

Next Exhibit: "Is There A Doctor In The House?" by Sally Imbler

Opening on March 8 is our display of Eastern Howard County doctors: medical, dental, veterinarian, those who earned PhD degrees, etc. We are

honoring those past and present, and from every field of work.

We need your **immediate** help to complete this display. Any information, pictures,

documents, receipts or personal memories on loan to us would be very much appreciated. Please call Lisa Stout at 628-7674 to make arrangements.



Dr. H. C. Miller, M.D., is photographed walking across the street in Greentown, carrying a document and waving his right hand which appears blurred.



Dr. and Mrs. Frank Powell with grandchild Ted Imbler. Dr. Powell served eastern Howard County as a medical doctor-turned-ophthalmologist for 50 years. His office was in his residence at 303 W. Main. You can still see steps that used to lead to the office door, but now lead only to a window.

Past Medical Professionals in Greentown Area

Last year our research chairperson Joyce Higginbottom compiled a list of physicians practicing in the Greentown area in the 1800s: Dr. L.W. Bacon, Dr. James Barrett, John Spell, William Morgan, William Scott, R.W. Smith, Dr. Collett, H. Beeson, J.H. Ross, D.S. Caylor, J.H. Stover, James T. Scott, Gideon B. Scott, William White, Dr. Watson, J. W. C. Eaton, Amos A. Covalt, L.A. Bagwell, and W. B. Payton.

Others of that era who practiced in our area were

J. L. Puckett, D. Byers, T.B. Johnson, Kimberly, Newlin & Beck, Colescott, R.W. Smith, Stephenson, J.C. Smith, R.W. Smith, C. Maughmer, H.C. Cole, E.K. Frishour, R.L. Nelson, Frank Smith, D. Byers, T.C. Miller, Wm. Bledsoe, Kimbells, A.A. Good, and J.V. Hass. The following are some early 20th century medical professionals who advertised in the Greentown Gem: (half-brothers) Dr. J. F. Powell and Dr. E. U. Powell, Dr. V. E. Baldwin, W. W. Gipe, W. E.

Armstrong (dentist), Drs. H. I. and E. U. Kingery (veterinarians), Dr. R. F. Ulrich (dentist), Drs. E. A. Hershberger and Maude Hershberger, chiropractors, Dr. Hollice E. Mayfield (dentist), and Dr. R. J. Lavengood, chiropractor.

Christmas Home Tour

By Sally Imbler

We are overwhelmed with delight at the huge success of this year's tour. Even the weather didn't dampen the joy of it all. The personal creativity in each home wonderfully displayed the beauty and meaning of Christmas.

Many thanks go to Dustin and Michelle DeWitt, Max and Myra Sue Custer, Max and Janet Smith, Jerry and Diana Kendall, Doug and Cindy Elliott, and each and every helper. Our hearts were greatly warmed.

Christmas Tree Exhibit

By Jean Simpson

On display in the History Center during the month of December was an exhibit showcasing the collections of the following:

Florence Gordon—tree with T.O.P.S. awards and charms
Anne Stout—tree with Christmas postage stamps

Jean Simpson—tree with Christmas handkerchiefs
Jean Simpson—tree with buttons

Lisa Stout—tree with thimbles
Arnold Custer—wreath with wooden cut-out ornaments
Bonnie Middlesworth—tree with Maggie's Memories (reproduction German ornaments)

Charlotte Agness—tree with grandchildren ornaments
Steve and Wayne Myers—

handcrafted pine cone wreaths

Voting for the favorite was by donation. The first place winner of a \$25 gift certificate from the History Center Gift Shop was Florence Gordon. Winner of the 2nd place \$10 gift certificate was Bonnie Middlesworth. It was an interesting exhibit because of each participant. Debbie King decorated the front window of the History Center, the large tree and the fireplace, which added so much to our holiday festive look. Thank you to everyone!

We also want to thank those who decorated wreaths and trees to display in the History Center for the month of December. They were Jean Simpson, Debbie King, Bonnie Middlesworth, Steve Myers, Arnold Custer, Lisa Stout, Florence Gordon, Anne Stout, and Barbara Middleton.

Thanks to our Volunteers

By Lisa Simpson

Over 2150 volunteer hours have been recorded at the History Center for 2007. Thank you to each individual who has given their time to make this Society a success.

To continue to grow we need **each of you!** There are many ways you can donate your time. Each volunteer and each hour donated is a valuable asset to this Society. It is not only the satisfaction of service but also can be a valuable learning experience for the

volunteer as well. If you are interested in serving on a committee or are interested in learning more about volunteering, please contact the chairperson in the committee of your choice.

2008 G.H.S. Committees and Chairpersons

Building & Grounds - Dwight Schaaf

Programs - Rachel Jenkins

Fundraising - Sally Imbler

Membership - Steve Myers

Collections - Joyce Lantz

Nominating - Darwin Freeman

Publications - Joyce Lantz

Long Range Planning - John

F. Buckley

Marketing and Public Relations - Sue Clouser

Research - Ron Simpson

Artifact donations

We thank the following patrons who have donated artifacts to the collections at the History Center from October through December 2007: Ruth Anne Kerby, Toni Orr, Florence Gordon, Tom Harper, Deloris Maple, Charlotte Agness, Ron and Jean Simpson, Fred Roesener, Martha Lou Zirkle, Cathy Massengell, Paula Childress, Mary A. Miller, Union-Jackson Twp. Home Ec Club, Larry and Ada Johnson.

Thank You To Our Loyal Docents

Many hours of volunteer time were generously donated by our docents in the History Center from September through December: Martha Lou Zirkle, Debbie King, Joyce Higginbottom, Barb Middleton, Charlotte Nulf, Nancy Echelbarger, Karen Swan, Sally Imbler, Janalyce Hatton, Rita Kingseed, Ron Simpson, Susann Sumpter, Sue Clouser, Debbie Lanning, Lisa Stout, Max Kingseed, Jean Simpson, Charlotte Agness, Betty Swisher, and Dwight Schaaf.

Welcome to Newest GHS Board Members

Your society's board of trustees has changed faces. We welcome to the board Ron Simpson, Rachel Jenkins, and Sue Clouser.

We thank Jean Simpson and Martha Lou Zirkle for their many years of service on the Board of Trustees. Our By-Laws state that after three consecutive three-year terms a board member must step down for a year. These two women have reached this term limitation. Also Thank you to Gary Buckley for his service on the Board this last year. Their collective wisdom and input will truly be missed on the board, but we hope that they will continue to serve on the committees of their choosing.

G.H.S. Monetary Donations

Lisa Stout, Wal-Mart, Janice David, Dick and Shirley Moser, Mary Ellen McCurtain, Bill Eldridge, Susie Middlesworth, Karen Swan, Paul and Kimberly Nicholson, Tippecanoe Arts Federation, Juanita Morton, Greentown Residential Association, Norris Insurance, Century Villa Health Care, Ladd Dental Group, Hasler-Stout Funeral Home, Shrock's Dri-Gas, Simpson Jewelry, B.J. Matchett, Dwight Schaaf, Nancy Echelbarger, Howard Co. Genealogical Society, Helen Fox, Brad and Mary Shrock, Carl Oyler, Joyce and Mike Lantz; **in memory of June Hill:** Ron Simpson, Friends at H.E. McGonigal, Brian and Hope Oaks, Karl and Theresa Miller, Katherine Scheffler, B & B Trucking, Vicki J. Voorhis, Fred and Rachel Jenkins, Greg and Melody Sumpter, William and Nancy Gressman.

G.H.S. Material Donations

Barbara Middleton, Paul Nicholson, Mike and Joyce Lantz, Lisa Stout, Barb Alexander, Blondie's Cookies, Brad Howell, Inc., Circle Pizza, JoAnne Imbler Clarke, Family Dollar Store, First Farmers Bank, Flook's Automotive, Mike Frazier, Darwin Freeman, Greentown Antique Mall, Greentown Equipment, Herbst Pharmacy, Huck's, Hulce Supermarket, Melody Imbler, Sally Imbler, Jenkins

Studio, Klipper Kutz, Jolene Rule, Dwight Schaaf and Son Masonry, Scooters, Sharon's Beauty Shop, Sheridan Design, Jean Simpson, Sycamore Primary Care, Terrell's Auto Service, Steve Myers.

News Tidbits From the History Center

The popular exhibit of last year "**Seegar Sisters**" will be going on the road in June. The committee has been invited to display this exhibit in Lafayette at the Tippecanoe Arts Federation museum. Stay tuned for further details.

The **Tributes and Tales** dinner in June will celebrate teachers of eastern Howard County, and will kick off our second exhibit of 2008, teachers from the past.

You may have noticed some serious **roof replacement and repair** going on at the History Center and historic bank building in November. Thanks to Barb Middleton for masterminding this effort. Please remember the **annual garage sale** the first week of June as you do spring cleaning. For pick-up call Sally Imbler at 628-7174.

Greentown High School Class Flag

By Jean Simpson

The Greentown History Center now has a school class flag, given by Elvin E. Miller. He is a Greentown High School graduate, class of 1930, and is a resident of Century Fields. He related the (continued on page 4)

story of this flag to his daughter, Ruth Anne Kerby.

The class had gotten class rings, and the insignia on the rings was duplicated on a flag. However, near the end of the school year, "some boys" ruined the flag. Some of the class felt it was important to have a flag hung at their graduation exercises, so some of the girls hurriedly made this flag. Annually it and other class flags were hung at the alumni banquets. When this was discontinued, it was given to Mr. Miller for safe-keeping.

The rivalry between the classes, especially junior and senior, was quite strong, and almost every year there was an attempt to paint or otherwise disfigure the senior flag. This one has survived and will be preserved and cared for.

It is quite large, 52" x 34", and is made of green and gold fabric, the same colors chosen for the consolidated Eastern High School.

Does anyone know when the tradition of the class flags ended? What class had the last one? Are there other class flags still out there? If you have information about these, please call 628-3800 or 628-7674.

KOKOMO-HOWARD COUNTY LIBRARY PRESS RELEASE

Submitted by: Janet Winrotte, Digitization Project coordinator

Date Submitted: 12/14/ 2007

INDIANA MEMORY PROJECT

The work continues at the Greentown Historical Society as they partner with the Kokomo-Howard County Public Library to become part of the statewide digital library called Indiana Memory. Libraries, museums, archives, and other cultural heritage organizations around the state are collaborating and contributing to this Internet endeavor. Indiana Memory website is being created to provide access to Indiana's rich history, enhancing education and scholarship of Indiana's past and is scheduled to be launched in 2008.

The goal of this local partnership is to make both the historical *Greentown Gem*, and *The Greentown Grapevine*, Greentown's current publication, available to everyone. Joyce Lantz has been organizing and preparing the hard-copies of the *Greentown Gem* for storage at the Greentown Historical Society after their recent return from the Indiana Commission on Public Records where they were microfilmed and digitized. The digital images are being loaded into a software system and Lisa Stout has joined the team to help transcribe the older newspapers. Joyce recently prepared, organized, and delivered all the issues printed to date of the *Greentown Grapevine* to the Indiana Commission on Public Records for microfilming and digitization

as Phase II of the grant gets underway.

If you have *Greentown Gem* newspapers that you would like to loan or donate to the Greentown Historical Society, please contact Joyce Lantz at 628-3800. The best time to reach Joyce is on Mondays from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the History Center. This grant project is supported by the Institute of Museums and Library Services and administered by the Indiana State Library.

Three Bandits Execute Daring Hold-up at Kroger Store Here

[This Gem news story comes from an undated newspaper clipping probably from the 1930s. The Kroger store was in Greentown in the early 30s and into the 40s.]

Greentown was given a thrill early Monday morning when three young and daring bandits quietly held up the Kroger store and escaped with about \$135.00 in cash and a few cartons of cigarettes. The hold-up occurred about seven o'clock in the morning shortly after the store had been opened for business and was carried out in a very efficient and experienced manner.

The 3 young men are said to have parked a new black Chevrolet on the corner at the (Cont. on page 7)

2008 Greentown Historical Society

Membership Form

Our Purpose: To promote public awareness and appreciation of the unique history of Eastern Howard County, Indiana, and its citizens, to carry out historical research, preservation and education, and to provide the public with meaningful heritage experiences.

Dues rates: Junior (18 and under) \$8.00 Individual \$15.00 Life Member \$200.00

Dues are for the calendar year. Dues for new members in mid-year will be pro-rated by months in year. You have a choice of Life Membership dues being put in the General Fund or sent to the Greentown Historical Society Endowment Fund. Contributions to this 501c3 organization are deductible to the extent permitted by the IRS.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ email: _____

Check one:

Current member New member

Membership category desired:

Junior Individual Life Member

Enclosed are my dues for 2008:

_____ @ \$8.00 per year for Jr. membership= \$ _____

_____ @ \$15.00 per year for Individual = \$ _____

_____ @ \$200.00 Life membership= \$ _____

I would like to make a donation in the amount of _____ to the Greentown Historical Society; check one of the following:

Building Fund Building Maintenance Utilities Gen. Fund

I would like to donate my time in the following manner:

Make checks payable to Greentown Historical Society and mail to P.O. Box 313, Greentown, IN 46936

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(Continued from page 4) intersection of Meridian and Grant streets by the Christian church, and after talking for a few moments got out of the car. This was shortly after 6:00.

They then walked over to the Economy filling station but did not go in. They then proceeded up the street talking and leaving the impression they were either officials securing data or were engaged as salesmen, as they carried a pencil and pad in their hands and engaged in conversation apparently. They turned the corner at Main street and leisurely walked toward the Kroger store. They stopped for a while in front of the Trott store, probably sizing up the situation and awaiting the opportune time for their entry into the Kroger store.

On entering the Kroger store, two went to the counter and purchased cigarettes, while the other began looking over the watermelons, inquiring the price and remarking that he could have bought them cheaper in Indianapolis Saturday. A number of customers were in the store at the time. As the last customer closed the screen door, the two ordered Robert Watson and Leo G. Downhauer, substituting as manager of the store during the absence of Lee Shoemaker, to go to the back room. They were holding revolvers on them with their hands in their pockets.

Caught unawares there was nothing to do but obey. Allen McKinney, who was working in the back room, came up as

one of the men ordered the other to wait on customers, mistaking the order as being meant for himself. He was met at the cash register and ordered back with the others.

One of them tied Watson and McKinney to the coal oil tank, while the other kept them covered with a gun. Downhauer was permitted to stand close by, expecting him to open the safe when they were ready. The bandit was talkative and engaged in conversation freely. Watson remarked it would be funny if someone wanted to buy coal oil.

In the meantime, the other two were in front and waiting on customers as if they belonged to the store. Glen Butler, delivering ice, went into the store and inquired how much ice they wanted and went to the cooler and made the delivery without suspicion of what was taking place. John Linville went into the store and, sensing something wrong, inquired in a loud voice, "What's coming off here," as he noticed strangers behind the counter. He dismissed the matter thinking they were field men or auditors at work in the store. He made his purchases and walked out.

Several others were waited upon, but finally when the last customer left, they immediately closed the door and locked it. They had rung up the sales at the cash register correctly and on several occasions inquired of the boys in the back the price of articles and went back there to get loaves of bread.

Once the store was clear, they rifled the cash register and then opened the unlocked safe, took out the cash, pocketed a few cartons of cigarettes, and went to the back room.

Downhauer was then taken farther back and tied to the stairway. They then ordered the boys to keep quiet for a few minutes, and quietly opened the rear door and stepped out into the alley. They walked leisurely past the city hall, down Meridian to their waiting car, still carrying the pencil and pad and talking as if they were working on some business deal. John Linville, who had done some trading a short time previous, was standing in front of the post office and noticed the three, but still did not suspect anything.

Once in their machine they drove slowly down Grant street, turning on Green street going to the railroad. They then turned west down the railroad, going to Cinderella Avenue at the old Hamer Lumber yard, thence back to Grant street to the brick street on the west and on out of town to the north pike. As they came on to the brick street, they began gathering speed and were hitting on high as they went over the railroad.

A hurriedly organized machine load took up the trail and followed it to the Vermont road where they turned north and all trace was lost. The sheriff and police of various cities were notified, but no trace of the three had been gained as we go to press. (Continued on page 8)

Greentown Historical Society
P.O. Box 313
Greentown, IN 46936

(Continued from page 7)

Watson, McKinney and Downhauer extricated themselves from their tie-up as soon as possible after the bandits left and spread the alarm, but too late, they had made good their escape.

The coolness with which the trio executed the hold-up and the familiarity they exhibited with the Kroger store, indicates they may have been employees of the concern at some time, and that they were certainly experienced hands in the hold-up game. They were in the store for twenty or twenty-five minutes before making their get-away, without creating any suspicion as to what was going on.

A very good description of the trio was given by Watson as follows: The smaller of the three was about 28 years old, weighed about 145, 5 ft. and 6 in. tall, wore a dark grey suit, blue eyes and had dark wavy hair combed back. The taller is described as about 28 years old, 5 ft. 11 in. tall, weighing about 175, wore a dark blue suit and blue shirt and brownish red tie, had dark eyes and dark wavy hair thinning on top of the head. The other bandit is described as being about 25 years old, 5 ft. 8 in. tall, weighing about 165, wearing tan suit with white shirt, tan and white shoes, and a brown tie, had brown eyes and dark wavy hair.