

Allen Co. Ind.  
V.F.

# Harlan Centennial

1853 - 1953





Allen County Public Library  
Ft. Wayne, Indiana

*Congratulations*  
ON YOUR  
*100th Anniversary*



**Howard Camera Shop**

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

Leave your Pictures of the Centennial at the CORNER STORE

And You Will Get HOWARD Quality Finishing

Compliments of

 **ALLEN** County Motors INC. *"The HOUSE OF SINCERE SERVICE"*  
 500 WEST MAIN ST. Phil. ANTHONY 1345-9373



SALES AND SERVICE

SALES AND SERVICE

# NIGHT SERVICE

Get Your Car or Truck Serviced Monday

Through Friday Until MIDNIGHT

SEE OUR USED CAR AND TRUCK BARGAINS

ALL USED CARS AND TRUCKS WARRANTEED

6 MONTHS OR 6,000 MILES

ALL OUR USED CARS WARRANTEED


**6 MONTHS OR 6,000 MILES**  
*in writing*

ACCORDING TO S.E.I. WARRANTIES ... AND  
MAY BE REPAIRED BY ANY AUTHORIZED NATIONAL  
S.E.I. WARRANTY DEALER IN THE UNITED STATES

ALL OUR USED CARS WARRANTEED

**6 MONTHS OR 6,000 MILES**  
*in writing*

ACCORDING TO S.E.I. WARRANTIES ... AND  
MAY BE REPAIRED BY ANY AUTHORIZED NATIONAL  
S.E.I. WARRANTY DEALER IN THE UNITED STATES

 **ALLEN** County Motors INC. *"The HOUSE OF SINCERE SERVICE"*  
 500 WEST MAIN ST. Phil. ANTHONY 1345-9373



# The HARLAN CENTENNIAL



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The Harlan Community Association  
Harlan, Indiana

Reichelderfer

4.30

H. G. Hood

4.37

Wm. Luce Sr.  
Wm. Luce  
Luce  
1

M. A. Astor

F. K. Cogswell

Yonderbrook & Henderson  
Henderson  
2.00

I. Skinner  
7.20

SQUIRES ADD.

Shiloh  
1.25

I. Reichelderfer  
REICHWELDERFER'S  
ADD.

REICHWELDERFER'S  
ADD.

ORIGINAL PLAT  
HALLAN

M. E. Omer  
10.31

H. G. Hood

HOOD'S ADD.

H. Hood  
4.50

A. Hood  
2.50

L. D. George

62

J. D. Reichelderfer  
Hilchek  
2.00

T. Hood  
0.75

J. D. Reichelderfer

J. R. Hood

J. R. Hood

Murray

Mitchell

Brown

W. W. Hood

J. W. Hood

E. Kenyon

S. Kenyon

J. W. Hood

27.460.

J. D. Reichelderfer  
6.66

6.66

C. S.

Kettinger

6.66



MAYSVILLE  
MARLAN P.O.

Compliments of

JACK

VANCE

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ATLAS TIRES ★ BATTERIES

Harlan

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Indiana

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Grabill R. R. 2  
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SAVE TIME — SAVE LABOR

SAVE MONEY

with HONEGGERS FARM TESTED

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Day or Night

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and best wishes for the next

Hundred Years

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Harlan 2335

CUBA CORNERS

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1853 ——— 1953

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Harlan, Indiana



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## Harlan, Indiana

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Kenneth Amstutz 2145

Noah Amstutz 2662

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WE FINANCE LONG TERM LOANS

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MICHIGAN

OHIO



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This old sow has done her job well by farrowing this large, healthy, well developed litter of pigs. The profitability of this litter depends on us. Feed the profit out of your hogs by starting them on PURINA PIG STARTENA and follow through with the Purina Hog Program.

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ALLEN COUNTY PURINA DEALERS

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*Good Breeding*  
*Careful Sanitation*

*Sound Management*  
*Good Feeding*

FOR PROFITABLE PRODUCTION

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Compliments of  
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**Shell Service**  
**Distributors**

Motorolo and Zenith  
Television and Radio

**SALES**

*Expert Service*

Leo 3133

Grabill, Indiana

## IRVING BROS. Gravel Co.

Ready Mixed Concrete  
Homeward Precast Steps  
Currier's Precast Incinerators  
**QUALITY SERVICE**



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**PHONES**

Harlan 3253 Hicksville 248F13



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Member American Bankers Association

Member Indiana Bankers Association

Member National Association of Bank Auditors and Comptrollers

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# HARLAN

ON THEIR 100th ANNIVERSARY

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# Grabill Hardware

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“A GOOD PLACE TO TRADE

*Harlan Folks: Greetings! We appreciate the fine patronage with which you have honored us for many years. Stop in often.*

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

CONGRATULATIONS

ON YOUR

100th ANNIVERSARY

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Headquarters for All Your

Car and Truck Needs

★ GRABILL ★

*"More People Buy Chevrolet*

*Than Any Other Car"*

## Grabill Cabinet Co.

QUALITY CABINETS

*Let Us Beautify*

*Your Kitchen*

CUSTOM MADE

Telephone: Grabill 3651

Grabill

Indiana

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**25 Years Service With**

**STATE FARM INSURANCE**

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**LEADER IN LOW  
COST FULL COVERAGE  
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More people enjoy **low-rate, full coverage** auto insurance with **State Farm** than with any other company — **because State Farm** aims to insure only **careful drivers!**

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This carefully **selected and trained** insurance agent will **be happy to advise** and assist you in **selecting the** insurance protection you need. **Why not** have him visit you so you can **secure** his valuable assistance on your needs of **Life, Auto and Fire** insurance. No obligation Call or write him now.

Telephone Harlan 2157

**N. A. GOLDSMITH**

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**STATE FARM INSURANCE COMPANIES  
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GRAINS SEEDS FEEDS

FERTILIZER COAL

FLOUR

Grabill, Indiana

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*Congratulations*  
**H A R L A N**  
*on your*  
*100th Anniversary*



**Woodburn State Bank**

**Woodburn, Indiana**

Member of FDIC

F O R front alignment and wheel balancing and body repair

S E E

# Schwartz Auto Company

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“ F O R G O D A N D C O U N T R Y ”

*The American Dream . . . . of Freedom,  
Justice and Democracy is founded on  
GOD!*

N O W is the time to return to HIS Worship

## Harlan American Legion Post 422

AND AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

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Plumbing, Heating, And

Electrical Wiring

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No Sale 2 Large or 2 Small

1 mile west of Leo

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**U. S. APPROVED FORMULA**

**Chicks      Feeds**

**Sauder's Farm Hatchery**

**1st Farm East of Grabill**

**GRABILL LOCKER**

**FRESH FRUITS IN SEASON**

**BEEF BY QUARTER**

**Bank Your Food Here**

**Leo 2604**

**Grabill, Ind.**

**NEW IDEA**

**NEW HOLLAND**

**C A S E**

**Farm Machinery**

**Sales & Service**

**Stuckey Farm Equipment Co.**

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Phone Leo 3373

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**DUOMATIC**  
**WASHER-DRYER**

**Souders' Home Center**

**GRABILL, INDIANA**

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Phone No. 26

**"Everything to build Anything"**

CONGRATULATIONS

**Homer L. Oyer**

**STANDARD OIL PRODUCTS**

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INDIANA

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR  
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION  
AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
PATRONAGE

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**GROCERIES — DRY GOODS — SHOES**

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**MILLER & NEUHOUSER  
POULTRY MARKET INC.**

**Buyers of All Kinds of Poultry**

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**WICO, Inc.**

Jct. Leo and Amstutz Roads

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**"Where Price and Quality Meet"**

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**MEATS AND GROCERIES**

Woodburn, Indiana

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Arcola, Indiana

Phone 70

**We specialize in Milk Coolers**

**And Milk Cooler Service**





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Congratulations on your

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For ONE-FIFTH of a CENTURY we have supplied this community with Farm Seeds that have been propagated and improved as time marched on.

Yours for Better Seeds and Better Crops in the years to come.

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Growers and Distributors of

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International Trucks

New and Used Cars

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Machinery

**Frank G. Gregg  
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Woodburn

Indiana

# HARLAN

100 YEARS YOUNG!

AT

# GOMPFS

We're Young Too!

Visit the Store

WHERE PRICES ARE "BORN"

NOT RAISED

GOMPFS

Woodburn, Indiana

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR 100th YEAR

*f r o m*

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GRAIN ★ FEEDS ★ SEEDS ★ FERTILIZER

MODERN ELEVATOR

F E E D M I L L

GRAIN DRIER

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Propane (Bottle Gas) For  
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Good People in A Good Community

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GOOD TELEVISION

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Compliments of

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*A Full Line of Grade A Dairy Products*

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Extra Quality Drain Tile

**DUNBRIK**

**DUNSTONE**

The Modern Brick with Outstanding

Beauty and Color

Lawn Ornaments

(in color)

All products meet ASTM specifications

Come and see us before you decide

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starting \$99.50 up. Call: Phone 36

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**WOODRING RADIO & TV SERVICE**

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**GRADE A MEATS  
GROCERIES AND FRESH VEGETABLES**  
Spencerville, Indiana

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Spencerville Advertising Service  
**OUT DOOR MOVIES OUR SPECIALTY  
MOVIES FOR CHURCH, LODGE, CLUBS**  
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Spencerville, Indiana

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**M. H. HOLLABAUGH**  
**SHELL DISTRIBUTOR**  
Spencerville, Indiana

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BEST WISHES FOR  
A SUCCESSFUL HARLAN  
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION  
**ROSCOE WALTER**  
Spencerville, Indiana

Compliments of

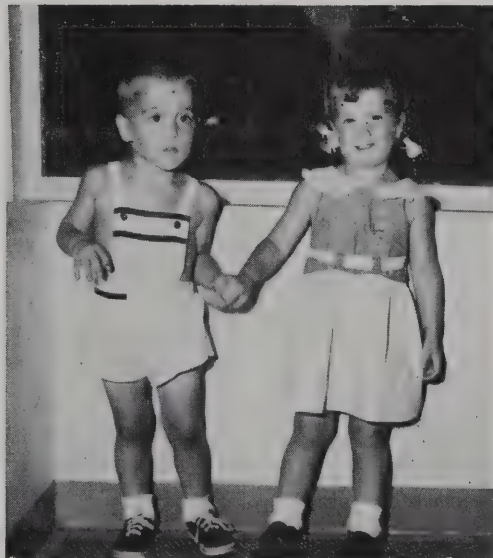
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Spencerville, Indiana

*Our Satisfied Customers  
Range In Age  
From*



*To*



**B. A. SMITH LUMBER CO.**

SINCE 1902  
ANTWERP, OHIO

**EHRHART STUDIO**

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**EVERYDAY LOW PRICES**

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Skilled Workmanship

30 Years Experience

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**HOME MADE SOUP**

Our Specialty

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**DEVINES**

**BARBER SHOP**

**BARBER SUPPLIES**

Clinton at Main — Ft. Wayne

**Consumers Pipe & Supply Co.**

WALTER D. ROTH, Owner

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**Antwerp, Ohio**

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**O.K. CERTIFIED USED CARS & TRUCKS**  
**THE BEST SELECTION IN THE AREA**  
**24-HOUR WRECKER SERVICE**  
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**On All Makes of Cars and Trucks**  
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**More People Buy Chevrolet**  
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**HARLAN and COMMUNITY**  
**ON YOUR 100th BIRTHDAY**

**Home Furnishings**  
**G. E. and Bendix**  
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**Funeral Directors**  
**Since 1857**

**SCHILB AND SONS**  
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# Mayville Reporter.

Published by C. P. BOWLER, Publisher, at the Reporter Building, Mayville, Ind. FRIDAY, MAY 20, 1917. No. 11 CUTTER No. 210. Terms: \$1.50 per year, in advance. No. 1.

**ROOFING and SPOUTING.**  
**O. MINNICK,**  
Maysville, Indiana.

**ROOFING and SPOUTING.**  
**O. MINNICK,**  
Maysville, Indiana.

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C. P. BOWLER, Proprietor.

**EVERYBODY RIGHT THIS WAY.**  
**HERE IS WHERE YOU GET YOUR MONEY BACK.**  
**John Timbrook.**  
DRUGS AND MEDICINES.

**DRY GOODS.**  
Government Hats.  
Saps, Boots & Shoes.  
Dress Goods.

**DO-N'T.**  
Don't get your money for goods when you can buy as cheap or cheaper at...

**COME AND 'E ME.**  
**"B. 4. U."**  
GO ELSEWHERE.

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**E. L. COOMER.**  
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**Don't Forget**  
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Physician.

**WAGONS & BUGIES.**

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C. P. BOWLER, Proprietor.

**Don't Forget**  
The Mayville Milk.

**Dr. J. W. HILDEBRAND.**  
Physician.

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Maysville, Indiana.

**Coffins.**

**J. D. STOPPERS.**

**DRY GOODS.**  
Government Hats.  
Saps, Boots & Shoes.  
Dress Goods.

**JOHN TIMBROOK.**

**WAGONS & BUGIES.**

**WAGONS & BUGIES.**

**I. Newlands,**  
**Coffins.**  
**J. D. STOPPERS.**



# *A Message From The General Chairman*

This exciting Centennial Celebration in which we are now engaged is the successful climax to months of preparation and planning by literally hundreds of your friends and neighbors.

In our initial thoughts we established two primary aims for this Centennial Celebration. First — this must be an undertaking in which every segment of Harlan participates. A Centennial conducted by that same handful of fine, civic minded people who spearhead every campaign and civic venture could not be successful; the active participation of all the citizens in our community, either in the planning and development or as spectators, was a prerequisite to a successful celebration.

Second — the entire program must be entertaining. Entertaining not only to the thousands who have viewed the parade, the pageant, "Lest We Forget", and the rest but also to the several hundred folks who have so enthusiastically participated in the operation of the Centennial.

These goals have been attained and we only regret that it will be many years before another Centennial occurs and Harlan can again join together in such a pleasant undertaking.

We wish to extend our warmest appreciation to the Division and Committee Chairmen, to the many Committee members and members of the pageant cast, the author of "Lest We Forget," the Directors of the pageant, to the chorus and its director who have earned the appreciation of all Harlan for their outstanding contribution to the great Centennial.

Dorwin J. Amstutz  
Chairman



# Harlan Community Association

President — H. H. Oetting

Secretary — Mrs. Herbert Davis

Vice-President — Gerald Hostetler

Treasurer — Harold Stiver

## CENTENNIAL CHAIRMAN

Dorwin J. Amstutz

## CO-CHAIRMEN

Hugo Oetting

Maynard Amstutz

Harold Stiver

Norman Michel

Gerald Hostetler

Ralph Rogers

Arthur Roy

## COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Antique Display	Harry Johnston
Advertising and Publicity	Harold Stiver
Centennial Book	Norman Michel
Food Tent	Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Roy, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald DeLong
Safety and Parking	Kenneth Stottler
Parade	Clifford Zeimmer, Zenno Brandon
Car Tickets	Ralph Rogers
Queen Contest	Gerald Hostetler
Novelty Tent	John Hall
Pop Tent	Howard Amstutz
Watermelon Tent	Wilson Phillips
Pageant	Maynard Amstutz
Whisker Contest	Richard Harris
Handicraft Tent	Mrs. Cozy Fillman
Pop Tent	Tom Kurtz
Merchandise display	
Badge Sales	G. R. Brittenham
Duck Tank	Willis Bennett
Bozo Concession	Kenneth Bandelier



Zimmerman Hardware (1904), now the site of Amstut Service Station



Harlan's Independent Basketball Team (1913-14). One of the first basketball teams in Indiana. Ranked fourth in semi-professional basketball in the state. Reading from left to right, front row: Walter Thimlar, deceased; DeGroff Swartz, Roscoe Walters, Don Boston, Charles Stopher, deceased; Mark Gorrell, deceased; William Mason, deceased. Second row: Fred (Prof.) Smith, mgr. and coach; Frank Goldsmith, referee.

# A Century With Harlan

Mrs. Nettie Minnick, Harlan's oldest resident who has lived through **five major wars**, **25 Presidential campaigns** and the birth of what she calls "streamlined living."

For those persons who **aspire to live out a century**, Mrs. Minnick has this bit of sound advice:

"Just behave yourselves and live temperately."

Mrs. Minnick who was **102**, April 3, firmly believes that "temperance" in all things tends to lengthen life. But by **temperance** she doesn't mean crawling off into some corner. She advises one's being active and being a part of the community.

During her 102 years, she says she's always taken an active part and interest in Harlan, has worked hard, helped the sick, but has never stayed out late at night.

At this point in her life she admits her eyesight is poor, but her memory is good.

## Remembers Civil War

She fully remembers the Civil War. One reason, she points out, is because her brother, too young then to enlist in the Army, had signed the papers three times before his father let him go. Her brother, she said, died of pneumonia contracted while on guard duty with the Union Army. She also remembers the death of her father in 1866 a year after the Civil War.

Mrs. Minnick is proud of the fact that she's missed very few trips to the voting polls, stating:

"It's the duty of every American citizen to vote."

Mrs. Minnick has lived in the same home since she was a bride, and was born in a dwelling only 200 feet from her present home.

## She Likes To Travel

She reports that she has always liked to travel, having visited Florida frequently, with other trips to Colorado, Niagara Falls (three times), and Cleveland.

"Home, however, is the best place of all — right here where I have lived all my life," she commented. She adds that she attended a one-room school in her youth, and has been a widow since 1915.

When people jokingly ask her how she thinks she'll feel when she's 103, she retorts:

"Why don't you come back when I'm 103 and find out for yourself?"

The Harlan Centennial will be celebrated in the form of a pageant play, beginning with scenes from 1853 and carrying through to the present day. Instead of being in the first scene, Mrs. Minnick will appear in the last scene representing 1953.

She's thrilled at the thought of taking part in the gala festivities, but feels bad because no one has asked her to give a "reading". In the past few years she has read a good deal of poetry and has memorized many poems.

## Mother of Seven

Mrs. Minnick is the mother of seven children four living. She has 11 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.





*Grandma Minnick*

On her 100th Anniversary. She is now 102.



G. A. Reeder Drug Store and Charles Cummins Watch Repair Shop — 1904.  
Now known as the Corner Store, operated by Walter Metcalfe



One of Harlan's four Blacksmith Shops in 1901





Harlan High School — 1908



Dr. Franklin Cosgrove home in 1880, taken from **History of Allen County** by  
T. B. Helmn, now the home of James Ross family





Flag raising in 1917 at the point of the flatiron building.



The George T. James Grocery (1903), now Chausee Home Store



# *Centennial Program*

*Community Park*

*Friday, July 31, 1953*

10:00 A.M.	Aerial Bomb
11:00 A.M.	High Dive — Capt. Earl McDonald
11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.	Noon
1:30 P.M.	Afternoon Program Band Concert Old Fashioned Horse Power Carding and Spinning of Wool Muzzle Loading Gun Shoot Lions Club Quartette Mad George and Company — Comedy Act Ballon Jump — Col. Pat Timmons
5:00 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.	Supper
8:00 P.M.	Crowning of Queen
8:30 P.M.	Pageant — "Lest We Forget"
10:00 P.M.	High Jump — Capt. Earl McDonald

*Saturday, August 1, 1953*

10:00 A.M.	Aerial Bomb
10:30 A.M.	Parade
11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.	Noon
1:30 P.M.	Afternoon Program Band Concert High Dive — Capt. Earl McDonald Old Fashioned Threshing Old Fashioned Horse Power Whisker Contest Judging — Award Prizes Wool Spinning Demonstration Mad George and Company — Comedy Act Barber Shop Quartet Balloon Jump — Col. Pat Timmons
5:00 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.	Supper
7:00 P.M.	Sheriff Posse
7:30 P.M.	Presentation of Gifts to Queen
8:30 P.M.	Pageant — "Lest We Forget"
10:00 P.M.	High Dive — Capt. Earl McDonald Drawing for Car

*Harlan Community Association*

*Presents*

*“Lest We Forget”*

Vivian Rogers

Harlan Community Park

*July 31 - August 1, 1953*

8:30 P. M.

Maynard Amstutz, Director

*Program*

PROLOGUE

A Community Salutes You

EPISODE I

Indian Scene With Tribal Dance

In order that a history may be complete, let us first look at the tattooed savages who hunted buffalo, built teepees, held their tribal dances, lived and died on the spot you are now sitting.

EPISODE II

They Began to Arrive

Ezra May with his wife and two daughters, Mary and Matilda settled in the present sight of Harlan in 1836. Most people came to this settlement by wagon or horseback.

Scene I May's Cabin

Scene II Wedding of Matilda May and William Letcher

Scene III Johnny Appleseed, a frequent visitor at the Mays.



# Program

## EPISODE III

### Platting the Towns

- Scene I Lewis Reichelderfer points out proposed town of Harlan in 1853.
- Scene II Ezra May platted Maysville adjacent to Harlan in 1859.

## EPISODE IV

### The Union Calls

## EPISODE V

### Town Meeting

Dr. Cosgrove insists that the name of Harlan be dropped and the name of Maysville retained.

## EPISODE VI

### Fun, Food and Religion

At the turn of the century Sunday school picnics were quite the vogue. The Marshal of the Day for the host church escorts arriving Guest Sunday Schools to the picnic grounds to begin the order of the day.

## EPISODE VII

### The Community Chautauqua

## EPISODE VIII

### We Won't Be Back Till It's Over Over There

- Scene I World War I
- Scene II A Tableau — World War II

## EPISODE IX

### Our Hope of Tomorrow

The strength of our community, state, nation, and world depends upon the faith and courage that can be instilled within school boys and girls.

## EPISODE X

### A Century Passes in Review

## EPILOGUE

### Where But In America

- Chorus Director ..... Mrs. Norman Michel
- Organ Accompanist ..... Robert Shepfer
- Assistant Accompanist ..... Mrs. Gerald Hostetler
- Narrator I ..... Ralph Rogers
- Narrator II ..... Gerald Hostetler
- Pageant Committee ..... Maynard Amstutz, Mrs. Ralph Rogers,  
Mrs. DeGroff Swartz, Mrs. Mildred Julian, Mrs. Richard  
Stauffer, Mrs. Norman Michel, Mrs. Maynard Amstutz
- Costume Committee ..... Mrs. Richard Harris, Mrs. Carlisle Smith,  
Mrs. Ted Slough

*Harlan Centennial Queen*



*Queen Beverly*

EHRHART'S STUDIO  
Antwerp, Ohio

*The Queen and Her Court*



CHARLOTTE  
MULL

LOIS JEAN  
AMSTUTZ

BEVERLY  
KEES

KATHRYN  
JOHNSON

ELAINE  
AMSTUTZ

EHRHART'S STUDIO  
Antwerp, Ohio





Flatiron building in which the Masonic Lodge, The Order of the Eastern Star and Chausse Home Store are now located



Familiar street scene in Harlan in the early 1900's

*Centennial Notes*



# Harlan's Living Past

Although admitted to the Union in 1816, Indiana was very sparsely settled at that time and had only thirteen counties lying along with the Ohio River. Less than one-fourth of the state had been ceded to the white man and more than half of its total area was still active Indian hunting ground. Settlement proceeded so rapidly, however, that new counties were organized by the legislature at every session. On December 17, 1823, legislation was enacted for the formation of a new county "to be known and designated by the name of Allen, in memory of Col. John Allen of Kentucky, a hero in the War of 1812." May 31, 1824, the first meeting of the county board of commissioners ordered that the "County of Allen be constituted as one township, and called the township of Wayne." Congress had established a land office in Fort Wayne for the sale of northern Indiana lands at \$1.25 per acre, and the rich soil attracted so many settlers that it soon became necessary to divide the county into a number of townships. Springfield Township was created in 1837 and contained what is now Scipio Township until March 6, 1843, when the county board authorized the separation of Scipio Township and scheduled its first election. By 1846 the division of Allen County had been completed and twenty townships formed.

The first settlements in the vicinity of Harlan were made in 1836 by three families — those of William Sweet, Ezra May, and Isaac Hall. They found a primitive, fertile land rich in timber, abundant in wild life, and teeming with evidence of recent Indian occupation. (Although a few bands of wandering Indians remained in the township until 1839, most of them had been removed by government treaties a few years earlier.) By 1840 a dozen families had found their way to Springfield Township; in the following decade settlers poured into the area so rapidly that it was impossible to list them. Statistics show that by 1850, the population of the township was 702; in 1860, it was 1,505; and in 1870, 1,749.

In May, 1859, Ezra May laid out "a small plat of the town which bears his name south of the Hicksville road, adjoining the plat of Harlan, which had been laid out in December, 1853, between the Hicksville and Spencerville roads, by Lewis Reichelderfer." (*The Valley of the Upper Maumee River* by Col. Robert Robertson, 1889, p. 351) Because of the enterprise and popularity of Mr. May, both towns, growing side by side, soon became known as Maysville and continued to use that name for over a half century.

The first post office in the township was located at Cuba in 1849. Two years later a second post office was established in the eastern part of the township at Hall's Corner. In 1854 the Cuba office was moved to Harlan. The fact

that the government designated the postal address as Harlan and that there was another Maysville in southern Indiana were contributing factors in the eventual loss of the name of Maysville although Dr. Cosgrove protested as late as 1903 that to change the name of Maysville to Harlan "would undoubtedly fail to be of any permanent benefit to the town, its people, or the business men of the place."

Through this township runs a natural ridge or water-shed and it was along this ridge that the county commissioners authorized the surveying of the first township road in January, 1839. In May of the same year, it is recorded that Ezra May with nineteen others petitioned that the direction of the road be changed "between the eight mile tree and the fourteen mile tree," the latter being on the farm of Mr. May. His request was granted and the records show that in September, 1839, twelve dollars was allowed by the board for this surveying change and Ezra May was allowed three dollars and a half for carrying the chain. It is possible that this road was corduroy since many of the other county roads were so built, but there is no evidence to substantiate this surmise. Although the county board voted forty-three dollars for its upkeep in 1839 and fifty-five dollars in 1843, enterprising capitalists along the way contributed privately toward its maintenance and were privileged to build toll houses and collect tolls from the road's travelers.

All taverns and groceries which "dispense foreign and domestic" goods had to be licensed by the county commissioners. Such a license cost William Letcher, son-in-law of Ezra May, the sum of ten dollars for the year 1843.

Springfield Township's first school opened in 1840 in a double log dwelling on the property of Ezra May at the site of the Odd Fellows' Hall in Harlan. It had a puncheon floor and there were no desks. The pupils sat on benches of split slabs and each pupil's reservation was marked in chalk by the teacher, Miss Sara Bracey. A second school, a rough hewed structure, was built in 1841 on the land of William Sweet. In this building the Methodist Sunday School and Church were organized as well as the English Lutheran Sunday School. These schools were supported by tuition paid by the families of the students and assessments were made according to the number of pupils sent from each family. This subscription method continued in vogue until 1851 when the public school system was generally adopted throughout the county. In 1856 a prize of three dollars was offered for the best plan and specification for a school building and the plan submitted by Isaac Bickhart won the prize. Soon afterward contracts were let for the building of the first district schools. District School No. 1 was contracted by Sam Stewart; the



## Harlan's Living Past (Continued)

township agreed to pay him \$115.50 immediately \$115.50 when the house was completed, and \$115 on the first Monday in June 1857, making the total cost of the first district school \$346. District School No. 8 was built next at a cost of \$445. Other district schools were built later at costs ranging from \$295 to \$400. By 1880 at least ten, one source says twelve, such district schools had been erected with a total enrollment of 735.

In 1888 Dr. C. F. Swift was elected trustee of Springfield Township and succeeded in building a two-story, four-room, brick school in spite of much local opposition. It was from this building that the first high school class graduated in 1890. In 1908 the cornerstone was laid for a two-story brick building about one hundred feet south of the first building; in 1939-40 the two structures were linked together by a new building approximately ninety-five by forty eight feet and containing class rooms, study hall, and basement rooms used later for the cafeteria and band room.

Except for the appointment of the Justice of Peace (Ezra May) and two road supervisors, the township had no elections until 1844. On the first Monday in April in that year at the home of Henry Gruber the following officers were elected: three trustees, two constables, one clerk, six road supervisors, two fence viewers, two overseers of the poor, and one treasurer. These were elected for a one year term except for the fence viewers who were elected every two years. In 1849 the office of assessor was added to the election ballot. In 1856 it was decided to stagger the election of the three township trustees so that each would serve for a three year term one leaving each year. Accordingly, in that year one trustee was elected for three years, one for two years, and one for only one year. In that same year the number of road supervisors was increased from six to nine as the miles of township roads increased.

The first township funds were set up in 1854. \$206.62 was budgeted for the township's general fund, \$133.87 went to the road fund, and \$349 was allowed the schools.

### CHURCHES

In the winter of 1843-44, the Methodists organized their first class at the school house on Section 28. The twelve members of this class continued to meet at the school until 1854 when the first church building was completed in the eastern part of the town of Maysville near the old cemetery. This was a frame structure, twenty-four by forty feet, and when its use was discontinued in 1882, it was sold to the Lutheran people who afterward sold it to private owners. This building is still in use for storage and stands north of the Corner Store on Water Street. In 1881 construction of the second house of worship was begun and the building was de-

icated in 1882. This structure, remodeled several times, is the present home of the Harlan Methodist Church.

The first class of the Methodist Protestant Church was organized in Cuba in the winter of 1851 with fourteen members in the class. Meetings were held in the schoolhouse until 1854 when a frame building was erected at a cost of \$500. In 1886 this building was moved to Maysville and the congregation worshipped there until 1878 when a new building was erected at the corner of Water and Second Streets. In 1941 the general conference of the Methodist Church united the Methodist Protestant Church with the Methodist Episcopal Churches North and South and the two churches have continued as one group since that time.

In October, 1885, the Rev. Jabes Shaffer was called as pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Churches of the Springfield pastorate in Allen County. As Rev. Shaffer had residence in Harlan he had contact with a number of families who wished a Lutheran Church there. Accordingly, on March 28, 1886, St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized with thirty charter members. For the first six months the new organization worshipped in the United Brethren Church; then a lot was purchased at the location of the present home of Alfred Applegate and the old Methodist Church building was bought and moved to it. About five years later, the United Brethren Church was offered for sale. This building was then purchased, including the lot of about one acre, and remodeled and rededicated. It remains the present home of the St. Mark's congregation.

Sometime prior to 1886 Isaac Dreisbach donated land upon which was to be built a United Brethren Church and gave \$500 toward its construction. A frame building was erected which was later sold to the Lutherans. In 1892 a handsome brick church was built. When the membership dwindled until it was no longer possible to maintain a church, this building was used by the Harlan Church of Christ for a time and after standing idle for a number of years was converted into an apartment building.

With the help of E. W. Allen, minister of the West Jefferson Church of Christ, Fort Wayne, and Grant W. Spear, minister of the First Church of Christ, Hicksville, Ohio a group of Christians in and near Harlan formed a congregation in the I.O.O.F. Hall — used recently by the Harlan Inn — in the year 1903. Deacons and elders were chosen for the spiritual leadership of the local congregation. Worship services were later held in the former United Brethren Church, now a duplex dwelling located the first house west of the Harlan Implement Store. The first house of worship was begun in 1905 and dedicated May 27, 1906. This building burned January 1, 1928, and the present structure of brick veneer was dedicated February 10, 1929.

## *Harlan's Living Past (Continued)*

### INDUSTRIES

Most of the early settlers who came into Springfield Township were farmers, but the demands of even a small group soon necessitated certain industries. Estes Howe had been an apprentice shoe maker while in New York and became one of the pioneer shoemakers in Allen County, making all kinds of boots and shoes; Ira Grubb embarked in blacksmithing and wagon making; William Moore ran the first threshing machine in the township; George Nusbaum became a pumpmaker and carpenter; William Harter was a machinist; Jesse Greenawalt learned to be a cabinet maker; Henry Horn was a wagon maker; Peter Repp became a professional painter; many others worked as carpenters and blacksmiths and operated small saw mills to supplement their farm income.

In 1859 John Hawkins built a flouring mill which was later sold to Timbrook and Ashley and then to the Eckles Brothers. This was a three story building with an engine room 20x30 feet. It had three run of buhrs and a manufacturing capacity of thirty barrels of flour daily.

In 1862 Seymour Coomer and Jacob Bickhart erected in Maysville a building for the manufacture of shingles. Machinery was added later for making a saw mill. This was a two story building with a thirty-horse power engine capable of sawing 800,000 feet of lumber annually.

In 1879 Isaac Bickhart built a brick building to house the Maysville Planning Mill. Its machinery included a sixteen horse power engine, surface planer rip-saw, molding machine, band saw, shaping machines, and turning lathes. He manufactured flooring, siding, moldings, battens and dressed lumber and employed four to six mill hands regularly.

By 1915 Harlan had a remarkable number of businesses and industries. On the list were: a state bank, a newspaper, a post office, one public hall, five general stores, two hardware and implement stores, one department store, one drug store one garage, one furniture store, one meat market, one packing company, one hotel, two lunch rooms, two barber shops, one shoe shop, one feed barn, one pool room, one tin shop, one telephone exchange, one jewelry store, one millinery store, one harness shop, one cement and brick factory, four blacksmith shops three physicians and surgeons, two veterinarians, two auctioneers, one funeral director, four painters and paper hangers, one mason and plasterer, and two contracting carpenters.

### LODGES AND CLUBS

The Harlan Masonic Lodge, No. 224, A., F. & A. M. was instituted in May, 1863, and chartered in 1864 with seven charter members. It now owns the building near the center of the town formerly occupied by the Harlan State Bank. The present membership is 120.

Prospect Lodge, No. 331, I.O.O.F. was or-

ganized under a charter dated June 22 1869. There were five charter members. Immediately after organizing, the lodge purchased a building which they repaired and remodeled. In 1889 this building was torn down and replaced with a hall for public use which had a seating capacity of 600. This hall now is used by the Springfield Township Schools for physical education classes and auditorium purposes. This group is no longer active.

Prospect Rebecca Lodge, No. 74, organized in 1889. None of its charter members are living although Mrs. Minnick, Harlan's oldest citizen, has been a member for over sixty years. This group still meets regularly.

The Order of Eastern Star Chapter was organized Feb. 28, 1906 with six charter members, one of whom, Myrtle Cook, is still living. The present membership numbers one hundred twenty-three.

The Harlan Culture Club, an affiliate of the County Federated Women's Clubs, was organized in 1912 by ten charter members as a study club. Mrs. D. D. Boston is the only living charter member. This club is one of the oldest women's clubs in Allen County.

The Country Club, a woman's farm club, was organized in January and February of 1916. There were forty-three charter members, twelve of whom are still active. This club meets the first Tuesday of each month.

Another affiliate of the County Federated Women's Clubs is the Art and Literary Club organized in 1929 with five charter members all of whom are still active. With one exception all seventeen members of the present club are graduates of Harlan High School. It was this group that was instrumental in starting the distribution of Christmas baskets each year.

The Harlan Lions Club was first chartered in April 1938, with twenty-six members and rechartered in September, 1944, with fifty-five members. The present membership is forty-five and many of the present members have perfect attendance records. This group of civic minded citizens were responsible for the placing of street lights in Harlan; they sponsor the local Boy Scout troop; they have been very active in promoting the park project; they have marked the cisterns in the town as a fire protective measure.

The Harlan American Legion was organized in 1946. The present membership totals seventy-nine and includes veterans of World Wars I and II and Korean veterans. Its projects are child welfare, Boys State, yearly school awards, and the local air defense program. The legion auxiliary dates from 1947 and has fifty-five active members consisting of mothers, wives, daughters, and sisters of World War I and II veterans. This group contributes toward the support of one child each year at the Knightstown Home, sends one girl each year to Girls' State, and assists in the rehabilitation program at the Fort Wayne Veteran's Hospital.



*Centennial Notes*



*Centennial Autographs*

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*We thank the individuals and firms who advertise in this program.*

*Executive Committee*



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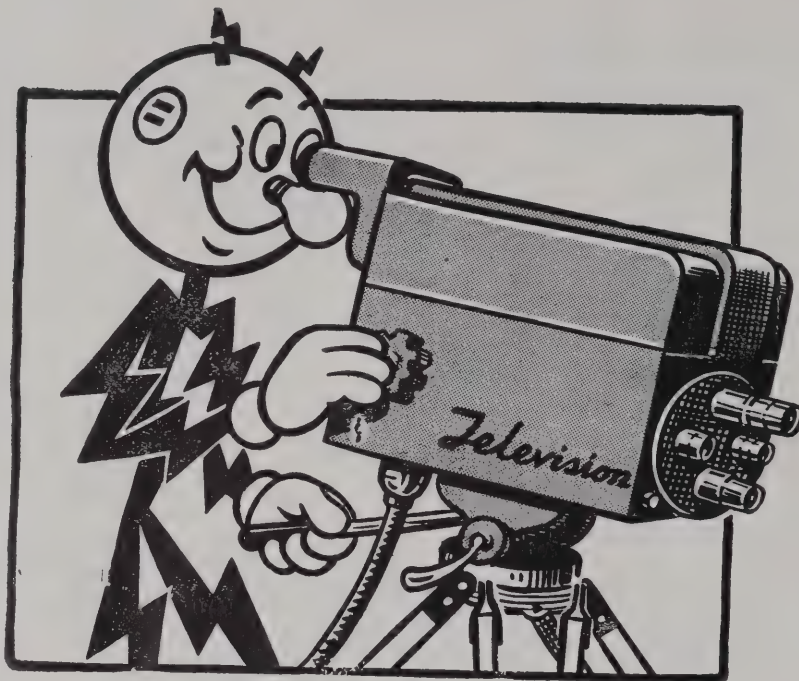
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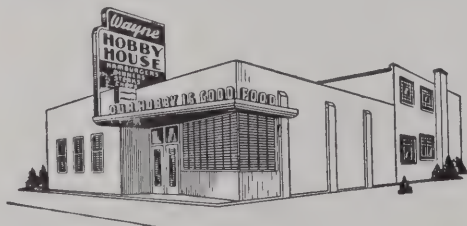
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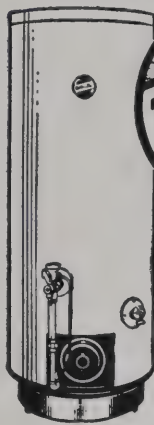
Auctioneer

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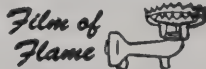
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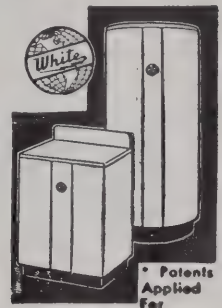
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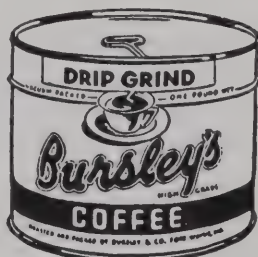
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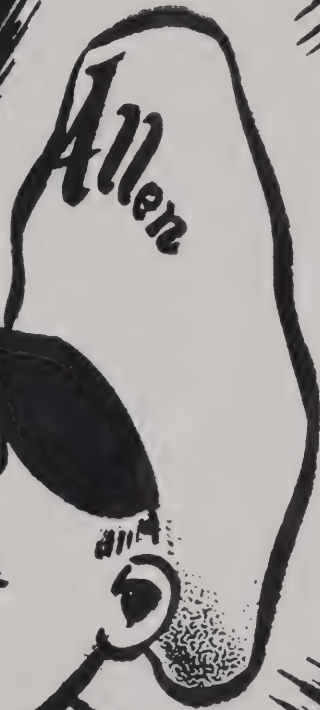
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