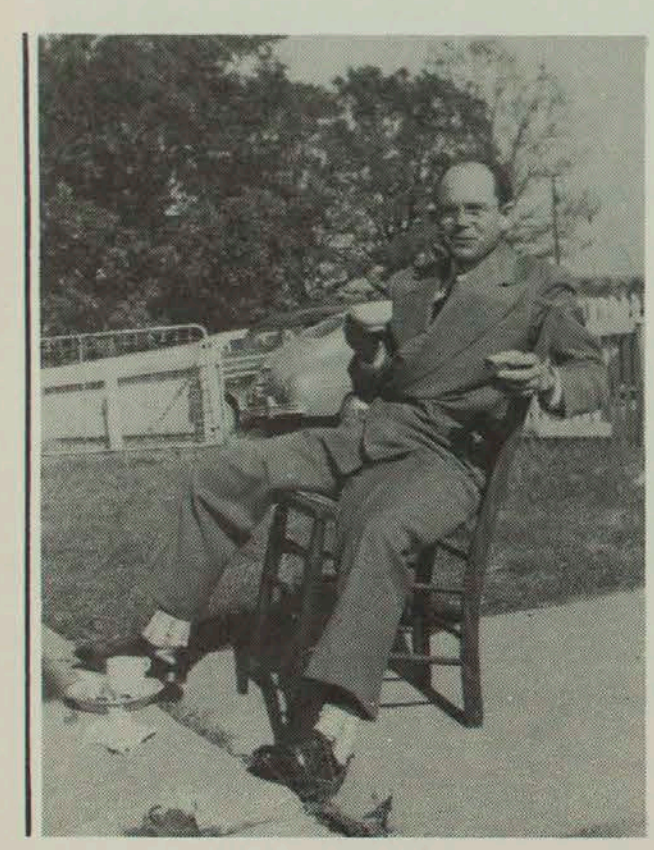
Hazel Creek Free Will Baptist Church started as Hazel Creek Union Church in January of 1896. It was located on a dirt, later rock, road off the present day Route B. The land for the building and the adjoining cemetery was deeded to the church by William and Mary Link for one dollar.

The original building was finished by December of 1896. It was built mainly by head carpenter Peter Voelker and could hold 160 people. The concrete blocks which formed the foundation of the church were handcast on the creek bank by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Filkins and Mr. and Mrs. Sid Capps. Inside, the building was heated by a coal stove located in the middle of the room and was lighted by kerosene lamps on the walls.

Soon after the church was completed, a Sunday School and the first church body were established. The first Sunday School classes were held on May 2, 1897, and the first offering was $1.86. Each of the classes was held in a different corner of the church building. On October 15, 1897, the official church body was established. The original church body was primarily Free Will Baptists, but Presbyterians and Methodists also attended.

At the beginning of the first services in the original church, the older women would go to the altar to pray before the service. It was customary for the men to sit on the north side of the church, women in the middle, and youth on the south side. This custom continued to the early 1980s. When asked about this seating arrangement, Mrs. Ethel Thompson, a long-time member of the church, said, ''Oh, we done it mostly 'til we got in the new church, I think. As a rule, now, visitors, of course, (were) liable to be anywhere.'' During the summer, when the church was full, barefoot boys could be seen peeking through the windows and doors.

The Hazel Creek Cemetery was on the land north of the church. Later, the cemetery was expanded to include the area



The Rev. Rolla Smith served at Hazel Creek from 1949 to 1952.

The original Union Church was built in 1897 and was used for 83 years.

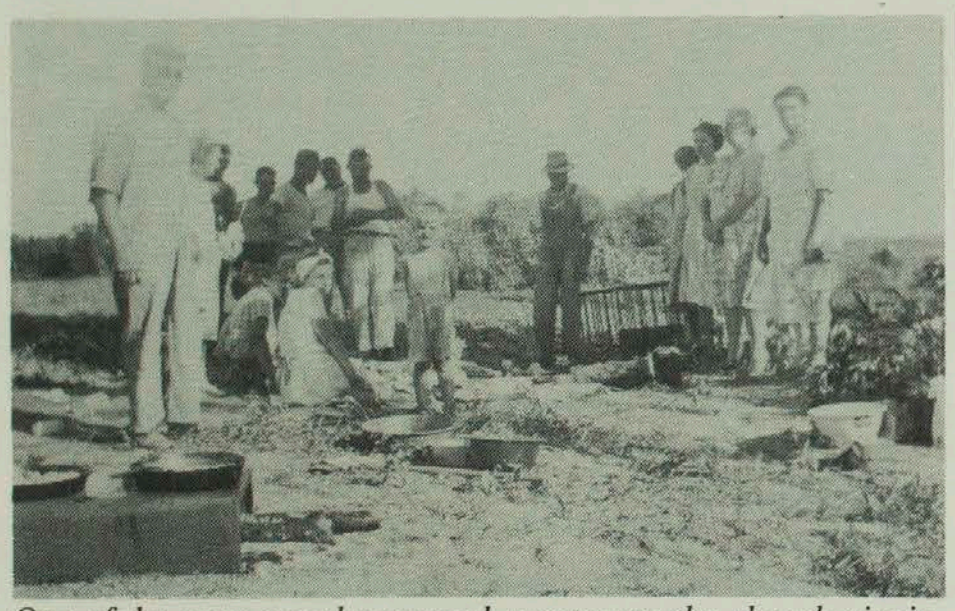
By Tonja Green and Bryan Thompson

beside the church. While the church was still being built, a man named Samuel Scott said he would be the first one buried in the cemetery. On August 14, 1896, his prediction came true.

The first parsonage, about a mile south of the original church, was the old John Natto place and contained 17 acres. The Wayne Barnhill family lives there now.

The church soon became predominantly Free Will Baptist. Although the church was still called Union, most of the trustees, deacons, and the church body were made up of Free Will Baptists. These Baptists believe that one has the free will to receive or reject God. If a believer chooses to reject God, he or she commits apostasy, and God's spirit will not strive with him anymore.

In the early years, there were 113 people on the roll, but average attendance was about 57. The roll was larger than the attendance because members' names were left on the roll until death. Even those who moved were still kept on the roll. One



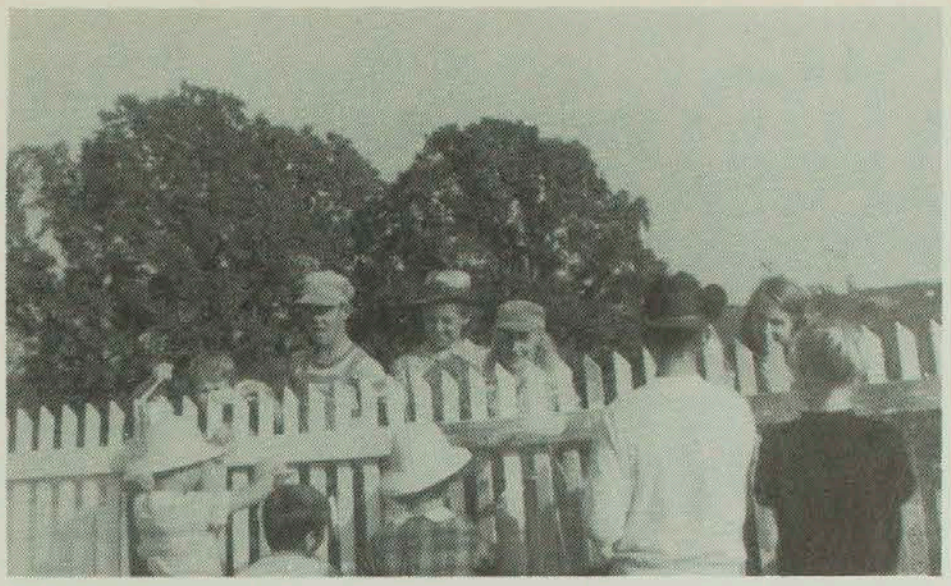
One of the most popular annual events was the church picnic, held at the river. Members caught fish and then fried them in pans on the banks.

could be taken off only by request or death. Many members of the congregation believe that Hazel Creek is the only church still performing this sentimental practice.

In the early 1900s many changes were made. In 1908, the first reed organ was purchased through proceeds from a box or pie supper. In 1923, the first piano was bought. Before this time, the congregation sang acapella. Hazel Creek had a singing school in which song leader Jesse Peterson taught the members to sing parts in music.

There were many unique pastors in the history of the Hazel Creek Church, one of which was the Rev. Posey Veach, who could not read. When he wanted to quote a verse from the Bible, he would point to it. His wife would whisper it to him and he would then say it aloud. During one sermon, Sister Veach could not see the passage, so she whispered to her husband, "Move your thumb." In turn, he said out loud, "Move your thumb." Surely that got everyone's attention!

In 1915, the church building was turned from the south to the east. Also, the two doors in the front of the church were blocked off and a new vestibule was added. The people of Hazel Creek decided that more space would be needed for Sunday School. Will Thompson and Bill Newcomer dug a basement beneath the church, which was used as a Sunday School class for the young people. Since the basement walls went up only



In 1965, Maizie Sevits recruited the youth to paint the fence around the Hazel Creek Union Church. Later, this fence was torn down and a metal fence was put in its place.

part way, the children could see under the floor of the upstairs. Some members built a plasterboard wall to keep the children's minds on the lesson rather than the underside of the church. The congregation switched from using a wood stove to a coal furnace, which was placed in the new basement. Also, the congregation switched to gas lights instead of kerosene lamps.

For Easter recreation, members held Annual Easter Egg Roasts in Jim Newcomer's pasture. They gathered for a picnic that included fried or hard-boiled eggs. Baptisms were done in the river, pond, or Hazel Creek. Sometimes the ice had to be broken, and children were often baptized two at a time.

During the mid-1900s, there were more changes and growth. Maizie Sevits started Vacation Bible School in 1946. During the summer, youth came to the church each day for a week, had refreshments, played games, made crafts, sang, and learned from the Bible. Hazel Creek has had a Vacation Bible School practically every year since then.

Under the ministry of the Rev. Rolla Smith, 1949-52, the congregation started meeting every Sunday instead of every other Sunday. The Rev. Wayne Parsons, who ministered from 1952 to 1954, made the church even more active. The foot washing ceremony was introduced in 1952. Members participate

Before obtaining a baptistry in the new church, many people were baptized in the icy waters of Hazel Creek.

in this ordinance by taking turns washing each other's feet in basins of water and drying with long towels, much like the way it was done during the time of Christ. The men are in one room and the women are in the other. They say it is a humbling experience and quite a blessing. Communion is also taken with this ordinance. Back in the mid-1900s, they used only one glass. Mrs. William Newcomer purchased a set of glasses for the church. That communion set has been added to, but is still used today.

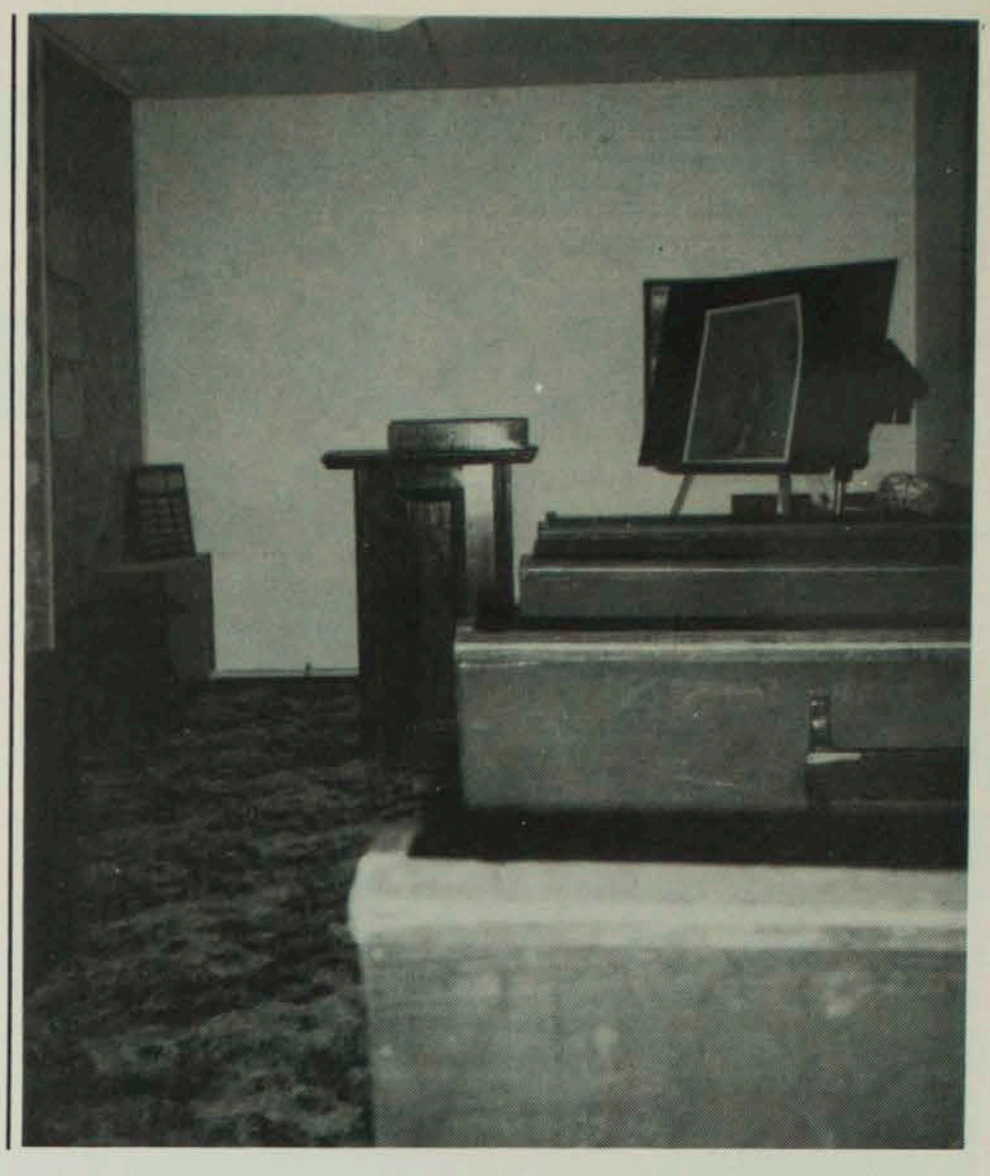
In 1950, a new parsonage was purchased from Hershel Sevits. This parsonage had eight acres of land and was less than a mile south of the old church.

In earlier years, the women's group was called Ladies Aide. They wore white uniforms, went to shut-in's homes to help them, and held services at the nursing homes. To raise money, the women sold eggs or chickens or sold lunches at farm sales. Their group name changed to Ladies Missions during the 1950s.

In 1968, the members bought a 60-foot custom-built trailer. It had three built-in classrooms and one large room that could be divided into three more with folding curtains. After the congregation moved to a new church, the trailer was sold.

The present-day Union Church building was deeded to the Hazel Creek Cemetery Board. They hold a meeting there once a year. The building and the land are maintained with perpetual funds from those who have relatives buried in the cemetery.

Mrs. Maizie Sevits believes that "Hazel Creek has to be a force for good, because a community without a church is pretty lawless, and just the fact that there is a church there may keep people from doing wrong." Many people who have been saved



The original Bible stand and pews are still in use in one of the downstairs classrooms.

Volunteer members working on the new church.

at the church have gone to the far corners of the world: Laverne and Lorene Miley (Ivory Coast), Howard and Joann Filkins (Ivory Coast), and Olena McLain (Japan).

Today's generation of Hazel Creek members are enjoying a new building, the Hazel Creek Free Will Baptist Church. In October, 1981, the church was built on land donated by Ted Sevits in exchange for the land of the old parsonage. The church is eight miles northwest of Kirksville on the blacktop road of Route B, only one mile from the original Union Church. Many members volunteered work on the new building, with Gary Ledford as general contractor. The church was completed in September of 1982. The total cost of between $80,000 and $100,000 was paid within two years. The first service was held the evening of September 12, and today average attendance is 80 to 90 people. The dedication service was held October 30, 1983, and was a very special day for all of the members. Betty Chrisman is thankful that the church is still carrying on. "We came to Hazel Creek community to find a home; I was a young girl. We came here to put down roots and we found it to be a caring community. The church has been a big part of our lives. It has been a rock and steady influence on our family and a very good place to raise our children."

Still more changes and growth have occurred throughout the years. The women's group is now officially called Ladies' Auxiliary. With the new building came a baptistry, but some choose to be baptized in Hazel Creek in warm weather. Often the members have what is called a "singspiration" on a Sunday night. The whole service is spent doing specials and the Rev. Don Robertson encourages skits or anything one feels led

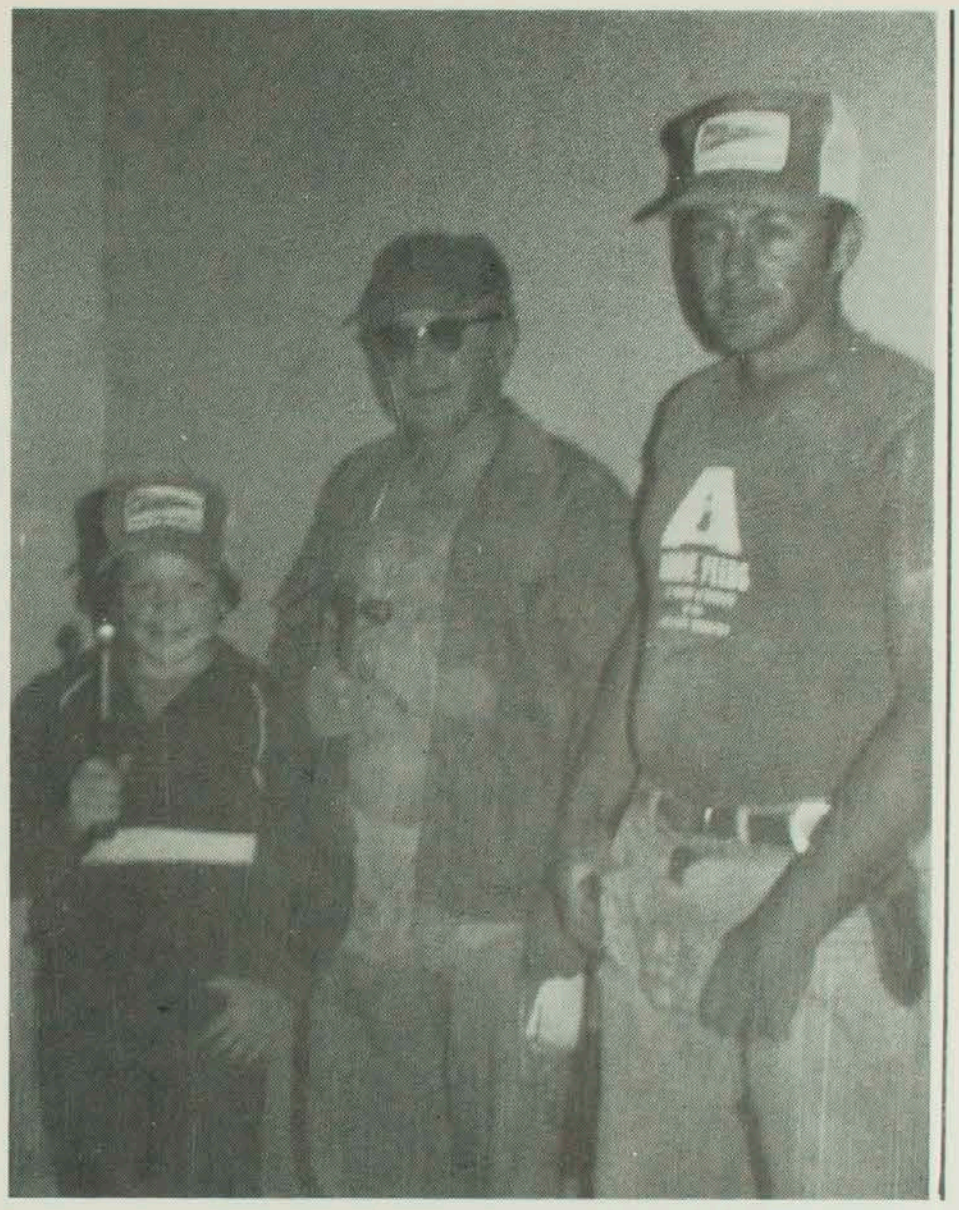
to do for the Lord. During Christmas, the youth put on a program and then there is a gift exchange among everyone. "I guess what the church means to me is a place where you can come and get away from all the world things. It's full of people that would do anything for you and help you out," is the feeling of one youth member, Joel Crossgrove.

The third and present parsonage is about a mile northwest of the church. The parsonage consists of five acres purchased in 1986.

Downstairs, in one of the classrooms called "Memory Lane," hang the framed minutes from the first meeting in 1897, and there are remnants from the old Union Church that members are very proud to continue using today. Some of the original seats and the Bible stand made by Peter Voelker fulfill their purpose just as they did in 1897.

Relatives of the original charter members who still attend are the Filkins, Sevits, and Newcomers. John Filkins says, "I was born in this community. I grew up in the church. I was saved when I was 8 years old in a Sunday School Class. This is just my home." Hazel Creek would make a good church home for anyone, because one always feels welcome.

When leaving the sanctuary of the Hazel Creek Free Will Baptist Church, one object catches the attention of most: the word LOVE in large wooden letters built by Boyd Filkins. Throughout the history of Hazel Creek, that has been the main goal of these people.



Three generations of the Sevits worked on the new building. Left to right are Chris, Wendell, and Terry Sevits.

"Hazel Creek Church means to me that my roots are here. It goes back long before I was here. My family was instrumental in the building of the Hazel Creek Church and I think when I look at the past, I see that I have a responsibility, being here now at the present, to carry on this work into the future. I think that the church means a place of carrying on God's plan into the future."

Terry Sevits

The new church was built in 1981 to accomodate the growing membership.

The Building With Style

Like a grand old dame, the historic building stands magnificently against the sky. Bricks colored a beautiful red and faces made of stone decorate the front of the building. Articulate designs surround the flat scrolled plaque on which is carved "A.D. 1905" with two large scrolled brackets on either side. The Grim Building, completed in 1905, is an important architectural landmark to our area. Located in Kirksville at 113 E. Washington, this building is recognized by many as a prominent feature of the city.

The Grim Building was constructed in the Jacobethan Revival style of architecture, which was popular in England during the 1600s. This style is not usually found in Missouri, other than in major cities, because smaller towns, like Kirksville, "didn't have architects. Instead they had builders and construction contractors who used plans that were readily available," reports Dr. Ruth Towne, professor of history at Northeast Missouri State University. The characteristics of this style are details sculptured in English Gothic and Italian Renaissance-Baroque design. Dr. Edward A. and Dr. Ezra C. Grim contracted the services of Weber and Groves, an architectural firm from St. Louis, to design a building that included offices, operating rooms, and examination rooms. They then engaged Albert L. Holmes, a local contractor, to construct the building, which, when completed in October of 1905, cost a total of $11,248.

The exterior of the building is red brick accentuated with yellowish-tan white limestone faces of a man and a woman on either side of the time plate and a perched eagle atop the head of a lion directly above the scrolled plaque. The parapet, the stone railing along the edge of the roof, is adorned with elaborate

The Grim Building was completed in 1905. Compared to other buildings built at the time, it was unique in that it was a more decorative building. While others constructed in that time frame were built using less expensive products, the Grim brothers were specific in what they wanted, no matter the cost. (Photo courtesy of Gordon Collett)

The fireplaces in the building are bordered by beautiful green tile. The surrounding woodwork is original. The fireplace cover is decorated with intricate designs, evidence of the classic nature of the building. (Photo courtesy of David March)

ceramic medallions and urns above the second floor. Four obelisks topped with balls were atop the parapet until the balls became a threat to pedestrians and were taken down. Above the stairway of the main entrance, a delicate limestone basket handle design decorates the archway. Surrounding the entryway is a decorative limestone hood mold with raised designs of shields, dragons, grapes, and acanthus rinceau, which is an ornamental scroll sculpted with spiny flowers, leaves and other natural forms.

Sitting on top the building, obelisks without lids and a graceful eagle rest atop the parapet. A lion's face adorns the triangular eave.

The Grim Building shows little signs of age today, it looks very much like the photograph taken in 1905.

Not much has changed inside the two-story building since it was built in 1905, other than the tenants. Carpets, tile, and rugs cover the original yellow pine floors. The first floor has oak woodwork and the hallway floor is still its original Tennessee marble. The building contains four old fireplaces surrounded by bright green glazed tiles with elaborately decorated cast metal screens. These are located in the front two offices of the first floor as well as in the front two offices on the second floor.

According to Michael W. Mulford, attorney at law and part-owner of the Grim Building, it was ''one of the first buildings in Kirksville to use structural steel'' to support the second floor. The original heating system was a steam-generated coal furnace and gas fireplaces. The building is now heated with steam generated by a natural gas furnace. The original lighting system was electric with a Delco system providing the power as well as the use of gas light. Fluorescent lighting fixtures are used today. The offices are a group of suites, which have remained in their original condition.

The Grim Building was put on the National Register of Historic Places on July 27, 1979. Dr. David D. March, a member of the State Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, was, states Mr. Mulford, ''interested in historical buildings in Kirksville and active in placing some of the buildings on the historical register. He, basically, with minimal help from me, got the building put on the Register.'' This process took several years, but according to Mr. Mulford, it was because it was all volunteer labor. When the process began, the Grim Building ''was slated for demolition to become one of Kirksville's famous parking lots.'' After it was listed on the Register, federal money could no longer be used to tear down the building.

The Grim Building is a unique and unusual architectural structure to our area. Thanks to the work of several people, the building stands proud for generations to come.

By Kimberly Baker and Susan Cooper

KBA

Thirty-five Years of Memories

The Kirksville Baseball Association was organized in 1953. Through its first 35 years of existence, KBA has brought excitement and memories to the boys of Kirksville who spend their summers playing organized ball.

In the summer of 1953 a group of concerned parents thought that an organization was needed to oversee and sponsor the playing of baseball. They felt that this would allow more boys a chance to play. Also, Bill Fulkerson, the coach of the American Legion team, wanted to develop a "farm system" to advance boys to his Legion team. Previously, the boys had participated in pick-up games at fields around town. This first summer was more like a planning stage. With many ideas and suggestions to consider, it was difficult for the new organization to be ready for the '53 season. As a result, the boys continued to participate in the pick-up games, but, the parents, who were more organized, took a more active role.

When the spring of '54 rolled around, the parents formed the Kirksville Baseball Association. "We used to have meetings up in the Circuit Courtroom all the time. That's where we drew up our lists for the auctions and all that stuff. All the coaches met. It must have been three or four years before we elected a board," remembers Dave Lintner, the association's first president. Winston L. Crist served as secretary-treasurer.

The board established an auction of players, during which time the managers would buy the players for their teams. Any boy interested in playing reported to the Rieger Armory on June 4th for this auction. About 100 boys were in attendance, with thirty-two 16- and 17-year-olds to be placed on the American Legion team. The rest were divided among six teams that would compete in an inner-city league. A farm club was created to allow a boy who was not at the Armory a chance to play. "When the boys signed up late, they went into a pool. If somebody got sick or moved out of town, you (the coaches) would draw a player from that pool," recalls Leo Miller, one of the original coaches. At the Armory, they had the boys separated by position. "The pitchers were throwing to the catchers and the infielders and outfielders were playing catch," said Coach Miller. The six coaches were each given 250,000 points, from which they could bid on players to fill their teams. Numbers were assigned to the players with the coaches bidding on a number in a closed-door auction conducted by local auctioneer Bill Findling. "I gave 170 some thousand for my pitcher and I gave 20 some thousand for my catcher. That didn't leave me very many points to fill out my team," joked Coach Miller. Practices were set for the upcoming week, in hopes that the season could be started at the beginning of the next week.

An ad was placed in the newspaper requesting suggestions for the six team names. Of those submitted, Hawks, Crickets, Doodlebugs, Redbirds, Gems, and Orioles were chosen. Basil Smith submitted the "Gems," while Richard Best was credited for the other five.

The 1954 Hawks receive a contract of sponsorship from Gene Pinkston, member of the Odd Fellows Lodge. The Odd Fellows were the first to sponsor a team, although it was not long before every team had a sponsor. Pictured back row, left to right: Richard Kruse, KBA Board member W.L. Crist, Dick Brownlee, Gary Shipman, Ben Rose, Norman Clarkson, Jerry Crist, and Larry Fortney. Second row: Rodney Staggs, Richard Parsons, J.H. Shelton, Harry Mansfield, Dick Vincent, Gene Pinkston, and Bob Babcock. Front Row: Managers Ben Graves and Dave Lintner.

The 1955 Little League champion Redbirds show off their new uniforms. The uniforms, provided by the El Kadir Shrine Club, were the first to be purchased by a team sponsor. Pictured front row, left to right: Jimmy Trent, Stanley Hall, Jerry Parrish, and Ronald Davis. Second row: Larry Pinkston, David Kerr, Jerry Russell, Jerry Cupp, and Jaye Miller. Back row: Coach Dwayne Basket, Jesse Gordon, Junior Mullenix, Bill Golladay, Bobby Russell, Bob Shelton, and Manager Leo Miller.

KIRKSVILLE EXPRESS & NEWS

BEN ROSE HITS 433 AVERAGE FOR BAT TITLE

Bobby Russell Top Pitcher In Kirksville Association

Ben Rose, Bobby Russell and Junior Mullenix, were the individual leaders as the junior baseball program of the Kirksville Baseball Association ended this week.

Rose, pitcher for the Odd Fellows Hawks, won the batting title with an average of .433. Jesse Gordon, Shrine Club Redbirds catcher, was close behind with .424.

Russell, the ace pitcher of the Redbirds, walked off with all the pitching records with eight victories in ten decisions, 126 strikeouts in 66 innings and only 29 hits. He also walked the most opponents with 51 bases on balls.

Johnny Vincent, Moose Club Doodlebug hurler, was second in victories with six and also in won-and lost percentage with a 6-2 mark. Rose was second in strikeouts with 107 and pitched the second most innings, 63⅓.

Mullenix, Redbird shortstop, who didn't hit a home run during the second half, still led in that department with 5. Joe Stamper, Doodlebug catcher, was second with three and eight players had two.

The Redbirds, second half winners, also had the best record for the season with eight victories and two losses, both in the first half. The Doodlebugs, first half winners, were second with 7 and 3, all losers in the second half.

The Redbirds and Doodlebugs meet in a three-game playoff for the season championship tomorrow night at Stickler Park.

Hitting

Rose, B.	.433
Gordon, J.	.424
Vincent J.	.414
Mullenix, J.	.400
Kelly, E.	.391
Hicks, R.	.383
Shelton, B.	.379
Larkey, J.	.375
Branscom, B.	.375
McFarland, J.	.360
Sparks, W.	.360

Pitching

	AB	IP	BB	H	W	L
Russell	126	66	51	29	8	2
Rose	107	63 1/3	43	47	3	7
Vincent	104	58	20	48	6	2
Sylvara	103	54 1/3	29	35	4	4
Branscom	98	53 2/3	33	48	2	6
Beaman	41	41	5	47	2	3

Home Runs

Mullenix	5
Stamper	3
Rose	2
Golladay	2
Kelly	2
Hicks	2
Sparks	2
Sylvara	2
Branscom	2
Larkey	2

Final Standings

	2nd Half		Season	
Redbirds	8	2	5	0
Orioles	5	5	3	2
Doodlebugs	7	3	3	3
Gems	4	6	2	3
Hawks	3	7	2	3
Crickets	1	4	2	3

This article from the ***Kirksville Daily Express*** *lists the final statistics for the 1955 season.*

On Wednesday, June 16, teams took the field for the first time as members of the Kirksville Baseball Association. The game was between Ben Grave's Hawks and Bob Craig's Crickets. The Hawks triumphed in a 6-3 victory at Robinson Field. Jim Trent was the winning pitcher of the inaugural game.

During the next few years, more boys participated in the program, with some coming from other area towns. "They used to accuse me of running a bus line. I would get players from Livonia, Lancaster, Novinger, Brashear, Baring, and La Plata," remembers Mr. Miller, coach of the Redbirds. Another original coach, Ben Graves, recalls doing some recruiting of his own. "We picked up some kids out of Schuyler County, Putnam County, and Dave (Lintner) and I slipped over to Warsaw, Illinois, and got Kenny Gardner's (former NMSU Athletic Director) half-brother and brought him over here. We were out looking for ballplayers."

In 1954, ball games were played at P.C. Mills Park, located in the southwest part of town, and at Robinson Field. In 1955 Stickler Park, located east on Highway 11, was also used. The coaches felt that it was too dangerous for the boys to ride their bikes on the highway. So, in 1956, they decided that Robinson would be the only field to be used. At this time Robinson was used as the KHS football practice field. "We took a lot of work days and put up the backstops. Harry "Tiny" Young and Fred Rollins built the dugouts. Missouri Power & Light and a lot of their employees donated their time and put up some lights. I think we scrounged them, maybe from some that the university had from an old football field or something," recalls Mr. Lintner.

By 1963 three additional fields had been added to the original one at Robinson. This allowed the teams to play on a field that was suitable for their size and also allowed the

Many of the players have given back as coaches what they received as players. Pictured with their team, the 1963 Bantam League Chiggers, are coaches Don Crist (former Doodlebug) and Jaye Miller (former Redbird).

association to begin a program for younger boys. A Pee-Wee program was established for boys in grade school. One of the original sponsors, Bill Baiotto, sums up the beginning, "In those days they didn't have the tee or anything, you just stood up there and swung, and they called them out."

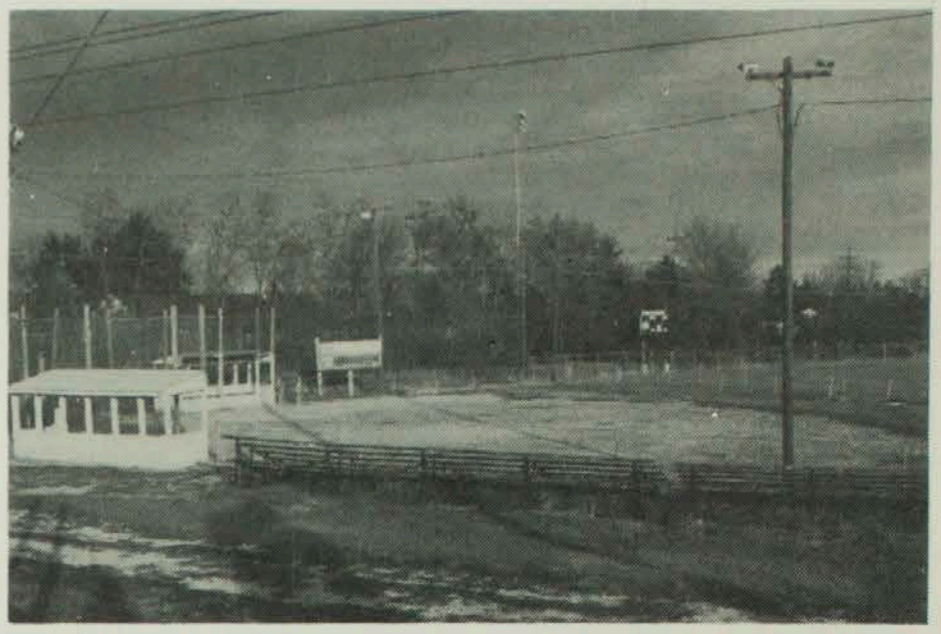
During the first years the community was very involved. The parents became extremely active and were supportive of the effort with many coaching, providing transportation to out-of-town games, and helping with the maintenance of the facilities. Many area businesses would donate materials and/or money, as well as sponsor the team by purchasing the caps, bats, balls, and catching equipment. Missouri Power & Light even helped with the light bill. It cost the boys a couple of dollars to play, but this money could be recovered through the sale of stickers bearing the KBA logo.

The *Kirksville Daily Express* and editor Ed Swain were actively involved in promoting the program. Sports writers Wayne Martin and Eldon Drennan would write stories from the previous night's games. Mr. Swain would print the articles, as well as the box scores. Long-time coach Kenny Weber recollects, "It made interest in the boys when they could see what they did in the paper."

In 1962 KBA was incorporated. This was necessary so that the organization could provide insurance for the players and fans. When the organization was asked to take over the girls softball program from the YMCA, in 1978, the present Kirksville Baseball Softball Association was created.

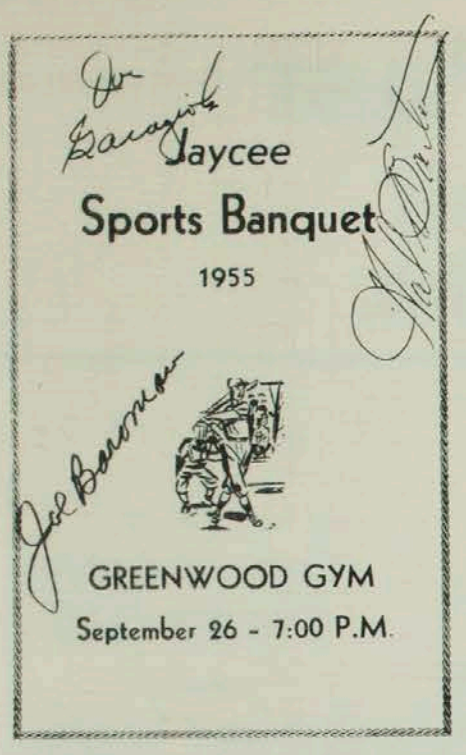
Thousands of hours have been needed to keep the organization running. Besides the people mentioned above, hundreds of others have spent numerous years with and have given much guidance to the children. It would be impossible to mention them

This sign, at the entrance of Robinson Field, proudly displays the organization's 35 years of commitment.



The Pee Wee field, located in the northeast corner of the Robinson Field complex, has been the starting place for many young ballplayers. The field, shown today, was built in the early 60's.

E.E. Swain, editor and publisher of the ***Kirksville Daily Express,*** *throws out the first ball of the 1955 season at Stickler Park. Pictured left to right: Jesse Gordon, catcher for the Redbirds; Dyke Horton, umpire; Mr. Swain; and John Vincent, pitcher for the Doodlebugs. (Photo courtesy of Jesse Gordon)*



-- PROGRAM --

Emcee—Hal Barton of KHQA-TV

Invocation

-- DINNER --

Welcome—Hal Barton

Guest Speaker—Joe Bowman, Chief Scout, Kansas City Athletics

Presentation of Awards—Joe Garagiola

Drawing for Prizes—Hal Barton

The 1955 Little League Awards Banquet, sponsored by the Jaycees, was held in honor of the winning teams, the Redbirds and the Cards. The guest speaker for the ceremony was former St. Louis Cardinal, Joe Garagiola. This program has special meaning for the owner, as it bears Mr. Garagiola's signature. (Photo courtesy of Jesse Gordon)

all; however, a few deserve to be named: Claude Parrish, Wadie Houtchens, Frank Colton, Joe Thevel, Bill Martin, John Lucas, George Golden, Bill Gates, Harold McClelland, Howard McCune, Garnet ''Flash'' Gordon, Bob Carlson, Don Bagley, Jack Ward, Ralph Banner, and Leon Devlin.

Many notable players have come from the program. Junior Mullenix, Bobby Russell, Ben Rose, Jerry Parrish, Jesse Gordon, Tom Fickel, Randy Jayne, Gary Grossnickle, and Pat Williams should bring back many memories.

Over the years KBA and KBSA have touched the lives of thousand of boys and girls. Seasons have come and gone, but memories of special moments will live forever in the hearts of those young people.

By John Hill and Mike Whitney

The 1958 Redbirds gather after winning the league championship at Robinson Field. Pictured front row, left to right: Leo Miller, Jaye Miller, Don Crim, Roger McKim, and ''Flash'' Gordon. Second row: Steve Acton, Larry Russell, John Nizzi, Larry Hurley, and Larry Longfield. Back row: Galen Acton, Clyde Johnson, Charlie Link, Danny Ball, Fred Faurot, and Jerry Daniels.

Scenes from the Past

Golf

Did you know Kirksville once had two golf courses? One is still in existence, the Kirksville Country Club, located on Highway 63 South. The other was named the Andrew T. Still College Country Club and was operated by the American School of Osteopathy, now the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine.

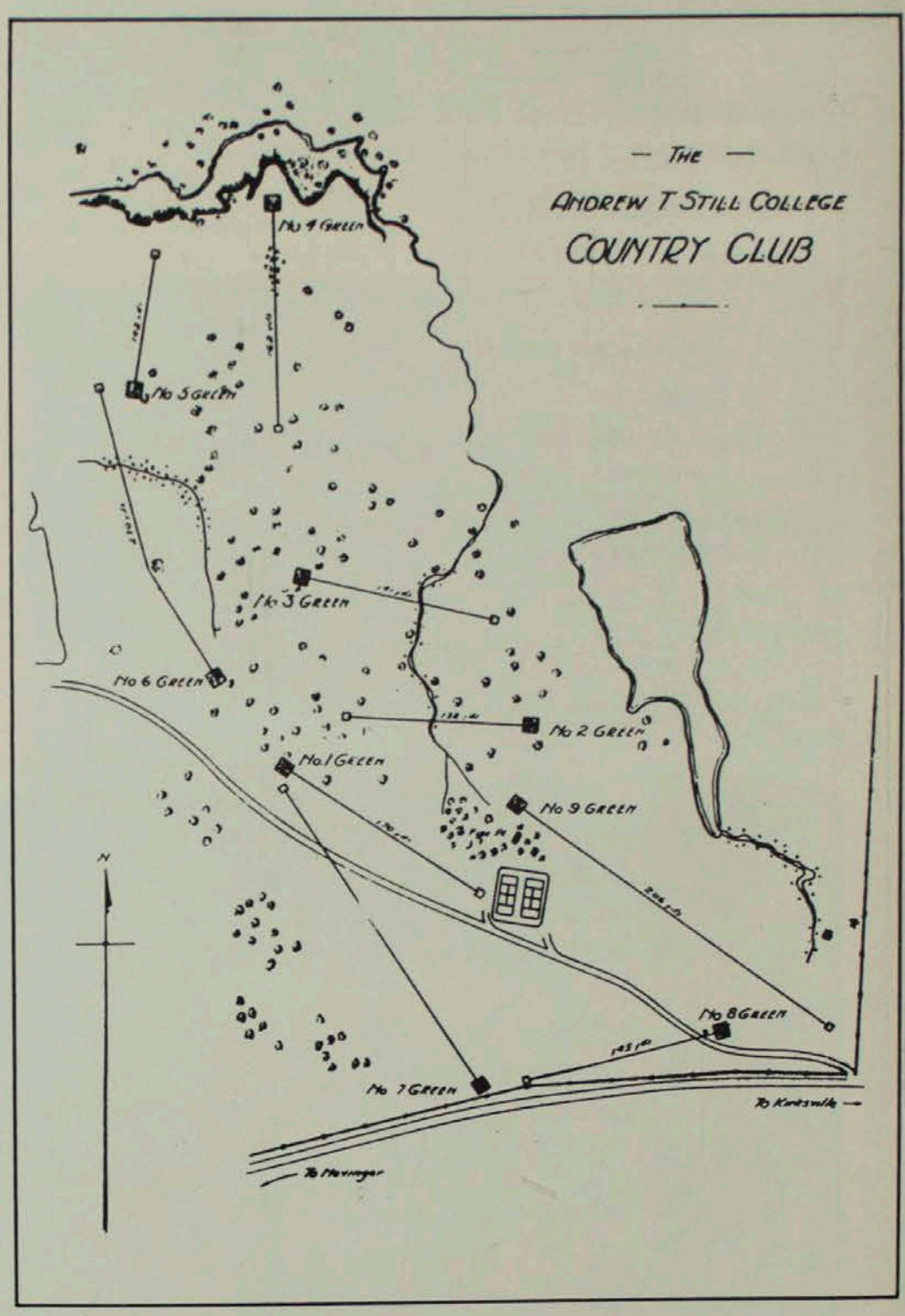
The only written records about this golf course were found in the school's **Stilletto** yearbooks. Alfred A. Barker, a golfer and yearbook reporter, described it in the 1924 **Stilletto** as "many acres of hilly land . . . the Andrew T. Still College is one of the sportiest links in the country today. . . . It calls for such a nicety in muscle co-ordination that few have played it can equal par. . . . The grounds of 200 acres include wooded hillsides, Still Lake, tennis courts and golf course."

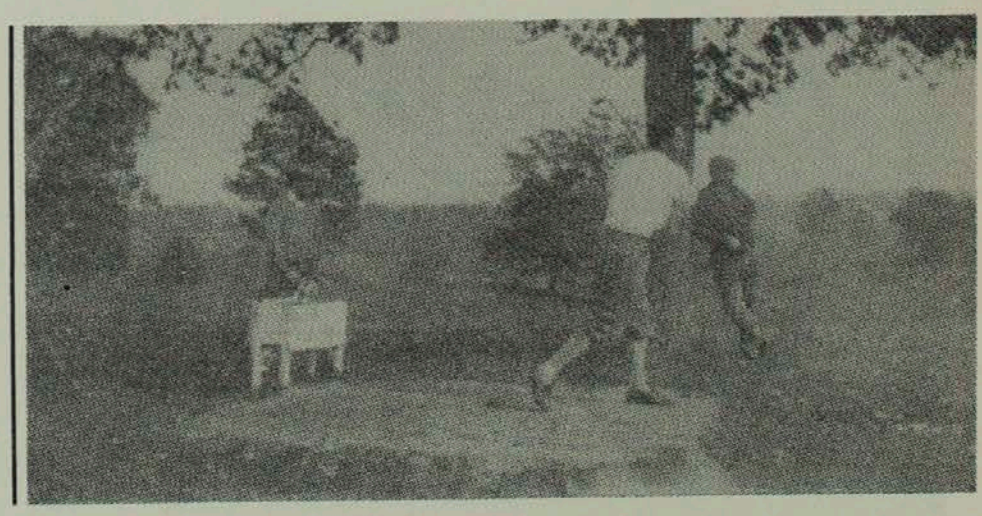
The 1,714 yard nine-hole course had a par of 39. The land for the course was a gift from Doctors Charles and Harry Still to promote a "competitive force" for the people of the area and the Kirksville Country Club. One of the first tournaments held at the course was a duo between the Andrew T. Still College and the Kirksville Country Club on December 16, 1923, as a gesture of friendship. The Kirksville Country Club proved to be the better team.

The map to the right shows the detailed layout of the course. The road marked "To Novinger" is now West Michigan Street. Before Forest Lake was built, one could travel west on Michigan to Youngstown and then turn north to reach Novinger.

From 1923 to the 1950s, the college had a varsity golf squad on and off during years when students were interested in organizing a team. A tournament was played each year between the college's fraternal organizations.

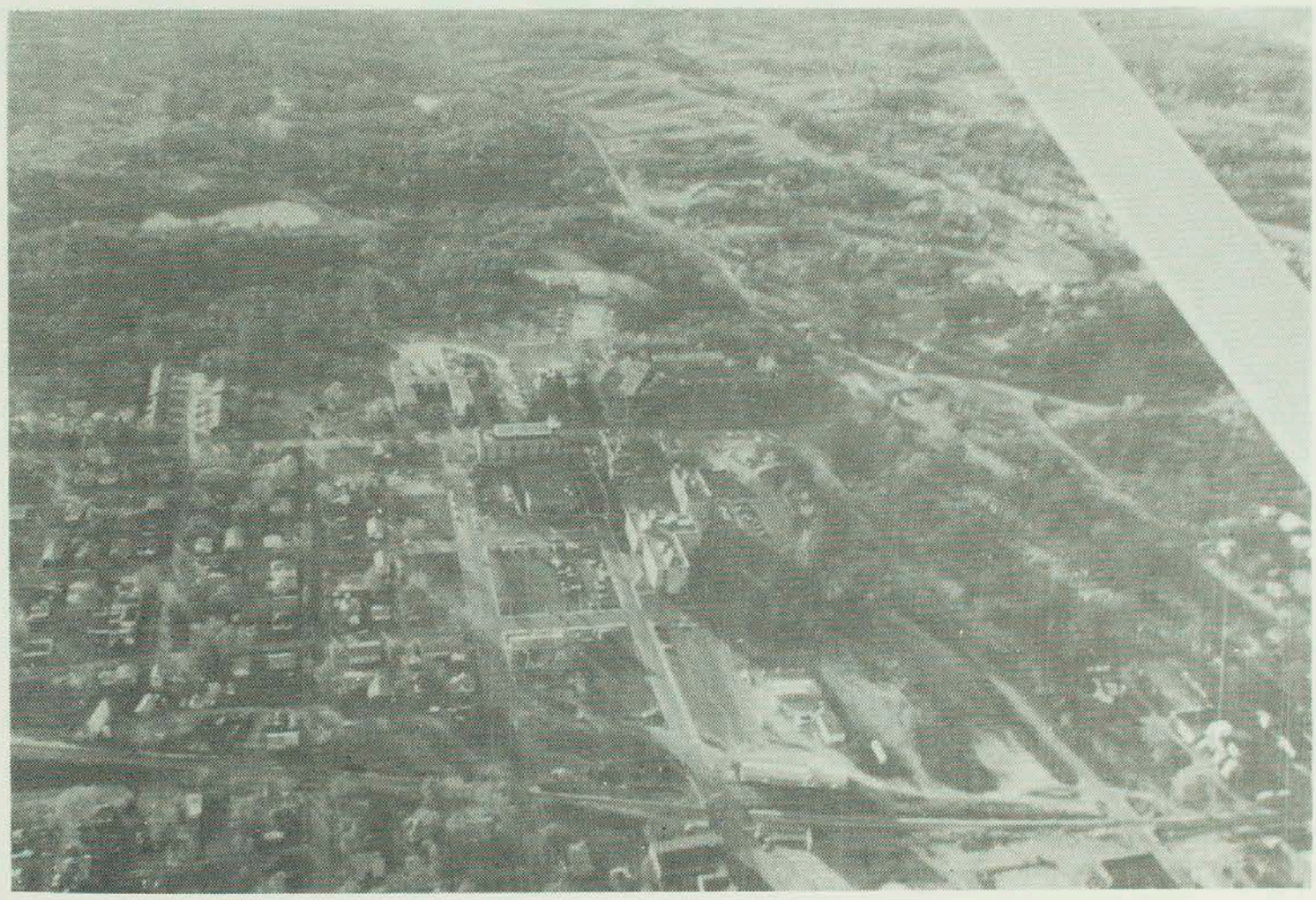
The expansion of Kirksville, the lack of student interest, and the demand of the medical courses were probably reasons the course closed but no written records can be found. Even though some of this land has been developed into residential housing, one can still view the pond north of Ray Drive and the "wooded hillsides" continuing to Forest Lake.





Left and Above: *These photographs, showing different areas of the college golf course, were taken from the 1923 and 1924* ***Stillettos.*** *The president of the college, Dr. George M. Laughlin, has been identified as the man in the far left photo. He arranged for the course to be built on his brother-in-law's land.*

Photos courtesy of the KCOM Andrew Taylor Still Memorial Library



The larger water body in the upper left corner is Still Pond. The distance between the pond and the college can be seen in this present-day aerial view.

Standing near the pond, one can see the tops of the Thompson Center, the Atlas House, and the Kirksville Osteopathic Medical Center along the horizon.

Kirksville's Own TOYLAND

Lowell Bond, the original owner of the store, stands with a new shipment of toys in July of 1957.

In the rush to make shopping easier, discount stores have made many specialty shops nearly obsolete, including one kind that is fondly remembered by many adults: the toy store. Northeast Missouri is lucky, however. It can still boast that is has a place where a person can go to be alone with his imagination. That place is Tucker Toys in Kirksville.

Tucker Toys, located at 206 N. Franklin, is the only specialty toy store in Northeast Missouri. Originally named Bond's Toyland, the shop was the idea of Lowell Bond. After approximately seven years, however, Bond decided that he wanted to enter another business. The change of ownership from Lowell Bond to Jerry Tucker took place on February 1, 1961. Mr. Tucker had sold shoes for Myers Bros. of Kirksville, and at the time of the purchase, he had been on the road selling insurance. One day Mr. Tucker was in the store and heard Mr. Bond talking about wanting to sell the store, so he inquired about it. Asked what prompted him to change careers, he simply stated, "I was tired of being a traveling salesman."

The change has been a successful and, apparently, a happy one. Everything Mr. Tucker does today, nearly 28 years later, points to this satisfaction. For example, not often does a person driving in an urban area see the owner out shaking the rug and sweeping the sidewalk in front of his store. However, anyone driving past Tucker Toys at 8:15 a.m. will see Jerry Tucker starting his work day in this way.

When a customer walks into the store, he finds more proof of contentment: Mr. Tucker's smiling face. Mr. Tucker will be busy either cleaning or restocking his shelves with new shipments of merchandise, or sometimes just playing with the toys. And what toys and how many! There are toys everywhere! At first, the store appears disorganized, but a little investigation reveals order. Play toys for the smaller children are up front, while building toys, dishes, trains, guns, collectors' items, hobbies, and stuffed toys have a space of their own. Mr. Tucker says Tucker Toys is like an old country store with every nook and cranny filled to overflowing!

But why would a person want to sell toys? For 27 years, Jerry Tucker has enjoyed meeting children and seeing their eyes light up as they explore different corners of his store. Through the years, these children have grown to adulthood and now they are bringing their children. He sees the same look of wonder in these new young eyes.

Over the years, Tucker Toys has carried collector lines of dolls such as Vogue and Madame Alexander, horses such as Breyer, and model cars such as Matchbox. Often not found in large department stores because suppliers prefer a more exclusive market, these are items which attract people from miles around. For the past 33 years, this store has attracted customers from St. Louis and Kansas City and has had telephone shoppers from as far away as Dallas, Texas. Mr. Tucker said, "We deal with doll collectors from all over the country."

The reason Mr. Tucker can attract customers from afar is that he fills his inventory by wisely ordering from suppliers in New York or Chicago. He orders most heavily in April to insure that his stock will meet the heavy demand of the Christmas season. According to Mr. Tucker, that is when people come into the store asking, "What is a good Christmas gift this year?" In more recent years, however, people have been saying, "I just don't know what to get my son or daughter. They have everything."

Added in 1978, this metal awning protects the store's menagerie from Kirksville's hot afternoon sun.

Throughout Tucker Toys' history, Mr. Tucker says that both year-round and at Christmas, the best selling doll has been Barbie. Barbie has been a good seller, he says, because marketers have known how to keep people interested in her. They set a limit on the number available at one time, and because of this limit, Mr. Tucker said he sometimes had a waiting list "a mile long" when he was able to get only four Barbie dolls. Even when different versions of Barbie come out, her manufacturers use the same tactics. In the sixties, Mr. Tucker said, real mink coats for Barbie cost $1,000-$1,500 each, but those items were not available at Tucker's! "The most expensive Barbie coat we sold at that time was for $12," says Mr. Tucker. Although Barbie is not the top seller now, she continues to draw many buyers to the store.

Mr. Tucker also says that "fads" such as talking and walking dolls "didn't last long because the kids get tired of them." Hula hoops and yo-yos have been other fads, although they have not died as quickly as the others. Hula hoops and yo-yos try to make a comeback every year. Mr. Tucker thinks that Cabbage Patch Kids are just another fad. He feels that had Coleco limited the supply as Mattel did with Barbie, instead of flooding the market, the Cabbage Patch Kids would still be going strong. Games have also been a good seller through the years. Monopoly, Clue, and Rook are the basic games; most other games are just spin-offs of these. Mr. Tucker thinks that children will play with something longer if they have to be creative and use their imaginations.

The store's appearance has remained basically unchanged over the years. Inside, shelves have been stabilized and stock has been shifted, but the only external change has been the addition of a new awning to shield the store from the afternoon sun.

The toy store has always been in the same location, but not everything has been perfect. While children were dreaming of sugar plums and wondering if their Christmas orders would be filled, a hot water pipe broke and flooded the store on Christmas Eve, 1984. On a trip for some batteries late that night, Mr. Tucker found six inches of water on the floor. In addition, three times since the Tuckers have owned the store, there have been break-ins. The windows have been broken and merchandise stolen.

Neighboring businesses have come and gone through the years. Wanting to increase his inventory during the 1960s, Mr. Tucker expanded his store's footage into the store to the north (formerly Singer Sewing Center and presently Echoes Antiques Gallery), doubling its original size. The larger floor space made supervision more difficult, and there was an increase in pilferage and damage to the merchandise. Mr. Tucker decided to return the store to its original location and size (50 feet x 20 feet), and so it remains today. When asked if Tucker Toys would ever expand again, Mr. Tucker said, "If a business wants to be large, it must be large. If it is small, it must be small. There is no in between. I think we're just the right size."

Mr. Tucker does some newspaper advertising during the Christmas season but depends mostly upon word-of-mouth advertising, because he believes that a satisfied customer returns again and again and tells his friends. Even as grown-ups, his customers keep coming back to bring in their children, and the cycle will repeat in the future.

Today, many an adult who makes his way into the store is transported back to his own childhood and to Christmas dreams coming true by the store's unchanging appearance and by Mr. Tucker's smile. So, today, whether you are planning for the busy Christmas season or for some dear child's birthday or you just want an addition to your own special collection, perhaps the answer lies behind the door to Tucker Toys.

By Tonya Eichor and Clint Myers

RAISIN' CANE

The talent of making sorghum is unfortunately becoming a lost skill; however, a few people are still practicing the craft. Marvin Mears, owner of a farm west of Kirksville, has made sorghum every year since he was a young boy and continues to do so today. Raising sorghum cane is nearly a yearlong process, and many people have raised cane and made their own molasses for many years.

In the early 1900s sugar was considered a luxury, so molasses sweetened bread, cookies, and other sundry foods for many families. The sugar prices were high causing a demand for molasses, and mills soon became scattered throughout the countryside.

Butch Johnson, owner of a farm southeast of Kirksville, remembers learning the art of making sorghum from his father who cooked "for half. Back in that period of time, he would make anybody's sorghum but he got half of it for making it." Cane growers would take their crops to mill owners, who in return for "half" or a couple of gallons would make the cane juice into sorghum.

Raising sorghum cane is not easy. The crops can be damaged by insects, wind, improper harvesting, the amount of rainfall, or an early frost. The growers could take their crop to the mills only if the crop survived all the obstacles.

After the molasses was made and distributed between families and friends, store owners would purchase a few gallons, selling them to the townspeople. When mills were common, the average price per gallon was about 75 cents. According to the **Missouri Yearbook of Agriculture 1922, 54th Annual Report** the average yield per acre in Adair County was approximately 120 gallons. As time progressed, sugar prices declined; the demand for molasses dropped and soon many mills were abandoned.

Hundreds of man hours are spent planting, thinning, harvesting, and making the juice into a sweet sugar substitute called sorghum. Depending on the climate, planting of the tiny seed is done between late April and mid-June. Mr. Mears and Mr. Johnson, like others, plant in the first of May or later part of April, depending on the year. In order for the plant to grow, it must have warm soil for germination. The planting can be done by either hand or machine.

Soon the plants are ready to be thinned in order to produce larger stalks which will produce more juice. The need for thinning is caused by too many seeds in a hill. Thinning is done when the plant reaches knee height to create a ratio of one plant per foot. When the thinning is done, by either hoe or hand, the root system of the up-rooted plant must be taken out to prevent weaker plants from sprouting.

The cane plant resembles corn. It grows to a height of 3 to 15 feet when mature. Cane, like corn, grows in a tight curl with leaves sprouting on two sides. If the cane does not receive enough water, the leaves will roll up to reduce water loss.

The wagon is pulled to the cane press. The wagon load of cane will make about 11 gallons of sorghum.

Marvin Mears and Butch Johnson run the cane stalks through the side of the press to squeeze out the juice. The power take-off on the tractor is used to run the cane press.

In late September when cane heads turn a reddish-brown, Marvin Mears, left, and Butch Johnson cut and load the cane stalks on a wagon.

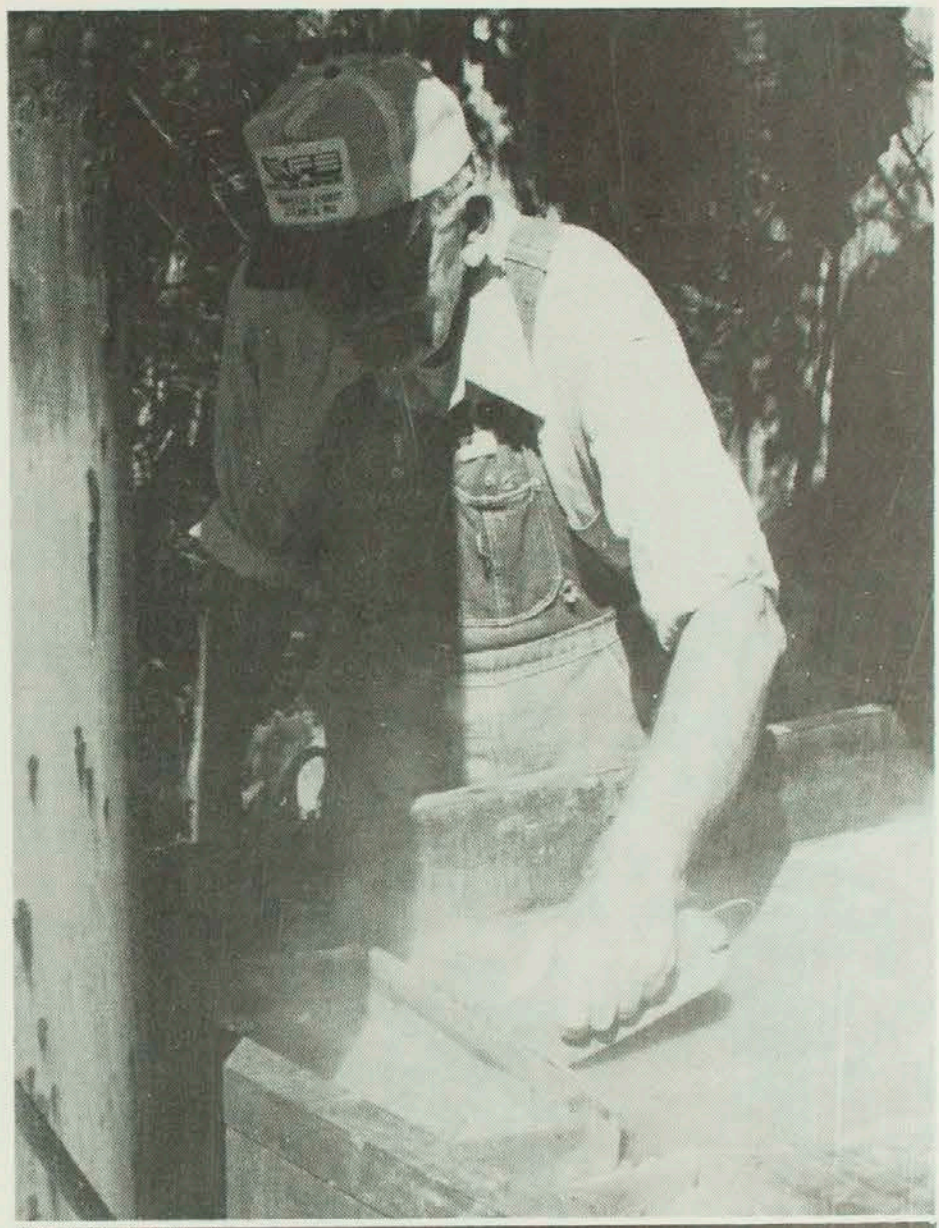
Between August and October the sorghum is ready to be harvested. The head of the cane changes in color from green to brown. As autumn arrives, the juice leaves the top and moves closer to the bottom of the stalk. The cane must be cut before the first frost to prevent the juice from going to the roots. Usually the harvest is begun on Labor Day. From an acre of sorghum Mr. Mears can extract over 120 gallons of juice which can produce about 24 gallons of sweet, thick, light, golden brown molasses.

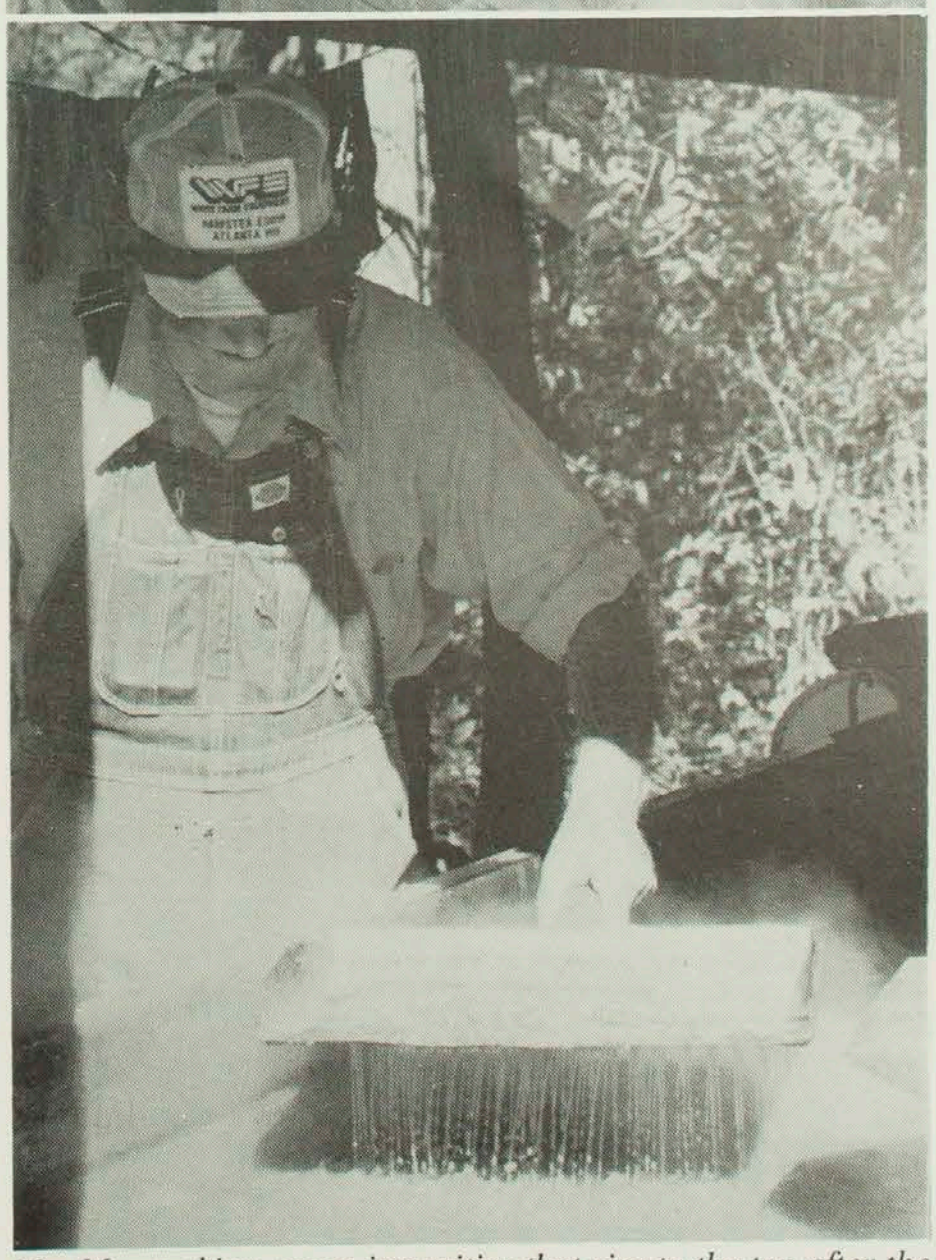
There are several methods of making sorghum. Some growers strip the leaves and the head from the cane, while the stalk is still standing; others strip the cane after the stalk has been cut; and others do not strip the cane. If stripping is done, a cane knife, wooden sticks, or a lathe is used. Many growers believe dry leaves and seeds from the head make the sorghum bitter; actually, they extract the flavor from the juice which causes the bitter taste.

After the cane is cut and hauled to the mill, the juice is extracted by crushing the cane, and the pressed stalks are now called pummies. The cane can be left for up to six weeks if it is cut and stripped properly. The mill is designed so the stalk can be fed into the rollers which extract the juice; the pummies come out the other side of the cane press. The extracted juice flows from a gutter through a filter into a container. The filter is used to catch any debris such as bugs, leaves, seeds from the head of the cane, or dirt that might have accidentally entered the juice. The juice is transported to a cooking pan and the pummies are at a later date fed to the livestock.

At Marvin Mears' mill the juice is caught in a 50-gallon tub and then transported to the cooking house through a hose connected to the tub. Mr. Mears' pan is steel and sits atop a stone and fire brick foundation and is designed to perfectly match

Mr. Mears builds a fast, hot fire in the fire box under the pan of juice before cooking. The cane juice, heated to a rolling boil, is a green color.





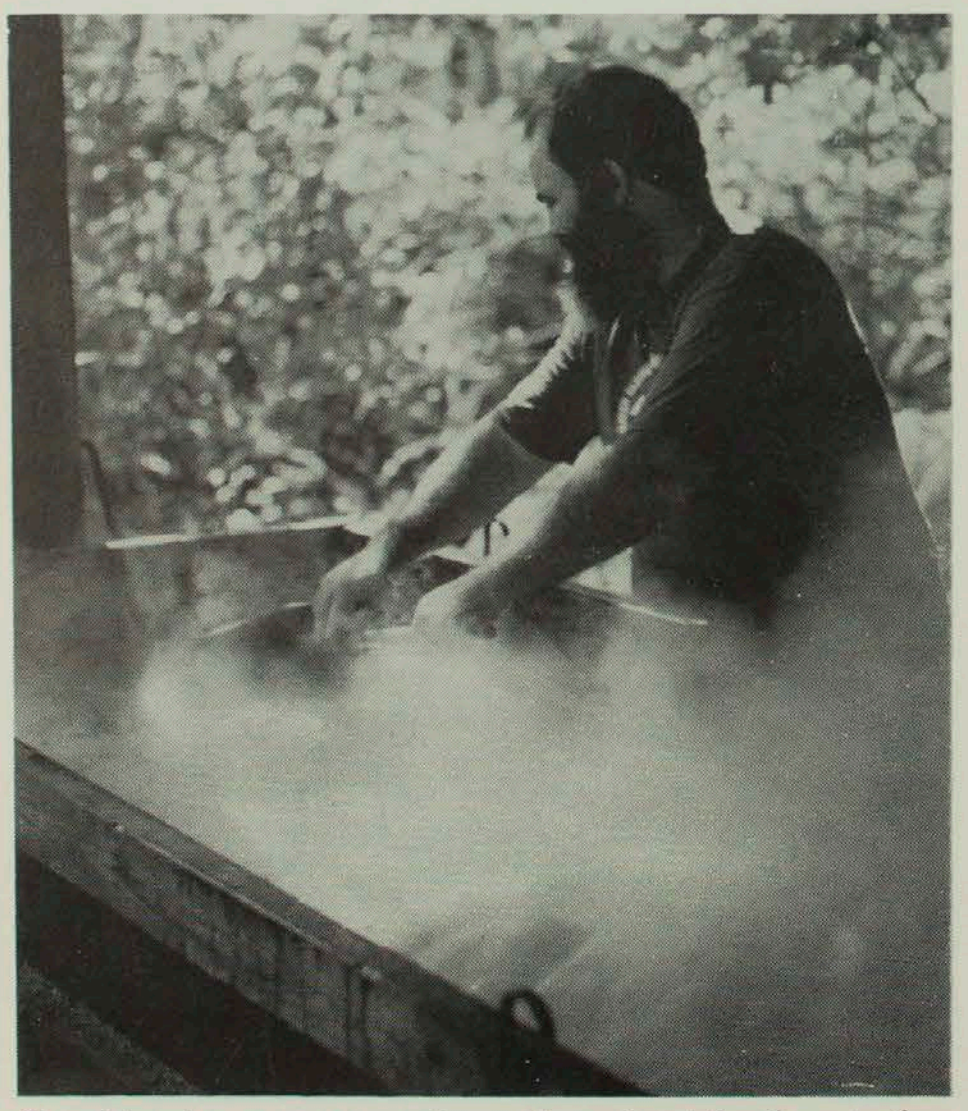
Mr. Mears skims green impurities that rise to the top after the cane juice boils. The skimmer is a homemade flat pan ladle with nail holes punched in the bottom. The skimmings are strained from the juice, which results in a great-tasting sorghum.

the length and width of the fire box to insure even and exact heating. The foundation and pan are set at a comfortable working height of three feet. In the front half of the fire box is the fire. The rear half of the box is left unfilled. The box is designed to heat the juice in the front half of the pan only, and due to its nature the heated juice then goes to the rear half where it can cool. The cool juice will go to the warmer part of the pan, creating a cycle much like air currents.

The juice slowly becomes sorghum after going through three stages. First, the juice is thin and very watery. Mr. Johnson describes it as "the color of peas; it's a real light green." These characteristics are obvious until the "skimmings" start to show.

During the second stage much of the moisture from the juice evaporates. As it thickens, the juice changes in color from green to a light brown, caramel color and has an indescribable aroma. In this stage the skimmings are removed from the boiling juice as quickly as possible with the aid of a skimmer. A skimmer is a flat bottom, metal strainer which is enclosed on three sides with a handle opposite the open end; it resembles a miniature shovel with sides and holes in the bottom. When the skimmer sweeps the surface of the juice, the skimmings stay inside the skimmer and the juice flows through the holes in the bottom back into the pan. The skimmings are then put into a bucket and later discarded. The skimmings rise for about two to four hours and the process of removing them must be repeated until there is none left.

At the end of three to five hours of cooking, the sorghum is near completion. The last stage is entered when the steam has lifted. There are many signs to tell when the sorghum is complete. Butch Johnson describes two ways:



The skimming process continues throughout the three to four hour cooking process. Bill Briggs uses a fine-holed skimmer.

When the sorghum is finished cooking, Butch Johnson and Marvin Mears remove the pan to start the cooling process. The sorghum is again siphoned and then stored in smaller containers for winter use.

"The old timers say that when the sorghum begins to boil and is beginning to get thick enough and the bubbles are about the size of a dime and they set for a moment or two instead of going right back down instantly, it's beginning to get thick enough. That's one way and you can take a metal cup and dip a little sorghum into it and cool it in some ice water and roll it around on the edge of your cup like you do when you're making candy. Then the sorghum is to what they call a softball stage and that's about the consistency you need to have sorghum for it to be decent, I think. But if you've done it long enough, you can tell by looking."

There are other ways to tell if the sorghum is the desired consistency. If a thread forms when a small part of the sorghum is pulled from the rest of the batch, it is usually ready. Others simply taste the foam which covers parts of the cooled sorghum. Mr. Mears uses all of these tests to make sure his sorghum is perfect.

When the sorghum has met all the standards, it is carefully removed from the fire box's foundation onto a rack which is on the side of the foundation. If the sorghum is cooked too long, it will become tough and have the consistency of taffy or if it is not cooked long enough, it is very thin and hard to control.

No two sorghum growers are the same and neither is their molasses. Many people still use sorghum as a way of sweetening their breads, cookies, and candy-like taffy. And like Mr. Mears and Mr. Johnson, many have found the best way to eat sorghum is "bite after bite!"

By Angela Briggs

Riding Circuits to Writing Editorials: GLENN FRANK

Born in Queen City, Missouri, Glenn Frank was among the greatest writers, editors, educators, and speakers of the early 20th century. He could have been among the great politicians of his time as well, but a tragic accident ended his brilliant career and noteworthy life, leaving the nation deprived.

Glenn Frank, the son of a middle-aged school teacher, was born on October 1, 1887. He grew up in Greentop, a small village about five miles south of Queen City. There he began his education under his brother, William Frank, who was also a school teacher. His nephew on his wife's side, Tom K. Smith, Jr., explains Dr. Frank's background:

"See, his background was a typical, rural Missouri family, working hard to get an education, working hard to be creatively . . . helpful in the state and in the country. . . . He was a very interesting product of Missouri, and Missouri essentially can be proud of what they produced because he was a fine, bright, intelligent, honest, well-behaved gentleman."

Young Glenn showed unusual talent for public speaking, delivering his first sermon at the age of 15. At the age of 17, he began a circuit ministry during the summer, traveling to several of the small towns around northeastern Missouri. With the money he earned from his sermons and loans from his brother William's law practice, Glenn then enrolled in the Kirksville Normal School. From 1904 to 1909, he earned his high school credits as well as part of his college education at the Normal School while continuing his circuit.

During the time he attended the Normal School, Glenn was popular among the students, who respected his exceptional speaking ability. He took a variety of courses which tended to focus on the humanities. He was elected class curator and editor of the Senior Society. Arizona congressman John R. Murdock, one of Glenn's classmates at the Normal School, told the following story in an interview for the *Kansas City Star:* "He has a way of getting things done. We had a dear old professor, A.P. Settle, who was a stickler for punctuation. One time I went to speak to him and found his desk covered with composition papers. As I approached, he said, not altogether kindly, 'Just look at that,' handing me a 10-page document written in longhand.

"On the first nine pages of the manuscript, I couldn't find a punctuation mark anywhere, but on the tenth page, the last dozen lines were filled with periods, commas, question marks and exclamation points, with this note from the author, Glenn Frank: 'Here they are, Prof. Put 'em in where you need 'em.'"

During the years he attended the Normal School, Mr. Frank sometimes held revivals at various churches, in addition to riding the six-church circuit. Russell Murfin, a resident of Kirksville, recalls that Glenn Frank stayed with his parents during one such meeting at the Sabbath Home First Methodist Church. "They remember him as a light-hearted type person that had a lot of fun," he says, "He was a great kidder."

Glenn Frank was born in Queen City on October 1, 1887. Here he is 6 months old.

Then, in the autumn of 1909, without sufficient funds or education to enter, Mr. Frank enrolled in Northwestern University. For five years his education had lacked continuity because he alternated preaching with attending classes at the Normal School. However, when he applied at Northwestern, young Mr. Frank insisted that he enroll as a junior in college. When the dean claimed that it would defy reason to admit him as a freshman, much less a junior, according to the *Kansas City Star,* "Young Frank turned away, saying, 'That wouldn't suit.' 'What would?' asked the dean. 'Enrollment as a junior,' Frank said. 'Dr. John R. Kirk says I have the equivalent of a high school education and two years in college. He ought to know.' 'Kirk does know,' the dean asserted. Glenn Frank entered Northwestern as a junior." After two years of study, he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree. During each of the next four summers, he spent several weeks as a manager for chautauquas, traveling shows of cultured talent. These chautauquas came from Chicago to this region.

Anna Valentine, a Unionville resident at that time, described him in the chautauqua which came to Unionville, "Glenn Frank, the handsome, tall, dark gentleman, dressed with

At age six, Glenn was just beginning school as a student of his older brother, William.

a . . . navy blue jacket and white serge trousers and white shoes. He would open up each meeting from the platform with a little speech of greeting, an introduction of the talent that was to follow.''

He also spent these years working at Northwestern as the alumni secretary and assistant to the president of the university. But young Mr. Frank wanted success. He was already fairly well-known because of his many oratorical accomplishments, but Glenn Frank wanted wider renown. He also needed to earn enough money to be considered a suitable husband for Mary Smith, a fine-blooded Southerner of the highest degree. Thus, when the rich, influential merchant Edward A. Filene of Boston offered him a job as Mr. Filene's private secretary, Glenn Frank found it very difficult to refuse.

Yet Mr. Frank, realizing the necessity of keeping his own identity separate from Mr. Filene's, whose reputation as a shrewd businessman was matched as a political activist, refused the initial offer. When a second offer arrived, however, he could not decline. So, in 1916, after becoming engaged to Miss Smith, Glenn Frank moved to Boston to work for Mr. Filene. He corresponded regularly with Mary throughout his time in Boston.

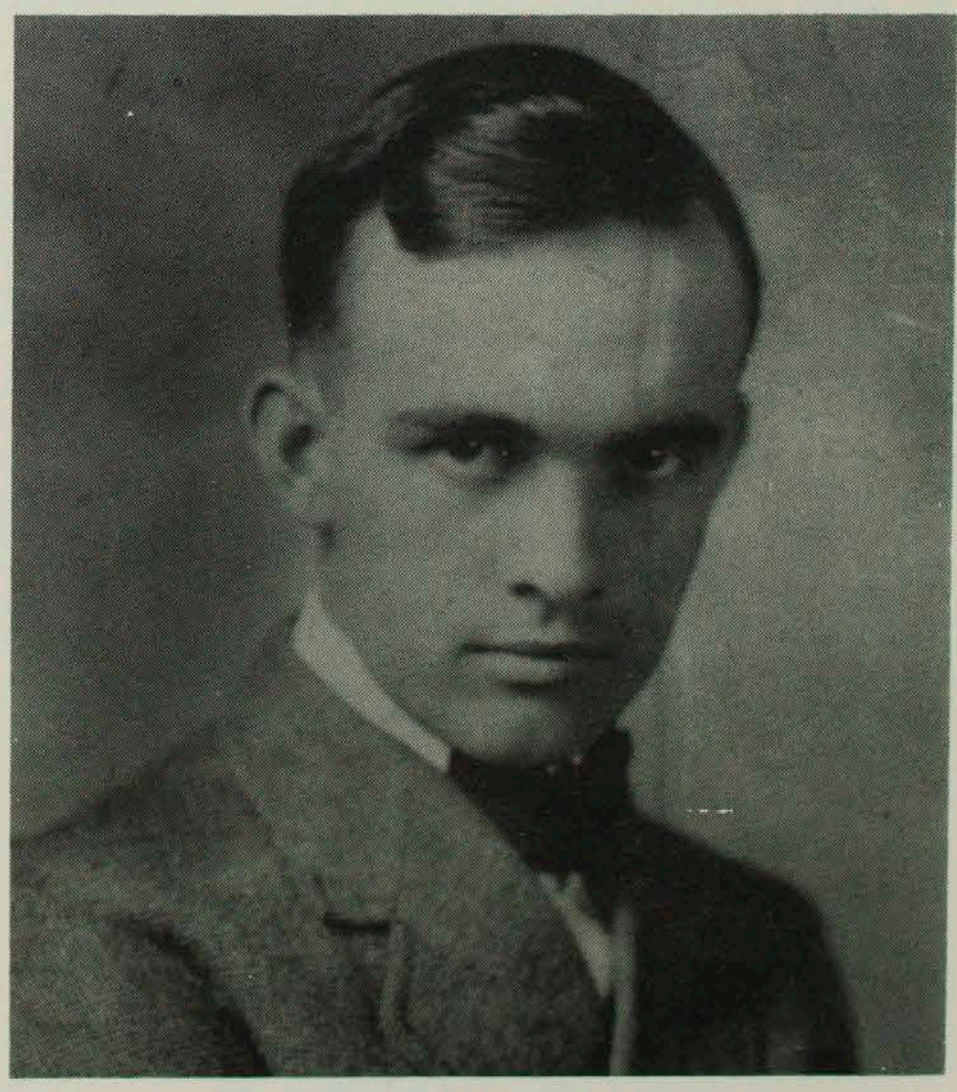
Mr. Frank frequently mentioned tiredness in his letters to his fiancée. His job consisted of a busy schedule, allowing little time to relax. He admitted that the doctors attributed his exhaustion and illnesses to stress, telling him to ease his efforts; however, Glenn Frank continued to concentrate on his work.

Glenn Frank also seemed to dislike some of the jobs Mr. Filene required him to do for the League of Nations movement. Mr. Filene had contributed $25,000 to the organization, the League to Enforce Peace, and he had Mr. Frank launch a pacifist propaganda campaign in its favor. Mr. Frank wrote to his fiancée, ''I hope I can get away from this intolerable Filene connection in the near future.'' Later, in a note on that letter, Mrs. Frank added that ''Frank didn't like writing books, speeches, etc. for Mr. Filene. But his work with Filene was a valuable experience.''

As Mr. Filene's private secretary made personal representative, Mr. Frank met many of the most influential men in the nation. Among these men was the former President of the United States, William Howard Taft. Referring to the President, Glenn Frank wrote to Miss Smith saying, ''He has taken a very gratifying liking to me.'' This statement appears to have been true of most of Mr. Frank's associates, all of whom seem to have liked his friendly, cheerful, hard-working attitude.

On June 2, 1917, at the Bofinger Memorial Capitol in St. Louis, Glenn Frank and Mary Smith were married by Bishop Daniel S. Tuttle. Mr. Frank was overjoyed, and congratulations arrived in the form of letters and telegrams from all parts of the nation. Everyone had high hopes for the young couple. Ophie Read, a novelist, expressed these hopes for Glenn Frank in a letter to the new Mrs. Frank. She wrote, ''I believe it destined that he shall deeply impress the intellectual life of this nation.''

Living up to expectations, Mr. Frank began to establish himself as a writer during his years with Mr. Filene. He contributed as editor of the *Northwestern Magazine* by writing various articles and later began journalism as an alternative income to his speeches and speech writing. Several of the books which he wrote during this period brought him renown among the nation's most brilliant people for his original statements and startling forms of speech. When he heard of the open position



Glenn Frank spent the summer of 1909 assisting Billy Sunday with his evangelical preaching in Marshalltown, Iowa.

of associate editor of *Century* magazine, Mr. Frank decided to apply.

Glenn Frank's interest in *Century* sprang from the magazine's high reputation as one of the most influential American periodicals. In September of 1919, Mr. Frank became the associate editor of the magazine at a salary of about $7,500 per year. The magazine encouraged Mr. Frank to continue lecturing, and he often earned an extra $10,000 a year, more than doubling his editor's salary.

During this time, Glenn Frank began to earn his reputation as one of the nation's top writers. He wrote on a variety of topics and had a flair for writing in vivid, fluent prose.

Mr. Frank edited as well as he wrote. As editor, he transformed *Century* from an out-of-date traditional magazine covering many topics to an up-to-date interest grabber. Due to Mr. Frank's great success as an editor, his employer decided to make him editor-in-chief, raising Mr. Frank's salary to $13,000 a year. To say the least, Mr. Frank and his growing family were delighted.

On December 7, 1918, Glenn Frank, Jr., had been born. Glenn Frank's young son was his joy, filling the Frank's home with happiness. Said Ermil Frye, one of Mr. Frank's associates, about Mr. Frank at the birth of his son, "Glenn Frank was a man of unusual emotional balance and equilibrium of temperament which, however, was visibly shaken by this new experience. And his voice, always vibrant with a thrilling quality, was even more brilliant as he related to me the great news."

Glenn Frank's potential was growing. One of *Century's* leading authors, Zona Gale, wrote to Mr. Frank asking whether he would be available for the presidency of the University of Wisconsin. The Board of Regents at the university, of which Miss Gale was a member, was searching for a person who could aid the university in its pursuit of excellence. They wanted a progressive liberal who would bring the university prestige.

The Regents had already discovered someone who they believed would do the job effectively at the time Miss Gale wrote her letter, yet he rejected this offer. Miss Gale considered it the proper time to recommend Glenn Frank for candidacy. He had already expressed his interest in the position, and his reputedly liberal attitude in writing and speech insured him as a sound person for the presidency. Although Mr. Frank, in his writings, declared that a liberal's place is not in education, his practices indicated that he actually believed otherwise. When offered the presidency, he accepted without the slightest hesitation.

In 1912, Glenn Frank, pictured on the left in the second row, was a member of the Deru Fraternity at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.

In September, 1925, Mr. Frank became the official president of the University of Wisconsin. The presidency presented many disadvantages for Glenn Frank. The University of Wisconsin was ruled basically by politically installed Regents and had existed under a weak presidency for nearly a decade, during which time it had been merely maintained, never improved. Also, his income was cut by about $5,000 because of the limit the university placed on his speaking and writing.

The Board of Regents was originally pleased with its choice of a president. But President Frank did not truly concentrate on the administrative aspects of his job, instead traveling from place to place to give speeches in behalf of the university. The Board did not protest. They had given him permission to speak as the president in his contract.

One of the speeches President Frank gave during this time was for the Lyceum series at the Kirksville Normal School. Lola Bell, a college student who attended the speech, describes the occasion, "I remember the man. He was a handsome fellow . . . I would say not quite six feet tall, but close to that . . . he had a high forehead—his hair was beginning to recede—but . . . it was parted on one side. . . . Dr. Kirk was so proud to introduce him because he had been a student there in the Teachers College, and he was proud to think he had gone on to do bigger things."

President Frank also continued to write a syndicated newspaper column in addition to his many out-of-state speeches, both of which were slightly questionable under terms of the contract. These two questionable acts helped keep intact his reputation as a liberal.

Several scandals on the campus involving both students and faculty members convinced many of the Board that Glenn Frank was an inadequate president. On December 7, 1936, Governor Philip LaFollette, President Frank's bitter political enemy, met with two anti-Frank regents, Harold Wilkie and Clough Gates, to discuss President Frank's administration of the university, and they determined to ask President Frank to resign on December 9. They claimed that he had quietly agreed, while President Frank fiercely denied ever having made such a statement.

On December 16th, as the Board began its regular meeting, Mr. Wilkie promptly stood and read a list of charges against Glenn Frank. The room was chaotic. Students shouted, while the Regents argued among themselves. President Frank finally had a chance to declare that he would not resign.

President Frank's hearing began in the morning on January 6, 1937, and lasted until the next day. After Mr. Wilkie's and Mr. Gates' charges, Glenn Frank spoke briefly in his own defense. The next day he resumed speaking, relating the hardships of his administration. He accused the Depression of being the major cause of any flaw in his administration and denied most of the statements against him. He reviewed his achievements and maintained his former position in all matters. The following day, after several speeches in President Frank's

Glenn Frank's only child, Glenn Frank, Jr., was born in 1918 in Boston.

behalf, the Regents cast their votes. Seven voted to keep President Frank, while eight voted to remove him. All of the eight Regents who voted against Frank had been appointed by Governor La Follette. Five of the eight had served less than one year as Regents. President Frank was dismissed, and he claimed that he was the victim of a "political firing squad."

Glenn Frank continued his life by buying and editing *Rural Progress*, a magazine distributed to farmers without cost. He chose this job because he thought he could gain political influence, as well as money. Mr. Smith explained his purchase of the magazine as a "springboard for his political ambitions . . . he thought he could express his opinions in politics, his ambitions—and to the public—very easily that way and also gain a lot of support. . . . And he needed a little money, although it was a disaster in that regard." He changed the failing magazine drastically and it soon became a political magazine for farmers. The magazine became anti-New Deal, hoping to influence farmers against President Roosevelt's policies. Despite this change, the magazine continued to fail, losing $96,000 in a single quarter, and eventually ended publication in 1939.

During the Depression, Glenn Frank had become more and more associated with the Republican Party. In January of 1938, he was elected chairman of the committee writing the Republican Party rules, and five days before the deadline, on July 26, 1940, Glenn Frank announced his candidacy for senatorial nomination in Wisconsin. He rushed to gain enough signatures for his name to appear on the ballot, filing less than two hours before the requirement time. Thus his political career triumphantly began—and sadly ended.

A tragic car accident prematurely ended Glenn Frank's life and career. On September 15, 1940, Glenn Frank, Jr., was speeding along the highway in a Ford Sedan, his father writing a speech at his side and a sound technician in back. They were an hour late for an appointment at Green Bay, Wisconsin, where men were waiting to contribute funds for his campaign. Suddenly, a curve appeared in the road, and a pile of sand loomed ahead. It was too late. The car skidded, turned over, and continued rolling. Glenn Frank's neck broke, and he died instantly in the midst of his career. His son, a reporter for *The Madison State Journal*, survived long enough to send the following uncanny dispatch to his paper: "Dr. Glenn Frank and a member of his party righted the overturned car and freed the injured woman. Another of the party called the police, a wrecker, and an ambulance. When help arrived the perspiring candidate went on to a speaking engagement at Glidden." Despite his son's loyal disclaimer, Glenn Frank had been killed. Even after his death, however, Glenn Frank placed third in the election for senator, in an unusual tribute from the people of Wisconsin.

Soon after his death, Mrs. Frank contributed his books and papers to the Northeast Missouri State Teachers College. Despite his residing in Wisconsin for several years before his death, Northeast Missouri remained his true home. Mr. Smith explained the choice, "Both the Franks and the Smiths were very . . . proud of the neighborhood. Enjoyed it, grew up there, loved it. And they felt that was proper. Much better than the University of Wisconsin, where . . . he was 12 years . . . but that wasn't life. And life was in Northeast Missouri. And I think that's the reason they were sent there and . . . hopefully kept there." Thus, Glenn Frank's history returned to his childhood home.

Dr. Hamilton Holt, President of Rollins College, said that "Glenn Frank might well have been President of the United States if he had lived." Glenn Frank was a great man, who rose from a small-town Missourian to become one of the most eminent people of his time.

Photos courtesy of Pickler Memorial Library

By Tonya Krueger

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