

MONTGOMERY MEMORIES

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Tantalizing Theater Talent

January 2022

A publication of

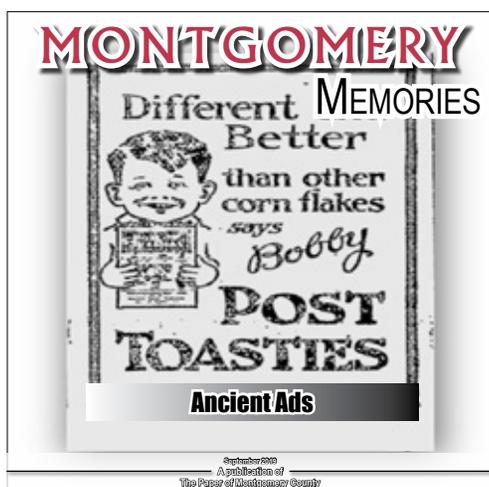
The Paper of Montgomery County

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Contributing Writers



KAREN BAZZANI ZACH has been a contributor of local historical articles for 40 years. A native Montgomery Countian, she grew up in Waveland, married Jim Zach, and received her grad degree from IU while working at CDPL as Children's Librarian. Karen authored one of the newer county histories, *Crawfordsville: Athens of Indiana*. After teaching English at Turkey Run HS for 21 years, she retired and is now enjoying visiting with her two children (Jay and Suzie), writing, reading, doing genealogy, and grandkidding!



CHUCK CLORE After a lifelong career in visual communications, Eureka! Chuck discovered that noodling the nuances of the written word can be just as much fun as tweaking a font into an iconic logo. Montgomery Memories is the perfect venue to explore his treasured C-ville's east-end recollections. An Athenian boomer from the class of 65, he delights in graphic design, cartooning, and story telling. Chuck's articles reveal how a CHS senior corduroy artist eventually evolved into an award winning designer and aspiring writer.



JOY WILLETT was born in Crawfordsville and spent much of her childhood in southern Montgomery County. She has lived her adult life in Indiana, Arizona, and California. She currently lives with her husband, David, in Monterey County California. As an amateur genealogist, she has done extensive research and has written her paternal and maternal family histories. In addition to genealogy, Joy enjoys writing poetry, painting, and traveling.



KELSEY CURRAN is one of the paginators for the Paper of Montgomery County. She edits and helps complete the daily news as well as the Montgomery Memories and Sports Report every month for viewers to enjoy. She was born in a small town in Illinois and moved to Crawfordsville in 2016. She has two children and another on the way. She enjoys spending time with her husband and kids, reading and baking.



ALYSSA BLEDSOE is the Creative Services Department Manager for the Paper of Montgomery County, and she edits and helps complete the daily news as well as the Montgomery Memories and Sports Report every month for viewers to enjoy. She was born in Indianapolis before moving to Crawfordsville in her early childhood. She enjoys writing, painting and editing in her free time. Alyssa got her associate's degree in graphic design after graduating from our local Southmont Jr.-Sr. High School.



January Feature: Mason T - Songbird, son and more

Karen Bazzani Zach, Montgomery Memories

Don't believe I've met this fellow before, but sure did enjoy researching him. Mason (Mace) K. Townsley (K. likely stands for his mother's maiden name) was the son of Jeremiah and Harriet (Kilmer) Townsley, and was born in Dayton, Ohio but came to Crawfordsville with his parents and family when a very small boy. Ed (Charles Edward) was his oldest brother and was in Co. D 2nd Indiana. Brother Joseph enlisted at age 15 in Co I, 124th Indiana having tried several times. After being in the hotel and sewing machine businesses, he moved to Indianapolis and worked in the railroad industry. Will was in business with Mace (and their father) in the Townsley Music House, one of the largest establishments in the state to sell musical instruments. Will travelled for them. He named his only son (James Mason) for his brother. Mace was the last born 12 Feb 1854 and died 9 Jan 1920. The boys all received a good education right here in Crawfordsville, Mace being quite intelligent.

Besides smart, Mace was amazingly gifted with music talent, as it seemed all the Townsley boys were. He and Will sold and delivered many fine organs (sometimes two at a time, as Mace delivered one to the Shobes and another to Curtis's for Christmas in 1892). Mace sang many places, and was active in church and many clubs, even on the committee to begin the Elks in 1899. The C'ville Review 8 May 1899 noted that "those in charge of the matter are hustlers and they are pushing it along." Mace was in charge of the reception committee and was working on "elaborate preparations to make the event a success in every particular!" In January of 1893, he was one of the promoters of the dance portion of the opening reception of the Lotus Club which was a huge social event with over 300 present. "The ladies costumes were exquisite and admirable with a host of dazzling new gowns."

At the time of the initiation of the Lotus Club Mace was managing the Music Hall theater and its orchestra played exceptional music for the dance. The description of the reception area made me smile: "Misses Jessie Herron, Louise Craig, Autumn Lee and Edith Coons served a delicious quality of punch from a mammoth silver punch bowl of exquisite workmanship under a fairy bow-



er made from holly and smilax." Wish I could write like that, but put me in the Laura Ingalls Wilder layman writing!

Evidently, another expertise was fiddling. In March of 1899, he attended the old fiddler's contest at Darlington which was a huge hit. He didn't play in the competition, however (sounds as if he may have won many a contest according to the Crawfordsville Weekly Journal, 31 March 1899) but he did coach a friend who "carried off a lion's share of the prizes." Although the Red Men's Hall was stifling hot and standing room only, they made quite a neat sum for the lodge with the entertainment.

During his quarter of a century at the Music Hall, he brought-in some impressive acts, such as Cecil Spooner whose show had a magniscope and kaleidoscope dance with "electric and calcium light effects that are beautiful!" Also, Blue Jeans he brought twice as there were so many in the county who didn't get to see it the first time, the C'ville folks taking up all the space.

Certainly, this man had an eye for business but he also enjoyed helping out the community, as in 1894, he saw the play, Crawfordsville Deestrick School performed at the Whitlock Avenue School with standing room only. An original play, he loved it and offered the Music Hall for another performance. Volunteers were there to build the set of the old log school building. Chalk that up to another success for our boy Mace!

Although Mace Townsley was extremely well loved in the community, as well as appreciated, the papers enjoyed poking fun at him, as well. For instance in 1889, Mace went to Louisville I suspicion to sing at a church, but at any point, the boys there told him all about baseball and how the game was played. Our newspapers said they thought Mace would certainly write a book about it soon. He made the papers just about every time he sneezed, actually. Some of the items were that he went to see Julius Caesar in Rockville at their opera house; he was sick; he went to Kankakee (several times) with his dad to have a pleasant vacation, and my fav was when two stars for the play Arabian Knights quit on him and he quickly got an actor for the male lead but no female could be found. He had heard about Rilla Fishero of Alamo being an exceptional

elocutionist and he convinced her she needed to take the part. She read it, memorized the whole play over a weekend and made a big hit the next weekend at the Crawfordsville Music Hall as the female lead. However, thereafter she went back to teaching, yet he was praised as using his noggin' in taking care of the situation.

Mace enjoyed turning the joke on others, as well, even his aunt when she went to her first show after the "inauguration of the realistic effects and spectacular scenery and when the decidedly life-like thunder storm came up on the darkened stage with its thunder and lightning." She was pretty upset, thinking it was the real thing and convinced her husband to leave the hall and go home because their windows were open.

Having never married, I think Mace was busy having too much fun to do so, but he was close to his sister-in-laws, nephews and had so many friends. He lived with his parents until both had passed then followed the Jones family as they managed several hotels in the city, being basically a part of their family. Guests thought he was one of the managers of the hotels. At his retirement, nine years before his passing, he enjoyed himself just as much as when he was younger and on the go. Buried in Oak Hill cemetery (thanks to the Fines for the photo) with the rest of his original family, most of their stones match. Rest In Peace, Mace - I enjoyed featuring you!

Odds & Ends – Collected & Commented on by Karen Bazzani Zach

Source: Crawfordsville Daily Journal 5 May 1893 p 3 – note the article below doesn't say what theater or what they saw but gave the rest of the story! Miss Plumley gave a theater party last evening which proved to be an enjoyable affair. From the theater they went to the home of Miss Kittie Campbell and divided the time of an hour between conversation and partaking of refreshments (geez, we don't even find out what the eats were – love these old articles – either plug ya' with useless information or leave it all out – occasionally something perfect with the 5 W's).

In the CDJ 8 Jan 1890 there is a nifty statement, one I've never really contemplated but doing so now: "It is well to state that the Pine Hills is the especial theater for the contemplative and the studious, where recreation and retirement are so happily blended during the dog days of summer." A rather neat look on a theater and if you've ever been there you will know why.

May 26, 1894 had a photo of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wayne who headed up a touring company playing the country and who were coming to C'ville to the Music Hall. "Mr. and Mrs. Wayne are both well known to the theater patrons of Crawfordsville." The repertoire was said to be bright, sparkling comedies and a change of what was presented each night. Besides the comedies there was a four-act romantic drama. Prices: 10, 20 and 30 cents! Tickets were available at Brown & Son's Drugstore.

Walker Whiteside had been coming to Crawfordsville for a couple of years and was well-loved by those who were theater-oriented and in the 1st of Nov 1894 CDJ the article told that the audience to see him was the largest ever at the Music Hall. "There were more theater parties and more beautiful costumes and nearly every lady was without a hat thus adding to the beauty of the scene!" In regards of Whiteside the article had only praise as well for the others in his troupe. "The costuming and staging were all that could be desired and the entire performance in all particulars pleased the audience."

Another the community loved and no one would miss was "Miss Lewis" and right before Christmas in 1890, she appeared at the Music Hall in Credit Lorraine. "Wherever she has played the verdict has been, not only that Miss Lewis is a great actress and that Credit Lorraine is a grand play, but the company is the very best organization on the road!"

At the same place, the next December, the audiences were enjoying Frank M. Wills as the Professor in the musical farce, Two Old Cronies. "From his first appearance on the stage until the final fall of the curtain, he had the audience either shouting with laughter or applauding vociferously!"

Under "College news" in the Crawfordsville Daily Journal of 8 May 1893, there is a note stating that there was no doubt that Louis Witherspoon helped "hook the ice cream from the theater party Friday night." Lil stinker!

In May of 1894, the Daily Journal noted that Mace Townsley had taken sole management of the Music Hall, saying that he had basically been running the place for two years, with Leslie Davis just leasing it. See the Feature for more on Mace. "Mr. Townsley will treat the people of Crawfordsville right, giving them fewer poor shows and more good ones." He had already



booked Charley's Aunt; Devil's Auction; Zozo; and Blue Jeans with negotiations with others. He was very good (or the Journal was) in his writings to the viewers. "Eight Bells will be a startling revelation in stage-craft," for an example! Love it! Early on in Mace's career (Nov 1891) he gave the Daily Journal "inside talk" about the theater business. He said that several times he had desperately tried to get good companies to come to town and they could even split by showing in Rockville, too. They'd say, "Oh, no! We don't want to make that Jonah town!" The Rockville Republican said, "This has come about by our people refusing to patronize the good shows while they generally have gone to the poor ones!" Now, the problem with the little talk was that there wasn't an answer to the dilemma! Townsley was a popular subject in this time frame and one article made me grin, "CDJ 5 March 1890" – Manager Townsley might ingratiate himself still stronger into the hearts of our theater goers if he would devise some plan of preventing the terrible rustle of seats, rubbers and wraps just before the curtain goes down. The gallery god has been surpassed. It was easy enough to threaten him into silence but this other nuisance is participated in by all and appealing to their sense of decency seems to do not good!"

Hmmm wonder if he ever got that problem fixed?

Loved this one CDJ 30 Oct 1894 p 3- Miss Kate Snyder will entertain the following Delta Tau Deltas and their lady friends this evening at her suburban home in Longview: Messrs. Ferguson, Howell, Crockett, Davidson, Dame, Binford, Boyer, Vannuys, Steves and Stover and Misses Fannie Binford, Mary Hallowell, Mary Milford, May Taylor, Evangeline Binford, Mary Goltra, Helen Watson, Elizabeth Binford and Mabel Hutton. Miss Snyder will be assisted in entertaining by Mrs. Jennie Blair. The affair is held on the evening before Halloween in order not to interfere with the Delta Tau Delta theater party on Wednesday night!

In 1916, Ida Holland a former Crawfordsvillian passed away. She had graduated from the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music and did much professional singing on stage and in churches. The most dramatic incident of her life was centered around the Iroquois Theater at Chicago while the disastrous fire was raging when more than 500 lives were lost waiting for the appearance of her son, Frank who was a member of the theatre company playing in the theater at the time of the fire. By a turn of fate the mother and son found each other in a drug store near the scene. Their relationship thereafter was often remarked upon as the most loving ever seen. Another couple of Montgomery Countians (John Rosebaum and his bride) were not only at but in the Iroquois in the 1903 fire and were lucky to have escaped uninjured!

Some of the later real movie theaters were: American Theater – Ladoga ; Arc – Crawfordsville

Ben-Hur – Crawfordsville; Crawfordsville Drive-in – Crawfordsville; Joy Theater – Crawfordsville

Little – New Richmond; Strand – Crawfordsville; Sunshine Theater – Darlington. Fairly sure Waveland had one but not sure the name and likely some of the other towns did, too.

Well, there ya' have some interesting looks at MoCo theatering of long ago!

This is our county!

Why not help preserve its history by contributing to Montgomery Memories?

Email Karen Zach: karen.zach@sbcglobal.net Subject: Montgomery Memories



Nifty at Ninety - And Beyond

Joy Willett, Montgomery Memories

For this edition of Nifty at Ninety... we meet Irene C. "Babe" Carman. Irene was born on May 28, 1901 in Scott Township, Montgomery County, Indiana. Her parents were Benjamin and Lelia (White) Carman. Benjamin (b. 1860) and Lelia (b. 1867) married on Thursday, September 11, 1884 and made their home near Ladoga. Their other children were Walter (b. 1885) and Anna (b. 1891). Walter's twin, George, died in 1888.

Irene's third great grandfather, Joseph Henry Carman, was a Private during the Revolution (U.S. Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783). He moved from New Jersey to Virginia, and then to Kentucky. He died in Shelby County in 1787 due to injuries sustained during an Indian skirmish. Isaac, Joseph's son and Irene's great grandfather, moved his family to Montgomery County in ca. 1834 after the death of his wife, Mary. Irene's grandfather, William (b. 1827), married Ann Almira Harrison (b. 1832) on January 25, 1849. They made their home in Clark Township, where William farmed. Benjamin was one of five children born to William and Ann. He was their middle child and only son.

Irene's maternal side, the White family, was from Pennsylvania. They came to southern Indiana in the late 1840s. Some time before 1860, Irene's great grandfather, James White (b. 1826) came to Parke County. He married Harriet Cox on February 15, 1865. Harriet was born in Carpentersville, Putnam County. They made their home in Clark Township. James died in 1876, leaving Harriet to raise two step-daughters and her two sons and two daughters. Harriet, too, had been raised by a widowed mother. Her father Nathan died on February 13, 1949 at 48 years of age, leaving Harriet's mother, Elizabeth (Gooding), to raise four children. Elizabeth, who was originally from Kentucky, lived in St. Clair County, Illinois before moving to Putnam County when she married Nathan on September 13, 1826.

Ann Harrison Carman died in 1899 and was interred in the Fairview Cemetery in North Salem. This is where Isaac and Mary had been buried. The 1900 census tells us that William was living with Benjamin's family. It was a time when extended families lived together, which provided Irene the opportunity to better know her grandfather. William passed on August 31, 1910 and was interred next to Ann. Benjamin (d. 1942) and Lelia (d. 1953) were also buried at Fairview.

Benjamin was well known in the community. The Indianapolis News reported on March



Courtesy of R & S Fine via findagrave.com

21, 1907 that he was a director of the Hoosier Veneer Company in Ladoga. He was also the County Auditor and participated in efforts for a monument to be built in honor of Oliver P. Morton, who served as governor during the Civil War. The monument was built in downtown Indianapolis in 1907. In 1910, the census reported that Benjamin was a merchant in a hardware store in Ladoga. He was also a landowner, and a member of the Masonic lodge and the Christian Church.

During her time at Ladoga High School, Irene participated in musical recitals and the literary society. She graduated in 1920. That year, Irene's older sister Anna and her two children were living with Benjamin and Lelia.

She had divorced her husband Guy Britton. His work, as a "travelling foot novelty demonstrator," may have contributed to the demise of their marriage. In 1924, Anna married Raymond Proctor. They lived together until his death in 1948.

After graduation, Irene attended Butler College and the Teacher's College of Indianapolis. The Journal and Courier reported that in 1923 students of Irene presented a play at the Ladoga Opera House. On July 21, 1924, Irene married Forest Voiers McMurtrey (b. March 5, 1902). Forest graduated from Ladoga High School in 1921 and attended Indiana University. After their wedding, Irene and Forest became managers of the opera house. The venue, which was located in the upper floor of a two-story building at the corner of Washington and Main, was built in 1891. It seated 500 and was considered a comfortable and beautiful space. Via ingenweb.org, Bill Boone wrote about the McMurtrey's involvement with the opera house:

[The McMurtrey's] "...not only served as business managers but were also promotional directors and stage-hands. They teamed together to write and direct their own operetta, "The Gypsy Queen.""

In the early 1930s, Forest worked as a truck driver, while Irene continued to teach school. Forest also operated a grocery store, managed a hotel, and was an illustrative artist. And although it changed locations over the years, he continued his involvement with the opera house until the 1950s. The couple had no children, but as a school teacher Irene had many children in her life. Forest passed on February 15, 1987. Irene died on November 30, 1991. Forest and she were interred in the Ladoga Cemetery. May Irene, a woman devoted to her community, rest in peace.



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Poetry and Puzzles

Montgomery Memories

Performers

Joy Willett

The actor Thespis, in ancient Athens, took to the stage to honor Dionysus. His words rang through open air as comedy, tragedy and satyr.

During times Medieval, from castle to town jaunted minstrels, jugglers, and clowns. In their day most renowned.

Shakespeare's theater in the round entertained rabble and the crown. Words eloquent did resound from Hamlet, Lear, and Rosalind.

1 Kabuki actors

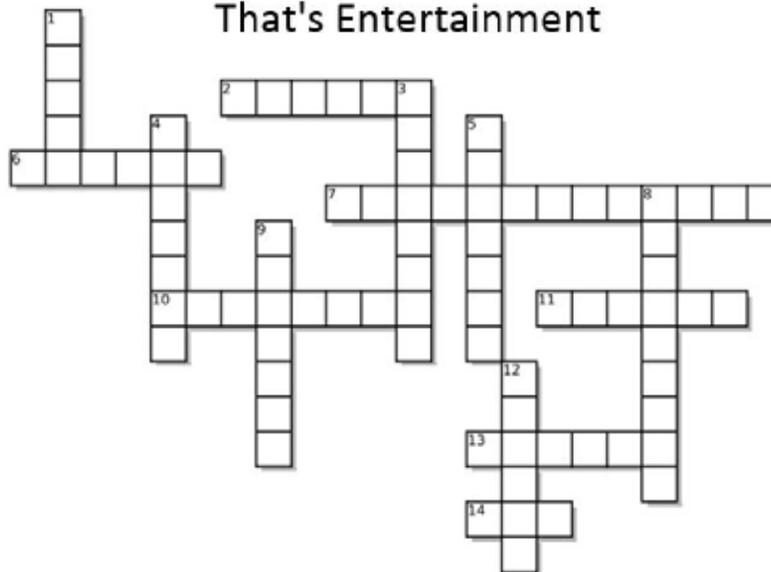
in Japan sang and danced with fluttering fans, colorful kimono, and faces wan. Each part played by a man.

High-kicking ladies in old "Paree" ruffled their skirts to cause a flurry. With each kick they shouted "wee!" while the audience snacked on brie.

To this day the boards are trod by performers playing heroine and bawd using song, soliloquy, and ballade, all to earn fervent applause.

2

That's Entertainment



JMW/created using puzzle-maker.com

ACROSS

- 2 Shakespeare's Danish prince
- 6 High-kicking dance
- 7 Owned Strand & Voncastle
- 10 AKA clapping hands
- 11 Japanese theatre form
- 13 Group of traveling actors 14 Early C'ville movie theatre

DOWN

- 1 Ladoga _____ House
- 3 Mace _____, gifted musician
- 4 Possible movie snack
- 5 Ancient Athenian actor
- 8 Fred and "Babe"
- 9 Survived 1903 theatre fire
- 12 IN gov during Civil War

Check out page 10 for the solution



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Karen's Kitchen

Karen Bazzani Zach, Montgomery Memories



While researching for a unique idea for this month's Kitchen column, I discovered that people in other country's don't eat popcorn at the movies. Seriously? I am serious or at least according to a 2016 article 9 Movie Theater Snacks Around the World by Rudie Obias. Interesting, for sure. Some munch on fish cakes (Barbados); in China they eat dried salted plums, as well as shredded squid, prunes and coconut juice whereas salty licorice is loved in the Netherlands (not our sweet candy but salted with ammonium chloride) which gives it a "tongue-numbing sensation." The strangest I thought was roasted ants in Colombia. The Greek beef or lamb souvlaki looked delicious but a bit hard to eat watching a movie. Then in India they eat Samosas and have a small cup of dipping sauce. So, here ya' go – "easy beef samosas" directions from allrecipes.com.

- 1 T. Vegetable oil
- ¾ Pound Ground Beef
- 1 Onion, chopped
- 1 Shallot, minced
- 1 Sprig fresh thyme, copped
- 1 T. Curry Powder
- Salt/Pepper to taste
- 1 (16-oz) package Phyllo Dough
- Oil for frying

Heat oil in a skillet over medium heat and cook beef, onion, shallot and thyme until meat is brown throughout and crumbly, about 5 minutes. Remove from heat. Season with curry powder, salt and pepper.

Lay a sheet of phyllo dough on a work surface and cut it lengthways into thirds. Add a spoonful of meat mixture at the top of each strip and fold into triangles, pressing samosa edges together with moistened fingers. Continue with remaining meat mixture.

Heat oil in a deep fryer or skillet to 400. Deep fry samosas in batches until golden brown 3-5 minutes each. Sounds delic ! Let me know if you make these and especially if it's your next treat at the movies !!



County Connections: Andy WAS the Strand Theater

Karen Bazzani Zach, Montgomery Memories

When I think of Andy Browning, I of course, like most of you think about him managing the Strand Theater in Crawfordsville. I've written a bit about Andy before, and had not planned on using him in this MM, but when I discovered a whole other side to the man I decided he would be perfect for the County Connection article this month.

Any of you go to the Voncastle in Greencastle to the movies sometime in your life? Well, you had just as big of a piece of Andy as when you watched one at the Strand. Andy began at the young age of 15 at the Voncastle as an usher. Remember how he'd watch ya' like a hawk to keep things just right in the balcony at the Strand? Did it at the Voncastle, too. Showing the change of times in the 14 May 1973 Banner Graphic (big article on page 1) Andy noted that when he began scouring the balcony at the Voncastle that it was a "hand-holding heaven," but at the time of this article, that it was a mute point as "young folks hold hands anywhere and everywhere now!"

Harry and Nova Vonderschmitt built the Voncastle (of course it was the beginning of their name and ending of the city) living above the theater for three years. They also owned the Crawfordsville Strand for many years, Andy managing it and purchasing it later on. The Vons also owned theaters in Bloomington, Bedford, Noblesville and Seymour and Andy was involved somewhat with them, as well, just not on as large a basis as the Greencastle/Crawfordsville ones. Nova was quite impressive managing their assets after Harry passed away, and active in various organizations, having been the National President of the Delta Theta Tau Sorority and a charter member of the Theater Owners of Indiana. She passed away July 23, 1974, not long after Andy closed the doors of the Voncastle.

At age 23, Andy was made manager of the Voncastle. Of course, he was in charge of the advertising, the banking and making sure everyone was out of the building. One night he missed a boy who awoke at 3 in the morning and was obviously terrified of a dark theater. He screamed and yelled, finally got someone's attention and Andy had to go back to let him out, the police returning the boy home, and Andy too, I think.

Andy noted in the Banner article that movies had changed a lot, saying that at the Voncastle it wasn't necessary to check for the letter code of the movie, as they showed whole family kinds, only. He laughed at the things people left at the theatre, including a pair of false teeth evidently lost in great laughter! Andy closed the theater May 20, 1973 with the Voncastle almost 50 years old, and with the movie of course a family one, Robinson Crusoe and the Tiger.



In 1938, Andy who was managing the Voncastle at that time received a prize from Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer for his "exploitation of the movie picture," Everybody Sings. Not sure exploitation was a good word, but he won it for the Vonderschmitt Circuit because of his exceptional lobby display and advertising.

Andy (Andrew "Lois") was born March 17, 1913 in Greencastle, the youngest of a family of six children born to Robert L. and Elizabeth Butler Browning, she being 42 years old at his birth. He graduated from Greencastle HS (1931 – see photo from that yearbook) where he was a class officer, in the plays, went to the proms and worked on the senior carnival, all while ushering at the theater. By the way, even being that busy, he still was listed on the honor roll.

Early on, he was involved in community prompting, such as when he loaned out free the Voncastle for the Christmas Food Show, admission was a can of food. The collection was to be turned over to the Welfare department and distributed to deserving local families. The picture Wells Fargo (1940) was donated by the film exchange company, Andy opened up the theater and the film operator volunteered his services. Certainly, Andy was one busy boy, as he also managed the Granada there and later the Strand, all the Vonderschmitt's. He was also quite active in the Greencastle Rotary Club, later the one in

Crawfordsville.

Constant upgrading in the theaters he managed were necessities he felt. Example: in 1938 he had a new high-fidelity sound system (Magic Voice) installed which was a radical improvement over the sound in the earlier movies.

Andy married Elizabeth Jean Woolley 31 Oct 1936. They lived in Greencastle up to at least 1940 when he registered for the draft, but when he enlisted 20 Oct 1943 (serving through 1946 in the Army Combat Engineers, European Theater in France and Germany), they lived in Crawfordsville. They celebrated their 50th anniversary the year before she passed in 1987. Andy lived until February 20th in 1999, passing at age 85. Active in the Wabash Avenue Presbyterian Church, American Legion where he served in several positions, including post commander, he was also deeply involved on the Oak Hill Board of Directors where they rest in peace in the Mausoleum. Full military rites were given and three ministers presented appropriate services (David Rosen; Wallace McDonald and Velma Keesling).

Being from the little town of Waveland, I didn't get to go to the movies in Crawfordsville too often, but Andy to me, WAS the Strand!

2021 Montgomery County Museum Scene



MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Closed for Season – Reopens in March. Little Trivia – Lane served as the very first president of the first Republican Party convention and delivered the first keynote address. Cool, huh?



ROTARY JAIL MUSEUM OF CRAWFORDSVILLE, IN

Closed until March. Keep in mind next year that it isn't just seeing the jail and hearing the great stories, there is also the Tannenbaum Center you can rent-out for an event and the great classes the Museum has (painting, other cultural events).



CARNEGIE MUSEUM

The Transformation of Teaching will be the theme for 2022 – from Slate to Tablet. All ages will enjoy the exhibit showing from one-room school houses to consolidated schools to virtual learning, even. See the transformation! Winter Take-home kits until Dec 23 – free from the Carnegie.

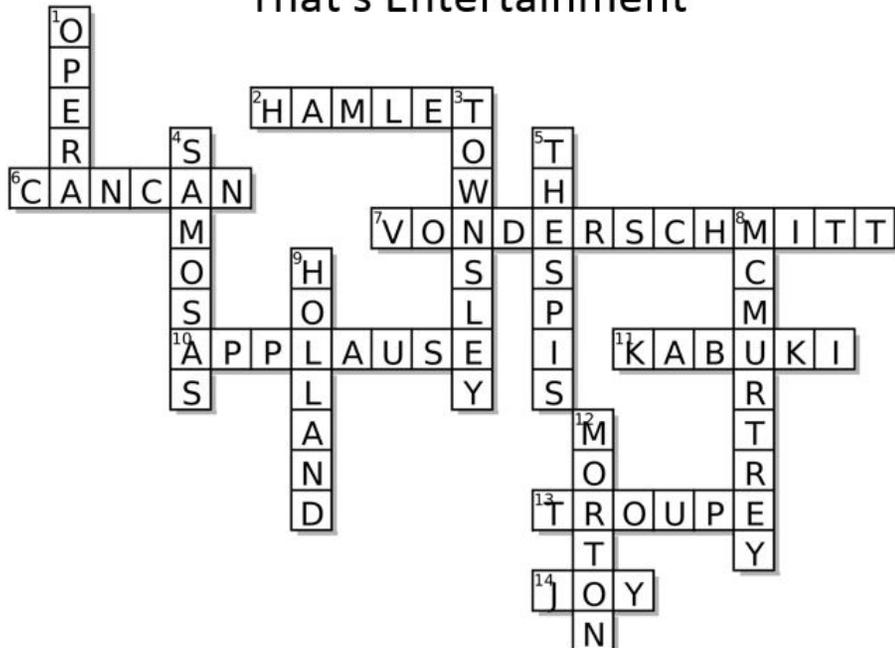


GENERAL LEW WALLACE STUDY

Closed for the rest of the year! Feb 1 – 2022 Museum Reopens . Trivia: Lew Wallace served on the military commission for the trials of the conspirators of President Lincoln and also presided over the trial of Confederate Commandant, Henry Wirz who was in charge of the Andersonville prison where so many died because of poor conditions.



That's Entertainment



LINDEN DEPOT MUSEUM, LINDEN, IN

(The) Linden Depot Museum's mission: is to preserve and protect the historic 1909-built Linden Depot and its railroad memorabilia as well as to promote its related railroad history. The mission includes the acquisition, restoration, preservation and display of railroad equipment, artifacts and mementos related to railways past and present.

Closed until April – Note their impressive Mission Statement -- The mission of the Linden Depot Museum is to preserve and protect the historic 1909-built Linden Depot and its railroad memorabilia as well as to promote its related railroad history. The mission includes the acquisition, restoration, preservation and display of railroad equipment, artifacts and mementos related to railways past and present.



Grandcestors

Karen Bazzani Zach, Montgomery Memories

Well, my family wasn't much in the theater world, except for the kids and I in high school productions and my one play (Down on the Farm with Preston Dildine) I aided in writing and performing, and a cousin of mine who was in the Ziegfeld Follies, that's it. Last month I used a family who all were lawyers since I had none of those either, so I decided to just find me another family to adopt so to speak for this month's Grandcestors. What a neat one too!

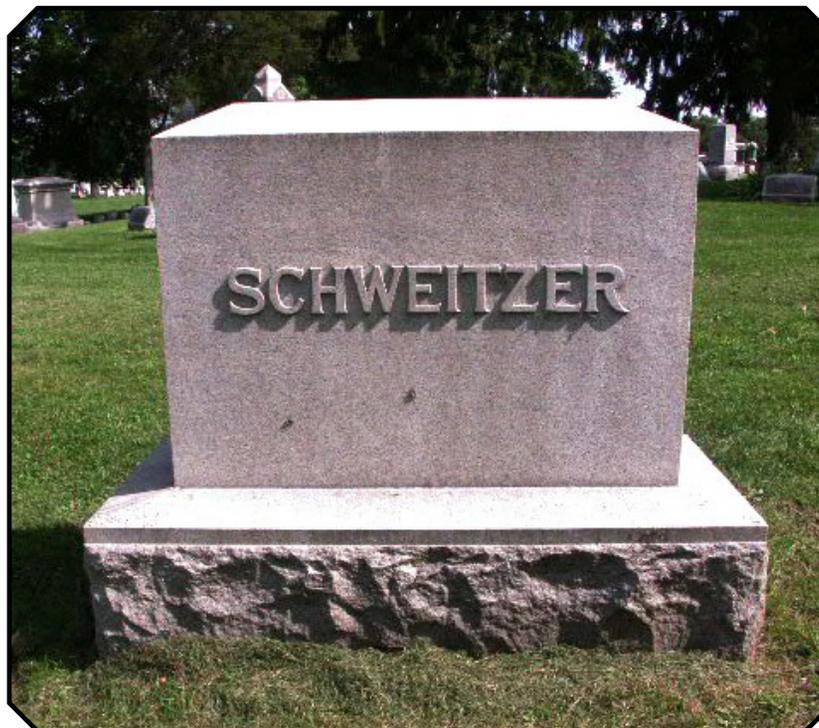
The Schweitzer family was quite talented in music and they were on the stage in multiple places and times. Although each and every one of the two families were very talented, mainly three of them were amazing, Fred, Chris and Chris' son, Leo. Don't get me wrong, all the boys (Herman, Richard, Harry, James, Edward) played and at least one of the girls was quite impressive (Chris' daughter, Elnora), but Fred and Chris who I'm almost sure are brothers, sons of Fred and Elizabeth (Scherer) Schweitzer from Stahlberg, Germany, both of the boys born there and the family arriving in 1855 going to Columbus, Ohio, then later Chris and Fred here where they lived for several decades, making a big splash in the music world of young Crawfordsville and other towns. Some of their children remained and others went to the winds.

Chris lived in the city the rest of his life, whereas Fred lived above Crawfordsville just into Madison Township. On almost all records, Fred was listed as a music instructor, but also did some fruit raising, particularly praised for his huge, pretty and tasty strawberries and his most delicious Agawan blackberries. In fact, Fred was in charge of 1,000 fancy grape slips special ordered from Ohio in the summer of 1900 to plant at Lew Wallace's "model fish and fruit farm near Yountsville." (Crawfordsville Weekly Journal 11 May 1900).

Now, Chris had a whole different realm of service besides his music, that of a cigar manufacturer, including several he created himself, using the Gypsy Queen boat and name for example, was purported that "no cigar made can possibly afford more comfort and good enjoyment than does the Gypsy Queen made right here in our city by Chris Schweitzer" (Review 24 Nov 1894). He had many such advertisements of his creations in the early newspapers and did quite a bit of business, selling all over everywhere, not just here.

The Schweitzers arrived in the county about 1865 and it wasn't long before they began to entertain and Fred to add teaching to that, as well. Although Chris didn't technically teach until his retirement, he "coached" many for fiddling contests, some he won himself while coaching others into the winning category when he didn't fiddle-up. Chris especially made sure his children learned the joys of music just as his own father taught and encouraged him, as did Fred in both instances – learned from his father and passed it along.

Although I probably have read about a band involved in a funeral before, in perus-



ing the Saturday Mercury (Jan 8, 1875) I was a bit taken-aback with the article on William S. Fry's funeral which was "attended by a large number of citizens and Masons. The funeral cortege was headed by Schweitzer's Silver Band who played the "Dead March in Saul!" Seemed a bit creepy to me (give me the good ol hymns), but then again, perhaps it was usual.

From articles I read (lots of 'em) about these two, it seemed that Chris' involvement was mainly for fun and the community, whereas Fred's was for a career. At the Center Church, he was on the Christmas program several times (playing "finely executed pieces on the violin"). He performed at weddings, at the Opera House, in minstrel shows (Elks had several the one in January 1902, was "literally packed with people, several hundred chairs added to the regular seating"), soloing often such as at the teacher reunions and such. Also, Chris would just pop in to entertain as he did in one Christmas program at Whitlock Avenue School. Before the kids' program began, he came to play for them and they loved

it, listening and swaying back behind the curtain. Both Chris and Fred had orchestras (Ben Hur, Elite, Schweitzer and others), sometimes playing together and at other times both heading an orchestra. In the summer of '91, Chris spent \$160 for a Grier violin, "one of the finest instruments made," but I'm thinking he could make any sing! Fred was well-known in the state and was often requested to perform or judge, including at the first band contest (4th of July, 1891 with eight bands represented, none from MoCo) in Montgomery County and for several parades at the fair grounds or downtown. After Fred's wife passed in 1902, he returned to Columbus, Ohio and passed away six years later; CS (I feel it indicates his brother Chris) wrote his obituary (Chris passing 14 years thereafter) telling that he organized several bands, popular teacher, many musicians in the county remembering him for his geniality as a companion and were sad at his death plus the info about when coming here and father teaching him, which I feel not many but a brother would know). Fred is buried in Ohio, Chris and Leo right here in Oak Hill.

Leo was born here May 13, 1875 and was director of the orchestra at not only the Music Hall but when it became the Strand Theater. During WWI, he was a YMCA worker. He belonged to the Elks and Masons. His daughter Mary Mildred was head of the English Department at CHS for quite some years and Theodore, his son worked for decades for Sears. Later in life, Leo lived in Eagle Grove, Iowa as did his brother, Herman who since this is getting so long, I may have to feature in an upcoming article.

Not sure I've really presented how this family had such an amazing, long-lasting impression on our early social life, culture, and theater-world, but believe me when I say – they did!



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