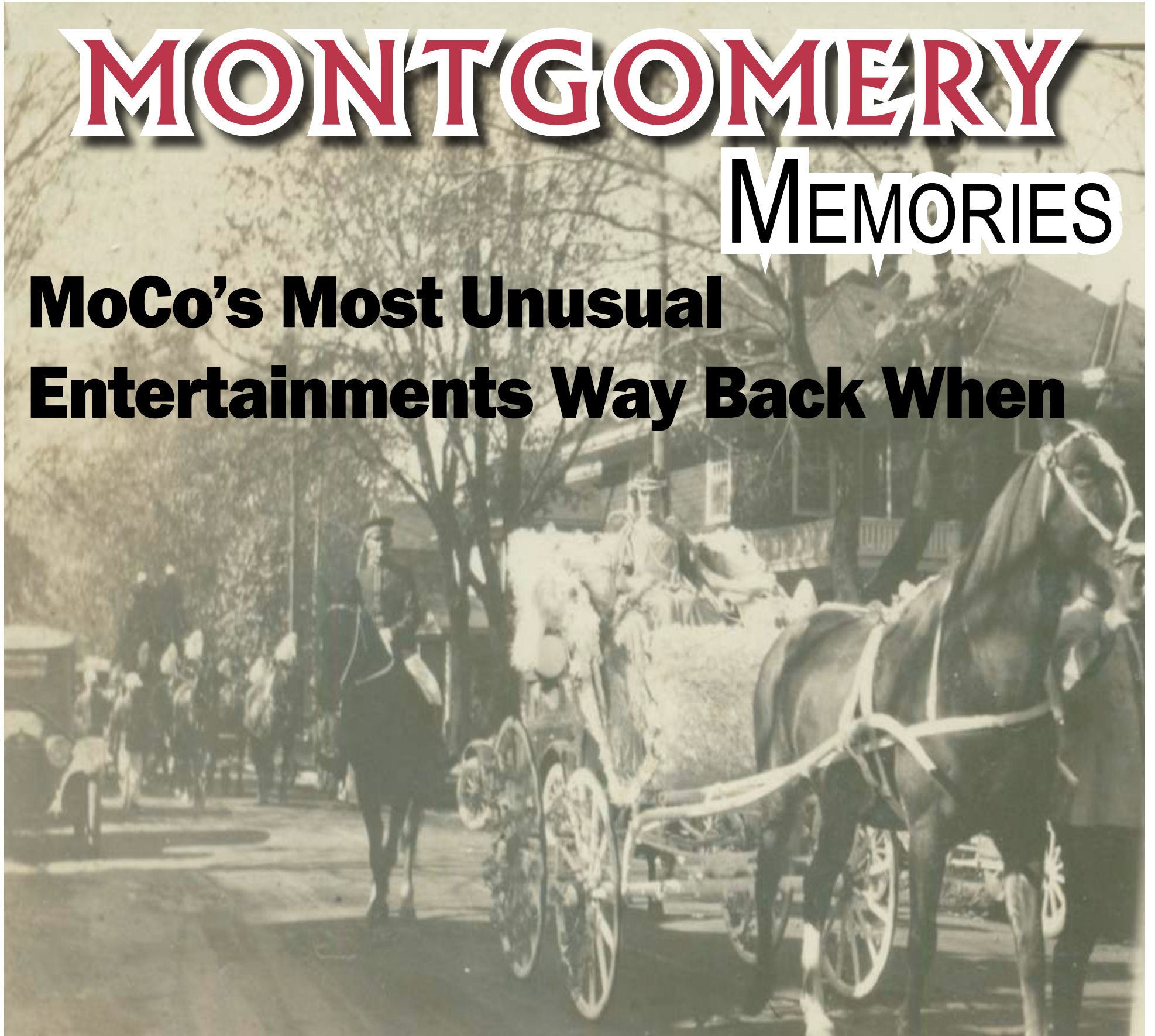


# MONTGOMERY MEMORIES

**MoCo's Most Unusual  
Entertainments Way Back When**



June 2022

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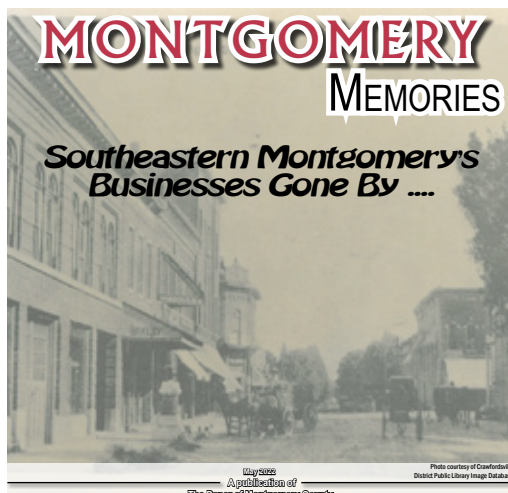


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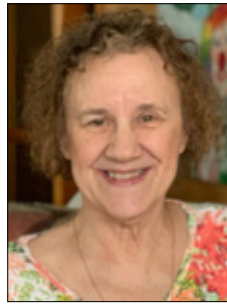
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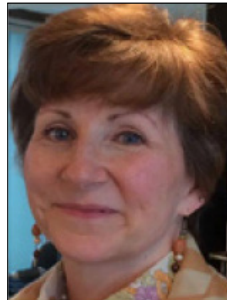
## Contributing Writers



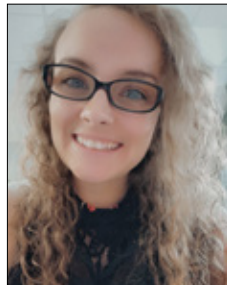
**KAREN BAZZANI ZACH** has been a contributor of local historical articles for 40 years. A native Montgomery Countian, she grew up in Waveland, married Jim Zach, and received her grad degree from IU while working at CDPL as Children's Librarian. Karen authored one of the newer county histories, *Crawfordsville: 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 three children. She enjoys spending time with her husband and kids, reading and baking.





## June Feature: Corn Flowers anyone ?

*Karen Bazzani Zach, Montgomery Memories*

One parade I most certainly would have loved to have seen was in October 1900 when the “crowning feature of the Corn Carnival was the Flower Parade.” It was said to have been the best-ever efforts in all of Crawfordsville’s entertainments and it was a “thing of beauty and certainly in memory a joy forever!” Doggone it, I missed it! More than 40 vehicles were presented and “every one gave evidence of tireless work and artistic skill in decoration.” Likely, it needed to be seen in person to be appreciated yet the local newspapers did a good job (if only there had been some photos) with the descriptions, especially the Daily News-Review OTD of the parade (Oct 17, 1900).

F.L. Snyder, the marshal had difficulty organizing the vehicles on East Wabash to get them started on time (2 o’clock). He didn’t make it and the parade finally commenced an hour later. Wayne Ash and Herbert Smith began the parade on beautiful horses, followed by a local band. “Thousands of people gathered along the line of march and several vehicles received great applause!”

The first float represented the “Rock of Ages,” with white flowers and was drawn by white horses. Julia Mayer in white was at the cross and the “symbolic illustration was a striking one.”

A more fun one was Floyd Davis who paraded a little goat cart decorated in red and pink chrysanthemums. Another youthful production was a “small police patrol car,” also decorated in pink chrysanthemums but with asparagus tips throughout. “This was drawn by a solemn eyed goat which walked along as proudly as the most beautiful horse!” Oddly, another article said it was drawn by a small pony. At any rate, I’d loved to have watched Master Karle Mayer scanning the parade, trying to arrest those not up to snuff!

Other interesting floats in the parade included: Adeline Ashton Wert and Minnie Myers Ramey who presented a surrey daintily trimmed with pink crush roses, with another following along with



Howard family members handsomely decorated in white and lavender chrysanthemums.

Four young maidens (Helen Bonnell, Ruby Byrd, Mamie Maxwell and Madge Courtney) “looked stunning in their surrey completely covered with LaFrance roses,” which are said to be the most lovely of all flowers, often referred to as the Queen Rose. The gals donned white dresses, picture hats of pink roses, white parasols trimmed in pink roses and each carried huge bouquets of such.

Josephine Karle Mayer and a Mrs. Will Miller rode in a “spider driven-tandem beautifully decorated in white and two shades of yellow chrysanthemums, with the ladies carrying parasols to match the decorations.”

Ella and Anna Walker had a particularly gorgeous pony trap in the parade, decorated in five shades of purple china astors with elaborate designs on the wheels and back of the trap.

Multi-winner of times past was Mary Makinson Munhall who this year had her daughter, Gertrude and two friends in her trap which was decorated in five shades of chrysanthemums, ranging from dark red to white. Two girls wore pink dresses while Mrs. Munhall wore dark red and the other girl wore white and all carrying a matching parasol.

A fun one would be Miss Sue Binford and Ruth

Clark all arrayed in white, presenting a cute appearance in Master Crane’s donkey trap with lavender chrysanthemums (many other shades in other floats).

Other flowers used were pink and white chrysanthemums; red, white, blue morning glories; cinnamon vine; plus ribbons, festoons and many other creative decorations adding to the beauty.

Mae Wasson, the Queen of the Flower Carnival, rode in one of the most handsome of all the vehicles and “elicited much favorable comment,” being decorated with variegated chunks of morning glories. Hers was the last of the whole affair. Four beautiful black horses led her way, she and her court sitting in fashion in

a Louis XIV type carriage, fashioned with purple and white chrysanthemums. The queen wore a white, lace overdress, her flowing cape was of “eiderdown, trimmed in ermine. She wore the crown and carried white roses.” Maids of honor (Mabel Clodfelter, Grace Ellis) wore white with caps and hats. Walter Schleppey, Fred Wood and four others rode on flower-bedecked horses as guardsmen.

Three judges viewed the carriages before and during the parade and were from Lafayette, Covington and Renssalaer. The parade was so well accepted that it was decided that it would be repeated in two days, while the decorated vehicles were still in good shape. The next day had been planned with an unusual parade and a most unique prize, one for the most dilapidated vehicles (Indianapolis New 18 Oct 1900 p6). There were 20 who desired the honor. The scene “presented was ludicrous and the parade was accompanied by howls of laughter.” The Flower Parade the next day then had many hundreds arriving over the Monon to view the beauty since word had gotten around! I’ve never seen anything like it. The local papers gave good descriptions, though yet I still wish I’d have been there! Wouldn’t have minded seeing the most dilapidated ones either!



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

There was a Mrs. Crowe in the 1890s who seemed to entertain the rich, poor, and more in our area, travelling from place to place and charging for her “knowledge!” Here is an example/two -- Crawfordsville Daily Journal 3 Dec 1892 p 4 – “It is said that the famous Mrs. Crowe will soon move to Connettsville a Ladoga suburb and make her home there. She spent last week here and gathered in more silver half dollars than she could carry home. There are people here right now who are banking on what she told them. If all her savings come true this will eventually be the wealthiest community in the state and we expect to make our share by printing wedding cards. No sooner did Mrs. Crowe leave Crawfordsville than a gypsy fortune teller was imported. The county seat people cannot transact business even for a single day without having someone consult the future for them.”

The Ladoga Leader had this to say about her: “The Invincible Mrs. Crowe. John Talbott has been pasturing his mare on Ed Lidikay’s farm, and Ed also pastures a horse of his own there. Last Wednesday morning Allie Pitcher was surprised to find Ed’s horse in the road bearing harness marks, and showing evidences of hard driving. He investigated the matter and found that the Talbott mare was also missing. It was decided that both horses had been taken from the pasture, that the Lidikay horse had refused to travel, and had been turned loose. Talbott consulted Mrs. Crowe, the county seat fortune teller. She described the horses and told a plausible tale of how and when they were taken. Acting on Mrs. Crowe’s advice Lidikay and Talbott started Sunday in search of the mare. They traced the mare to the hills west of New Market but could get no further information. Monday morning word was telephoned here from Crawfordsville that the mare had been seen about seven miles from that place. Talbott and Marion Rhoads left for that locality and found the animal running at large about where the fortune teller said she would be. Mrs. Crowe had told the truth. Whether the horses had been stolen or simply escaped is not yet decided. Mrs. Crowe says they were taken from the pasture by two men and gives some very interesting information about the men, which we at present, have no authority to publish.”

Later on, John A. Dodd near Darlington got one of the New England Orphans of Boston that road the train through. He was mean to him, beat him and no one liked him. One day, the boy was gone. Dodd went into town to ask if anyone had seen him. Well, Mrs. Crowe was sought and she told of how Dodd had killed the boy and put him in the cabin in the back of their property. It was dark and no one wanted to go check this out but during the night three men were to watch over Dodd. They saw Dodd and his nephew take a bundle out to the wagon, drive away and in due time came back without the bundle. The next morning a great amount of local men gathered, heard the story and were about to take Dodd for a lynching when the sheriff arrived with a warrant for Dodd’s arrest. However, Dodd’s was on his way out of the door and told



the sheriff he was on his way to get the boy who had been found. And, he had been at the home of good people who had taken good care of him, although he cried great tears when he saw Dodd’s come for him. Thus, Mrs. Crowe’s greatness went way down in the hearts and minds of those in the community.”

The first band contest ever held in Crawfordsville occurred on July 3rd in 1891 at the fair grounds. Electric lights made the place as light as day and the “cries of the lemonade fakir and his fellow workers in helping people spend money made the occasion very much like a circus night.” Long lines of carriages brought a great many listeners to the event. Prof. Bob Hill’s balloon could be viewed being filled with hot air and smoke. The ascension, however, which occurred during the performance of the Connersville band was not a glittering success. The program was as follows: Overtures ... Brazil Band ... Connersville Band ... Peru Band ... Shelbyville Band. Cornet Solos – Connersville ... Peru ... Shelbyville ... Quartettes ... Brazil ... Connersville ... Peru ... Shelbyville. The music was quite a success all the way through and thoroughly entertained the immense crowd.

“Although there was much division of opinion, yet we feel sure all will acquiesce in the decision of the judges, Beal Gale, Fred Schweitzer and Eddie Brandkamp which was as follows. Overture – Peru first, \$150, Brazil 2nd, \$75. Cornet Solo – Peru First. Quartette – Peru, first; Brazil, second.”

According to the Crawfordsville Daily Journal 17 Nov 1894, the chrysanthemum show “closed that evening at the Y. M. C. A. auditorium after a week of unqualified success. The success of the enterprise eclipsed the most sanguine expectations of the management and demonstrated that a chrysanthemum fair will be a feature hereafter in Crawfordsville and one that will be awaited by all with interest and anticipation. The professional displays this year were very creditable as well as the ones by those who just love to grow beauty but they are nothing to those which will be seen here in future shows. Not only will there be many more competitors but those already engaged in the culture of these magnificent flowers will next year know better how to go about the work. Many valuable pointers were given and discussed to help prepare displayers the upcoming year. Folks outside of Crawfordsville made no entries this year. From some cause the people did not seem to understand the nature of the enterprise and took no interest in it. Many have been here to visit the hall, however, and have gone back to their homes determined to be in the contest for blood next year. The beginning of the association has been phenomenal and the future has a most roseate hue.”

Could have included so many other odd entertainments, such as the Chautauqua’s, fights both legit and happenstance, the hangings endured by families who watched and who were involved, all types of races (horse, three-legged, derby cars ...) but, at least, here you have a few interesting entertainments that have been enjoyed by those in our past!



# Nifty at Ninety - And Beyond

Joy Willett, Montgomery Memories

For this edition of Nifty at Ninety... we meet Daisy Hendricks. Daisy was born on July 12, 1886 in Ripley Township, Montgomery County, Indiana. She was the youngest child of James Wesley (b. 1838) and Amanda Henderson Hendricks (b. 1843). This was a second marriage for James. His first wife was Amanda's sister Elizabeth. Elizabeth died in 1873 and James and Amanda wed in 1874. James and Elizabeth had one living child, William (1860-1912). James and Amanda had four children who lived to adulthood – Eva, Alice, Chester, and Daisy.

Daisy's paternal grandfather John (1805-1874) was born in North Carolina. He immigrated to Ohio with his parents Joseph (1776-1862) and Nancy Meeks Hendricks (1782-1845). In 1825, while living in Ohio, John married Elizabeth Smith. The extended Hendricks family moved to Montgomery County, Indiana I Oct 1834 (General Land Office Records) and settled in Wayne Township. When Joseph and Nancy passed, they were interred in the Old Pioneer Cemetery at the edge of Waynetown.

Daisy's maternal grandfather, Alexander Henderson, was born in 1815 in North Carolina. The Henderson family moved first to Ohio and on September 10, 1838, they too received an original land grant. Daisy's maternal grandmother, Isabella Chapman was born in 1820 in Ohio. Isabella's parents, George and Elizabeth Burton Chapman, were born in Yorkshire, England where they married in ca. 1815. They immigrated to North Carolina and by 1820 they were living in Butler County, Ohio. The Chapman's moved to Parke County, Indiana five years later, in 1825, very early settlers of Parke. A Quaker family, they attended the Bloomfield Monthly Meeting. Isabella and Alexander married in Parke County on October 11, 1838. By 1860, they moved to Wayne Township, Montgomery County, Indiana, where Alexander continued to farm. The couple raised 10 children. Isabella died on August 31, 1898. She was interred in the Wesley Cemetery near Waynetown.

Daisy grew up in Ripley Township where her father James was a successful farmer and her mother Amanda kept house. She attended Ridge Farm School and graduated from the eighth grade. Three of the Hendricks siblings married in quick succession. Alice married in 1903, Eva married in 1904 and Daisy married Delmar K. Fruits on November 19, 1905. Delmar was the son of Noah and Susan Lewis Fruits. Delmar's great-grandfather, George "Alamo George" Fruits, noted for his long life, (1762-1876) was a veteran of the Indian and Revo-



Photo courtesy of AR, via findagrave.com

lutionary wars. He came to Ripley Township in ca. 1822 (History of Montgomery County, Indiana).

After their marriage, Daisy and Delmar settled in Wayne Township where Delmar worked as a farm laborer. Their children were Nellie Lee (b. 1908) and Lewis D. (b. 1909). In 1910, Alexander Henderson, at the age of 94, was living with James, Amanda, and Chester. Alexander died on March 29, 1911 and was buried next to Isabella. James died on January 1, 1912. After his death, Chester continued to work on the farm, supporting his mother Amanda. Chester married in 1916 and the 1920 census lists that Amanda lived with his family. Amanda died on September 27, 1927 and was buried in the Wesley Cemetery.

In ca. 1930 Daisy and Delmar moved to New Richmond where Delmar worked at the grain elevator. By this time Nellie had married Frances Ball. The couple would have no children. In 1931, Lewis married Rachel Myers. This couple would have six children. Delmar was very involved in New Richmond activities. In 1931, he ran for clerk (Journal and Courier 05 Oct 1931) and in 1933 he ran for clerk-treasurer (04 Nov 1933). In 1936, he was a Registration Deputy (23 Mar 1936). We can imagine Daisy's busy life as she supported her husband in these endeavors. The family was visited by tragedy when Nellie, only 33 years old, passed away from pneumonia brought on by influenza. She was interred in the Waynetown Masonic Cemetery.

On January 4, 1958, the Journal and Courier reported that Delmar was a patient in Danville, Illinois. He was readmitted to Lakeview Memorial Hospital in August of 1959, and on September 8th he died. He, too, was interred in the Waynetown Masonic Cemetery. When Lewis died in 1975, he was buried there too.

Daisy lived for 15 years as a widow. Stories about her toward the end of her life give a glimpse of who this remarkable woman really was. At 99 years old, she signed up to dance in a "rock-a-thon" fundraiser (J&C 19 Jul 1985). In celebration of her 100th birthday, family and friends hosted an open house (J&C 08 Jul 1986). Many of her six grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren, and 14 great-great grandchildren were in attendance. She was an active quilter and enjoyed visiting family and friends. It was noted that, as an honored centenarian, Daisy rode in an open convertible during a parade. She passed on Feb 11, 1990 and was buried next to Delmar. May Daisy, whose long life and community spirit made her beloved, rest in peace.



THREE GENERATIONS AT  
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Photo courtesy of Chuck Clore

Octane aromas ignite the entrepreneurial spirit. There was a time before the Interstate that Highway 136 was the east-west corridor to adventure. Grandpa, James W. Clore, operated a Marathon Gas Station near the corner of 136 and Shady Lane, where Wabash Avenue merges with Main Street. High above the little white station house, a bright red Pegasus logo seized the attention of the travelers to Indy and the Speedway. Grandpa was poised to cash in on the midcentury auto adventurers with gas prices at 26¢ per gallon.

At six years of age, my westward vision was focused on Waynetown, Hillsboro, and maybe as far as Veedersburg. When folks said, "Back East," I thought of Mace, New Ross, or Jamestown. Every major intersection on Highway 136 generated a thriving community. Each community spawned a dozen or so local ventures into the business world. A few were follies. But most grabbed that dream, "I can make this work!" with creativity and tenacity, made it happen.

"Go West Young Man" took on a much broader scope when the Clore family embarked on a journey to the faraway land of Anaheim. To my amazement, the edge of my world did not end at the Indiana border. There was life beyond Danville, Illinois. Somewhere west of Urbana, we turned left onto Main Street USA. We hit the Mother Road, Route 66.

Unlike today's concrete spaghetti bowls of multi-lane flyovers that avoid city traffic, Route 66 drove you straight through the heart of town. Cloverleaves were not yet. That afforded travelers a chance to absorb the local ambiance. It was also a gift to a savvy entrepreneur who could profit from showing off unique attractions. The spirit of 66 inspired Mom-N-Pop shops to spring up from here to Santa Monica.

Forget the corporate Cracker Barrels franchises. These start-ups were authentic local cafes where you captured a glimpse of real characters in town. At roadside venues, this Hoosier kid was mesmerized. Horny toads, rattlesnakes, and scorpions in Winslow, Arizona, were neater than bullfrogs and dragonflies along the banks of Sugar Creek. I even bought a genuine shiny piece of the Petrified Forest.

"Ooh!" and "Aah!" Mom, Dad, and big brother, Toby, stood admiring the scenic lookout over the Painted Desert. I saw no paint. There was no sand. How could they call it a painted desert without gigantic piles of brightly colored sand? Mom and Dad must be confused. I may have been too literal in my expectations. I was a little afraid of what might be waiting for me in "NEEDLES" California.

By the time we finally rolled down out of the mountains toward Anaheim, my westward vision had expanded. My cool California cousin, Rudy Clore, Uncle Clint, and Aunt Evelyn

# Highway 136

By Chuck Clore



Photo courtesy of Chuck Clore

welcomed us to Glendale just past Anaheim. At this point, Disneyland was just a grove of orange trees. But Knott's Berry Farm was like Silver Dollar City on steroids with an Old West instead of a Hillbilly theme.

The whole family was amused as Dad walked past the sheriff's office, and a voice from one of the cells said, "Aus, where are you going? You are not going to leave me in here, are you? I have bailed you out of the Crawfordsville jail a dozen times!" Uncle Clint was several feet away with a microphone feeding information to the dummies in the cell.

Leaving Glendale, we trekked onward to the San Diego Naval Base to retrieve my sister, Beverly. Her husband had shipped out to sea for several months. She and her newborn baby were coming back home with us.

The family had traveled as far west as possible without flippers and a snorkel. It was time to point the old Pontiac east and head for C-Ville. Thank goodness fuel was 26¢ per gallon cause it is definitely more than one tank full.

We got as far as Joplin, Missouri before the old jalopy coughed its last breath and gave up the ghost. Dad called his friend, Buster Dowel, who

drove to Joplin to haul us back to Crawfordville. What an adventure!

Here is a photo of dad and me on a log swing in a park outside Joplin, Missouri.

Given a time machine, I would not travel back to a roadside café on Old Route 66. I would journey back to a booth at the Snacker on Highway 136.





## Cornhusking Contest

By Joy Willett

They went into the field  
when the leaves turned  
brown  
strong and stead  
they took the cobs down.  
From stalk to stalk  
moving right quick  
their pull and shuck  
was quite a trick,  
People from all over  
from even in town  
would come watch  
these fellas  
of husking renowned.  
The man at the end  
who pitched the most

1

earned some loot  
and the right to  
boast.

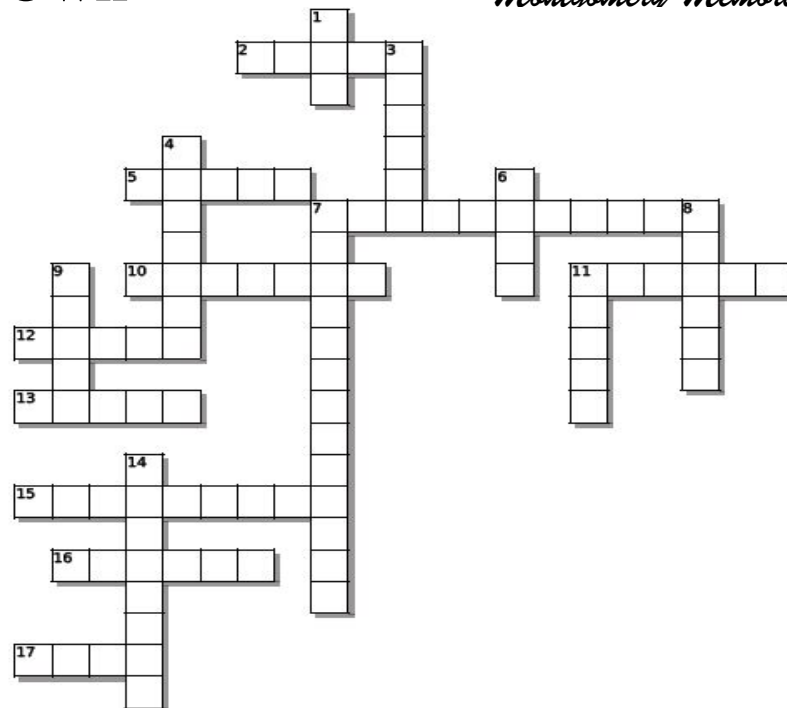
Interesting news  
clip especially if you  
know nothing about  
Corn Husking – this  
is the 1937 National  
Contest – thanks to  
Joy for finding this  
–scroll down under  
the slide show to the  
movie clip- kbz –  
pretty amazing!  
Remembering the  
1937 National Corn  
Shucking Contest  
(farmprogress.com)

2

## To Each Their Own

## Poetry and Puzzles

Montgomery Memories



### ACROSS

- 2 Pied Pier sold these in 10/1927
- 5 The flower that married a Fruits
- 7 Contest held in a cornfield
- 10 We celebrate them on 6/19
- 11 This Fruits lived to 113
- 12 1890's Fortune teller
- 13 A "loco" type of quilt
- 15 Fruit in KZB's cake
- 16 Parade held twice in 10/1899
- 17 Crowe almost got him lynched

### DOWN

- 1 Camel in the '83 July 4th parade
- 3 It starts on 6/19
- 4 Author of Ben Hur
- 6 Fight in Alamo 7/1898. Ole!
- 7 Flower at 1894 YMCA show
- 8 What's Elvis did with his hips
- 9 Bitter herb eaten at Passover
- 11 W.F. Wallace Troupe blew this
- 14 Drink at 1st C'ville band contest

Check out page 10 for the solution

# Burkhart Funeral Home

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## Karen's Kitchen

*Karen Bazzani Zach, Montgomery Memories*



### Part I

This fellow was for sure some entertainer. Never got to see him in real life by choice, as I couldn't stand to see him gyrate. Now, Forest Gump impersonating Elvis Presley was okay – well at least, briefly. But, the Elvis Presley Cake is one of my all-time favorite desserts and thought I'd share it with you since this month's theme is Unusual Entertainment and EP sure was that!

Bake a white cake as normal (I just use a Betty Crocker or whatever). After finished, poke holes in the top of it. Plenty of holes. Boil an 8-oz can of crushed pineapple with the juice and 1 Cup of Sugar, then pour it over the cooled hole-punched cake.

In a large bowl, mix an 8-oz package of Cream Cheese, along with ½ C. Soft Butter, 3 C. Powdered Sugar (since I now have diabetes, I usually make it with 1 ½ cups of powdered sugar and 1 ½ cups of Splenda). Add 1 tsp. vanilla and crushed pecans. Mix well, then put on the top of the cake. The cake reminds you of the one white suit with the sparkles that Elvis wore often and it tastes as marvelous as his singing sounds (just not the gyrating – lol)!

### Part II

So, the Ben Hur presentation is on another page and I was wondering just what Ben would have eaten in the times. Had an idea or two but it was actually beautifully laid out in this food blog – she had other super blogs of things they made as well and explanations of the items (such as Maror a bitter herb, similar to horseradish that showed the bitterness of slavery; Zeroah – a lamb roast that was for the blood put on the doors of the Jewish people). This was fascinating – you might enjoy reading more -- Reel Fancy Dinners: Ben-Hur Dinner





## County Connections: Ben Hur – home style !!

*Karen Bazzani Zach, Montgomery Memories*

Many of us have read Ben Hur; most of us have seen one of the several movies of Ben Hur but oh my, the entertainment I'll be discussing in today's article would be something else to see. This happened right before Christmas in 1888 and was called "The Ben Hur Entertainments."

Based on scenes from BH (The Garden of Daphne, Orchard of Palms, scene at the Lake, Chariot Race and BH as victor), all with local performers according to articles in the local newspapers who evidently did an exceptional job. The praise for the committees, actors, and DW Cox (florist) who did the stage scenery along with help from Neal Watson and George Vance were completely amazing.

Mort Keegan portrayed Ben Hur and reviews noted that he was "powerful and poses were strong." Morton Brainard Keegan was born here 12 June 1864, and later became a physician (moving out of the county and in fact state as some of the others did as well but here then and deeply involved) as was his father. Messala, Will Martin; Amrah, Mrs. Harley Ornbaum; Esther, Rozzie Darter; Ben's mother, Miriam was portrayed by Hattie Ashley; Iras (the beauty who betrayed Ben Hur), Mary Robinson; Tirza, Edna Dice; Simonides, John W. Ramsay (whose wife Alice was one of the leaders of the idea and carrying out the entertainment); Balthasar, Rosa Campbell; Gaspar, George Durham; Melchoir, Milt Burk; Herod, William Lee; Diana, Ada Detchon; and Josie Fullenwider as Ceres. Sadly, Josie would pass away just a couple of years after her stardom and is buried in Oak Hill.

Not sure which George Durham played Gaspar of the several in the area, but likely George Theodore Durham who was a local bookkeeper. John W. Ramsay had recently been Mayor. Now, wouldn't that have been nifty? John studied law with Henry S. Lane and was quite active in the community. Will Martin is likely William K. Martin who was the local ice dealer for decades and involved in many artistic endeavors in the area. Edith Lee Ornbaum was the daughter of David Long Lee and Mahala Jane Courtney and was one of their five daughters and two sons. Her grandfather was one of the early Montgomery judges and her husband, Harley Ornbaum was a local harness maker. Not sure about Rozzie Darter who played Esther but would imagine that she was from the John J. Darter family who had a large grocery and was later one of the first real estate agents in the city. Hattie Ashley was only a few years older than Morton and would in just a few years marry Ber-

ry Stewart Crebs who attended Wabash College and became a doctor (in one of the biggest, nicest weddings in the city), but she must have been amazing nonetheless.

Mary Robinson may have been the daughter of George and Frances, George being an express driver in the community and well liked. They were very active in the Methodist Church where some of the above were as well. There were two Edna Dice's in the area at the time of the presentation but likely this was the 15-year-old Edna daughter of Francis Marion and Mary Frances Dice, her father a lawyer. She would have been the perfect age as Ben-Hur's sister. Rosa Campbell probably was the daughter of John Lyle Campbell, who was a Wabash College professor. Milt Burk fairly sure was Milton H. Burke who was a long-time janitor with the Eagles lodge. William Lee could be William Lucas Lee (he has one of the neatest tombstones in Oak Hill) who was a fairly lengthy real estate dealer in the city. Ada Detchon was the very pretty daughter of Dr. Elliott Detchon and a very popular young lady.

The ladies involved, Mrs. Ramsay mentioned, were also the Mrs. CM Travis; JH Burford; Robert Ross; DW Rountree and OG Wilhite. Before each tableau the selection from the book reflecting the scene was read by Flora Darter (definitely a daughter of the above mentioned John J). The reviews noted, "She read in a quiet, unaffected manner with no unseemly efforts at elocution which completely charmed the audience." The Garden of Daphne was the most elaborate scene of the show and "brought down the house." Of course, as we all know the climax featured the chariot race, and it wrapped-up the scenes as Ben Hur was victorious in the end.

Oswald D. Humphrey gave a "great display of elocutionary power that surprised the audience." He gave the recitation of the Chariot Race and it seemed no one would have put in as much "energy and fire!"

The scenery at the Lake and the Garden of Daphne was especially artistic, the "finest exhibition ever given in the city." Every costume was correct to the slightest detail. In fact, it was obvious all the viewers and reviewers noted anyone connected to the entertainment deserved great praise in presenting the greatest novel of the age "by our own Lew Wallace!" One thing for sure, I'd have loved to have been involved in some way, shape or form, only the scenery wouldn't have gotten good reviews had I been with that!

# This is our county!

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

**Email Karen Zach: [karen.zach@sbcglobal.net](mailto:karen.zach@sbcglobal.net) Subject: Montgomery Memories**



# 2022 Montgomery County Museum Scene



MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

As with the Lew Wallace Museum, the best way to visit is to schedule a tour with tour hours beginning Wed-Fri 1-4 p.m.; 2nd and 4th Saturdays from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. and the last tour begins at 3:15. Great fest this year!!



ROTARY JAIL MUSEUM OF CRAWFORDSVILLE, IN

The Tannenbaum Center is a wonderful place to have a wedding reception, a graduation party, any open-house type get-together – Use the e-mail below to reserve it. Covid seems to be winding down so hopefully the museum will be open from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Wed-Sat \$5 for adults \$3 for children 6-11 and under, free. Neat to learn so much about one of the only 3 rotating jails out of 18 built still intact and ours is I believe the only one that works.



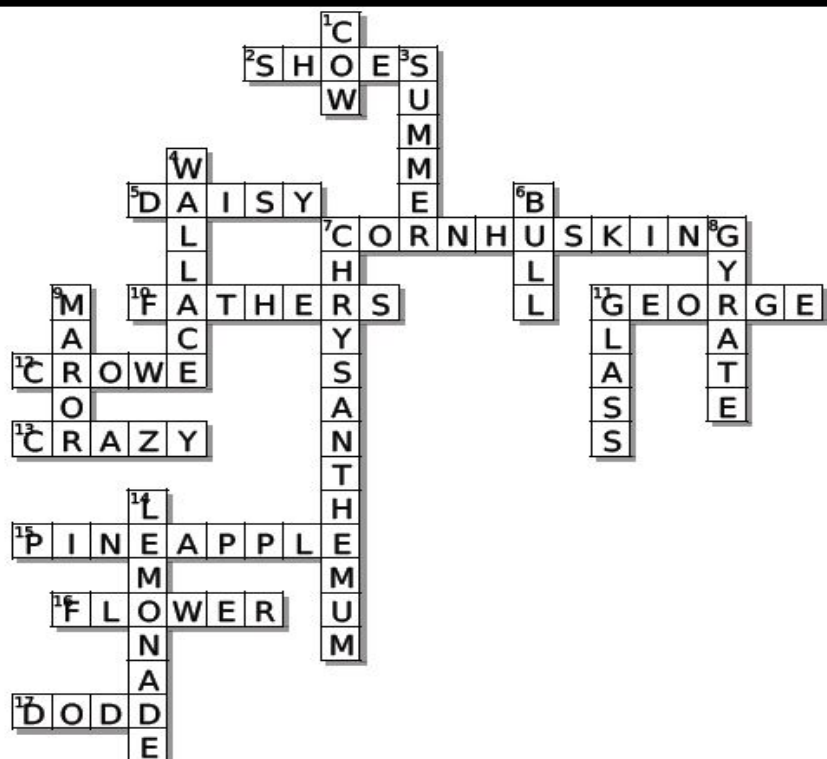
CARNEGIE MUSEUM

Open: Wed-Sat 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Admission is free but also feel free to support the Carnegie as a member (\$25 per household) and when you travel you will be able to get into something like 300 museums. Pretty cool! Also this year's theme is From Slate to Tablet, featuring 200 years of Education in Montgomery County. July 28 – World of Wonders Book Discussion with Dr. Marc Hudson of Wabash College 7-8 p.m.. Sat Sept 24 – Stephanie Morrisette CDPL Staff Member and nature enthusiast will lead a short hike to gather crinoids along the creek bed at Sugar Creek Trailhead/Rocky Ridge Landing 10-11 a.m.



GENERAL LEW WALLACE STUDY

You can book tours online Home - General Lew Wallace Study & Museum (ben-hur.com) When you tour, you will have a staff member take you on a guided tour, wearing a mask and hand sanitizer provided if you need it. Appreciate masks and sanitized hands from the visitors. Book on line or call to book a time. The obvious items are expected (please don't come if you have a fever, cough, cold, headache, shortness of breath ... or exposed to Covid within the last 14 days). The tour takes about 40 minutes and the staff "knows the general!" The May Hoosier Book for discussion is Life List of Adrian Mandrick by Chris White and July's is The Anthropocene Reviewed: Essays from a Human-Centered Planet by John Green. Visit their book club website for more details. The theme this year focuses on the recent acquisition to the museum. Sounds good!



## 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.

Montgomery County is lucky to have so many awesome places to visit, the Linden Depot one of them which opened in April. \$6 for adults children 12 and under \$1. See the caboos, the engine, the H-O model railroad scale. Open Fri, Sat & Sundays from April – October noon to 5 p.m.





## Grandcestors

*Karen Bazzani Zach, Montgomery Memories*

Oh, my it would be such great fun to go back in the days of interesting entertainments (see below) and take the family. As I wrote this article, I so wondered if any of my family attended these events! Did yours? Well, this way, we can enjoy the overviews at least!

The “camel” in the 1883 4th of July parade was not a success. The animal consisted of a cow with a hump on her back on which was seated a small boy. The camel became frightened at the traction engine, threw her rider and went down an alley where they didn’t celebrate the Fourth. This was during the 107th anniversary of the nation’s independence in Crawfordsville. However, the rest of the day was more than a success in every way. The weather, though a bit warm was favorable and there were thousands of visitors present to see “what was to be seen.” Businesses, private residences, streets and wagons (representing businesses) were decorated with flags, bunting and patriotic emblems. The cannon roaring at day-break wakened the slumberers and its frequent firing during morning was a constant reminder of the observance. “The trains on the different railroad lines were heavily laden and the people flocked in from the country.” The parade began on Washington and went around town, then east on Main to the fair grounds. Schweitzer’s band led the parade, followed by a barouche containing Mayor Ramsay and Miss Mary H. Krout. Next in order came the Indianapolis Light Infantry and drum corps then the wagons representing different business firms. The Waynetown band wrapped up the long parade. At the fair grounds Mary Hannah Krout read the Declaration of Independence along with other entertainment presented. In the afternoon at 1 the Light Infantry of Indianapolis gave an exhibition of military training on Washington Street under the command of Capt JR Ross, a Crawfordsville native. The drum corps also made some excellent movements in the way of marching and elicited hearty applause from the crowd. “Altogether this part of the programme was carried out admirably and reflects great credit on the participants.” Next were bands entertaining the people. A great excitement was next over the races at the fair ground. Every available space for seeing was occupied. The entries were green horses and on this account considerable fun was afforded. Rescue fire Co No 2, gained the victory in the firemen’s contest in the evening. The display of fire works was one of the best ever witnessed in the city. Altogether, the celebration seemed quite a success and the management was given “great congratulations on the zeal used to make the day so special.”

Yes of course the next up on my list of entertainments was a come on to



sell shoes, but can you imagine the excitement of the kids attending in October 1927? “Hey kiddies! Big doing on this afternoon! The Pied Piper is coming to town. Not only is he coming, but he is going to play his pipe, tell funny stories and have a jolly good time. All this is going to happen at the Balsley & McWilliams Shoe Store on North Washington Street at 4 o’clock this afternoon and the children are all urged to be on hand. This modern Pied Piper has traveled the length and breadth of the land and has left in his wake a sea of happy faces. He never fails to please and the music from his magic pipe is declared to be wonderful. Remember kiddies, it’s 4 o’clock this afternoon at Balsley & McWilliams!”

Glass blowers have always fascinated me and the Crawfordsville

Daily News Review 25 Feb 1901 had an interesting article on a group in town to entertain. “The WF Wallace troupe of famous glass blowers have arrived and are located at 120 E. Main next to Citizens National Bank. They numbered nine people and from the amount of baggage they carried they reminded everyone of a Barnum show and from its magnitude they are certainly the largest and best instructive glass blowers on the road today. Do not fail to see their wonderful and large window display. They will be here all this week afternoon and evening. Every visitor receives a present made of glass, free. The admission is but 10 cents and no doubt they will do a large business here as they come highly recommended by our Terre Haute Exchanges where they exhibited to the capacity of their room all last week.”

Although not an entertainment per se for all to view, but had to give this little gal some credit and would have greatly enjoyed the spectacle: Crawfordsville Star 7-22-1897 -“Miss Pearl Tilney, of Crawfordsville, an expert bicycle rider was pursued into the country by a youngster who insisted on forcing his attentions upon her, until she struck him with a slingshot, leaving him unconscious in the roadway.” – Lebanon Pioneer

And, would certainly loved to have seen the Bowers’ girls crazy quilt finished, as the President had given them permission to include his name in the product. (Weekly Argus 3 May 1890).

From the appearance of Pawnee Bill’s show advertisements posted throughout the country, in July 1898, the people were sure to have the opportunity of seeing a genuine Spanish bull fight, divested of its cruelty of course. (Alamo news). Not sure I’d have taken my kids to see that one, although I saw one when I was five but I really didn’t understand the ramifications of it all.

Well, definitely you have some interesting entertainments you could have enjoyed and maybe an ancestor did indeed!!!





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