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How a historical tour for fourth grade children evolved from their study of Terre Haute and Vigo County

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HOW A HISTORICAL TOUR FOR FOURTH GRADE CHILDREN EVOLVED FROM THEIR STUDY OF TERRE HAUTE AND VIGO COUNTY

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THESIS APPROVAL SHEET

The thesis of Anna Jane Libbert, Contribution of the Graduate Division, Indiana State Teachers College, Number 785 under the title-- HOW A HISTORICAL TOUR FOR FOURTH GRADE CHILDREN EVOLVED FROM THEIR STUDY OF TERRE HAUTE AND VIGO COUNTY is hereby approved as counting toward the completion of the Master's Degree in the amount of 8 hours' credit.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE

This is a creative product, not a thesis of the usual type. It is a story within a story. Jimmy and Cindy, cousins, were eager for school to start for they were anxiously looking forward to being fourth graders. The last few years that grade had made a trip to Vincennes in October! As the days passed it didn't seem that plans were leading toward Vincennes. However, through true stories and legends related by their teacher, grandmother and others they became enthused about the history of their own town.

The climax is reached when the planned school excursion became a reality.

It is hoped this story telling of the growth and development of a typical mid-western town from a western frontier river village will help school children have a keener appreciation and better understanding of the early settlers who carved from the forests and prairies of the Northwest Territory the county of Vigo and the mid-western town of Terre Haute, Indiana.

A few institutions and several individuals have given assistance and encouragement in the writing of this story. I am especially indebted to the Indiana State Teachers College Library; the librarians of Emeline Fairbanks Library; the Vigo County Historical Society; Miss Juliet Peddle, editor of "Leaves of Thyme"; Miss Muyrel Blaikie, principal of Deming

School; Miss Alice Femyer, director of elementary instruction, Terre Haute schools; Mr. Charles C. Hearn, bookmobile librarian; Mr. Fred Carter, authority on horse racing history; Mr. Tom Larrison, owner of the Markle house; Mr. Harry D. White, my father; Mrs. Gertrude Welsh Meng, my aunt; Mrs. Natalie Smith, owner of the Preston house; Miss Blanche Richardson, social studies teacher, Deming School; Dr. Waldo Mitchell, executive secretary of the Vigo County Historical Society; Mr. John G. Biel, attorney and historian; Miss Mary South to whom Paul Dresser dedicated "On the Banks of the Wabash"; and Mr. Richard C. Tuttle, Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce.

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Anna Jane Libbert

PART ONE

School

It was early September! In a few days school would be starting.

There were several reasons why Cindy and Jimmy, nine year old cousins, were anxious to start the fourth grade. The swimming pool was closed because of a polio scare, several close friends were still away on vacation, the bookmobile would not be back on their corner until next summer, and--

"Well, there's just nothing to do!" whined impatient Jimmy, who had been just as anxious last June for vacation to begin as he was now for it to end.

Cindy said, "Jimmy, don't you think it will be fun to eat lunch with Grandma Risher during school days? She knows so many true stories. Since our mothers will be working, it will be so lonesome to eat a cold lunch at home by ourselves."

"Aw, I'd rather get some pop and a hot dog at the 'Dog 'n Suds' and listen to the juke box," replied Jimmy.

"That would soon get old. Remember how those high school kids shoved us around and called us 'short stuff' when we went there the time our moms went to see about their jobs? That's not for me!" exploded Cindy.

Another reason they were looking forward to school was that for the last two years the fourth graders could talk only about their trip to Vincennes. They talked about a subject called Social Studies and even said they had a separate book for it called <u>Living in Indiana</u>.[11] It seemed that those fourth

graders always grabbed all the books the bookmobile brought about pioneers and Indians. After all, third graders could read some of those interesting looking books. Cindy and some of the other children who had learned to read for themselves were getting a little tired of so many books with large print and pretty colored pictures. They wanted to read more about some of the famous people their teachers had mentioned as well as to know something about those wonderful maps they had seen pulled down in the fourth grade room as they were going out for recess.

Sharon had told Cindy, "The teacher pulls down the maps and lets you find the places the news commentator mentions on his news telecast or places that are told about on the T. V. shows. There is a key for every map."

"Where does the teacher keep the key?" asked Cindy.

Sharon only laughed and said, "You'll find out when you get in the fourth grade--that is a secret."

Jimmy hadn't seen Spike since July. Spike's dad had a cabin on the Wabash up near the new Allis-Chalmers plant, and since his dad was working there now the family had decided to spend the summer at the cabin. Spike had invited Jimmy out the week-end of the Fourth of July. Jimmy returned bubbling over with excitement. Spike and he had spent many hours exploring and digging in some sandy hills which Mr. Richards had called mounds. He told them, "Boys, a great many years

ago mound builders made these mounds. Years later Indians lived around here and still later white men came here to settle Vigo County."

At last the first day of school came. The day dawned bright and clear. From every direction came children in their perky, crisp new school clothes. Some hurried along greeting old friends, and some hesitated, dreading meeting new people. Mothers with kindergarteners and first graders, some sobbing, some laughing, sat out their turns in the halls. The book fees and lists were given out and school was dismissed until the next day.

Jimmy, Spike, Cindy and Cindy's best friend, Janet, were all assigned to Miss White's room along with twenty-eight other boys and girls.

On the way home Janet said, "I am sure glad we got in Miss White's room. She has taken the fourth grade to Vincennes every year she's been at our school."

"Oh, Janet!" Cindy exclaimed. "I can hardly wait! Did you hear her say we could choose our own seats tomorrow? I'm just going to love her!"

"Yes, but Cindy, we are going to have to be careful about talking to each other during study time if we choose to sit next to each other," cautioned Janet.

"See you in the morning," called the girls to each other as they separated at the corner to go in opposite

directions to their homes.

The next day after everyone was seated, books were checked, fees were turned in, and a few had shared their vacations, Miss White asked, "Are there any questions you would like to ask?"

Immediately about twenty hands went up all over the room. Miss White called on John.

"When are we going to Vincennes?" burst out Johnny eagerly.

"Vincennes?" questioned Miss White.

"The Fourth Grade always goes to Vincennes every October!" cried out several together.

"What would you want to see if you went to Vincennes?" inquired Miss White of Johnny after quieting those talking out of turn.

"Oh, I don't know. It would be fun to ride down there on a bus, take your lunch and buy some souvenirs," replied Johnny a little dejectedly.

"Let's make a list of what you would want to see," continued Miss White as she went to the board with a piece of chalk in her hand.

Silence came over the room as the children tried to think of some place or thing they would like to see there.

Finally Tommy said, "I would like to see the Wabash River."

"I heard there used to be a fort there. I'd like to see where it was," quickly added Kenneth.

"Billy said you could see the blood from an Indian on the floor of one of the houses and a hole in the shutter where an Indian shot at someone in another house," Bobby said excitedly.

"Mary told me there was a queer echo in some kind of a monument near the river," said Sally. "Miss White, do you really go in a monument? I thought they were tombstones like you see on Boot Hill in 'Gunsmoke'." (She was referring to a popular western television show.)

"Now Sally, please, just one idea and question at a time," broke in Miss White. "We will try to answer that question when we study about the George Rogers Clark Memorial."

"I heard that there were all kinds of secret passages in a house down there," declared Bobby after Miss White thought she had the room calmed down on "hearsay".

However, after much discussion Miss White helped the children see they needed to find out more than just hearsay. They would need to read about the important places, become familiar with the names of the people and places they were to see, and make plans for such a trip.

In a few days the Fourth Grade had settled down to the pleasant study of Social Studies the first thing after lunch. The textbook, Living in Indiana,[11] was divided into two parts,

living long ago and living today.

How a western frontier river village had become a thriving typical mid-western town was soon to be revealed and pieced together by this fourth grade class through the teacher's knowledge, through the stories brought in from various people, and through books read by the children.

PART TWO

Getting Started

INDIANA BECOMES A STATE

The first few chapters of the textbook were hard to understand for there were so many new words to learn. Miss White called them social studies concepts. She explained that words used in one sentence might have a different meaning in another sentence so most of the fourth graders started using another wonderful new book, the dictionary. Sometimes it caused a fellow to get off the track for it was interesting too.

"These concepts are like the foundation stones in a building," said Miss White. "After we get our foundation laid the framework will go up faster and we will come up out of the deep, dark hole we are in now."

Even though it was slow and hard, there were funny things that happened like the day Kenny read about an "is'land". Almost everyone knew the word was island for they remembered about the island in the story of Robinson Crusoe. Kenny laughed with the others for he knew sooner or later he could laugh at a mispronunciation for they happened quite often. He was one of several children who had already learned that people were not always laughing at you, when they laughed, but were laughing at something that was said.

By this time the maps were being used. The children learned the top of the map was north, the bottom south, the right side east and the left side west. The United States

as it is today was located on the North American continent. The other continents, oceans, large islands, rivers, and lakes were located and the names were learned. Outline maps were fun to fill in and color.

As Janet and Cindy were going home one day Cindy suddenly started laughing.

"What is so funny, Cindy?" asked Janet.

"Oh, I never told you all Sharon said about maps before school started. When she told me every map had a key I asked her where the teacher kept the key. Sharon only laughed and said that was a secret. Well, we found out the secret today, didn't we?"

"I didn't quite understand though, at first," went on Janet, "when Miss White first said something about the legend of the map. I thought she meant a sort of fairy story like the Indians told, but then after she explained how those things printed in the corner of the map unlocked the mysteries I began to know what a key or legend meant."

So it went, day after day. New ideas and meanings kept interest alive in the class. One day Miss White wrote a large number on the board--almost as tall as the board--1816.

"Boys and girls," stated Miss White, "this is one date I want you always to remember. See if you can find out why this date is so important."

After reading about LaSalle, the Indians, the British,

the French, and the Americans under George Rogers Clark and the many times Vincennes changed flags, the children began to be quite confused. The Revolutionary War was confused with the war daddy was in and the war in which grandpa fought. Try as she would Miss White was about ready to give up herself on wars when Spike saved the day.

"Say, I think I'm getting close to why 1816 is important," joyously announced Spike one Monday afternoon. "I went with the folks to a family dinner at the Elks Fort Harrison Club Saturday evening. There's a big stone out in the yard and on the stone there were some words on a metal sign which Dad called a placque. I copied them on these old golf score cards." Spike read the following:

1812 FORT HARRISON 1912

This stone marks the site and commemorates
the one hundredth anniversary
of the heroic defense of Fort Harrison
by a small body of United States soldiers
assisted by the settlers, against the Indians.
September 4, 1812.
The fort was built by
WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON
and at the time of the attack was commanded by
ZACHARY TAYLOR
both of whom afterwards became presidents of
the United States

"Yes, but Spike, that date is 1812 instead of 1816," argued Timmy.

"At least we know there was a fort there then," retorted Spike. "I'm going to find out more about it."

This was just the spark that was needed to set the class on fire to start searching for information. The class began to come out of the dull situation as various ones began to bring in interesting items concerning the fort.

"Oh, Miss White," Cindy excitedly exclaimed the next morning. "After school yesterday I just had to go by Grandma Risher's to tell her about what Spike said about the big stone at the Elks Club. She said she had a two volume set of books written by a Mr. C. C. Oakey, entitled Greater Terre Haute and Vigo County[14] and she would see what he had to say about old Fort Harrison. She is going to tell Jimmy and me at noon while we eat our lunch. Oh, I can hardly wait for Grandma tells stories so well. You see her grandfather was a circuit-riding preacher--a preacher who rode around on a horse in the days of the early settlers. He told her so many stories when she was a little girl; I guess it is just natural for her to tell us stories."

That afternoon Spike was allowed to speak first.

"You know I said I was going to find out more about old Fort Harrison. Well, I found out that in September, 1811, the year before the battle Cindy and Jimmy are going to tell you about, William Henry Harrison, who was then the Governor of Indiana Territory, put troops to building a fort at the spot where the Elks Country Club house stands today. It was finished October 28, and was named Fort Harrison in his honor.

The next year Zachary Taylor was put in charge of the fort. Later William Henry Harrison became the ninth president and Zachary Taylor the twelfth president of the United States."[14]

Cindy and Jimmy then shared the following story. Jimmy started the story by saying, "Mr. Oakey wrote that the battle at Ft. Harrison on September 4, 1812, marked the first important event that began the history of Terre Haute and Vigo county. He told that four guns were heard late the evening of September 3, and two young men, who were making hay, failed to return. The next day a small searching party found each had been shot down, scalped and mutilated in a horrible manner. Later that day Lenar, an old chief, and thirty or forty Indians--mostly chiefs from the Prophet's party--approached carrying a white flag. One who could speak good English told Captain Taylor that Lenar wished to speak with him in a friendly manner on the following morning and try to obtain some provisions. Captain Taylor, himself a very sick man, doubted the Indian. Due to illness there were only fifteen men able to fight. Around eleven o'clock that night the Indians set fire to the fort. Captain Taylor kept his head. He ordered water to be brought and placed a few men on the roof of the barracks, with orders to tear off the part joining the burning house, while the rest poured a heavy fire upon the Indians from the block house and bastions."[14]

Here Cindy broke in to tell that from The Wabash Valley

Remembers she read, "The water in the well, the only water they could get to, which was being drawn up by a bucket, was about to fail. Julia Lambert then asked to be lowered into the well. She filled the buckets by means of a gourd and helped to save the fort."[15]

Jimmy continued. "The Indians fought desperately until six o'clock the next morning with both a heavy fire of balls and showers of barbed arrows. Before finally retreating the Indians drove all the horses and hogs together and shot them. They drove off with them all the cattle belonging to the fort. They thought there were seventy or more head of cattle. This was a great loss for their food supply was now gone. With the horses gone their means of transportation was also gone. Afterwards it was found there were several hundred Indians attacking."[14]

"We were so excited about the battle," chimed in Cindy, "we almost forgot something really important. At the end of the story about Ft. Harrison in The Wabash Valley Remembers we found these statements. I copied them so I wouldn't forget anything so important!"

> Fort Harrison played an important part in winning the victory for the white settlers and for civilization. Had the red men won and had Ft. Harrison failed in the purpose for which it was established, it is unlikely that the beautiful city of Terre Haute would have been founded on the Terre Haute Prairie in 1816--the year of the admission of Indiana into the Union as a State.[15]

Cindy's eyes sparkled and a faint blush flushed her

face as she rushed on to say, "I guess Jimmy and I hit the jackpot in that story for we found two reasons for the importance of 1816--Indiana became a state and Terre Haute was founded.

TERRE HAUTE IS FOUNDED

The children were becoming very interested in the beginnings of Terre Haute. Miss White encouraged them to find answers to their many questions.

One of the foremost questions was, "What were the names of the Indian tribes around Ft. Harrison?"

Jimmy said as he copied on the board from a list in his hand, "I found in Grandma's book some men were given trader's licenses to trade with the Miamis, Delawares, Pottawotomies, Shawnees and Kickapoos. The Weas were mentioned often, too."[14]

Sally was especially interested in why her town was named Terre Haute. In a book her father had received from the Indiana Historical Bureau entitled Readings in Indiana History she found that this locality (speaking of Terre Haute) was always called Terre Haute by the French, and the English, by an enlarged translation, called it "Highlands of the Wabash".[22]

From another book Sally read:

> The word 'Terre Haute' derived from the French 'terre' land, and 'haute' high, signifies high land. This name was bestowed by early explorers not so much on account of its elevation as from the fact that this is the only high ground approaching the river for several miles. Beautifully situated on the east bank of the Wabash River in Vigo County, it spreads out on a high level plateau about fifty feet above the river surface.[15]

Sally had also been to see Grandma Risher's book by

Mr. Oakey and she read the following report she had copied from the book:

> From John Tipton's journal of the Tippecanoe campaign. Thursday 3d (Oct) marched at 9--four of our horses missing--three men left to hunt them--marched one mile--came to tare holt (Terre Haute) an old Indian village on the east side of Wabash on high land near a large prairie--Peach and apple trees growing--the huts torn down by the army that camped here on the 2d--two miles further came up with the army--horses found. Camped on the river on beautiful high ground to build a garrison.[14]

Sally remarked, "I think this part of my report should be filed with Jimmy's on Fort Harrison, as I found by reading further that this referred to Fort Harrison. I thought the way Mr. Tipton spelled Terre Haute looked funny," smiled Sally as she wrote on the board "tare holt", the way he had spelled it.

When Dean spoke up and said, "That looks about like my spelling," the children laughed for Dean was known for his poor spelling.

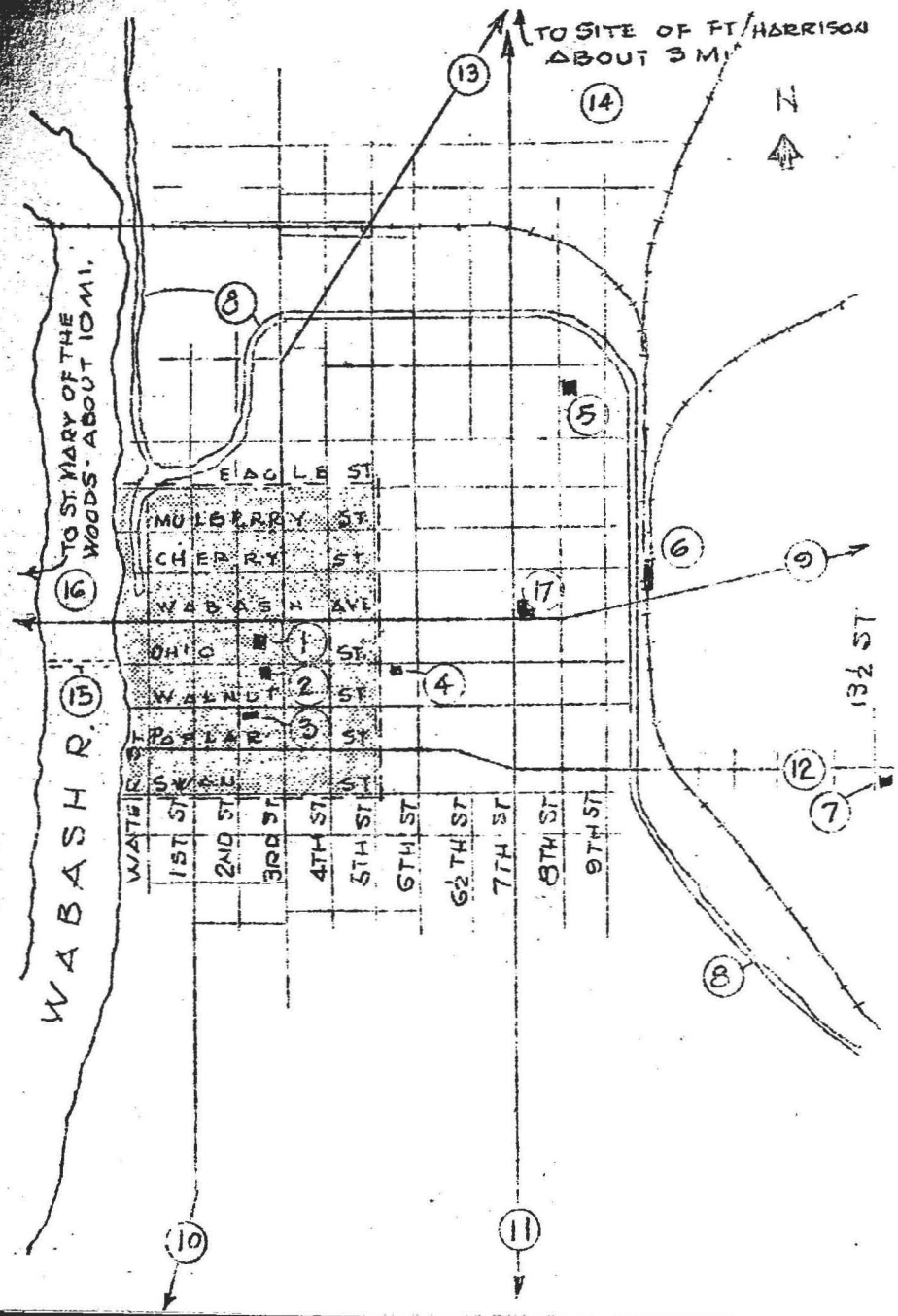
To the question "Why was Terre Haute located where it is today instead of at the Fort?" Larry found the answer.

Larry too, had been to Grandma Risher's to see "the book" as the children were beginning to call Mr. Oakey's two volumes. Larry based this report on what he had read: "A Mr. David Thomas, in July, 1816, told of three settlements. One was four miles south of the fort, the second, two miles nearer the fort where there was a 'very considerable encampment" and third, from this point along the road to the fort

were numerous cabins. All three places wanted to be the center of settlement and population. It is thought that the Terre Haute Company, who located the original town where it is today, took into account the bends of the river at Fort Harrison and the proposed site four miles south, and decided upon the middle ground because at this point the river runs nearly straight. Another reason might have been because the fort was controlled by the federal government and could not be used as a town site as long as the garrison remained."

"The first plat of the town," Larry continued reading, "was recorded October 25, 1816, in the recorder's office of Knox County, Indiana [Territory]. Vigo county was later formed from a part of Knox County. The original town was bounded north by Eagle Street; east by Fifth Street; south by Swan Street and west by Water Street."[14]

Larry held up a small map which Miss Juliet Peddle, a local architect, had given Miss White. The map was a copy of a large map of early Terre Haute. Because it was small and rather difficult to understand Miss White showed it through the opaque projector and used the key to point out the places of interest. The map proved Larry's report of the street boundaries of the original town. It helped them to see how small the town was planned to be in comparison to how large it is today, when Miss White projected a present day map on the screen with the original town heavily outlined on it.



KEY TO MAP OF EARLY TERRE HAUTE

-----ORIGINAL PLAT OF CITY (1816-1832)

1 COURT HOUSE AND BELL
First court house built (1818-1822)
Present court house built (1884-1887)
Bell placed in position in 1887 was the gift of Colonel Vigo who died in 1836.

2 STATE BANK OF INDIANA (1834-1857)
Building erected in 1836 or 1837
Occupied by G A R since 1910

3 BIRTH PLACE OF PAUL DRESSER (1857-1908)
Author of "On the Banks of the Wabash"

4 DAVID LINTON HOUSE, 521 OHIO STREET
Built in 1830. Originally in the center of block bounded by Ohio, Walnut, Fifth, Sixth Streets Moved to present site and used for business purposes since 1879. Housed the first piano in the city 1832

5 HOME OF EUGENE V DEBS (1855-1926) 451-8th Street

6 FREIGHT HOUSE (1853) of Terre Haute and Richmond Railroad the first in the city
The trains ran thru the building.

7 PRESTON HOUSE Poplar and 13½ Streets
Built in 1853 by Major Dewees. Owned and occupied by the Preston family since 1840

8 WABASH AND ERIE CANAL
Completed to Terre Haute in 1849, to Evansville 1852. First boat reached the city in June 1850.

9 NATIONAL ROAD
Government construction made in Vigo County in 1834. Followed a state road opened in 1821

10 ARMY ROAD Followed by General Harrison in 1811

11 BONO ROAD opened on August 22, 1837

12 BLOOMINGTON ROAD 13 LA FAYETTE ROAD

14 FORT HARRISON built by General W.H. Harrison in 1811. Battle occurred there Sept. 4, 1812
Captain Zackary Taylor was in charge

15 OLD FERRY (1818) and FIRST BRIDGE (1846) Ohio St.

16 ST MARY'S OF THE WOODS opened in 1840

17 Site of Prairie House (1838) Now Terre Haute House

The fourth graders were growing in their ability to read maps.

Ruth asked, "Where had the early settlers lived before they came here?"

Ruth had her answer by the next day for it was getting to be a habit for someone to go by Grandma Risher's on the way home to see "the book". Miss White was afraid Mrs. Risher would get tired of so many different children coming so she had telephoned her one evening to talk with her about the situation. Mrs. Risher assured her that she was enjoying the children--well, in fact she was "reliving" her Indiana history and looked forward to their after school visits. She also said she had turned her lonely hours into rapidly passing days as she searched for stories to tell the children.

This question of Ruth's required quite a bit of reading. Grandma helped her write her report. Ruth read, "For many years people thought that the French of Vincennes had something to do with the settlement of Terre Haute or were among the pioneers and ancestral stock of Vigo County. However, according to Mr. Oakey, a Mr. Volney wrote a book on the United States and he showed that the old French of Vincennes cannot be numbered among the original stock of this county.[14] Mr. Oakey studied records of the first settlers and found over half of them came from the Middle and New England states and Ohio. Only about one fifth came from the south. Many coming from the south had lived in these other places first."[14]

Richard came to school one day very hilarious and excited. His Uncle Pete had given him a dollar to clean out his attic and carry down some rubbish. To his amazement he had found in an old trunk a two-volume set of books by a Mr. Oakey. He was anxious to see if they were exactly like Mrs. Risher's books. (He was one that had not been to her house.) His good news was that Uncle Pete said he could keep them at school for the class to use as long as they would take good care of them.

The children held their breath and crossed their fingers while Cindy and Jimmy, almost reverently, carefully examined the books. When they first looked at the books doubt seemed to be written on their faces for these books were so new looking. They were not worn looking and as thick as Grandma's much-read volumes. Then too, they were a different color. However, when Jimmy turned to page twelve and saw the picture of Fort Harrison and to page fifteen and scanned that page, he recognized the story as being the same from which he had written his report.[14]

Jimmy's eyes beamed as he cried out, "Oh boy! Richard you have found a treasure! These books are like Grandma's except for the covers." (Miss White explained how books grow thicker with use for the bindings become looser.)

The children started clapping their hands and crowding around the happy boys. Miss White didn't seem to mind for

she too was happy to have the copies in the room.

Thoughtful Janet spoke up and said, "Just because we have a set of Mr. Oakey's books I don't think we should stop going by Cindy's Grandma Risher's house for I know how much she looks forward to helping us and letting us see her books. I think it would be nice to write her thank you letters telling her about Richard's 'find' and telling her she can still help us. We just will not have to copy so much at her house."

"That is a splendid idea, Janet," replied Miss White. "Suppose we do that tomorrow morning."

From then on there seemed to be a race to see who could find something unusual about their town. The group decided to work in committees on topics. The next morning when they consulted their language book concerning the writing of their thank you letters, they discovered there was a whole unit on proper ways to make and give reports. This unit was just what they needed!

VIGO COUNTY IS ORGANIZED

Billy and John had decided to find what they could about Vigo County. From the book Richard had brought John read:

> Vigo County was organized by act of the legislature at Corydon, on January 21, 1818, its northern line being the Indian boundary line (now in Parke County), to be known on and after February 15, 1818, as Vigo County.
>
> . . . . . .
>
> Under this act the committee selected the town of Terre Haute as the county seat. . . .[14]

John found that the county commissioners who were chosen had to lay out the county, establish roads and bridges, locate dams and mills, direct elections, care for the poor, and promote education.[14]

"There has always been much argument concerning Francis Vigo," Billy announced as he started giving his report, "Two of the arguments are whether he was an Italian or a Spaniard and how to pronounce his name."

"In this book my Aunt Grace gave me," continued Billy, "it says,"

> Francis Vigo was a Spaniard by birth. When he was just a youth he joined a Spanish regiment, with which he sailed for Havana and afterward for New Orleans. There he left the army and joined a company of traders whose headquarters were at St. Louis. In his travels through the Illinois country he met Colonel Clark, and being in sympathy with the American cause, he offered his services.[6]

Now it was John's turn again. He found in Mr. Oakey's[14]

book about the same that Billy had read except it said he was born in the island of Sardinia, at that time a possession of Spain, and that was why he was called "The Spanish Merchant".

"Miss White," said John, as he turned toward her, "has something on why some think Francis Vigo was an Italian and how to pronounce his name."

"Boys and girls, do you remember the early map we saw through the opaque projector?"

"Oh, yes!" the children cried in unison.

"Miss Juliet Peddle who made the map from an old, large original map does a lot of historical research. She edits this little paper, the 'Leaves of Thyme', for the Vigo County Historical Society. In this issue," continued Miss White as she held up the copy, "Miss Peddle wrote that Francis Vigo was born in Mondovi in northern Italy, December 3, 1747, and was therefore an Italian. Later, in this country he was associated with a Spanish trader in St. Louis and became known as a Spanish merchant even though he was born in Italy."[49]

"On one of the visits to the George Rogers Clark Memorial at Vincennes," went on Miss White, "one of the curators gave us a very interesting talk. (A curator is the one in charge of an art gallery, library, museum or memorial.) He very emphatically stated that Francis Vigo was an Italian. For proof he pointed out the beautiful Italian marble inside the Memorial which the government of Italy had sent to honor Vigo

when the Memorial was built. So you see, there is much controversy or argument as John calls it, over whether Vigo was an Italian or a Spaniard."

"Now let's see what Miss Peddle writes about how to pronounce Vigo," said Miss White as she turned to another page in the little publication.

"Here it is." Miss White read:

> On the 'Tonight in Indiana' program from Bloomington they have been pronouncing . . . our name 'VĪ-go' and the Secretary of our Society was instructed to write the announcer and tell him that the correct pronounciation [sic] was 'Vee-go' and we would be happy to have it so pronounced. The MC seemed not to take it very seriously over the air, but did bring up their sound truck to Terre Haute and interview [sic] people at random on the street.[49]

Because there were some percentages or fractions the children would not understand, Miss White just told them about the rest of the article. It seemed that the reporter found more people pronouncing the name "VĪ-go" rather than "Vee-go" so he thought that was a good enough reason to call it "VĪ-go" and let it go at that. Later one of the Terre Haute teachers wrote him and explained that "Vee-go" is correct. She suggested that all teachers try to get their pupils to pronounce the name of their county, "Vee-go".

"Boys and girls," explained Miss White, "that is the reason I have always tried to teach you to say 'Vee-go'. We have learned that there are exceptions to phonics rules, especially the pronunciation of names, and this is one of the

exceptions. I remember when I was a little girl a lot of people called our county 'Vee-go'. My grandfather always said 'Terry Hut' too."

At this all of the boys and girls laughed. It sounded so strange to them.

"I believe John and Billy have a little more to say about Francis Vigo," said Miss White as she turned to the boys again.

Billy closed the book he had been holding and said, "Farther on in this book it tells that our country did not honor, while they were still living, three men who played a great part in saving our land from our enemies. Those men were George Rogers Clark, Father Gibault, and Francis Vigo. All of them loaned the United States and Virginia many thousands of dollars believing that they would be repaid, but they were disappointed in their expectations.[14] I am glad that our people honored two of them in naming our county, Vigo and in naming the boy's home, south of town, the Gibault Home. Both men died very poor. However, Francis Vigo knew our county was named for him so he bequeathed to us in his will $500.00 for a bell to hang in our court house tower. The United States didn't repay Vigo's loan until 40 years after his death. His heirs honored his bequest. The bell hangs in the courthouse tower now and is called 'Old Vigo'.[26] I also found that the corner stone of the present Vigo County Courthouse was laid

with most imposing ceremonies August 28, 1884.[15] I think we should put in our file that the courthouse and the monuments in the yard were cleaned on the outside in 1957. At least for a few months they looked like new."

Billy turned to John and said, "John, didn't you have something more to say?"

"Yes, Billy," replied John. "The part I liked about Francis Vigo was the reason he gave for winning the confidence and respect of the Indians. Mr. Oakey said that when Vigo was asked about how he was able to deal with the Indians so well, he replied, 'Because I never deceive an Indian'.[14] That would be a good lesson for all of us in dealing with anyone, I think."

"That's right, John," commented Miss White. "Both of you have done a splendid job of reporting on the subject of our county. Would anyone like to add anything to what has been said?"

Up until now Randy had never taken a part in any of the discussions. Miss White smiled encouragingly at him as he timidly raised his hand, and said, "Yes, Randy."

Randy quietly said, "It doesn't seem to matter much whether Francis Vigo was a Spaniard or an Italian or whether we pronounce his name 'Vī-go' or 'Vee-go'. The important thing is that our ancestors honored him by naming our county for him because he helped the Americans gain and keep the

Northwest Territory for the United States."

The children clapped their hands for they were doubly proud of Randy. He had taken a part and he had said so well what many of them were thinking.

Carolyn said her daddy read in an old history that Vigo County included, until January 10, 1819, part of what is now Clay County, the southwest part of Parke County, and nearly all of the south half of what is now Vermillion County.[4]

Carolyn's daddy also read this, "After the Indian attack on Ft. Harrison in 1812, there were not, it is supposed, three hundred people all told in what is now Vigo County."[4]

Together Carolyn and her father wrote this report,

> Joseph Liston not only plowed the first furrow, but built the first cabin in Vigo County. It was floored and roofed with white walnut bark. An ax, knife, tomahawk or hatchet were his chief tools. His entire household goods were a kettle, two cups, two stools. The bedding was chiefly the clothes the family wore during the day. . . . After Ft. Harrison was built he would often, when danger approached, take all to it. . . .
>
> Mrs. Elizabeth Moore, long a resident of Pierson Township, a sister of Joseph Liston, was the first white female settler in Vigo County.[4]

Vigo County population:[14]

1830	1840	1850
5,737	12,076	15,289

PART THREE

Development

PLANS TO SEE HOW TERRE HAUTE AND VIGO COUNTY DEVELOPED

After the children had their questions answered concerning Indiana becoming a state, Terre Haute being founded, and Vigo County being organized they turned their attention to the development of their town.

David, up until then had not taken much interest in social studies. The group was quite surprised when David suggested, "Why don't we make some categories and find out things about each one?"

From television and practice in classifying various things the children were familiar with the term categories.

Miss White asked, "What categories would you suggest, David?"

"Oh," responded David, "we could have one on their homes, one on their occupations or what they did to make a living, and another one on their transportation."

Others added to the list, how they dressed, their schools, their churches, and what they did for recreation.

"I don't think they had any recreation for they surely didn't have any spare time," spoke up Spike. "It seems to me that all they did was work hard, go to bed early, get up early and work again."

Miss White then said, as she wrote the suggestions on the board, "Perhaps exploring these categories will help us to know whether they had any spare time for recreation, Spike."

Barbara, another newly interested girl, said, "I think we should have a list of famous people. My daddy's Great Aunt Mary knows a lot about Paul Dresser."

"That's a fine suggestion, Barbara," replied Miss White, as she added the new suggestion to the list on the board.

"How about Terre Haute's being a great sports center?" chimed in Bobby. "My daddy's Great Uncle Mordecai was the three-fingered flinger for the Chicago Cubs. Daddy knows about some other famous baseball players and a lot about the horse races they used to have."

It was hard for Miss White to get the class under control for several boys and girls were enthusiastically waving their hands for permission to talk, while others less courteous were talking out of turn. However, she was happy to see these children were typical fourth graders, interested in famous people. Nevertheless, it was time for social studies for that day to be brought to a close so she said, "I'm sure each of you could mention someone you would like to have listed under famous people or some event you would like listed. Suppose you find out all you can about at least one person or event you are especially interested in and make a written report on your findings. In that way we will be able to uncover a great deal of information which we can put together in our study of Terre Haute and Vigo County. Perhaps in a few weeks we could listen to some of the reports. Be sure you have authentic

reports with the name of the source and page number. If someone tells you the story we will call that person a resource person."

At the close of an interesting discussion in the social studies class the next day the group finally decided to divide the number of years since the beginning of their town to the present day into about fifty year periods and use the categories for each period so there would not be such a hodge-podge of unrelated material. They were becoming interested in seeing how one thing follows another for many of the pages in their reading work book asked that they put mixed up paragraphs of the story in the right order. They had learned that this order was called sequence so here was a chance to learn sequence in the way their town and county developed.

The children used what knowledge of arithmetic they had to figure the dates.

Mike said, "First we would have to know how many years it has been since Terre Haute was founded. You would put down 1958 first because that's the largest number. Under that you would put 1816 which is the date Terre Haute was founded. Then you would subtract. I've found the answer to be 142 years. I don't know how to divide 50 into 142, but somehow I know 3 times 50 would be 150 and 142 is close to 150. We learned that when we studied approximate figures in arithmetic. Now we know there would be three periods of about 50

years each. To find the first period we would add 50 to 1816 which would be the years 1816 to 1866."

Miss White was thrilled for Mike who had always been interested only in arithmetic was seeing arithmetic in social studies and was nibbling at what he had always considered too dry a subject for him.

Other ardent arithmetic fans were wanting permission to tell the other dates. Jimmy was the next one called on. He excitedly said, "The next period would be about 1866 to 1916. Say, wait a minute!" he exclaimed as he pulled a book from his desk, "1866 is the next year after the close of the Civil War and 1916 is the beginning of World War I, according to this book. This period will be between these wars. I didn't know we would study about wars when we started finding out about Terre Haute and Vigo County."

Gloria had the privilege of giving the last dates. Gloria found this period would be from 1916 until 1966. She laughingly remarked, "We are past our time. That will be eight more years. Most of us will be graduating from high school when our town is 150 years old."

This was an opportunity for Miss White to say, "Well, that is one more important reason why you should learn all you can about our town for you will probably take a part in its 150th anniversary. It will be called the sesquicenten-nial." She wrote the new word on the board.

The teacher took from the reading table a copy of The Wabash Valley Remembers[15] and pointed to the dates 1787-1938. Although the children had used this book several times the dates had not meant anything to them. Mike quickly said, as he looked up from the paper on which he had been figuring, "That's 150 years!"

"Yes," continued Miss White, "this book was written by several Terre Haute people for the Northwest Territory Celebration which was a program commemorating the 150th anniversary of the passage of the Ordinance of 1787 and the establishment of the Northwest Territory which we studied about in our textbook Living in Indiana.[11] Perhaps there will be a similar celebration when Terre Haute becomes 150 years old."

Miss White went on to say, "This book is the one from which several of you have made fine reports and shown good pictures. This copy belongs to Carolyn. You remember it is from her collection of old books. I'm sure it will be a good reference book for our study."

"Here is another book, entitled Fort Harrison on the Banks of the Wabash, 1812-1912,"[19] said Miss White. "Who can tell me how many years that included?"

Practically every hand in the room went up. Timidly, Timecia answered, (for she was never quite sure of herself when it came to arithmetic) "One hundred years?"

"Yes," replied Miss White. "A period of a hundred years is called a centennial. Now what is a period of 150 years called?"

Like a chorus came "sesquicentennial!"

As she placed this book on the reference table the teacher remarked, "In this book are the names of some of the sixty people who were in Fort Harrison September 4th and 5th, 1812. Does anyone remember anything about that date?"

Spike couldn't wait to be called on. He quickly spoke out, "That's the date on the big stone up at the Elks Country Club telling about the battle there. May I see the book, Miss White?"

"Yes, you may, if you will be very careful of it and put it on the reference table so that others might see it, when you have finished with it," said Miss White.

Later in the day Miss Blake, the principal, came into the room. In her arms she carried four huge books that looked brand new. She said, "Boys and girls, I have noticed how interested you and your teacher have become about your study of Terre Haute and Vigo County. I can tell by your work on the bulletin boards, your displays and the books on your reference table. This set of books, Indiana From Frontier to Industrial Commonwealth,[1] was sent out from the central office for our school to use. Perhaps the books in the set are more suitable for the eighth grade, but I think with your

teacher you might find some interesting things about Terre Haute and Vigo County from them so I'm going to leave them here for a while."

The children and teacher were speechless for a moment. Only the expression on their faces told the principal how happy they were to have the new set of reference books.

Finally Miss White said, "Oh, thank you so very much! I'm sure we will all take very good care of the books. We want you to come in often and see what we are finding out about our town and county."

The sight of all these different books on the reference table caused the fourth graders to become more enthused than ever about finding out how Terre Haute and Vigo County developed. Miss White thought that it was a good time for her to make this announcement. "Boys and girls, as you have probably learned from the children who have been in this room before, we usually take a trip to Vincennes in the fall and a trip to Indiana State Teachers College Radio Studio and the Fairbanks Library in the spring. This year, since you are so interested in our town and county I thought perhaps you would like to be the first class to take a trip around Terre Haute and Vigo County, to see the places you are studying about."

The children started clapping their hands and shouting. Miss White had to ring her little "tea bell" which they knew meant "no more talking!" (She very seldom had to ring it.)

After the bell brought quietness the teacher wrote on the chalkboard the periods and the dates which the children had figured out earlier. They were:

Early Years 1816-1866
Middle Years 1866-1916
Later Years 1916-1966

Then Miss White offered the following suggestions to the children concerning future plans by saying, "As we study the three different periods we decided upon it might be wise to keep a list of the places or sites. Sites are places where something took place, as an event, or where something once was, as the old foundations of the Markle Mill which we will learn about later on. Then when we make the final or last plans for our trip we can arrange to see them in the best order no matter what period they came in. Now, it will take several weeks to plan this trip for we will have to do a great deal of searching and studying. We may need to use some of our free time and out of school time to make our reports. Perhaps in the spring we can take our trip. Dr. Morgan, at the college, and the librarian at Fairbanks Library said we may come visit them next week."

The children had to be silenced again for they were overjoyed by the closeness of that school excursion.

Several children looked in the indexes and the table of contents of the reference books and found stories from which they made written reports on the homes of the early settlers.

In the preface of Log Cabin Days in Indiana they found the pioneer period (1816-1836) was a period of preparation for greater progress and growth.[3]

From the various reports they learned that usually the first home was a half-faced camp such as Abraham Lincoln lived in when he first came to Indiana. Two trees or forked posts had a cross timber between them. Sloping down to a large log on the ground were laid poles or small trees for a roof. Logs, brush, and clay mud were piled against the sides, brush and soil on the roof, and bearskins, wolf pelts, or buffalo hides lined the inside and served as mattresses and covers. The open side usually faced the south or away from the wind. A large log fire burned here to provide warmth in the cold weather and protection from wild animals at night.

Most of the settlers soon built some kind of log cabin. As a rule the neighbors came in to help build it. This was called a cabin-raising. The owner and his family had the logs rolled to the place for the cabin. He usually had the logs notched and smoothed. He also had clapboards or shakes ready to use as shingles. It was necessary to have poles with weights

to lay on these clapboards to keep them in place. Until they could get glass they used greased paper over the window openings.

Later in that period round logs had the sides cut off to make square logs which were called hewed logs. Mud was "chinked" in the cracks. These cabins often had puncheon floors made of logs split in half with the smooth side up. By this time the chimneys were made of rocks instead of mud and sticks for they were much safer.

The furniture of the first homes was nearly always hand made. The first beds were corn shuck mattresses, but later the more prosperous people had goose feather beds and pillows.

From the Fairbanks Library, Larry had borrowed the book, Indiana, A Guide to the Hoosier State, the day the children went there on their school excursion. From it he had written,

> Dennis Hanks, a cousin of Abraham Lincoln, wrote **that in 1817 people in Indiana lived the same as** Indians 'ceptin we took an interest in politics and **religion.**
>
> **The first need of the pioneer was water, so cabins** were usually built along creeks or rivers.[26]

Larry paused to comment, "The Wabash River was probably the reason so many people settled at Terre Haute in the beginning." Looking again at his report he read,

> **The women didn't have much equipment for their houses. An iron pot or kettle made a woman an**

aristocrat. For a light some pioneers made a deep clay saucer with a lip on one side and burned bear grease in it.[26]

Spike said he had read in the same book Larry had that the people did have some fun at log-rollings, house-raisings, weddings, shooting matches, and various kinds of "bees". He read,

> On house-raising day neighbors came early to help put up notched logs to form the large room of the cabin. The women and girls came and quilted, sewed and talked. At meal time they spread a table loaded down with good food they had brought with them, for all to eat. During these get-togethers many old sayings and strange beliefs were exchanged which provided amusement and entertainment. The children too young to help the grown-ups were allowed to play games and perform stunts.[26]

Spike added, "I guess they might have had more fun than we have. At least I found they did have some spare time."

From this book Janet found a recipe for making starch. She had copied the following:

> When the corn reached the roasting-ear stage, the ears were cooked in hot ashes. Some of the kernels were grated and water added; the liquid was then strained and allowed to stand overnight. The result was a supply of starch for starching the men's 'biled' shirts.[26]

Janet said she asked her mother what "biled" meant. Her mother said, "Women used to put their white clothes in soapy boiling water to make them white and the older people called them 'biled shirts' instead of 'boiled shirts'."

Cindy was very interested in brides for her Aunt Phyllis

had just been married. She read from her paper,

> Wedding presents were useful things such as home-made blankets and other bedding, toweling, a bucket of sorghum molasses, a bag of dried apples, a supply of candles, or a rag carpet. The bride's mother usually presented a feather bed and a pair of pillows; her father, a heifer and a start of chickens or a sow.[26]

> Scraps of calico were made into elaborate quilt patterns called the Prairie Rose, Log Cabin, Lone Star, Irish Chain, and Flower Garden. For everyday use simpler designs such as the Four Patch and Nine Patch were made.[26]

At this point Miss White unfolded a beautiful red and white quilt somewhat yellowed with age and said, "This Irish Chain quilt was brought from Kentucky into Vigo County by one of my--I don't know how many greats--grandmother Trimmer. It was made before 1800. It is a good example of the fine needle-work the women and girls did. Notice what tiny stitches they made."

Billy had never shared in the reports for he was only interested in comic books, jokes, and riddles. Someone had told him there were some funny stories in the book Larry was sharing with his classmates so he actually hunted in the book until he found some in the chapter on Folklore and Folkways. He said, as he read from his paper, "These tales are about as 'tall' as the ones Paul Bunyan told."

> A man tied two cats together by their tails and threw them over the clothesline, whereupon they ate each other completely up. . . . One summer was so hot that popcorn popped in the fields, and the mule that saw such a field froze to death because to him it looked like snow. . . . Some hunters saved themselves from bears by reaching down their throats and

turning the animals wrong side out.[26]

Billy added, "These stories and many like them were often told at the country store or the mill where men and boys gathered to do trading."

Miss White said, "Speaking of trading, Billy, reminds me of a paper which Dr. Mitchell, curator of the Museum of the Historical Society, let me read. It was written by Mr. A. R. Markle about early frontier day business." She read from a file card,

> The flatboat trade from the Wabash Valley to southern river points brought back some cash and the Spanish dollar when cut into parts or 'bits' was the first fractional currency. One of the first payments by the proprietors [or owners] to the county agent in agreement for the location of the county seat at Terre Haute was the sum of $416.06¼ and this was probably made with the use of a half bit, an eighth cut in half.[46]

With a string and piece of chalk Miss White drew on the chalkboard a circle, explaining as she worked, "Since we have not had many fractions let us see if we can understand by dividing this circle into bits what he meant by fractional currency. If we draw a line through the center dot of the circle we know each part will then be one half of a circle. Jimmy, what coin or piece of money do we use when we need a half of a dollar?"

"A half a dollar or sometimes we call it a fifty cent piece," quickly answered Jimmy.

"That's right, Jimmy," replied Miss White. "However, we all know it is a round piece of money worth that amount.

The pioneers didn't have different coins worth certain amounts so they just cut the Spanish dollar into two parts for a half a dollar. The pure silver of the Spanish dollar was rather soft and not too hard to cut. Our metal money is mixed with other harder metals to make our money hard so that it will last a long time."

"Gloria, if I draw a line through the center of these two halves what part of a circle will I have?" asked Miss White.

"You would have one fourth of a circle," answered Gloria. "That would also be a quarter of a circle. Is that why our twenty-five cent piece is called a quarter?"

"That's the reason, Gloria," replied Miss White. "Before they had coins such as we have they cut the one half dollar pieces into two pieces and then they had four pieces, each worth twenty-five cents. They still needed smaller pieces to use as we use dimes, nickles, and pennies so they cut these one quarter pieces. How many parts would there be then, Spike?" She drew a line through the fourths.

"There would be eight parts, but I don't think I know how much each part or 'bit' would be worth," said Spike.

Mike had been frantically waving his hand on every question and was becoming a little annoyed because Miss White didn't let him answer some of the questions. However, she knew there were some questions coming that only Mike would be

able to answer. Mike had what she called "arithmetic sense". He often knew answers to problems, but didn't know how he knew.

Miss White said, "Mike, maybe you can help us out on what a half of a quarter would be worth."

Mike, grinning like an opossum, said, "I believe it would be worth twelve and a half cents. Oh, boy! Now I know why Dad always calls a quarter 'two bits'! I asked him why and he always just said that was another name for a quarter. Wait until I get home. I will tell him why they named it 'two bits'."

Miss White had to say, "That's the reason, Mike, but let's get back to what we were talking about. It says here on the file card that they probably used a half bit for the six and a quarter cents--an eighth cut in half. You all know that one half of twelve cents would be six cents and you will learn in the fifth grade that one half of a half cent would be a quarter cent. Although the Spanish dollar was cut into several parts or bits I think this information leads us to believe that only the one eighth parts were called 'bits'. Our money coins are often called currency. Perhaps you now understand that fractional currency would simply mean parts of coins. I will reread this card and I'm sure it will have more meaning to you."

After rereading the card Miss White also told the children

there was another note on the card that was very interesting. It said that in 1834 the organization of the State Bank of Indiana was completed and that bank number nine was to be at Terre Haute.[46] She showed them a picture of the bank from Carolyn's book,[15] which is still standing on the original site between Second and Third Streets on the south side of Ohio Street. Then she read a clipping from the Terre Haute Tribune-Star written by Dorothy J. Clark,[31] describing what could be seen there today.

The children found from many books and stories that most of the early settlers made their living by farming. Some men made large fortunes by land speculation which meant they were either given the land by the government for their services in the wars in which they had fought for the United States, or they bought the land cheap and then they sold it for a high price to the many settlers who were rapidly moving into the new town and county.

Mr. Oakey recorded an article written by Reverend William Stevenson from which Cindy made the following report:

> In 1836, Terre Haute had perhaps eight hundred inhabitants scattered along the bank of the Wabash River, extending east as far as Fourth Street, north as far as Cherry (though Sibleytown had just been laid out as an addition), south as far as Poplar, though there were a few buildings south of that point on Sixth Street. . . .
>
> There were several merchants. . . . The doctors were Septer Patrick, Dr. Hitchcock, Sr., Dr. Ball and Dr. Modesitt, though the last had retired from practice. [He was Terre Haute's first doctor.] . . .

The Methodists, Presbyterians, and Congregationalists had regular ministers and buildings. The Baptists occasionally worshipped at the court house.

There was one school taught by Benjamin Hayes.

> The principal industries were pork-packing, coopering, [barrel-making], the building of flat boats and shipping of corn to New Orleans, two flouring mills, two taverns. . . . There were no saloons because at that day many of the business houses dealt in ardent spirits.[14]

Cindy's report gave the children some idea of the different ways people made a living. As the town grew there were more jobs for more people. Transportation supplied work for many.

The very early settlers came either on foot or horseback through the paths of the woods or on flatboats up the Wabash River from the Ohio River. On May 7, 1823, a steamboat named Florence was the first one to come to Terre Haute. Soon many steamboats were going up and down the river bringing and taking people and products to and from the town and county. They found that the government work on the National Road in Vigo County was done during the middle thirties, and was the means of bringing much money and a great number of workmen to Terre Haute.[14] Then came the canal days. "The most prosperous years of the canal were during 1847-56. . . . The railroad had become a competitor, and the extension from Terre Haute south to the Ohio was used scarcely ten years," they read from Oakey.[14]

Miss White placed a present day city map of Terre Haute in the opaque projector and used the pointer to trace the heavy red line showing the route of the canal through Terre Haute. She read several interesting facts about the canal from a book written by Benjamin Stewart titled History of the Wabash and Valley.[20]

She said, "When we go to see the site of Ft. Harrison and down in the southern part of the county to see the covered bridge we will see parts of the old canal bed."

The children were so enthused about canal days they asked the music teacher to teach them the song "Erie Canal". Where the song says "from Albany to Buffalo" they suggested singing "from Lafayette to Terre Haute".[16]

Danny's father was a railroader so he suddenly became interested when the railroad era or period was mentioned. He read about the opening of the railroad in February, 1852, between Terre Haute and Indianapolis. He copied this report from Oakey's book,

> The construction of the railroad had proceeded both from Terre Haute and Indianapolis, and for a time the gap between the two ends was connected by stage. The first passenger by rail arrived at Terre Haute Friday evening, December 5, 1851. Mail and passengers were carried by railroads as far as Greencastle, thence the Western Stage Company took them over the gap of ten or twelve miles to the eastern end of the line, whence another train took them into Indianapolis. It required about ten hours to make the trip between this city and the capital.[14]

The children looked at some timetables they had used

in arithmetic class and found it only takes a little over an hour to go by train to Indianapolis now.

David also became interested when the class started talking about railroads. His daddy helped him hunt some information. They found at the Fairbanks Library an old book containing many pictures, entitled Terre Haute, Illustrated.[48] They copied these interesting facts about transportation:

> There are two distinct eras [periods] in Terre Haute's history. The first from 1816 to 1850, the years of the stage, flat-boat and canal boat, and from 1851 to the present, when railroads were projected and built.
>
> The Terre Haute and Richmond Road was opened for travel in 1852. The fare to Indianapolis was $2.00. With this railroad, and the receipt of the first shipment of coal, five cars, in 1851, began the second era of Terre Haute's history.[48]

David said, "I called the New York Central ticket office this morning to find out what the fare is now and found that it is $3.12. Daddy said railroad fares have not gone up in price nearly as much as practically everything else."

Several of the children were very curious about the chapter headings in Volume II of the set of books Miss Blake had brought to them for so many of the chapters had the dates 1850-1860 listed in their titles--the period in which they were at that time hunting information.[1]

Miss White attempted to explain the title of the first chapter, "Decade of Transition, 1850-1860" for she felt that the meaning would help the children understand more clearly

the growth and development of their town and county.

"I'm sure most of you remember your unit on transportation in the third grade," said Miss White, "for you have been doing so well on the transportation category in this study. The word 'transition' has the same prefix, 'trans'. Will someone please look it up in his dictionary?"

Kay found the word first so was called upon. "I think this is the best meaning," said Kay as she read, "A change or passing from one condition, place, or thing to another."[23]

In the meantime Carolyn had looked up the word "decade" and found it meant a period of ten years.[23] Together the group decided that a decade of transition simply meant ten years of changing from one period to another.

Miss White explained that the authors of this set of books meant that the change from the frontier or pioneer type of living, the period in which most of the people made a living from farming and the exchange of farm products, to the industrial commonwealth or manufacturing period in which most of the people made a living from industries and work in the cities, came in this ten year period. The change came slowly and the people did not notice it at the time, but in later years they knew that the transition years were between 1850 and 1860.

Miss White made the meaning more clear to the fourth graders by comparing their place in school to this period of

time. "Girls and boys," continued the teacher, "you remember when you first came into this room I told you you were now middle-graders. You were starting the middle grade between kindergarten and the eighth grade; you had been in Deming grade school four years and you would have four more years after this in grade school for Deming has eight grades. Remember too, we decided then that you were between being a little child and a teen-ager. Grown-ups call your age the 'transition' age because you are slowly changing from being a little child to a young person. I'm sure some of you girls wear 'tween dresses' and belong to a 'tween club' at one of the department stores downtown. Indiana, Vigo County, and Terre Haute grew up in a similar way. They went through a transition age or period."

It was pointed out by the teacher that the titles of the next few chapters in Indiana From Frontier to Industrial Commonwealth would give the children some idea as to what caused the transition.[1] As they scanned the chapter headings they found there were only four words they did not understand. The words were genesis, heyday, constitution, and impact.

Cindy said, "I imagine genesis means beginning for that is the name of the first book of the Bible and it is about the beginning of the world and the first people."

"That is one of the meanings, Cindy," replied Miss White. "Suppose you look up the word constitution."

Carolyn found heyday meant the period of greatest prosperity, Cindy found constitution meant established laws, and Kay found impact meant a forced change. They used the adult dictionary.

As the three girls took turns reading the titles of the chapters Miss White wrote them on the board in outline form. The group spent several days poring over the information in these chapters which helped to show the growth of their town and county:

I Decade of Transition
II Genesis of the Railroad Network to 1860
III The Heyday of the Farmer, 1850-1860
IV Banking During the Fifties, 1850-1860
V The Constitution of 1851
VI The Establishment of the Common-School System
VII Reorganization of Political Parties, 1850-1860
VIII The Impact of the Civil War Upon Indiana
IX The Preservation of the Union[1]

Richard reported that he read that as farming and transportation developed important changes came about in manufacturing and Terre Haute became one of the leading industrial towns on the eve of the Civil War.[1]

Barbara was interested in the clothes the people wore in the early years. Her Aunt Ellen helped her write her report:

> The very first pioneers who came to our county and town wore clothes made of skins and furs. They had hunting-shirts, trousers, and moccasins made of deer skins. They were all right when they were dry, but if they got wet they shrunk to about half the size they were. Before long linsey took the place of skins. Soon homemade woolens were used. Often a cloth was made from linen and wool threads called linsey-woolsey.

A bearskin overcoat, a beaver hat, and a pair of buckskin gloves lined with squirrel were considered good taste down till the Civil War. Women wore plain dresses with an extra jacket in cold weather and woolen shawls instead of coats. They used hooks and eyes instead of buttons. They wore sunbonnets in summer and knitted hoods in winter. The children wore very little in summer, a long shirt hanging straight from their shoulders to their knees. In winter they wore clothes like their parents wore.

About 1820, they could get imported goods such as broadcloths, brocades, taffetas, beautiful furs, beaver hats, flounced skirts, balloon-shaped hoops, cutaway coats with checkered vests, silk stocks over buckram collars, provided they had the money. These were the kinds of clothes the gentlemen and ladies wore from 1830 until 1860.[8]

While David and his daddy were browsing at the library they found in an old history of Terre Haute that for many years the Wabash was considered the river that emptied into the Mississippi and that the Ohio emptied into the Wabash.[5] They also found that the French spelling for Wabash was "Ouabache".[5]

David said, "I'm certainly glad I found out that the pronunciation of O-u-a-b-a-c-h-e is Wabash for every time I see that name on the first oven shelter out in Deming Park I wonder how to say it. I also noticed that there is a new subdivision up on North Seventh Street called 'Ouabache Acres'. Won't we go by there when we go up to the site of Fort Harrison when we go on our trip, Miss White?"

"Yes, David we will," replied Miss White. "I'm glad that you are so observing. As we continue this study I'm sure that many names will be more meaningful to all of you."

"Speaking of North Seventh Street," continued Miss White, "reminds me that there is another interesting site along that street. According to Mr. Oakey the Thirty-first Indiana regiment was organized by General Charles Cruft, who was its first colonel, and was mustered into the service on September 1, 1861, at Camp Vigo, which was located on the site of the old fair grounds on North Seventh, across from what is now Collett Park.[14] He also stated that this man Cruft was the only officer from Vigo County to attain the rank of major general and that Abraham Lincoln personally conferred the honor upon him in Washington in March, 1865.[14] That means that Cruft went to Washington D. C. and received his new rank or place in the army directly from President Lincoln just about a month before Mr. Lincoln died."

"Are we going to study about the Civil War?" asked Jimmy.

"No, Jimmy," replied Miss White. "That is not our purpose in this study. We are trying to find out how our town and county developed and then go see some of the sites and places we have learned about. The Civil War as well as the other wars that we have mentioned were important events that happened during the development of Terre Haute and Vigo County, but you will be making a special study of the wars in the upper grades, high school and college."

"During the time I was working on my Masters degree at

Indiana State Teachers College," said Miss White as she took from one of her desk drawers a booklet she called a term paper, "I made a study of the history of Terre Haute and Vigo County in order to find some places and sites which could be visited by people today. Perhaps this paper will help suggest some places that were built during this period that could be seen today or at least the sites could be seen."

Miss White quickly scanned the table of contents and said as she went to the chalkboard, "We are uncovering and finding so much information concerning our town and county perhaps from now on we should write our reports on some of the places and sites that came in the different periods that can be seen today. Here are some which would probably be in the early period."

Cemeteries
Durkee Road
Spring Creek Prairie
Markle Mill and home
Ostrander home
Preston home
Joseph Gilbert home

It was agreed that certain children would make written reports on the topics, but that everyone, as he read, would make notes on anything that would be especially interesting.

There were several books containing stories about the old Indian Orchard. Miss White mentioned some interesting facts she had read from the long story in Beckwith's history.[2] Larry one day read the story to the class from Through the Years in Indiana.[9] Janet read the following report she had

written after reading "The Legend of an Old Indiana Orchard":[7]

An old Delaware chief had loved Lena as his own daughter since he had saved her from some Indians. One day, Nemo, a young Shawnee, came to tell the chief that Lena must be returned to the white people to whom she belonged. These people lived in Pennsylvania. Lena didn't want to go. The chief didn't want her to go either, but he knew he had to obey the white man's law.

Nemo took Lena to her people and on the way they learned to love each other very much. After she had been with her people a while she longed to return to the banks of the Wabash where the old Delaware chief had brought her up. One day Nemo came for her and they stole away in the night. All they found when they got back to the Wabash were a few blackened ruins of the Delaware's village.

Nemo and Lena built a framework of poles and covered it with bark. Lena had saved the seeds of the apples she had carried with her from Pennsylvania. She planted them and tenderly cared for the young trees when they came up.

After a while Nemo and Lena had a fair-haired boy. About seven years later five Miami Indians appeared. There was a terrible fight between Nemo and the Miamis. He killed three of them, but was finally killed. Lena threw the boy into the arms of one of the Indians and burried Nemo's scalping knife into her breast.

The boy grew to manhood among the Miamis. When he learned he was a Shawnee he joined his own tribe and was in the battle of Tippecanoe. He died fighting by the side of Tecumseh at the battle of the Thames.

The apple trees planted by Lena grew and bore fruit for many years. The Indians were afraid to eat them. They left them for the spirits whom they believed were hovering near.

When the white settlers came the orchard was still on the hill crest and they chose the spot for their first burying ground.

After reading her report Janet added, "Grandpa said that the spot where the old Indian Orchard was is where the American

Can Company stands today. The company address is 1 Sycamore Street."

Carolyn said that she read another interesting reason for the apple trees.[15] Some people believed that Johnny Appleseed might have passed through and planted some of his apple seeds.

Someone suggested, "Lets sing our song about Johnny Appleseed. It's on page 94."[25]

The singing of the song brought to an end another wonderful day in the fourth grade social studies class.

In a day or so there were some more reports on cemeteries. Bobby, who seemed to enjoy the gruesome or horrible stories, copied, "In the downtown districts of today we walk over the past generations. How many human beings still lie buried, unknown and forgotten, in our city's streets!"[15]

Peggy found that some of the first to die in Vigo County were buried either in a lot at the northeast corner of Sixth and Ohio where a section of Roots store stands today or in the Old Indian Orchard mentioned in Janet's report.[15]

Peggy wrote the following report:

> Woodlawn Cemetary was bought in January, 1839, for $620. It contained about twelve and a half acres and was what is how the south part of Woodlawn. Its entrance is located in the twelve hundred block on North Third Street across from Rea School.
>
> A record shows that five year old Mary Herrington, who died of scarlet fever, was the first to be buried there. The date was July 28, 1839.[15]

> Veterans of all the wars--the American Revolution, the War of 1812, Mexican War, Civil War, Spanish-American War, World Wars I and II, and the Korean Conflict--are buried here. . . . The two Revolutionary soldiers buried here are John Hamilton and Joshua Patrick. In the circle is a monument erected to the memory of the Confederate soldiers who died while being held prisoners here during the Civil War.[33]

"According to the article from which Peggy and Bobby took their reports," said Miss White, "there were in Vigo County one hundred thirteen known cemeteries that were started in the pioneer days up to about 1890. The private burying grounds, some of them later turned into group burial places, and the graveyards where groups of families were buried are the historic places.[15] On our trip we will see the Denny Cemetery which has the date 1812 on the gate, the Wood Cemetery where some of my ancestors were buried, and the Markle Cemetery. Randy has a report on the Markle Cemetery which was taken from a paper in a file from Indiana State Teachers College."

The oldest inscription that can be read is:

Sacred
To the Memory
of
Catherine
Consort of William Markle
who died
June 26, 1816
Aged 71 years

Another inscription over one hundred years is:

In
Memory of
Abraham Markle
Who departed this life
March 26, 1826
55 years - 5 months

> Legend of the Cemetery is that the first person interred [buried] was a colored man, the slave of Abraham Markle. He is supposed to have been buried here in 1805, before Markle settled at this place.[47]

Sharon was becoming very interested in social studies as she was learning more about names she often read while she went over the county with her daddy. She did something rather unusual for a girl. On Saturdays and during the summer she helped her father on his Chesty Potato Chip route place his products in the business places where they were sold. She had clipped the story about Durkee's Ferry from the paper several months before because the little towns mentioned were some she had visited. From the article she took much of the information for the following report:

> Dr. John Durkee built a cabin in January of 1818 in Fayette Township. He was the first doctor to locate there. He had so few patients that he started farming to make a living.
>
> Because there was a need of a way for the many settlers to get across the Wabash River to Markle's mill to have their corn and wheat ground into meal and flour, Dr. Durkee built a ferry at the spot now known as Tecumseh. Durkee's Ferry was established in August, 1818, the first ferry on the Wabash to be licensed.
>
> According to the permit, Durkee was to have a large flat boat big enough to hold a wagon with a team of four horses, a 'pirogue' [pi-rōg'--a canoe formed of a dug-out log] in which to ferry over foot passengers and enough men to operate both boats. He could only charge 25 cents in summer and 37½ cents in winter for a man and a team of horses. It cost 12½ cents for a horse or a man to cross and half that much a head for cattle or sheep.
>
> Durkee's Road is still easily found in Tecumseh, but it is rather hard to find on the east side of the

river.[32]

Sharon said she would let Spike tell the rest of the story for he said their summer cabin was not too far from the Durkee Road which is on this side of the river.

"Mrs. Clark's article which Sharon clipped from the paper tells better than I could how to find Durkee Road," said Spike as he read the following marked paragraph:

> To find the road on this side of the river, you go to the end of the North Thirteenth Street pavement, and after getting permission from the owner, you may continue one-quarter mile north on a private road and find the historic bend in the road. Beyond this it goes on down to the river and is just south of the mouth of Otter Creek.[32]

"David told me he saw something about Durkee Road in an old history at the library," continued Spike. "I went down there and the reference room librarian helped me find this information:"

> Drummer Davis was the man who beat the long roll on that dark night of the attack on Ft. Harrison. He was a stub-and-twist Englishman, who had deserted the British Army at Detroit. He later joined Harrison's forces and was a kind of general drum-major not only for Harrison's army, but for Vigo County as long as he lived. He was always on hand on the Fourth of July and election days drumming merrily away.
>
> When he left the army he settled in Vigo County. When he became real old he lived with his son-in-law, Stewart, across the river from Terre Haute.
>
> Drummer Davis heard that they were going to lay out Durkee Road and that it was to run over the hill exactly where he had buried his fallen comrads. He got down his old black rifle and ordered his son-in-law to take him across the river. He sternly told the family he did not know just when he would return, if ever. This was all he told them as he climbed the

bank with his gun on his shoulder.

When the surveyors came along and told him what they were going to do he told them what he was going to do. He said, 'My comrads' bones are here. I helped bury them. When I heard what you intended doing I came over. THE ROAD WILL NOT BE RUN OVER THEIR GRAVES WHILE I LIVE. I don't expect to live long and I expect to die right here, but I should not be surprised if somebody else died before I do. That's all I have to say.'

The author said that respect for the dead and THE LIVING caused the surveyors to make the sudden curve that may be seen today. Few people know the story, but many wonder about the curve around the little hill.

Drummer Davis died in 1847.[4]

Spike said after reading his report, "According to the article Mrs. Clark wrote, Mr. Robert Curvey's home is located on the spot.[32] I'm sure he doesn't live far from our cabin. I could ride there on my bike. Miss White, may I find out if we can go there on our trip?"

"Spike, that is something we will have to find out about," answered Miss White, "but let's get our trip organized before we make any definite arrangements about our group visiting a site."

One day Miss White took a little book from her desk as she said, "I'm sure you have heard me mention Miss Juliet Peddle."

Before Miss White could go on Connie said, "She's a woman architect who draws plans for buildings."

"Miss Peddle gave me this book after I told her about

our study," continued Miss White. "The interesting illustrations were made by Miss Peddle. (She showed some to the children.) The story was written by her grandmother, Mary Elizabeth Ball Peddle, who in real life was the daughter of little six-year-old Betty in the story. Mrs. Peddle wrote the story for a family record and had no idea that it would ever be published. In it you will find the experiences of several often heard of Vigo County pioneers who started from New York in 1816 for a new state. I wonder what state they could have been going to?"

Thirty-two voices said together, "INDIANA!"

"That is just where they were going," beamed Miss White. (She was so happy that everyone remembered when Indiana became a state.) They arrived at Ft. Harrison on a flatboat on the Fourth of July. I'm not going to tell you anymore about the book except that it is entitled The Story of a Hoosier Immigration.[17] We will keep it here on the reading table. Perhaps if you ask the Bookmobile Librarian he will bring a copy of the book the next time he comes. I saw a copy in the Fairbanks Library the last time I was there."

One afternoon Miss White said to the children gathered about her for LISTENING TIME. "Instead of reading you a story I'm going to tell you a real story. I'll read a few facts that go with this story."

The children smiled and clapped their hands softly.

Everyone found a comfortable position. They were eager to hear the story their teacher had to tell.

"When my father was a little boy," began Miss White, "his grandmother took him to a spot in the woods through which Spring Creek flows and showed him where the Indians made pottery. My Aunt Anna, for whom I am named, gave me twenty acres of the land which has been in the White family for several generations. The old Indian pottery site is located on this land. When we go on our trip perhaps we can see the exact spot." (The children were overcome with excitement for a few moments.)

"In Mr. Oakey's book," continued Miss White, "he stated that in 1819, a man by the name of David Thomas published a book, entitled Travels Through the Western Country in the Summer of 1816.[14] Mr. Oakey quoted--that means he copied exactly--some facts that were especially interesting to me for Mr. Thomas described some of the land which I've been telling you about. I wanted to read from the original book--not what someone else had copied. Finally after asking several people and searching in the libraries a copy was found. Mr. John G. Biel, an attorney at law, who writes the column 'I Hear the Tread of Pioneers' for the Friday edition of the Terre Haute Star, told me he had bought a copy from a New York book dealer and that I might use his copy. I did not bring it to school for it is very valuable and so fragile it would come apart

easily if handled very much. This is what I copied:"

> On the north side of this stream [Spring Creek] we traversed [he meant we went across] the open woods along the base of the hill. This, we were told, was the route of the army to Tippecanoe; and we saw timothy of fine growth, probably from the seed which was scattered at that time.
>
> On the banks of a small brook of pure water which flows from the hill, we took our noontide repast [noon meal]. We were then six or eight miles beyond the limits of the civilized world; and no white settlers of any description are known above Fort Harrison.[21]

Miss White looked up from her notes and said, "Mr. Thomas related that the party had desired to encamp there but they had no 'punk' with them and they were unsuccessful in trying to kindle a fire. He explained in a footnote at the bottom of the page that 'punk' was a sponge-like fungus that grew on the decaying parts of maple or hickory trees and was used to start fires. He warned travellers in new countries to always carry a tinder-box. [The tinder-box was a metal container in which dry material, flint, and steel were carried for use in kindling fires.] They had to return to their lodgings, more than ten miles from the place they had wished to spend the next day. Their plans the next day had to be changed too. They intended to visit Raccoon Creek, the mouth of which formed one point in the north bounds of the 'New Purchase', but it looked like rain and it was getting late in the day so they decided to do some more exploring around Spring Creek. (Mr. Biel explained that the 'New Purchase' spoken of by Mr. Thomas was really what we now call

the 'Harrison Purchase' for the 'New Purchase' we speak of did not come about until 1820 and lay north of this vicinity. These purchases were the lands the government bought from the Indians.) Mr. Thomas wrote:"

> In the woods on the south bank of Spring Creek, we found the remains of wigwams, erected by the Indians, on their hunting expeditions. Some were evidently designed as winter habitations. Of these, dry leaves interlaced with small poles, formed the walls; and the work displayed much skill and neatness.[21]

"In practically the same words Harlow Lindley in his book entitled Indiana As Seen by Early Travelers wrote about Spring Creek Prairie," said Miss White. "The traveler in his story told of finding gun flints in the channels of Spring Creek. The traveler said he had seen none which gave more fire with steel."[12]

"My father," Miss White continued to relate, "has often told me that when he was a boy he plowed up hundreds of arrowheads and found a few tomahawks, pieces of pottery and other objects which are spoken of now as Indian Artifacts. Occasionally artifacts are still found there. When we have LISTENING TIME again I will tell you about the old family cemetery."

Time passed quickly for the children were busy searching for bits of information for their study.

LISTENING TIME came again and the children grouped themselves comfortably about their teacher to hear another story. Miss White began, "Before we go on further in our

study of how Terre Haute and Vigo County developed there is a word we shall use often that you should know. The word is t-y-p-i-c-a-l, 'typical'. (She had it printed on a card.) It means like or similar. When we speak of something being typical of the period we will mean it was like or similar to something common at that time. Yesterday when listening time was ended we were talking about Spring Creek Prairie. Near the site of the old Indian camp ground is the Wood Cemetery which is typical of the old family cemeteries we mentioned in our reports several days ago. This cemetery is one which we will probably visit. The reason we will go to that particular cemetery is because I know more about that one. We will be putting into use one of the old sayings which we have been finding at various times, 'A person can talk best about what he knows'. An old history by Beckwith stated that Thomas White, William Denny, A. M. Ostrander, Anthony Creal and Abraham Markle were prominent among the early settlers of Otter Creek Township.[2] Thomas White was my great-grandfather whose dates were 1789-1896. What do I mean by 'whose dates were'?"

Several hands went up. Ronnie was called upon to give the answer. He said, "When you look up the name of a person who is listed in an encyclopedia or other reference book, if there are dates in parenthesis after the name, the first date means the year the person was born and the second date means

the year the person died. If there isn't any second date you know the person is still living or at least was living when the book was being written. Those dates you gave us would be the year your great-grandfather was born and the year he died."

"Ronnie," replied Miss White, "I'm glad you understand what the dates in the parenthesis mean. You are learning to interpret reference facts or standards."

Mike asked, "Your great-grandfather lived to be eighty years old, didn't he? I subtracted the dates in my head."

"Yes, Mike, he did," replied Miss White. "I see you are putting your arithmetic to use, but we must go on with the story. My Great-grandfather White was buried in the Wood Cemetery because the Wood and White families were related. There you will be able to study the different kinds of monuments or tombstones as the early settlers called them, for the dates indicate that people have been buried there from 1845 to the present day."

The children became very excited one afternoon when they returned from their lunch hour to find the opaque projector set up. "What are we going to see, Miss White?" several asked.

"I have some pictures of the old Markle Mill I want to show you for now you can only see the foundations of where the mill stood," said Miss White. "Before we see the pictures let's listen to what was written in <u>The Wabash Valley Remembers</u>

about the mill:"

> Perhaps there is no more picturesque spot in all Indiana than the old Markle Mill in Vigo County. Standing amid well tended farms and but few miles northeast of the National Highway, it is ever a source of interest to tourists, hundreds of which visit it monthly.
>
> The mill was erected in 1817 [most records give the date 1816] by Abraham Markle, who, besides being a miller, was a brave soldier and one of Indiana's first real estate men. Land warrant No. 1 was issued to him in 1816 as a reward for his services in the war of 1812.
>
> When Mr. Markle died in 1826, he left the mill to his son Fred. . . .
>
> During the turbulent years preceding [before] the Civil War, the mill was a busy place. It was rumored by hostile slaveholders that fugitive slaves were hidden in and around the mill until a way could be made clearer for them into Canada. There was much talk of secret passages and rooms unopened until midnight when the dusky inmates were brought forth to continue on their way to freedom. Many were the occasions when black faces shone with gratitude and fervent thanks were expressed to 'massa and 'kin' missus.' Markle's mill was quite a useful link in the Underground Railroad.[15]

"The article states that the mill was operated by William and Fred Markle until they sold it in 1878 to Henry Creal," related the teacher.

Miss White explained, "From then on it was not owned by the Markle family and from time to time had various names, but the public continued to call it Markle's Mill. In fact one of the owners was my mother's father, T. J. Welsh. The article has his name written J. T. Walsh. Another error in names in the article is that of Mr. Hansel. His name should be written O. D. Hansel instead of D. C. Hansel. I'm pointing

out these two errors to you, not to critize the article for it is well written, but to show you that we can not always take everything we read as authentic or absolutely true. If the one who set up the type for printing made the error we call it a typographical error. We often find typographical errors in newspapers."

"At the close of the article," said Miss White as she took the opened book with her to the projector, "is an interesting bit of information:"

> Mr. D. C. [C. D.] Hansel, the present owner, has done much to preserve the mill's air of antiquity. In every way possible he has endeavored to keep the mill exactly as it was the days of powdered wigs and hoop-skirts.
>
> Hoosiers, particularly those in Vigo County, are eagerly awaiting the day when Markle's Mill will be considered in the same class with Mount Vernon, Monticello, the home of Betsy Ross, and other famous buildings dear to the hearts of Americans. That day is not far off.[15]

"However, that day never came," Miss White said sadly, "for on a September night in 1938, the old Markle Mill was destroyed by fire. Vigo County lost one of its greatest landmarks."

Miss White slipped the book into the projector and threw on the screen the picture of the mill. She also showed several other pictures of the mill which belonged to her family. The children seemed to be the most interested in the newspaper picture showing the mill burning. The reflection on the water gave the appearance of a structure twice its size.

There was quite a discussion about the old mill site for several of the children had been fishing at the old mill dam, little realizing what a famous site it was.

Miss White showed the children an oil painting of the mill painted for her by Mrs. Della Churchill Roberts. Mrs. Roberts was a relative of Winston Churchill of England. She said, "I prize this painting for many reasons, but perhaps most because it brings memories of the many times my Grandfather Welsh took me with him to the mill after his retirement. Mr. William Markle would come over from the old Markle homestead which was across the road. The two would chat about 'the good old days when they each owned the mill'. Mr. Markle was quite an old man then, much older than my grandfather."

A few days later Miss White said, "We have learned something about each of the categories we listed in the beginning of our study of the development of Terre Haute and Vigo County, in the early period. However, there are a few prominent people and typical houses of that period we should know about."

"The Preston house," related Miss White, "which is located on the southeast corner of 13½ Street and Popular is Terre Haute's oldest house. One afternoon I had the privilege of visiting there with Mrs. Natalie Preston Smith, the owner of the famous old house. Mrs. Smith suggested that I read the paper entitled "The Story of a House"[39] by Mr. John Biel

to get the early history of the house. I'm sure you remember that Mr. Biel is the man who loaned me his real old book, Travels Through the Western Country in the Summer of 1816."[21]

"Yes, Carolyn," said Miss White as Carolyn raised her hand.

"Since you told us about Mr. Biel's column in the Friday Terre Haute Star," remarked Carolyn, "I always look for it. I don't always understand the article, but daddy or mother usually helps to explain it."

"That's fine, Carolyn," replied Miss White. "How many of you do look for the column?"

Several hands went up.

"We must hasten on with our story of the Preston house, though," said Miss White. "From Mr. Biel's article I gathered this information:"

> On September 13, 1816, the day Harrison purchased the land from the Indians, a land buyer, William Harlow, bought the land where the Preston house stands today. George W. Dewees bought the land September 22, 1823, and started to build a house that took him three years to build. Mr. Biel wrote in speaking of the house, 'Our house is historically significant [important] to Terre Haute and Vigo County as it marks, definitely, the beginning of the real building and development of the city'.
>
> The main house is six feet above the ground with a long flight of stairs leading to a veranda (porch) across the front of the house. It is built like the French New Orleans houses of that period. From the beginning the dining room and kitchen were in the basement which is only about three or four steps down from the ground due to the house being so high above the ground. The old brick areaway at the back has been enclosed to make additional rooms. The walls of

stone are eighteen inches thick. The floors are black walnut boards without a nail in them.

Major Dewees was not well liked, but Captain Earle wrote that he was better than people thought. When he came to Terre Haute in 1820, he was in his fifties. He had a young wife, Matilda, not yet thirty and a young son. The son was scalped by the Indians.

On March 15, 1832, George and Matilda signed an agreement to live apart. Matilda was never heard of or seen after that.

In each of the large rooms upstairs there is a large fireplace extending out from the wall about five feet. At both ends of the fireplace in the west room there is a matching cupboard. In the east room there is the same kind of a cupboard on only the north end of the fireplace. A space matching the cupboard on the north--large enough to hold a human body--has been bricked up solid from the floor to the ceiling on the south side. Mr. Biel, along with many others, are of the opinion that Matilda may be sealed up there. Mrs. Smith once ran a poker between some loose bricks and found a hollow space there. When she withdrew the poker, a dank, musty odor likened to that from a dark, aged crypt (underground secret vault) came with it. This story gives rise to comments and rumors that the house is haunted.

"Mrs. Smith told me that her grandfather, Nathaniel Preston, bought the house in March, 1843, after Dewees died in December, 1834," related Miss White. "He paid $6,000 for the house which had cost $20,000 to build. Mr. Preston came to Terre Haute to teach at the old brick school, but later became cashier of the Branch State Bank. She showed me an old blue book entitled The Teacher a Supplement to the Elementary Spelling Book. The author was Noah Webster and it was published in 1836.[24]

"Was that the teacher's copy of the famous old blue

spelling book written by Noah Webster which we read about in our reader?" asked Janet. The children were quite used to seeing their teacher's copy of their textbooks.

"That is what I took it to be, Janet," replied Miss White. "Mrs. Smith showed me many valuable and rare objects which are considered museum pieces now. That means that they are usually only found displayed in museums for they are too rare, costly, or fragile to be used. She told these interesting stories about some of her treasures:"

On the mantle of the fireplace in the east room where Matilda's body is supposed to be hidden, there is a matched pair of beautifully colored old stone water jugs. One of the uncles while in South America wrote to his nieces that he was sending them a pair of monkeys. They were quite excited, and yet baffled as to what they would do with monkeys, When the box arrived it contained these water jugs. In South America they called this type of jug a water monkey.

On the mantle in the south room there is a pair of alabaster vases and an old Seth Thomas clock which has the picture of George Washington on the glass door. One time Mrs. Smith loaned her alabaster vases for a display and when they were returned the base of one was broken and they had come apart. She explained that alabaster pieces are made in sections and put together with plaster of paris. When the borrower attempted to clean the alabaster in hot water the plaster melted and caused the vase to come apart. When the oil painting of her Grandfather Preston was returned it had a tiny hole punched in it. Because of the ill treatment of these treasures she refuses to loan anything now.

Mrs. Smith read to me a letter which her great uncle, William M. Wood, first Surgeon General of the Navy wrote to his mother in 1833. The letter described the experiences he had while on a secret mission. Emperor Nicholas of Russia came on board his ship and invited him to the palace at Petersdorf. The description of the palace, dress of the Russians, and their navy equipment

showed how far they had progressed at that time.

"It would be impossible to tell you about all the things Mrs. Smith showed me," continued Miss White. "She urged me to come back so that she might show me some more things and tell me some more stories about the house and her ancestors. I hope that the house will be open to the public sometime so that people interested in the beginnings of our town and county might see how the well-to-do pioneers lived. So many of the stories lead us to believe that everyone was very poor and had few possessions. Almost every family who came in the early days started out with some money or possessions they could use in the place of money or they could not have started. People then were a great deal like people today. Very few people start a trip today unless they have enough money to pay their way."

Miss White said a little later, "Boys and girls, while I was at the Preston house Mrs. Smith told me that her Grandfather Preston taught Father Buteaux, the pioneer Catholic missionary of this region, to speak English and Father Buteaux taught him to speak French. She showed me a little book with the autograph of Father Buteaux written inside."

"Didn't someone tell me they had a report on St. Mary-of-the-Woods?" asked Miss White.

Jeanne raised her hand. She had not given a report yet, but had spoken to Miss White several days before about

the school.

Jeanne's mother had helped her write the following report:

> Bishop Brute called the order of Sisters of Providence, which had developed in northern France, to plant a religious and educational home in the Wabash country. Mother Theodore and her companions, guided by Father Buteaux, arrived at what is now St. Mary-of-the-Woods on October 22, 1840. St. Mary's chapel was a rough log cabin. Mr. Oakey said that Mother Theodore, who worked so faithfully in this wilderness until her death in 1856, may be counted among the outstanding pioneer women of Vigo County.
>
> The first school building, which was called an academy, was opened for use in 1841. Later additions were added and a convent built.
>
> February 7, 1889, the first great disaster by fire came to the convent. In 1890, a new convent was blessed and the fiftieth anniversary of the coming of Mother Theodore was celebrated.[14]
>
> St. Mary-of-the-Woods today is one of the best known Catholic schools for girls in the world.

"Your report was splendid, Jeanne," remarked Miss White. "Your last statement is true also of two other colleges, Indiana State Teachers College and Rose Polytechnic, which are located in our town and county. We will be hearing about them in the next period. All three of these colleges are not only known in our state and the United States, but are known throughout the world."

The children were each day becoming more interested in their community. In the lower grades they had learned about their home and neighborhood, but now they were learning about how their community developed.

"Curtis Gilbert," Miss White told the children, "was one of Terre Haute's leading citizens. Mr. Oakey wrote:"

> Curtis Gilbert, was an Indian trader and a settler near Ft. Harrison before the county was organized, and during his residence of nearly sixty years in Terre Haute he was a leader in everything which tends to the development of an American community. . . . His son, Joseph Gilbert, was born in Terre Haute, January 2, 1839, and by his acts Vigo County is largely indebted to him for its agricultural and horticultural [cultivation of gardens or orchards] development, for the progress of its higher education and many of its public measures contributing to its best growth.[14]

"Later on," went on Miss White, "Mr. Oakey mentioned that Joseph Gilbert moved to his South Fruitridge Avenue home when he was twenty-three. He doesn't say whether the house was already there or whether he built it. It is very hard to establish dates. In either case the house would have been there in what year, if he was born in 1839 and moved to it when he was twenty-three?"

This time Jimmy's hand went up before Mike's. Jimmy was given the privilege of answering the question. He answered, "The year would be 1862. That would be during the Civil War." He was a Civil War fan and seemed to date everything he had learned about history so far from either before, during, or after the war.

"That is right, Jimmy," replied Miss White. "Miss Juliet Peddle made some sketches of old Terre Haute and Vigo County homes and she included Joseph Gilbert's home in her project.[51] She said that this old home is the first house on

the west side of Fruitridge south of Poplar Street Road. Miss Peddle thinks the house was built at least by 1850, for she found a record which stated that Simon Peck was born there in 1853. The house was built near the time of the passing of the canal and the coming of the railroad.

Carolyn said, "Miss White, I noticed you read from Mr. Oakey's book a word after agricultural which meant raising gardens or orchards for you read it in your explaining voice. What was that word?"

Miss White stepped to the board and wrote the word h-o-r-t-i-c-u-l-t-u-r-a-l, as she explained, "You were very observing Carolyn. That is a good word to know. A horticulturist usually lives in the country or at the edge of a town, but instead of planting and raising large fields of grain he cultivates fruit, from trees, bushes, or plants, or raises large gardens of vegetables. It takes good soil to do that kind of farming. Terre Haute and Vigo County has always had a great deal of horticulture, but it is usually spoken of as gardening, fruit growing, or truck farming."

"I wonder if Fruitridge Avenue got its name from the fruits and ridges?" asked Cindy. "We go down that road when we go to my uncle's farm and I have seen some roadside markets and for sale signs for vegetables and fruits such as cherries, raspberries, apples, and strawberries. There are hills or ridges along the east side of Fruitridge."

"Cindy, you have thought of a very good reason for the name of Fruitridge Avenue," replied Miss White. "I have a feeling too, that that was how it got its name. The hills or ridges you spoke of are the 'Bluffs of the Wabash'. From an airplane you could see they follow the Wabash for many miles, some places quite a distance away and some places quite close. It is thought that thousands of years ago the river extended from the bluffs here to bluffs on the other side of the river."

"The old National Road which we now call U. S. 40 climbs the bluff between Highland Lawn Cemetery and Calvary Cemetery as you leave Terre Haute going east toward Indianapolis," continued the teacher as she picked up a copy of "Leaves of Thyme". "This article mentions the site of a coverlet shop. The day we talked about quilts we learned quilts were pieced together with small patches of material and coverlets, sometimes called coverlids, were woven and were similar to some of our present day bedspreads. The article reads:"

> F. A. Kean was probably the best known professional weaver in Vigo County and a number of his coverlets are owned by people in this community. . . . Frederick August Kuehn (Kean) was born in Culton, Saxony Germany, August 24, 1811. He came to America in 1835. His profession was weaving, such as coverlids and carpets. . . . Frederick A. Kean lived and wove his coverlets about four miles east of Terre Haute on the National Road on what is known as the Kean Farm, now the Calvary Catholic Cemetery.[50]

Johnny raised his hand and declared, "I imagine that Kean Lane which runs from Poplar Street Road to Highway 40 on the back side of Deming Park got its name from this Mr. Kean

for it comes out on 40 at Calvary Cemetery."

"Yes, Johnny, it probably did," smiled his teacher. "Isn't it fun to find out the 'whys' concerning the names of things and places in our town and county?"

"Oh, yes!" cried out the group.

On another day Miss White opened the social studies discussion by saying, "Last night while checking over what we have learned about some of the very early pioneers listed by Beckwith I found we haven't mentioned the Ostrander family.[2] In Otter Creek Township located on a private lane leading from the Ostrander Road is an old frame house typical of the larger pioneer homes built after the crude log houses. The sad part of this story is that Mrs. Charlotte Ostrander Wagner, the direct descendant of the pioneer family, told me about her home and gave permission for children to see it just a few days before her sudden death. This incident shows that we all should help preserve first hand knowledge of the history of our town and county by making authentic reports of what we learn from older people who can still remember important historical facts. This is the information she gave me:"

> The house was built several years before the coming of the railroad. Mrs. Wagner's grandmother had planned to build a new house over on a little hill, but heard that the railroad would bisect (divide into two parts) the hill. The family then put weather board over the hewed logs of the old house and built on some new rooms.

"Will we get to see the house?" asked Bobby.

"We probably will," answered Miss White. "Mrs. Wagner's

son Joe lives there and he would probably enjoy showing us the house. I'm sure he loves boys for he has been working with Cub Scouts out in Otter Creek Township for a long time."

"How about us girls?" pouted Connie. "Would he let us see it?"

"Why of course he would, Connie," assured Miss White.

"The other day when we were seeing the pictures of the Markle Mill we did not have time to talk about the Markle House," continued the teacher. "It was my privilege to be there many times when I was about your age. It is built of bricks made near by. North and west of the house close to Otter Creek you can see a hollow in a pasture which was caused by the digging of the soil for the bricks. There are two stories and a full basement. Each room has a fireplace; even the basement rooms. There is a rumor that confederate prisoners of war were kept in the basement during the Civil War. My outstanding memory of the inside of the Markle house is the wide central hallway with the beautiful stairs and the old Grandfather clock. A few times Mr. William Markle, the grandson of Abraham Markle, took me, while the members of our families were visiting, to the clock, opened the door and gave me a piece of chocolate candy from a box he had secreted there. That was a real treat for boxed chocolates were rare with me."

"Tell us more!" clamored the children.

"Not today," answered the teacher. "When we go on our

trip you will hear stories concerning the places as we visit them. The stories you hear 'on the spot' will be more meaningful."

Jimmy and Cindy's Grandmother Risher telephoned Miss White one evening after school. After exchanging the usual telephone greetings Mrs. Risher said, "Jimmy and Cindy keep me up-to-date on their study of Terre Haute and Vigo County. They were so excited about the old book written by a traveler Mr. Biel loaned you that it made me wonder if a copy of the same book might be one of those in my grandfather's old saddle bags which have been hanging in our attic for years. I think Cindy told you grandfather was a circuit-riding preacher. In those days money was scarce and people often gave him something from their possessions instead of money for his services."

"What is the title of the book, Mrs. Risher?" asked Miss White.

"The title on the outside is Travels in the West," answered Mrs. Risher. "However, on the inside there is another title, Travels Through the Western Country in the Summer of 1816."[21]

"Was the author David Thomas and was it printed in Auburn, New York by David Rumsey in 1819?" questioned Miss White.

"That's right," joyfully answered Mrs. Risher.

Miss White exclaimed, "It must be a copy of the same

book! How fortunate you are to have found it! That is one of the many values of this particular study. Adults, as well as the children, have unearthed a great deal of valuable information."

"The book is so old and fragile and printed in such small type I do not think it would be a very good reference book for children," commented Mrs. Risher. "I would like for them to have some of the information though."

"Why don't you make an 'odds and ends' report," suggested Miss White. The children learned from one of the stories in their reader that when the Pioneer Burd family made out the list of things they wanted to take west with them they had to list some under 'odds and ends' for there was no certain classification for them. Since Cindy and Jimmy have kept you informed you know what reports we have had. Suppose from this book, other books, or from first-hand information you pick up the 'odds and ends' for this early period, 1816-1866. The children and I will be very glad for you to come over and give the report. You know, some of the children haven't met you."

"Thank you for the suggestion and privilege," replied Mrs. Risher. "It will be a task, but one I will enjoy."

One Friday afternoon Miss White said, "I have a surprise for you! We are going to have a visitor this afternoon."

"Who is coming?" the children asked enthusiastically.

"Wait and see," answered Miss White just as there was a

knock on the door.

"Good afternoon, Mrs. Risher," greeted Miss White. "Come right in and meet my group of boys and girls. Boys and girls this is Jimmy's and Cindy's Grandmother Risher."

There was an arousing, but polite, round of applause when Miss White said, "This afternoon Mrs. Risher is going to give us some additional information on the early period of our town and county."

"The title of my talk," began Mrs. Risher, "was suggested by your teacher. It is called 'Odds and Ends' for there are several interesting items that have no special classification. I will tell you about some and read to you about others." Holding up an old book, she said:

> This book is typical of the books written around 1816, about the time Indiana became a state and Terre Haute was founded. It only measures about four inches wide, seven inches long and an inch thick. One reason it has lasted so long is because its cover is leather. The print is small and the language is what we call 'stilted'. That means there are several unusually long and unfamilar words put together in a strange way. Here is an example; at the close of his diary the author in speaking of the settlers coming to what is now called the middle west or Mississippi Valley wrote, 'In fancy, must he view the current of population breaking from the mountains, full, broad, resistless; and the vast and long deserted plains of the Mississippi, fill with life, with intellect, and with elegance'.
>
> This book is entitled Travels Through the Western Country In The Summer of 1816. It is a copy of the same book which Mr. Biel loaned Miss White. From it I found some interesting facts.[21]

"Pardon me, Mrs. Risher," said Miss White as Mrs. Risher placed the book on the teacher's desk, "but does your book have

a map of the Wabash country?"

"Yes, it does have one here in the front," answered Mrs. Risher.

"Your book has much value then, Mrs. Risher," explained Miss White. "Mr. Biel said that the map had been removed from his copy and sold separately. He hesitated about buying it for that reason, but went on to say that since that seemed to be a common practice among the dealers of old and rare books in New York he decided to buy it anyway for it contained many historical facts. I'm sorry to have interrupted, but I wanted the children and you to know how valuable your book must be. Please go on."

Mrs. Risher continued: "These facts were taken from Mr. Thomas:"

> Mr. Thomas did not like the rude way some people pronounced words. He said some said 'Tar Holt' instead of Terre Haute, 'Way-bosh' instead of 'Wau-bash', 'pa-ra-rah' instead of 'prai-rie' and 'le-vee' instead of 'lev'-e'.
>
> The explanation Mr. Thomas gave for a peculiar expression the settlers were using is as peculiar to us as that which he explained. He used considerable as we would use large in saying, 'A considerable number is expressed by a SMART CHANCE; and our hostess at Madison said there was 'a smart chance' of Yankees in that village.
>
> The price of prairie lands in the winter of 1817-18 was five to ten dollars an acre and the price of woods lands was two to five dollars an acre [which was a great deal higher here as Vigo County was being organized than it was elsewhere. It usually sold for two dollars an acre]. The soil of the prairie was excellent for both corn and wheat. The yield for corn was from 50 to 100 bushels per acre and for wheat from

20 to 40 bushels per acre. Major Markle for rent alone, besides what he raised for himself had more than 3700 bushels of corn in November of 1817. He told of seeing an interesting field containing two hundred acres of corn. Several men had worked together to enclose the tract of land with an oak rail fence. Each man's share was according to the length of fence he had built.[21]

In describing the Wabash, Mr. Thomas said, 'The Wabash is . . . remarkable for its serpentine [snake-like] course and from Vincennes to Fort Harrison, which is only reckoned seventy miles by land, it is computed to be one hundred and fifty by water.' He also said it was 200 yards wide at Ft. Harrison.

Mrs. Risher paused to ask the teacher if she thought the children would be interested in the kinds of birds and animals Mr. Thomas found here and before Miss White could answer they clapped their hands softly and cried out "Please tell us!"

Miss White smiled and nodded her approval for Mrs. Risher to continue her talk.

Mrs. Risher glanced at some lists which she had made on file cards as she said:

The buffalo were gone but there were elk, raccoon, pole cat or skunk, opossum, a few porcupine, numerous prairie wolves, many grey squirrels, a few pelicans and swans, many crows, Sand Hill cranes which stood five or six feet tall, numerous prairie hens in winter, hundreds of robins and redheaded woodpeckers, a few parroquets, and numerous hen hawks, wild turkies, geese and duck. Mr. Thomas said he had never seen a loon in the waters of this vicinity.

The Wabash abounded in fish. There were gar or bill fish, the Mississippi cat weighing up to a hundred and twenty pounds, the mud cat weighing up to a hundred pounds, the bull head sturgeon weighing from twenty to sixty pounds, the shovel or flat nose fish, a few excellent river pike, the drum or white perch weighing from a pound to thirty pounds, a few streaked bass, the

very common buffalo fish weighing from two to thirty pounds, the rock mullet, the red horse which was large and boney, the jack pike or the pickerel. Fresh water clam or muscle were so plentiful that they were gathered and burnt for lime. Mr. Thomas was told that twenty years before that time, there was no other kind of lime obtained.

Thomas Jefferson thought that bees were not native to our continent and for that reason Mr. Thomas inquired often of the settlers concerning bees. He found that there was a time when bees were not known in our country; the old French settlers had not seen any, it had not been more than twenty or twenty-five years since they were first discovered toward the Mississippi and only fifteen years they had been seen on the Military bounty lands above the point where the Illinois and Mississippi came together. He said one person said, 'Bees are very plentiful in the woods; and as the Indians here call them 'white people's flies,' it is believed they are not natives.' Mr. Thomas also wrote, 'Great quantities of honey have been found in the woods above Fort Harrison. One man found twelve bee-trees in less than half a day.' This entry was made in his diary June 16, 1818.

The fruits and nuts found growing wild were plums, crab apples, persimmons, grapes, pawpaws, hazel nuts, black walnuts, pecans, several kinds of hickory nuts, blackberries and strawberries.[21]

Mrs. Risher ended her talk by saying, "I see by the clock it is time for your recess. I have some unrelated facts from other books. Perhaps I could give them to you, Miss White."

"That would be fine, Mrs. Risher," remarked Miss White, "but unless it is asking too much, I believe the children would rather have you come back Monday and finish the report yourself."

"Please do, Mrs. Risher!" the children pleaded.

Mrs. Risher's face was wreathed in smiles and her eyes

sparkled with pleasure as she said, "There is nothing I would rather do. I'll be back Monday."

Another burst of applause showed the visitor how much the children appreciated her talk. They left the room for the playground repeating in low voices some of the wonderful things they had heard.

On Monday the children were very excited when they came into the room after lunch. They could hardly wait for Grandma Risher, as most of them lovingly called her, to come.

The most thrilling part was that when she did come she was wearing under her coat an old fashioned dress. The applause that day was tremendous. Miss Blake, the principal, came to see what was taking place in the fourth grade room. She accepted an invitation to stay.

Mrs. Risher began her talk that day by saying,

> After the pioneers became more prosperous they had more furniture in their homes. For the children they had little low beds called trundle beds which during the day were rolled under the high four poster beds. These were pulled out at night and the children no longer had to sleep on the floor. In 1820, there were a few cookstoves and by 1840, about one family out of every five had one. There were a few pianos before the Civil War. The better furnished homes had cherry or walnut chests, corner cupboards, and wardrobes.[8]

> This dress is similar to the ones the ladies wore. This was my grandmother's wedding dress. When they were married grandfather was given a station [a church] and he no longer rode the circuit. He regretted that for three or four generations the people overdressed and overacted. Their public meetings were noticeable for their formality [strict customs] and dignity [haughty or proud actions].[8]

Like most other towns of the West in 1851, progress had been slow in Terre Haute. In thirty-five years the population scarcely numbered 4,000. By 1854, the population was 7,000. The coming of the railroads brought the increase. The town almost doubled in population in the decade of 1860 to 1870, for it increased from 8,594 to 16,103. The Civil War during the decade brought great changes.[4]

Tallow candles and lard-oil lamps gave way to gas in 1856, when the Gas Light Company was incorporated.

The heyday of the stage coach in Indiana was from 1840 to 1860.[15]

Mrs. Risher paused and asked, "Miss White, would you like for me to mention a few of the prominent people of this period?"

"Please do, Mrs. Risher," answered Miss White. "I'm sure we haven't mentioned some that we should have mentioned."

"A few of these people you will probably want to study about in the next period for it was in that period they contributed or gave the most to their town and county," replied Mrs. Risher. "Perhaps Terre Haute's greatest benefactor, the one who through kindness gave the most help, was Chauncey Rose. He became a resident of Terre Haute in 1818.[15]

"For many years it was thought," continued Mrs. Risher, "that the first white child born in Terre Haute was Captain William Earl who was born September 22, 1818, but a few years ago it was learned that William Hodges was born May 23, 1818, thereby giving him the honor of being Terre Haute's first born."[14]

"Peter J. Ryan of Vigo County was awarded one of the

only two congressional medals of honor given in the Civil War,"[8] stated Mrs. Risher.

"A monument dedicated to Colonel Richard W. Thompson can be seen on the courthouse lawn," related Mrs. Risher. "Perhaps the greatest honor that came to him in this period was his selection as a pall bearer for Abraham Lincoln's funeral procession in Indianapolis."[14]

Mrs. Risher put together the notes she had been using and finished her report by saying, "There were hundreds of people, men, women, and children, all of whom were important in the early years. Many of their names are carved on the grave markers in Woodlawn Cemetery and the scattered family cemeteries, but perhaps just as many lie in unmarked resting places. It has been a pleasure to study with you the development of Terre Haute and Vigo County during the first fifty years. I hope you will give me the same privilege as you go on to the middle years and the later years."

"It has been a pleasure for us, too, Mrs. Risher," responded Miss White, "to have your very valuable help. We will look forward to your help as we continue our study."

The children and Miss White decided to keep a record in outline form of their study as they went along. They chose to make the outline on chart paper like they used in making their own stories in the first and second grade. The headings of the outline included the categories they studied; homes,

occupations, transportation, dress, schools, churches, recreation, and famous people. The final or last heading read:

PLACES AND SITES THAT CAN BE SEEN TODAY

Memorial Hall--219 Ohio Street
Canal bed--various places
Railroads--various places
Ouabache Subdivision--Across from Smith's Gardens on N. 7th
Ouabache Oven--Deming Park
Site of Ft. Harrison--Elks Ft. Harrison Country Club
Site of Camp Vigo--Across from Collett Park on N. 7th
Site of Old Indian Orchard--American Can Co., 1 Sycamore
Woodlawn Cemetery--Between 2nd and 8th Avenues and 1st and 3rd Street
Denny Cemetery--Stop 13 Road
Wood Cemetery--Atherton Road, Vigo 3N
Markle Cemetery--Between Haythorne and Park on Fruitridge
Site of Indian Pottery and Camp--Spring Creek Prairie
Durkee Road--North Thirteenth Street Road and private lane
Site of Markle Mill--Park Ave. and Rosedale Rd., North Terre Haute
Markle Home--Across the road from site of Markle Mill
Ostrander Home--Ostrander Road, Vigo 21E
St. Mary-of-the-Woods--St. Mary's Village
Vigo County Courthouse--Square bounded by Wabash, 2nd, Ohio and 3rd
Preston Home--13½ and Poplar Street
Joseph Gilbert Home--Fruitridge just below Poplar
Site of Kean Coverlets--Calvary Cemetery

The chart stood on its easel bearing a record of weeks and weeks of cooperative study. It seemed to beckon the group on to another period, the middle years.

The children were eager to work on the outline for the second fifty year period of the development of Terre Haute and Vigo County which they had long before entitled, "Middle Years 1866-1916". Several had made notes on items of interest for that period while they were working on the early period. Others had jotted down page numbers and names of reference books in which they had found information, in order that they might find it easily again. A few had talked with older citizens who were able to give them some information.

Richard, whose father managed a large super-market, said, "I have often seen a Bradstreet report on daddy's desk. I asked him what it was and he said it was a report on which business men listed what they owned and what they owed. From that information the Bradstreet Company could inform people in business about the credit of people listed with them. Good credit means it would be safe to let them have something for which they would pay later. The reason I wanted to know about Bradstreet was because I read this:"

> Bradstreet in 1866 listed 259 places of business in Terre Haute. From that time on business in the city increased. With better shipping facilities the stores of later days were able to keep a greater variety of goods, but from pioneer days up to the present generation housewives worked hard and long in the kitchen; marketing was difficult. Fresh fruits and vegetables were obtainable only in season and stores were poorly stocked. Today there are convenient food markets in every neighborhood. The freshest and finest foods of the world are available at popular prices which every

home can afford. Today people live better and eat better because of modern marketing methods.[15]

"That is a splendid report, Richard," commented Miss White. "I'm glad that you found out about the Bradstreet Company for you have a better understanding of your report. You have helped others to gain some new concepts too. The 259 places of business that your report mentioned must have provided jobs for several hundred people."

"Last Sunday," Jimmy related, "I asked Grandpa if he would please take me to the courthouse lawn and let me see what was written on the two monuments there. He said he would like to read the inscriptions again himself while they were bright and clean. I think someone mentioned at the beginning of our study that the courthouse and monuments were cleaned in 1957. As we were driving to Third and Wabash Grandpa said that corner would now be considered 'The Crossroads of America' for that was the name given to the place where Highway 40, the old National Road, and Highway 41, the old Dixie-B-Line, crossed. Highway 41 was until lately on Seventh Street. We found that the inscriptions on the four sides of the large monument tells the story of the Civil War. The four statues represent the artillerymen, the navy, the infantry, and the cavalry. To the west of the Civil War monument is a monument dedicated to Colonel Richard W. Thompson. Instead of showing the whole body the statue only shows his head, shoulders, and chest. Grandpa said that kind of a statue was called a 'bust'."[33]

"While we were in that part of town we decided to walk over to the northeast corner of 5th and Wabash and see the Claude L. Herbert Monument," continued Jimmy. "It is in the form of a drinking fountain. A bronze plate has this inscription which I copied. 'To Claude Herbert who gave his life to save others in the Havens and Geddes fire'. As we drove home Grandpa told me this story:"

> Claude Herbert lost his life on December 18, 1898, in saving the lives of others in a fire that broke out in the Havens and Geddes' dry goods store. The store stood where Tune Brothers stands today. He was playing the part of Santa Claus when the fire was discovered. After saving the lives of all the children and helping to save the lives of several clerks he lost his own life. The Claude Herbert camp of the Spanish-American War Veterans, named in his honor, erected the monument to his memory. The citizens contributed to the cost of the drinking fountain memorial.[47]

"Several times the National Road, which we call Highway 40, has been mentioned," remarked Johnny. "My Aunt Blanche helped me with this report:"

> The National Road is sometimes called the Cumberland Road because when it was layed out it started from Cumberland, at the headwaters of the Potomac in Maryland. At first it was built only to Ohio, but later came on through Terre Haute. It was the only highway of its kind the government of the United States ever constructed. [Usually the states and counties build the roads.] The people often called it 'Old Pike' because there were so many turnpikes on the road. [Gates where toll was paid.] It is said that one toll-gate for the old National Road was located near the intersection of Fruitridge and Wabash Avenues. That was quite a distance from town then.

"Aunt Blanche said," continued Johnny, "that time changes people's idea of things. When the railroads came travel by land

became less. The people thought the day of land travel was over. They paid final tribute to the old highway by saying, 'It carried thousands of population [people] and millions [of dollars] of wealth into the west, and more than any other material [manmade] structure in the land served to harmonize [bring close together] and strengthen, if not save, the Union [United States]'."[14]

"I was just thinking," added Jimmy, "that if those people who thought land travel was over could see the thousands of cars, busses, and trucks on the old National Road today, they would change their minds again. They would see it still serves the same purpose."

"That shows good thinking, Jimmy," commented Miss White. "As we continue our study I hope you children will see how often Johnny's Aunt Blanche's remark, 'time changes people's idea of things' came true. Perhaps we should add it to our list of 'old sayings'."

Tom was a newcomer to Deming School for his parents had just been transferred to Terre Haute from northern Indiana. He came the week the class visited Indiana State Teachers College to see the "Peter Rabbit News" show produced at the college radio studio. Tom was so thrilled with the visit he obtained from the library a copy of A History of Indiana State Teachers College.[13] It was much too difficult for him to read, so he asked his mother to help him. He was even more thrilled

when his mother told him that his grandmother, who was now teaching in Gary, graduated from the college when it was known as Indiana State Normal School. Tom read the following report which, with the help of his mother, he had written:

> On Tuesday morning, January 6, 1870, Indiana State Normal School opened its doors for its first students. To the unfinished building, heated by stoves, there came only twenty-one students, thirteen young women and eight young men. State Superintendent of Schools, Barnabas C. Hobbs, after reading a chapter from the Bible, knelt on the bare floor and prayed fervently [earnestly or sincerely] for the future success of the Indiana State Normal School.[13]
>
> The building was beautiful, but there was only the most necessary furniture, no equipment, no laboratories, not a map, not a piece of apparatus and the library consisted of a Bible and one unabridged [nothing left out] dictionary.
>
> There were some difficult years but by 1888 the school seemed to be enjoying much success. However, calamity fell! Just after school took up on the morning of April 9, 1888, a fire broke out in the attic and the building was almost completely destroyed. Very little was saved except the Board Minutes, [record of meetings] Volume I, 1866-1888. The fire awakened the six hundred students, faculty, citizens of Terre Haute, and leaders of the state, to the rebuilding of a larger and better school.[13]

At this point Tom stopped reading and remarked, "We read that by an act of the State the name of the Indiana State Normal School was changed to the Indiana State Teachers College in 1929, but that it was a gradual development from the development from the time the college course was started in 1907.[13] Miss White, would those years be called 'transition years'?"

Miss White felt like she would burst! She was so happy

Tom had caught the meaning of a new concept. Experiences like this was what made teaching such a joy.

"Yes, Tom," beamed Miss White, "that would be a good way to describe those years. I'm glad you understand the meaning of the concept, 'transition years'. Do you have something else you wish to tell us?"

"I brought the book," replied Tom, "for there are some good pictures of the old buildings and a few pictures of some of the buildings we saw the day we went to the radio studio. The pictures of the faculty show how men looked with whiskers. Do you think we could put the pictures in the opaque projector so that everyone could see them at the same time?"

"That is a good idea, Tom," answered Miss White. "Perhaps you can help me set it up at recess if it is available. You know we share it with all the rooms."

The machine was not being used so Tom and Miss White had it set up ready for use when the children came in from recess. Tom found the pictures he wanted his classmates to see. They laughed when they saw the solemn "be-whiskered" men teachers and the serious looking women teachers.

Tom handed Miss White Barnabas Hobbs' picture last and said, "If Barnabas Hobbs could see the college campus now and know how many students and teachers there are, he would know his prayer for the success of the school had been answered."

"Tom, I hope your enthusiasm for Indiana State keeps

on growing," commented Miss White. "About twelve years from now I expect to be sitting in the audience there seeing several of you receiving your first degree. Then, you too, will be helping to answer Mr. Hobbs' prayer."

Ronnie came to school very excited one Monday morning. "Miss White," he asked as soon as he came into the room, "do I have to wait until Social Studies time to share something I discovered over the week-end that would be worth seeing on our trip? I just can't wait to tell the class!"

"Well, Ronnie, it might spoil if it's kept too long," jokingly answered Miss White. "Perhaps we had better hear about what you discovered right now."

"As you know," began Ronnie, "Daddy was a pilot in World War II. He has always wanted a plane of his own. He had a chance to buy a good used Piper Cub last week. Saturday he took me up for my first plane ride. Oh, it was wonderful! We took off toward Allendale from Paul Cox Field and circled to the east. What do you suppose I saw? I thought I saw a car go through a barn. It looked as if the barn was built over a tiny stream of water. When we came down about a half hour later Daddy asked, 'Well Son, what did you see?'"

"I told Daddy about the barn," continued Ronnie.

"We might as well go by that barn," replied Daddy, "for I want to go down in that vicinity to see Mr. Fox."

"To make a long story short, when we came to the barn,"

related Ronnie, "it turned out to be a covered bridge. We parked the car and Daddy and I examined the bridge. We found it rests on the original hewn stone piers. Daddy said that hewn stone was cut with hand tools before the days of power driven tools. The bridge has been reinforced in the middle with concrete piers. It was built for the 'horse and buggy days' when the loads were not so heavy. The bridge is about eighteen feet wide and about eighty feet long. The floor is made of oak planks and the sides are covered with poplar boards. It has a shingled roof.[57] As we sat on one of the stone piers Daddy told me this interesting story:"

> This is the only covered bridge left in Vigo County. The creek here is Honey Creek. According to one story the reason for the name Honey Creek goes back to the time of the attack on Fort Harrison. A company of soldiers the night before the battle, while camped on the banks of the stream, found a bee tree in which was a large amount of honey. They cut off the section of the trunk holding the honey, and running a stick through the hollow started to carry it to camp on their shoulders. But in crossing the creek on a log they fell in, and most of the honey went to sweeten the waters of the creek.
>
> This story was told by a Mr. Thomas H. Files who was one of the soldiers who fell into the stream. However, another pioneer, Mr. Ross, thought the creek was named for the many honey locust trees that are found in Vigo County.[14]

"I like the story about the soldiers the best," said Ronnie as he finished telling about his discovery.

"That was a wonderful discovery," said Miss White. "We will certainly want to include that historic bridge on our trip. One day I saw an exhibit at the Fairbanks Library

which showed a picture of the old covered bridge. The information under the picture stated that the bridge was built in 1867, and later rebuilt by W. P. A. at a cost of $2,700.00."[45]

"Does anyone remember the name of the man Mrs. Risher told us we should learn more about in the middle years report?" asked Miss White. The children showed by the expression on their faces they were thinking.

"I'll give you some clues," declared Miss White, "like those we use in the 'Who am I?' game. This man said, 'When I came to Terre Haute there were but two cabins and the nearest boarding house was at Ft. Harrison. I sawed and furnished the lumber for the first court house which was built in 1825.'[15]

Spike's hand went up. "Are you Abraham Markle?"

"No, I am not Abraham Markle," answered Miss White. The clues so far could have described Markle except for the mention of the lumber being used for the court house. "In 1838 I built the Prairie House on the corner of my farm."[15]

"Did you later call it the Terre Haute House?" asked Gloria.

To the answer 'Yes, I did', Gloria thinking out loud said, "I remember reading an article about the Terre Haute House,[15] but I just can't think of your name. The Deming Hotel was built later. Maybe you built it too. Are you Demas Deming?"

"No, I am not Demas Deming," replied the teacher.

"Demas Deming, Sr., the father of the man who built the Deming Hotel, and I were very good friends, however. I helped to build the first railroad between Terre Haute and Indianapolis."[15]

"Are you Chauncey Rose?" Danny asked as he excitedly waved his hand.

"Yes, I am Chauncey Rose," answered Miss White. "That ends the game, but it is just the beginning of finding information for reports on Chauncey Rose. As Mrs. Risher told us, he is considered Terre Haute's greatest benefactor. That means he gave more of his money and service to help the people of Terre Haute than any other man has given. Because of his kindness to the people of Terre Haute and elsewhere at the time of his death August 13, 1877, he was said to be America's greatest philanthropist."[15]

Miss White wrote the word in syllables on the board and explained, "Phi-lan-thro-pist means a person who loves mankind and works for its welfare.[23] As we hear reports on Chauncey Rose let us keep in mind the meaning of philanthropist and see why that word was used to describe him."

Miss White listed on the board some of Chauncey Rose's achievements--what he did--and different children volunteered to give a report on one of them. In a few days the reports were given by the volunteers.

Spike wrote a report on the life of Chauncey Rose:

Chauncey Rose was born in Wethersfield Meadows, Connecticut, December 24, 1794. His father came from

Scotland. In the fall of 1817, he traveled in the states of Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee and Alabama, looking for a location to live and do business. He liked Terre Haute and became a resident in April, 1818. Chauncey Rose lived longer than his six brothers and one sister, all of whom had no children. He was never married so when he died he was the 'last of his race'. He inherited quite a large sum of money from some of his brothers. This money along with what he made was used for a great many worthwhile purposes not only here, but many places.

Chauncey Rose went to school only a short time, but his good health, energy, courage, strong mind, and lots of good common sense added to his Scotch ability to save, helped him to make both friends and money. He distributed the largest part of his money during his lifetime to be sure it would be used as he wished. Terre Haute is fortunate that he lived here and helped to make her the city she is today.[14]

The site of Chauncey Rose's last home was where the Laboratory School of Indiana State Teachers College stands today. He died on August 13, 1877, leaving Terre Haute a better place to live because he had lived.[15]

"I didn't mention any special things he did for Terre Haute," commented Spike, "for I thought that would be covered by the other reports."

"Your report showed you were thoughtful of others, Spike," stated Miss White. "It included only the necessary facts for a report on someone's life, such as the date when he was born, when he came to the place where he achieved success, some of his outstanding characteristics, and the date of his death. If you had the only report on the person it would have been necessary to have named the things he did, but since there are several reports on this great man, your

report was just the information we needed."

Gloria had a report on the Prairie House:

> Chauncey Rose built the Prairie House on the corner of his farm. He had just purchased the largest piece of land in one piece ever held by a citizen of Terre Haute. He owned 320 acres which ran from what is now 7th and Poplar north to Locust Street, Locust east to 13th, 13th south to Poplar, and Poplar west to 7th. The land had belonged to the Markle heirs but they had lost it through a mortgate [loan on property]. There was a rumor that Mr. Rose came by the land dishonestly, but it was proven that this was not true. A Mr. Rapp had obtained the land as a just debt from the Markles and he had sold it to Mr. Rose.
>
> The old Prairie House was opened in 1838, with Mr. Theron Barnum as manager. He made a good start, kept a fine house, but made little money the next three years. Mr. Rose closed the hotel until 1849. Terre Haute had become the center of the transportation improvements; the river, the canal, and the National Road! The stage coaches made daily trips between Terre Haute and Indianapolis.
>
> In those days it cost five dollars a week for all your meals, your room, and room service [maid and bell-hop], and two dollars and a half to keep your servant or your horse.[15]

Gloria paused to remark: "Mother said it would cost about five dollars to stay just one night now and that would not include any meals or tips." Gloria continued:

> The guests told the white coated barefooted boy waiters what meat they wanted. They helped themselves to breads, preserves, vegetables, salads, deserts, and beverages from those on the table. They could eat what they wanted for the price was included with their room. The tables were loaded with a large variety of food.
>
> In 1853, Mr. Rose changed the name of the Prairie House to the Terre Haute House. The boom came to the hotel in 1887, for it was in that year Terre Haute's mile race track was opened and the hotel became the most famous west of the Allegheny Mountains.

> The old building was torn down. The Terre Haute House we know today was built on the site at 7th and Wabash and was opened the summer of 1928.[37] Until Highway 41 was changed to 3rd Street from 7th Street the site was called both the 'Crossroads of the World' and the 'Crossroads of America'.[15]

Cindy asked, "Is that where Indiana got her motto?"

"Terre Haute people," answered Miss White, "like to think that was where it originated [started]. Gloria gave us a very good report on the Prairie House. Chauncey Rose made money from the hotel, the lots he plotted from his farm, the railroads and other investments. Who has the report on 'What He Gave Terre Haute'?"

"I have that report," replied Dennis. "Before we go on I would like to know if the Mr. Barnum Gloria mentioned in her report was related to Phineas Taylor Barnum the man who started the greatest show on earth whom we read about in our reader?"

"I'm sure I don't know," answered Miss White. "Dennis, that would be a good topic to do some research on after we have finished the study of how Terre Haute and Vigo County developed. You may give your report on Mr. Rose now."

Dennis gave the following report on "What Mr. Rose Gave Terre Haute":

> When Chauncey Rose started west he promised his mother he would return each year to see her. This promise could not be fulfilled until the fifth year after he left home, but from then on until her death in 1838, he seldom missed a year of returning to visit her. Transportation was slow and often dangerous, but he kept his promise. Because of the

teachings of his mother he was very generous with his giving to nearly all of the churches of Terre Haute and attended services faithfully. In her memory he endowed [left money to provide an income for] the Rose Ladies Aid Society to help maintain the Rose Home for Aged Women located at 1016 North 6th Street.

He left an endowment for the Rose Orphans Home at 25th and Wabash, which has in recent years been turned into the Chauncey Rose Home for aged men and women. It was established October 27, 1874. Its elaborate styling was copied from the Sandringham Palace in England. He also left money for the Sisters of Providence, later called St. Ann's Orphan Home. The home was located at 13th Street and 6th Avenue where Merchants Freight stands today.[28]

The Rose Dispensary, located at 7th and Cherry, is a place where poor people are dispenced [given out] medicine without money. Mr. Oakey said in speaking of this great deed by Chauncey Rose, 'It is a work of Christian benevolence [good-will]'.[14]

No one knows how many hundreds of people have benefited from the money Chauncey Rose left in endowment funds. To this day many people, churches, schools, and businesses are able to borrow from the Chauncey Rose School Fund in order to have money for their needs.[37]

"Richard's brother goes to Rose Poly so I let Richard have that part of the report, Miss White," said Dennis. "Was that all right?"

"I think that was very kind of you, Dennis," replied Miss White. "I knew when that topic was listed there would be quite a lot of facts to read and report on. Richard you may give your report tomorrow if you have it ready. It is time for recess now."

The next day Richard gave the following report which his brother, Jim, had helped him write:

Chauncey Rose was an engineer by experience and inclination [liking or tendency]. He was interested in transportation and industry, therefore it was natural for him to be interested in establishing a school for technical education. The state schools that had been started leaned more towards teaching or agriculture rather than engineering.

The Terre Haute School for Industrial Science was established on September 10, 1874, by Chauncey Rose and a number of his friends. One year later, 1875, the corner stone of its main building was laid and the name was changed to Rose Polytechnic Institute. However, due to the length of time it took to build the first buildings, the illness and death of Mr. Rose in 1877, and the delay in settling his will, it was not until March 6, 1883, the doors were opened for classes. The school was located at 13th and Locust Streets which was far away from the noise and confusion of the town. Today Gerstmeyer Technical High School is located there. Tech uses the old buildings.

In September, 1921, building of the new school plant was started on a hundred and twenty-three acre campus donated by Anton and Herman Hulman. The present Rose Polytechnic Institute is located on this site about three miles east of Terre Haute on the Old National Road, now known as Highway 40. Rose Poly is an engineering school where only men are admitted and only degrees in engineering are given. It is considered one of the top engineering schools in the world.[15]

Miss White praised Richard's report and said, "Mary has the report on 'How Terre Haute Honored Chauncey Rose'."

Mary said, "Daddy and mother took my brother and me down on Dresser Drive to see the memorial to Mr. Rose. Daddy said that the columns and their three cornered top covering, called a facade, came from the old post office building which stood where our present post office stands at 7th and Cherry. We climbed up the steps and read these words which were inscribed

on one of the corner markers:"

> Planned and dedicated by the Banks of the Wabash Association to perpetuate [keep going] the memories of those, who by their generous material gifts, have enlarged the spiritual, educational, physical and recreational life of this community.[33]

Mary continued, "This memorial is called the Chauncey Rose Memorial Plaza. From it you can see a beautiful view of the Wabash River. Daddy told me it was built in 1936-37 for an outdoor gathering place, but has been neglected by our city officials. Mr. Kenneth Gillis each year on the night before the Fourth of July has a free display of fireworks for children, in memory of his father.[57] The crowd gathers on the hillside and around the Plaza to see the magnificent sight."

"All of the reports on Chauncey Rose have been very good," commented Miss White. "Several people have written a great deal about him. Just the other day I saw a thesis (thē'sis--a long written report describing original research on some subject and presented by the writer for a college degree) which had been donated to the Indiana Room of the Fairbanks Library, entitled 'Chauncey Rose, His Life and Contribution to Education'.[40] Few men have left as many proofs of love and kindness as Mr. Rose; the Rose Polytechnic for the education of boys, the orphan homes that cared for orphans before the county took the responsibility, the Rose Dispensary for the sick and needy, the Rose Home for Aged Women, the Chauncey Rose Home (for aged men and women) and the use of

the endowment funds for those needing loans. Besides these benefactions for Terre Haute and Vigo County Mr. Rose spent more than a million and a half dollars in New York for over eighty charities (institutions for helping the sick, the poor, and the helpless), hundreds of dollars in his hometown of Wethersfield, Connecticut, and countless thousands of dollars to individuals.[14] Do you remember the word which describes a person who loves mankind so well they are willing to spend their money and give of their service for the welfare of others?"

Almost as one voice came the word, "Philanthropist".

"That is the word!" smiled Miss White. "I'm sure all of you understand the meaning of the word better after having learned about Mr. Rose. As we go on in our study we will find that Terre Haute has had, and continues to have, many philanthropists. You do not have to be rich to have a philanthropic heart. Those of you who give cheerfully and generously of what you have and show acts of kindness to others have a philanthropic heart."

Barbara came to school one day very happy for her Aunt Mary had told her about Paul Dresser. Barbara had clipped Mrs. Clark's column from the Terre Haute Tribune-Star one Sunday and had read from some books about Paul Dresser. She found there was much controversy [argument] concerning when and where Dresser was born. Since Mrs. Clark's article was

the latest article written she copied some of her report from the clipping. Barbara wrote:

> Many years ago a news reporter asked Paul Dresser if he knew exactly when and where he was born. Dresser replied, 'Very easily, indeed. It was in 1859 and in the city of Terre Haute. It was in the Meyer property on the east side of Second Street between Poplar and Swan. The house is brick and has since had a second story added. I lived there until I was 18 or 19 when my father sold out his wood business on South First Street and moved to Chicago.' The article stated that the baptismal records at St. Joseph Church gave April 22, 1859, as the day of Paul Dresser's birth.
>
> He was sent to St. Meinrad Seminary to become a priest when he was fifteen, but he ran away and joined a medicine show. He later played parts in minstrel shows. Dresser also wrote some plays and some songs. Finally he moved to New York.
>
> In 1896, the idea of his famous song 'On the Banks of the Wabash, Far Away' came to him while he was in his New York office. However, it wasn't until a few weeks later during the time he and his brother were vacationing in West Baden, Indiana, that he was able to compose the entire song.
>
> Paul Dresser, broken in health and wealth, died at his sister Emma's home in New York, January 30, 1906, not knowing that the Indiana legislature would adopt his song, 'On the Banks of the Wabash, Far Away' as the state song in 1913.[36]

"Aunt Mary," said Barbara, "told me that Dr. Thomas Moorehead asked Dresser when he saw him in New York who Mary was in the song. Paul Dresser said that he did not have anyone in particular in mind. Dr. Moorehead suggested that he dedicate his song to little Mary South, the daughter of Colonel E. E. South, the general agent for the Big Four Railroad at Terre Haute. He described her as being 'pretty as a picture and able to sing delightfully'. Dresser knew Colonel South,

but had never seen little Mary. Nevertheless, he liked the idea and dedicated the song to her. Aunt Mary showed me several clippings about Paul Dresser and some cards and letters he had written to her. He stopped in town to visit her father and her in 1898. She said he was a very large man who overflowed the piano stool when he sat down to play his new song. He did not have a singing voice, but rather 'talked his song off'. Aunt Mary was very proud of the second copy of the song which Dresser autographed and sent to her. She wanted everyone to share it with her so she had it framed and gave it to the Elks Club. Later they gave it to the Historical Museum of the Wabash Valley and it now hangs there near the Dresser piano and the life size portrait of Dresser."[36]

"That was a very interesting report, Barbara," said Miss White. "I met your Aunt Mary at the dedication of the Museum and she asked me to come see her mementoes [souvenirs to arouse memories] of which she is so proud. We also talked about making a tape recording of what she remembers about Paul Dresser. If we get to do that I will play the tape for you."

At that remark the children clapped their hands and started asking, "When are you going to do that?"

"Oh, that will take quite a bit of planning and organizing. It will have to be after our trip, perhaps next summer."

"Then we won't get to hear it," moaned Mike, "for we

will be on vacation. When we come back we will be in the fifth grade."

"Now Mike, don't worry about not hearing it," explained Miss White. "A college professor and I hope to make a tape recording of the voices of several people who remember things that should be kept for future generations. When the tape is completed we expect all who wish to hear it to have that opportunity, regardless of who they are. Our dreams are that grade school children, high school and college students, as well as townspeople will want to hear this first hand knowledge from the lips of those who know of things that are not written."

Someone suggested that the group sing "On the Banks of the Wabash, Far Away." It was never sung with more appreciation or more feeling. The children were still humming it when they came in from recess twenty minutes later.

The humming of the song reminded Miss White there were other facts concerning Paul Dresser the children should know. She said as she wrote on the chalkboard, "Boys and girls, D-r-e-i-s-e-r is the correct way to spell Paul Dresser's name. For some reason he changed the spelling. However, two of his brothers, who also became famous, Theodore as a writer of novels, and Edward as an actor, did not change the spelling. Edward lived until January 29, 1958.[30] To honor Dresser, the road running south along the east edge of the Wabash River from

Wabash Avenue past the Chauncey Rose Memorial Plaza to the Boat Club was named Dresser Drive. Also at the western end of the bridge across the Wabash River is Dresser Memorial Park, which stretches along both sides of the highway, with an underpass connecting the two parts.[26] The frame school building there, Dresser School, is for the children who live in the community just south of the highway, also called Dresser. The people of this community are often victims of floods when the Wabash overflows. Paul Dresser's song is still sung not only in Indiana, but all over the world. It isn't a song with a short life like the ones on the Hit Parade, but one that we hope will live as long as Terre Haute stands on the banks of the Wabash."

In science study the children had learned that railroad, bus, telephone, gas, electric, and water companies were public utilities. They also learned that coal, water, gas, oil, lumber and stone were natural resources. Dennis was quite interested in natural resources for he often went with his father to make deliveries from the fuel oil tanker truck his father operated. He had studied about the process of changing the crude oil which came from the ground to fuel oil. His new interest, in coal, helped him to get this information:

> In 1816, David Thomas saw coal along the Wabash River and predicted that the coal industry would some day be one of the great resources of the country.
>
> About 1833, a few loads of poor grade surface [on the ground] coal were brought from Honey Creek and sold to

blacksmiths, but wood was so plentiful the blacksmiths preferred it.

A few years later two men were unsuccessful in trying to send some barges of coal to New Orleans which they had mined from the bluffs six or seven miles up the river from Terre Haute. Due to low water the barges sank along the shore.[14]

Dennis stopped reading to remark, "These facts show that from the beginning of Vigo County people knew about coal being one of its natural resources. As long as wood was cheap and plentiful there was no need of coal. We found from reports of the early years period that very few people had stoves and there was not much industry yet. However, by 1852 Chauncey Rose ordered coal cars for his railroad for he foresaw that coal shipping would be one of the railroad's biggest businesses. If he were living today I suppose he would at the same time be happy to see the long coal trains passing through Terre Haute and be aggravated at the crossing tieups. I imagine though, he would have had overpasses or underpasses to take care of the traffic, by this time."

Dennis read from his report:

The Coal Bluff Mining Company was formed in 1875. From then on many coal companies were organized. Coal mining is one of Vigo County's oldest and most important industries.[14]

Dennis showed the children a booklet entitled Coal, an Indiana Heritage.[44] He said, "I will pass this booklet around and if any of you want one let me know and I will bring you a copy from the Indiana Coal Association, whose offices are here

in Terre Haute. The booklet says:"

> Man's greatest progress has been made since he learned to produce coal cheaply and in great abundance. If, through some great disaster, the world should be deprived of [not be able to get] coal and the benefits it provides, man's present way of living would become impossible. Substitute sources of energy--oil, natural gas and water power--could not fill the gap.
>
> Coal is the major source of energy for the vast enterprises which make America the greatest industrial nation in the world. . . . 70 percent of the electricity produced in the United States is generated by coal-fired equipment.[44]

The children were delighted with the booklet for it told in words and pictures the story of coal. The teacher listed the names of the children who wanted the booklet and Dennis obtained copies for them in a few days. He left his copy on the reference table for he said he could get another one.

Jimmy found that crude oil was first discovered in the city of Terre Haute in 1865, when Chauncey Rose bored a hole near the Terre Haute House in search of water. Oil was not of much value then for there was not much use for it.[14] Jimmy read from his paper:

> In 1889, a drill was started in an alley between Ninth and Tenth and Chestnut Streets. It was a good strike and oil operators flocked [rushed] to Terre Haute. Real estate doubled in price. Twenty or more bores were put down, but most of them did not strike oil. However, the Phoenix, close to the original well, produced oil for many years.
>
> Several years later oil was found about two miles southeast of Riley. During the summer of 1907, the Terre Haute hotels were filled by oil men and the newspapers had headlines about the oil near Riley.

> Gradually the excitement died down for the wells did not amount to much then.[14]

"Grandpa said that recently there was an oil boom south and southeast of Terre Haute," related Jimmy. "He showed me some of the producing wells down on South Fruitridge."

"Yes, Jimmy, new processes have made it possible to pump oil from the earth in recent years that could not have been pumped during the middle years period," explained Miss White. "When we go to see the covered bridge we will see several oil wells pumping in that direction."

John's daddy worked for the Public Service Company. He told John the electric light was introduced in Terre Haute in 1885.[48] The first electric street lights used carbon sticks. He also said that telephones came into use during the early eighties. In 1883, the Central Union Telephone Company had 350 telephones in the city and connections with some of the smaller towns around Terre Haute.[14] John found the population of Terre Haute to be 26,042 in 1880. His daddy figured that averaged about one telephone for every 74 people.

John said, "Miss White, you said for us to notice how people's ideas changed as our town and county developed. I'm sure Mr. Oakey's idea about the interurban would have changed if he were living now, for he wrote in 1908:"

> Of later development than the telephones, but more important in their results, are interurban communication and rural free delivery.[14]

"Daddy explained to me," said John, "that the interurban was an electric car about the size of a passenger car on the railroads today that ran from Terre Haute to Indianapolis, to Clinton, to Paris, and to Sullivan. From Indianapolis you could go almost anyplace in Indiana and on into Kentucky, or Ohio, or Michigan, or Illinois. The interurban terminal [station] there was the largest and finest in the world.[9] Terre Haute's Traction Terminal, as it was called, was an elaborate building in its day. It was the Arcade Building, which is now the bus station, located on Wabash between 8th and 9th Streets. The interurbans came in at the back of the building. The cars ran on tracks with trolleys above them. These trolleys connected the interurban with the wire above which was charged with electricity from power stations along the tracks. People living along roads where interurbans ran could have electricity in their homes. Usually the cars ran alone but sometimes several were fastened together. There were passenger, coal, express, and freight cars. The electric lines became very popular for they charged less per mile than the trains and they ran many cars each day and night."

"The rural free delivery Mr. Oakey spoke of," continued John, "was mail delivery to people in the country. The business men were against it for they thought the farmers would stop coming to town to market if their mail was brought to them. However, the interurban and mail delivery brought the country

and town people closer together. Mr. Oakey wrote:"

> The interurban traction line shares with the telephone and rural free delivery the responsibility for the remarkable changes that have occurred in rural life during the last ten or fifteen years. [That would be the change in the nineties].[14]

"Your daddy and you have given us some valuable information," commented Miss White. "I might add that the interurban service lasted about forty years. The last run in Indiana was made in 1941.[9] The rails were taken up and much of the steel was used during World War II. The interurban stops were numbered and today a few roads go by their old name such as Stop 20 Road, Clinton line, or Stop 10 Road, Sullivan line. On our trip we will leave the Lafayette Road or Highway 41 at Stop 20 Road, Clinton line, to see Spring Creek."

"Bobby mentioned at the beginning of our study," began Miss White one day, "something about Terre Haute being famous as a sports center. Perhaps some of you boys have found out some interesting facts about sports."

Several hands went up and Timmy was called on for he had not taken part in any of the special reports and had not shown much interest in social studies.

"In Carolyn's book, The Wabash Valley Remembers 1787-1938," related Timmy, "I found an article that mentioned about every sport there is and the name of one or more well-known persons for each sport. The outstanding sports that were followed in the middle years period 1866-1916 were horseracing

and baseball. My report is on baseball."

> In the late eighteen eighties baseball was just becoming the popular American sport. Henry F. Schmidt, 'the father of baseball' in Terre Haute, A. C. Duddleston, Mordecai Brown, Ross Harriot, Billy Nelson and many others played an important part in developing baseball in the Middle West and making Terre Haute a capitol for baseball in those days. In 1889, Schmidt was named a vice-president of the Indiana-Illinois League and soon afterwards in the Three-I League which has continued through wars and hard times up to the present time. Some of the stars of those years were Bobby's Great Uncle Mordecai Brown, the three fingered flinger for the Chicago Cubs, Charles 'Gabby' Street, later manager of the St. Louis Browns, Cecil Ferguson, who pitched for South Bend in 1903, and later went with the Browns and Giants, and George Grant and Lefty Miller, who starred for Cleveland.[15]

"Timmy, you have given us a very good review of baseball in its beginning," commented Miss White. "I didn't realize that Terre Haute took up the great American sport so soon. I suppose you follow the game very closely on television."

"Yes I do, Miss White," replied Timmy, "but I think radio and television have hurt the game as far as people attending games are concerned. I'd rather be at a game than see it on T.V."

"It is more exciting to be there," agreed Miss White.

Freddie was called on next. He started out by saying, "Miss White, I'm certainly glad you told me to ask daddy if Fred Carter was his uncle. He is his uncle and daddy said that made him my great uncle. He can really tell you about horse racing. He still follows the races even if he is almost

87 years old."

"Freddie, your great uncle, Fred Carter, is one of the people we want to include on our tape recording project," remarked Miss White. "He remembers so much about the horses that made Terre Haute the racing capitol of the world."

"I wrote down some of the things Uncle Fred told me about the track and Axtell," said Jimmie as he unfolded his report. "I also got some of my report from Carolyn's book."[15]

> Horse racing in Terre Haute had its beginning almost with the founding of the town. The first permanent trotting track was built on the Corbin Farm in 1851. The heyday of racing came during the boom years of the 'gay Nineties'. W. R. McKeen gave fifty-four acres of ground, which laid between Fruitridge and Brown Avenues and Wabash and Locust, for the track. The old track was a half-mile track, but because the Terre Haute men wanted only the 'first class' meets which required a mile track it was necessary to fit the track in this small area. The track was a humped square on which Nancy Hanks, Axtell, Axworthy, General Watts and many other matchless horses made harness history. The track was opened in 1887, and was called the fastest track in the world. Axtell's Terre Haute record for 3-year-olds, 2:12 in 1889, stood for seventeen years. Today in the Terre Haute House lobby on the west wall south of the North Seventh Street entrance hangs an oil painting of Axtell and on the same wall north of the entrance hangs an oil painting of Nancy Hanks.

Freddie looked up from his paper and said, "Uncle Fred told me this true story. Mr. C. W. Williams, the owner of Axtell, came to Terre Haute from Iowa for one of the big races. During the evening meal at the Terre Haute House Mr. Ijams sat on one side of Mr. Williams and another man sat on the other side. Mr. Williams said to Mr. Ijams, 'This gentleman has just offered me $100,000.00 for Axtell.' Mr. Ijams re-

plied, 'I will give you $105,000.00 for him.' Mr. Williams sold Axtell to Mr. Ijams. Axtell was taken to Warren Park Farm, the home of Mr. Ijams, to become a sire [father] to many horses. It is claimed Axtell did more to further the perfection of trotters than any horse. His son, Axworthy, was born at Warren Park Farm and trained at the Terre Haute Track. He made a record for 3-year-olds of 2:12.5. I do not understand how to read the number, but Uncle Fred said I would when I had decimals later on. Axworthy was injured, but later became one of the greatest sires of trotting colts. In 1890 the value of the horses brought here for the races was estimated at $2,000,000. It would take a long time to tell you all the interesting facts Uncle Fred told me about horses and racing."

"I agree with you, Freddie," said Miss White, "for I spent almost two hours with him, listening to him tell, in such an interesting manner, of his experiences. Keep your notes, Freddie, and perhaps sometime during sharing time you can tell us more about Uncle Fred's experiences."

Richard stated, "Several of the boys read the article in The Wabash Valley Remembers[15] about Terre Haute being a famous sports center, but most of the dates given and sports mentioned would come in the later years period. We think Timmy and Freddie did a good job of choosing only baseball and horse racing for the middle years period."

"Your remarks are very complimentary to your classmates," said the teacher. "I too, think they did a splendid job of selecting from the article the two outstanding sports of that period."

Janet said she would like to ask Freddie what he meant by "gay nineties" for she had read that expression several times and wondered what it meant. Freddie said he did not know; he just wrote in his report what his Uncle Fred had said.

"The 'gay nineties' were also called the 'fabulous nineties'," [57] explained Miss White. "During the years from 1890 to 1900 a few people had become rich. We talked about the transition years when a gradual change from farming to industry took place. By 1900 there were so many big businesses that in most cases a few men would own just part of the business which was called shares or stock. These men would often own shares in several different businesses. They became very wealthy. The people who actually did the work in the businesses were usually not paid very well and were often very poor. This made two classes of people, the rich and the poor. The rich owners of businesses were usually called capitalists and the workers were called laborers. Leaders arose from the working class and organized unions. Eugene V. Debs who was born in Terre Haute in 1855 and lived until 1926, founded the American Railway Union in 1893, just a year before the famous

Pullman strike.[10] The strike meant that the people who worked at the plant where Pullman sleeping-cars were built refused to work until they had better working conditions. There had been too much spending in trying to make industry bigger in the eighties. The farmers were dissatisfied. Money was scarce not only in the United States, but all over the world. All of these and other causes brought about a condition of hard times called the Panic of 1893."[10]

"The American people liked to celebrate centennials. Does anyone remember what a centennial is?"

Timecia, who hadn't been sure several weeks before when the subject had been explained, again timidly answered, but in statement form this time instead of with a question, "A centennial is a period of a hundred years."

"Timecia is right," continued Miss White. "I read that between 1876, the one-hundredth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and 1889, the one-hundredth anniversary of the Constitution, the United States had formed the habit of celebrating centennials. It was only natural then to celebrate the four-hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America by Columbus.[10] What year would that have been?"

Mike had perked up his ears and before Miss White hardly had the question out of her mouth he shouted, "1892!"

"That is the date," said Miss White as she continued

explaining Janet's question. "The celebration was often called the Chicago World's Fair, but its official name was the 'World's Columbian Exposition'."

Miss White walked over to her card file on her desk and as she looked through the file she said, "I believe I have some notes on the Columbian Exposition that would help us understand the 'gay nineties' better. Yes, here they are on this card."

Miss White glanced now and then at the card as she read:

> The Fair was dedicated on Columbus Day, October 12, 1892, but it did not officially open until the following spring. In spite of the depression [hard times], twelve million visitors entered its gates, and it was a great financial success. [That means they made money from the Fair.] Exhibits from all over the world as well as America were there. Whole buildings and parts of buildings had exhibits on transportation, manufactures, machinery, electricity, mines and mining, agriculture, horticulture, floriculture [flowers] and the liberal arts [subjects in education]. There was a great Midway with ferris wheels and other amusements. There were 'congresses' which we would call committee meetings where science, literature and religion were discussed. America's greatest architects, sculptors, and painters helped to create the twenty-six million dollar Fair. Out of the Fair and the congresses Americans got a far better understanding of their country and its place in in the world than they had ever had before. They went home to imitate its architecture, to seek for beauty in the replanning of their towns and cities, and to dream dreams of a more abundant [more plentiful] life.[10]

The teacher slipped the card back into the file and said, "The Panic of 1893 lasted about four years. Then came the 'boom', a sudden increase in business and better times for all classes. Twice as much gold was produced in 1897 as

in 1890.[10] With good times came better homes with the new conveniences such as bath rooms, electric lights, telephones and new furniture; well dressed people; travel opportunities; amusements such as the sports of horse racing, baseball, bicycling, golf and tennis; and entertainment such as stage shows, operas, and vaudeville. Inventions and discoveries developed fast. Most of the people seemed to be gay. Our dictionary tells us 'fabulous' means too extraordinary to seem possible. That definition describes the decade of the 'gay and fabulous nineties'."

Janet raised her hand and said thoughtfully, "I'm beginning to see what was meant by the 'gay nineties'. Things changed fast just like Daddy says things have changed fast since World War II. Even I can remember when very few people had television. Now I don't know anyone who doesn't have television. New things make people happy and gay."

"You have some good ideas, Janet," replied Miss White. "However, your last statement is not always true. Happiness comes from within yourself and can not always come through things. The Bible teaches us, Proverbs 23:7, 'For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he'. Perhaps we should say 'new things help to make people happy and gay'."

"There is another concept or term you should know," continued Miss White, "in connection with this part of the middle years. Every hundred years is called a century. When

1899 became 1900, it was called the turn of the century. The name of the century is always the number following the year. For example, 1801 to 1900 is the nineteenth century and 1901 to 2000 is the twentieth century."

"I've seen 'Twentieth Century Fox' as the producer on lots of T. V. shows and I wondered what it meant," remarked Gloria. "I guess twentieth century means the nineteen hundreds."

"Your guess is right, Gloria," replied Miss White. "If you keep your eyes open you will see it on a lot of things. At the turn of the century a few automobiles were being seen. The first gasoline automobile in America had been built by Elwood Haynes of Kokomo.[9] He tried it out on July 4, 1894. In the 1903 Illustrated Commercial History of the State of Indiana[41] was this ad:"

> A light gasoline runabout for daily use. Overland $595.00 Standard Wheel Company--The rig you've been looking for.[41]

Miss White told the children that the Overland automobile was first manufactured in Terre Haute, in the old Hub and Spoke Factory which later became the Standard Wheel Works.[15] The factory stood where Chesty Foods, Thomson Symon Co., Packard Shirt, and Recipe Foods stand today. Before the day of the automobiles the Hub and Spoke factory, which made wheels for buggies and wagons, was one of Terre Haute's leading industries. She said that the first car appeared in Terre Haute

in 1900, and was owned by C. N. McConnell, who was one of the most envied and one of the proudest men in Terre Haute and who drew a crowd wherever he drove. Miss White showed the children a picture of her Grandfather Welsh sitting in his Reo which was the first car in Otter Creek Township. In 1903 some of his friends said, "Tom will be flying a flying machine next!" for Orville and Wilbur Wright had just made their successful flight at Kittyhawk, North Carolina, in their flying machine.[1]

"We will learn in our study of the next period, 1916-1966," continued Miss White, "that there was great development in all types of transportation, both ground and air, but it could not have developed so well or so fast, had it not been for the ones who pioneered the development in the middle period. Could anyone explain what we mean by 'pioneered' when the word is used this way?"

"I always thought pioneers were old fashioned people who wore buckskin clothes and were the first to go to a new country," remarked Janet, "but the other day I looked up the word for I came across it in a sentence that didn't make sense with that meaning. I found it meant a person who does something first and so prepares a way for others. I suppose that Haynes and the Wright brothers were pioneers of the automobile and airplane industries for they were the first to be successful in their invention of the automobile and airplane and in

that way prepared the way for others."

"Janet, you have done a good job of explaining another meaning of pioneer," said Miss White. "If this group is the first group in the Terre Haute schools to make a study of the development of Terre Haute and Vigo County, the first to plan a trip to see places and sites of historical significance [importance], and the first to go on such a trip, what would this group be doing?"

"We would be pioneering that kind of school excursion," said Mary, "for we would be the first to go on such a trip and we would have facts gathered together that would prepare other school children for a similar trip."

"When we started this study," exclaimed Richard, "I had no idea we would end up being pioneers!"

"We won't be pioneers unless we finish our job," laughed Miss White. "Let's try to get our study of this period finished in the next few days."

The next morning Cindy said, "Grandma Risher says she has another 'Odds and Ends' report almost ready."

The children clapped their hands joyfully and asked, "When is she coming?"

Miss White told Cindy that Friday would be a good day for her to come for there were only a few more short reports to be given by the boys and girls who had volunteered to take certain topics.

Tuesday afternoon Mike gave a report on population figures. The children had learned that population meant the number of people there were when the counting took place. The counting was called a census and was usually done every ten years.

Mike asked Miss White if he could come in a little early after lunch and write some figures on the board. She gave him permission. He said, "Daddy and I have been working on this report a long time. He helped me to learn how to read some of the big numbers we haven't had yet."

Mike wrote on the board the population figures:[56]

TERRE HAUTE

1850	1860	1870	1880	1890	1900	1910
4,051	8,594	16,103	26,042	30,217	36,673	58,157

VIGO COUNTY

15,289	22,517	33,594	45,658	50,195	62,035	97,910

After the children came in and the social studies class got underway Mike came to the board and used the pointer as he explained the figures. He pointed out that the figures showed that during each of the first three ten year periods the population of Terre Haute doubled. The population between 1870 and 1880 showed the greatest growth up to that time and the next decade showed the least growth. He noticed that the population growth picked up again during the "gay nineties". The new twentieth century brought a tremendous gain in population.

"We followed the census figures through to the present day," Mike stated. "We found that was the greatest growth that Terre Haute ever had. I will give that report in the next period, Later Years."

Mike's enthusiastic explanation of the population figures helped the children understand better how the town grew. He also carefully explained the figures for the population of Vigo County. The discussion of how transportation and new inventions helped the growth was very interesting to both the group and the teacher.

David's father belonged to the Junior Chamber of Commerce. He told David about two clubs similar to his club and the regular Chamber of Commerce. They were called the Young Business Men's Club and the Commercial Club. One of their main purposes was to bring new industries and businesses to Terre Haute and Vigo County. The Commercial Club was organized in 1899, and by 1908 had helped to bring fifty-five manufacturing concerns into the city, eight new railroad lines and six large coal companies.[14] David and his father read through the names of the new concerns mentioned and made a list of some that are still doing business today. The list included:

> Miller-Parrott Baking Company, Coca-Cola Bottling Company, National Drain Tile Company, Gartland Foundry Company, Springer Foundry Company, Braden Manufacturing Company, Vigo Ice and Cold Storage Company, Home Packing Company, Highland Iron and Steel Company, Terre Haute Malleable and Manufacturing Company,

Viquesney Printing Company, Columbian Enameling and Stamping Company, Valentine and Company, Buettner Shelburne Machine Company, and Temple Laundry.[14]

David's father told him that several other business firms were as old or older than the ones they had listed, but they had either changed their names and did not go by the name mentioned in Mr. Oakey's book or they were founded before the Commercial Club was organized.

Cindy found some interesting facts about the schools in a book entitled A Historical Sketch of Terre Haute, Indiana 1873.[42] She made a report from the facts:

> There are now seven magnificent brick buildings and one frame building belonging to the city. The High School has ample accommodations [plenty of room] in the State Normal School Building, ruled by the weight of the rod. In the school term of 1864-65 there were 16 teachers, 1868-69 there were 32 teachers and 1871-72 there were 54 teachers. In 1870-71 there were 3,400 children.[42]

Ray asked after Cindy finished her report, "What was the weight of the rod?"

"From the way Daddy explained it to me it was what you boys now call the 'board of education'," explained Cindy. "It was a paddle or stick which the teachers used to keep order in school."

Barbara had a report on Demas Deming which proved to be very interesting to the group for their school bore his name. Barbara read:

> Demas Deming was born April 15, 1841. His father was Demas Deming, Senior, one of the first settlers, who was also a banker and a large landowner in Terre Haute and Vigo County. Demas, Jr., became the president

of the First National Bank in 1868; at the time he was twenty-seven years old. He was called the 'boy banker'. Mr. Deming said Chauncey Rose helped him to be successful for he did his banking business with the First National Bank.

Because of his great friendship with Rose he was very interested in Rose Polytechnic. In 1926, he gave Rose Poly, in memory of his parents, the Demas and Sarah C. Deming Memorial Dormitory.

He built the Deming Hotel and helped to develop the Deming subdivisions and Deming Park. When he died on March 7, 1922, he had just completed the plans for the extension of Ohio Boulevard from 25th Street east one mile to Deming Park.

A newspaper article at the time of his death stated, 'His memory will be honored by the many individuals and institutions which have shared his generous benefactions, and his friends will cherish [keep] and hold in their hearts the regard for a stalwart, seasoned man'.[15]

"Barbara, that was a good report of the life of the man in whose honor our school was named," commented Miss White.

"What year was Deming School built?" asked the teacher.

"1906," came the answer from the children. They had had a part in its fiftieth anniversary in 1956.

When Barbara held up The Wabash Valley Remembers[15] opened to the page with the article entitled "Demas Deming" the children recognized the picture of Mr. Deming. It was one closely resembling the portrait his daughter, Mrs. Waterman, had loaned Deming School for the fiftieth anniversary.

Dennis asked, "Wouldn't Mr. Deming be called a philanthropist?"

"Yes, Dennis," answered Miss White, "he was another one of Terre Haute's philanthropists. I'm so glad you boys and girls are learning how to use some of our new words."

Randy read from his report on Crawford Fairbanks:

> Crawford Fairbanks was one of the several children of Henry and Emeline Crawford Fairbanks. Their parents were among the first settlers of Terre Haute and Vigo County.
>
> Since the beginning of settlement several people had been working hard to have a library. By 1903, the library had again outgrown its quarters which was located in an old church building at 119 North Eighth Street. Mr. Crawford Fairbanks came to the rescue and built one of the most beautiful and best equipped libraries in the Middle West in memory of his mother Mrs. Emeline Crawford Fairbanks.[15] It was completed in April, 1906, and is the library we know today on North Seventh Street.[36] Our bookmobile comes from the Fairbanks Library.
>
> Later Mr. Fairbanks endowed the Clara Fairbanks Home for Aged Women, located near the Union Hospital in memory of his wife Clara Collett Fairbanks. Her parents, Josephus and Josephine Collett, gave Collett Park to Terre Haute.
>
> Terre Haute honored the Fairbanks family by naming the park on Dresser Drive in which the Chauncey Rose Memorial Plaza stands, the Fairbanks Park. Terre Haute's Municipal Swimming Pool, which has been allowed to go to rack and ruin, also stands in this park and bears the name Fairbanks Pool.

"We are near the end of the middle period 1866-1916," announced Miss White. "I would like to give you some facts concerning the world at that time.[56] Austria declared war against Serbia, July 28, 1914, and other countries in Europe started declaring war against each other.[1] At first people here in our town and county were unconcerned for they were

busy building and developing. The newspapers and magazines told of the happenings in Europe and the ministers of the churches preached for or against the United States entering the war. There were no radios or televisions to keep people alerted to every move, so most people were not alarmed. However, the sinking on May 6, 1915, of the Lusitania, which carried some military supplies, and which caused the death of some 1,200 persons including 128 Americans, brought about a change in the minds of the American people toward what was later called World War I. About two years later the sinking of some more ships caused President Wilson to declare war on Germany on April 6, 1917. We will see how this war influenced the development of Terre Haute and Vigo County in the period of the Later Years 1916-1966."

The children could hardly wait until Friday. Grandma Risher was coming to bring her "Odds and Ends Report"! Cindy had whispered to her best girl friends that Grandma was wearing an old fashioned dress again, but not to tell anyone. Like all secrets told to several people the news got around and caused much discussion as to what decade in the middle period she would represent.

When Mrs. Risher appeared at the door the children clapped their hands courteously and showed by their beaming eyes and smiling faces they were eager to see her.

After the greetings Mrs. Risher turned about showing

the dress which she wore and said, "Cindy and Jimmy have told me how interested you have been in the 'gay Nineties' period so I wore the dress my mother wore when she attended the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. She didn't have several dresses to take on a trip like the women and girls have now. This hump on the back below the waist is caused by a little padded framework fastened under the skirt called a bustle. It was just as stylish in those days as the cancan petticoats the girls wear under their dresses and skirts are today. I couldn't get the dress fastened around the waist for my mother wore a tight fitting undergarment which made her have what they called a 'wasp waist'. It was also stylish to wear this kind of hat and carry a parosol to keep off the sun. Ladies in those days did not want to get a suntan."

After further discussion of the dress Mrs. Risher glanced at the file cards she held in her hand and brought to her attentive listeners some additional facts concerning the middle years:

> Some very elegant homes were built during this period. Many of the large two story frame and brick houses on South 5th, 6th, and Center are typical of the larger homes built soon after the Civil War. The smaller homes called cottage type which had one room in front with a side porch leading to two rooms across the middle and perhaps a single room at the back with a porch similar to the front porch, were built during the great population increase near the turn of the century. These houses were some times called 'cross houses' because of the arrangement of the rooms in the shape of a cross. There are hundreds of this type throughout the older parts of Terre Haute. Many have been remodeled and covered with various kinds of siding.

A good example of an early type brick farm house which was built in 1876, can be seen on the Byron Smith farm just south of Haythorne Avenue on Fruitridge.

Some of the people who lived during that period were Janet Scudder, a sculptress; Daniel Voorhees, a debator and orator who made speeches which influenced people's thinking on many subjects; Lyman Abbott, an outstanding preacher, author and magazine editor; Colonel Richard W. Thompson, whose Memorial stands on the courthouse lawn, the Secretary of the Navy under President Hayes, orator, writer and politician; Max Ehrmann, a poet who was especially known by his poem 'A Prayer' published in 1903; Claude G. Bowers, a writer, historian, and ambassador to Chile (died January, 1958); Chapman J. Root, who designed and patented the coca-cola bottle; Eugene V. Debs, labor leader and five times the Socialist Party candidate for president; and John Usher, Secretary of Interior for Lincoln.[54]

Mrs. Risher paused to remark, "There were many others who contributed to the growth and development of Terre Haute and Vigo County, but it would be impossible to name all of them. Every one who has lived in Terre Haute has helped it develop into a better place or a worse place because he or she was a part of the city. You could not have a city without people. It would just be a site.

Mrs. Risher continued her report:

Before 1882, Terre Haute had no hospital. Mr. and Mrs. Herman Hulman helped to establish, in 1883, a hospital which later grew to be the present St. Anthony's Hospital. What we now think of as being the old part was built in 1907.

Terre Haute was slow in organizing churches, but by the end of the middle years period practically all denominations of Protestants as well as the Catholics and Jews had built beautiful houses of worship. Blackford Condit, a writer of history, was one of the outstanding ministers of the city.

The Columbian Enameling and Stamping Mill probably got its name from the Columbian Exposition in Chicago for the name first appeared in the 1890's as the name of a plant in Harvey, Illinois, near Chicago. The plant burned in 1900, and the company chose Terre Haute for its new plant. It was built on the golf course of the old Terre Haute Country Club.[54]

The report by Mrs. Risher brought to a close the study of the Middle Years 1866-1916. The children asked Mrs. Risher many questions and were delighted with her "story-telling way" of answering.

"What I like about this kind of study," remarked Mike, "is that the names of streets, parks, buildings, and other places mean more to me since I've found out that they were named for real people who helped our town and county to develop. These names keep history alive! It's not dead, like I thought it was!"

Monday the children were eager to fill in the names of the places and sites they could visit on their trip. On their chart they filled in the following names:

PLACES AND SITES THAT CAN BE SEEN TODAY

Monuments
- Soldiers and Sailors--Courthouse Lawn 3rd and Wabash
- Colonel Richard W. Thompson--Courthouse Lawn
- Claude L. Herbert--5th and Wabash

Toll Gate site--Fruitridge and Wabash
Indiana State Teachers College--6th to 7th, Mulberry to Chestnut
Covered Bridge--County Road 1CE
Chauncey Rose
- Terre Haute House--7th and Wabash
- Rose Home for Aged Women--1016 N 6th
- Rose Polytechnic Institute--East National Road, Stop 9
- Former site of R.P.I., Gerstmeyer Tech--13th and Locust

Rose Dispensary--7th and Cherry (Northwest corner)
Chauncey Rose Home--25th and Wabash (former Orphans' Home)
Chauncey Rose Memorial Plaza--Fairbanks Park on Dresser Dr.

Paul Dresser
Home--East side of Second Street between Swan and Poplar
Dresser Drive--South from Wabash along river to Boat Club
Dresser Memorial--West end of Wabash River bridge

Terminal Arcade--(was former Interurban Station) 820 Wabash

Site of former Race Track--Brown Avenue to Fruitridge

Demas Deming
Deming Hotel--29 N 6th
Deming Park--South Fruitridge to Poplar
Deming Subdivisions--19th to 25th, Wabash to Poplar
Deming Woods--Fruitridge and Poplar (southeast corner)
Deming School--16th Street between 8th Avenue and Plum

St. Anthony's Hospital--1021 S 6th

Crawford Fairbanks
Fairbanks Park--Dresser Drive (Fairbanks Family)
Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library--222 N 7th
Clara Fairbanks Home for Aged Women--721 8th Avenue

Numerous Industries

Meyer Farm Home--Byron Smith present owner, Fruitridge south of Haythorne

LATER YEARS 1916-1966

It was the first of March. The exciting days of February were past. The Valentine Party had not been as thrilling as it had been in past years for the birthdays of Lincoln and Washington had seemed more important to the "history-minded" fourth graders. The days were getting longer. Spring was in the air! It would not be long until the day for the promised trip to see the sites and places of historical significance would be here.

"How much longer do we have to wait," asked impatient Jimmy one beautiful spring morning, "until we go on our trip?"

"Have we completed our study of the development of Terre Haute and Vigo County?" asked Miss White.

"No, Miss White," replied Jimmy reluctantly, but politely, "we have the later years period from 1916 to 1966. I guess I am getting too impatient for we need to finish the study and make plans before the trip would be worthwhile."

"That's right, Jimmy," agreed Miss White as she said to the boys and girls, "our story this afternoon for LISTENING TIME will connect the two periods. When school started last fall you were eager to go to Vincennes because others had gone there. The purpose for their trip to Vincennes was to visit some places and sites that were historically important to the development of the Northwest Territory into Indiana and several states. We will not spend as much time on the

Later Period as we did on the other two periods for one of our purposes in studying how Terre Haute and Vigo County developed was to plan a trip in order that we might visit places and sites that were of historical importance. That purpose is almost achieved. Our purpose in this period will be to tie together the history of the development of the past with present day development to see the continuous growth of Terre Haute from a western frontier river village to a typical mid-western town.

That afternoon the children gathered around their teacher for LISTENING TIME. In her story-telling voice she said:

> We planned to call this period the 'Later Years 1916-1966. A long time ago Jimmy reminded us that 1916 was just before the beginning of World War I. The war had been going on in Europe since 1914, but our country did not declare war until April 6, 1917. President Wilson knew a great deal about history and he understood about freedom and how people could govern themselves. He was the son of a Presbyterian minister and knew about the Christian way of living. Through his speeches and writings he attempted to lead the people in a crusade (a movement in favor of some new idea) not only to make the world 'safe for democracy' (that was the slogan during the war) but to make a world community in which justice, peace, and the teachings of the Bible might be passed on to future generations. The young men joined the armed forces, people bought war bonds and cut down on their use of meat, wheat, heat, gas and light, not that our country would conquer a foreign land, but that the ideals of self-government and freedom might come to our country and to the rest of the world. Patriotism became real because people made sacrifices for their country. Many men died for their country. However, when the war was over on November 11, 1918, and the danger was past the boys hurried home, business men rushed back to their businesses, the farmers to their crops and the politicians to their offices. The people forgot too soon what they fought for.[1,57]

There were several years of prosperity. The years 1920-1930 were called the 'roaring twenties'. The eighteenth amendment to the constitution was passed in 1919. It was a new law which said that after one year the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors in the United States would be unlawful. It was called the prohibition law. Terre Haute had always had many breweries and distilleries. The new law closed all of them. Thirty-five hundred men lost their jobs. Some people defied or went against the law and made intoxicating drinks. The ones who made, distributed and sold liquor were called bootleggers. This caused a lot of crime. The nineteenth amendment to the constitution came in 1920, giving women the right to vote. Times changed rapidly. In 1923, the Pennsylvania Railroad moved their heavy repair shops away from Terre Haute causing more people to lose their jobs. Mining employment, due to machinery, strikes, and use of oil and gas, decreased. In the early twenties there were 12,000 miners reported out of work or on part time work. By 1926, the mines only employed 5,555 men. Despite unemployment gradually creeping upon the whole country people lived beyond their incomes. It seemed that many wanted to outdo their neighbors. Installment buying took the country by storm, making new cars, new homes, new furniture, new clothes, new thrills in entertainment possible. The 'flapper' in her sack dress or chemise and the college boy in his racoon fur coat were seen on the streets, at the ball games, and other public places. Probably many of your parents were born during the 'roaring twenties' which now are compared to the 'gay Nineties'. I'm sure your grandparents could tell you about that period of time. You have all seen old movies on television that were made then.[57]

"It is time for recess," announced Miss White as she glanced at her watch. "We will continue our story Thursday. Donald, tomorrow afternoon you may give your report on the memorial to those who lost their lives in World War I, which you mentioned to me last week." (It would be Donald's first report.)

"The time certainly goes fast while you are telling us

stories about what happened after World War I. Grandpa was in that war," commented Mary Ruth as she passed Miss White on her way to the playground.

"Would you like to make a report, Mary Ruth?" asked Miss White.

"Yes, I would," answered Mary Ruth shyly, "but I wouldn't know what to report on. Everytime I read about something someone else has a report ready before I do."

"We will need a report on the Post Office before long," said Miss White. "Since your grandfather is a letter carrier, I am sure he would be glad to help you with a report. Suppose you ask him."

"Oh, that would be just wonderful!" exclaimed Mary Ruth as she hurried to the playground with a big smile on her face.

The next afternoon Donald had his report ready. He read:

> The Memorial Stadium, located on Wabash Avenue between Brown Avenue and 34th Street was built in 1925, in memory of those who lost their lives in World War I. It seats 16,000 people and cost $450,000. It is lighted so that night activities can take place. The Stadium is built on the site of the famous old race track. The west side is about where the old grandstand stood. There is a nine-hole golf course on the outside of the stadium.[52] Among baseball players who got their start in Terre Haute during this period were Art Nehf, New York Giants; Charlie Root, Chicago Cubs; Wes Ferrell, Washington; Joe Vosmik, Boston; and Wayne LeMaster, Philadelphia.[15]

"Terre Haute has always been a sports center for not

only horse racing and baseball," added Donald, "but basketball, football, tennis, golf, rifle shooting, boating, boxing, car racing, skeet shooting, wrestling, swimming, and archery. Terre Haute has produced many well known athletes and sportsmen."

"That was an excellent report, Donald," said Miss White. I'm sure if we had the time we could add many names to the list of 'champs'."

Thursday brought LISTENING TIME and the children quickly and quietly grouped themselves about their teacher to hear more of the story of the later years. They had found few references on this period for it was too new to have much recorded in books. Miss White started the story by saying:

> When we were talking about big businesses during the 'gay Nineties' we mentioned that many men owned shares or stock in the large companies. Many stocks are bought and sold on what is known as the stock market on Wall Street in New York. It is really a form of gambling. Men can become rich in a few minutes or lose all they have as quickly. In October of 1929, the stock market crashed and that marked the beginning of one of the worst depressions the United States has ever known. Europe had not recovered from World War I. The whole world was plunged into hard times. Banks and businesses failed. Many people lost their jobs, their homes, their cars, their furniture and all their possessions. Mr. Hoover was president and some people blamed him, but in our country no one man can control everything as in countries where there are dictators. When election time came Franklin Roosevelt was elected president. It was now the early thirties and times were still hard. He declared a 'bank holiday' immediately and through that act banks finally became a safe place to put money. Various ways were tried to bring about better times. In the summer of 1935, the Works Progress Administration, called the W.P.A., was formed. Its purpose, although never fully accomplished, was to provide the unemployed

with the kind of work they were best fitted to do. As a result unskilled laborers were employed on the construction of country roads, city streets, the improvement of parks and playgrounds, and similar work. I imagine you have seen the initials W.P.A. on many of the sidewalks in our town. They were made at that time. Carpenters, plasterers, masons, plumbers, and other skilled laborers were used to erect or repair schoolhouses, libraries, city halls, courthouses, and other public buildings. Even the artists, writers, actors, musicians, architects, and professional people were given projects to do. The book Indiana, A Guide to the Hoosier State,[26] which Larry borrowed from the library was written by the workers of the Writers' Program. Toward the end of the thirties times began to get better.[10,57]

"How fast the time does fly," said Miss White as she looked at her watch. "You were such good listeners I didn't realize it was time for recess. We will have to continue our story later. You may give your report tomorrow, Mary Ruth, if you are ready."

"Oh, I'll be ready," replied Mary Ruth enthusiastically.

The next afternoon Mary Ruth said, "Grandpa helped me with this report. We enjoyed writing about one of the most beautiful buildings in Terre Haute."

Terre Haute has had several locations for its post office but in 1884 a building was started on the site where the present post office stands at the southwest corner of 7th and Cherry. It was completed in 1887.

While Mr. Hoover was president he asked Congress to provide some money for some public buildings, which they did.[10] The Terre Haute post office was torn down and replaced by the one we have today. The new one was opened in 1935. It also has government offices as well as the post office department. For that reason it is often spoken of as the Federal Building.

Curtis Gilbert was the first postmaster. He served in 1817 and 1818. Our present postmaster, Frank L.

Miklozek became postmaster in 1950.[35]

"Your grandfather and you did a good job of reporting on the post office," said Miss White, "for it is rather difficult to find references on our newer buildings."

Mary reminded the children that the columns and the facade of the old post office were used in the construction of the Chauncey Rose Memorial Plaza in Fairbanks Park. She also said, "Daddy and I saw a marker on the end of one of the banisters. I copied what it said in my little notebook."

Mary turned in her notebook and read, "Erected by Federal Works Progress Administration 1936-1937."

"There was much improvement during W.P.A. days," remarked Miss White, "in many parts of our town and county. It was during that time that many of the old family cemeteries which had been neglected so long were put in better shape."

The children looked forward to hearing more about the later years. During the week-end some of them had asked their parents and grandparents questions about the period they were studying. There was quite a bit of discussion before the teacher began the story:

> Toward the end of the 1930's times were getting better in the United States. There was much building and the wages the men earned were used to buy things that helped all businesses. Battery radios which came into use during the twenties were being replaced by electric sets. The electric refrigerator was being manufactured for homes along with many other smaller electrical appliances. People who lost their homes and possessions during the depression were replacing what they had lost.

However, news on the radio and in the papers told of war in Europe again. On September 5, 1939, England and France declared war on Germany. The war spread rapidly the next year. Our country tried to stay out of war, but on December 7, 1941, the Japanese attacked our American naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. Soon war which was later called World War II was raging all over the world. The United States fought hard to win battles in the air and on the sea. Perhaps most of your fathers were in the armed services. Even some of the women and girls were in the armed services. The ones who stayed at home worked in war plants to provide supplies or did other things to help win the war. The victory came in Europe on May 8, 1945. It was called V-E Day. Early in August of that year, the climax (the highest point) was reached with the dropping of an atomic bomb on Hiroshima. Shortly afterwards, a similar bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. These bombs not only ended the war with Japan but made people everywhere realize how disastrous another World War would be.

For most Americans the chief hope of holding the world together lays in the United Nations which came with the close of World War II.

After the war men and women turned to peacetime jobs. Work was plentiful for the world needed so many things that had not been made or built during the war, like automobiles, clothing, appliances, foods, houses, schools, churches, and highways. During the 1940's many children were born.[10,59]

Miss White smiled and said as she finished the story for that day, "All the children who were born before 1950, please stand."

All the children stood. They were happy for they had been included in the story.

"Let's sing our country's song, 'The Star Spangled Banner' and give the pledge to our flag," suggested Richard, "while we are standing."

"That's a good suggestion, Richard," replied Miss White.

The children had never sung their country's song with more reverence and respect than they did that day.

During the past week-end Carolyn had visited the Swope Art Gallery. She had talked to the person in charge and from the notes she made from the information she received she made this report:

> Sheldon Swope was a large property owner and a leading citizen in Terre Haute at the turn of the century. In 1902 he built the Swope Block Building at the northwest corner of 7th and Ohio. It was said to be one of the largest and finest office buildings in the city and the first modern building of its kind in Terre Haute.[14]
>
> Mr. Swope left money for an art gallery. The official opening of the Swope Art Gallery, located upstairs in the Swope Block Building, was March 22, 1942. There are many exhibits there. Some exhibits are there all the time and some only at certain times. The curator said that children either in groups or by themselves were welcome to visit the gallery.[57]

"The day I went," remarked Carolyn, "there was an exhibit of dolls from foreign countries. I also saw some Indian artifacts in a case and some beautiful paintings on the wall."

"Thank you so much for your information about the Swope Art Gallery, Carolyn," said Miss White. "I'm so glad you did that reporting 'on your own'. You would make a good news reporter for they hunt news beyond their regular assignments."

The children were especially eager for LISTENING TIME! The story would be about the 1950's.

"Well, boys and girls," said Miss White as the children took their places about her, "the story today will bring us right up to date. You have heard part of the story but we

need to retell it so we can see how the pieces fit together."

On November 11, 1951, the Indianapolis Star Magazine's feature (leading) story was entitled 'Terre Haute, Indiana'. Under the title were these words, 'A new spirit of co-operation and hope brightens its future'. I will try to tell you what they wrote.

Early in the century Terre Haute was a brewing and distilling center, a railroad town and Indiana's coal field capital. There was also rich farming and many different kinds of industry.

These many kinds of occupations should have been the city's strength, but instead it proved to be a weak foundation. Prohibition closed the breweries and distilleries in 1920, the Pennsylvania moved its heavy repair shops in 1923, and mining employment fell off rapidly. In 1935, a violent factory strike spread a general tie-up which closed every business in the city. Terre Haute was frightened. National Guards moved in and set up military dictatorship. It was a time of despair; the dream of a better Terre Haute was shattered.

The article went on to say 'After that Terre Haute sat hunched on the banks of the Wabash, singing the Wabash Blues, overcome by an inferiority complex (feeling it wasn't as good as others) and finding itself its own worst enemy'.[28]

Later Fortune Magazine made a survey of Terre Haute and printed some harsh things about Terre Haute's labor trouble. Terre Hauteans did not like what they printed, but they knew that at least part of it was true. There is an old saying 'It's the truth that hurts'. Fortune Magazine's article did tell some good things about Terre Haute. They said that she was already used to hard times and rode the depression better than most of her neighboring cities.[27]

Some good did come from the article, however. The Junior Chamber of Commerce lead the Greater Terre Haute Movement in 1938, and helped to bring about better labor cooperation. The war during the forties kept things from developing then, but the 1950's have brought many new industries and better times to Terre Haute.

Perhaps one of the most important developments of the fifties has been television.[57]

"David's father belongs to the Junior Chamber of Commerce," stated Miss White, as she finished telling the story, "and he has helped David make a list of the new industries and businesses that have come to Terre Haute since World War II. David will bring that report soon. Mike has his population report too, to give."

"Since you have told us about what has happened in the Later Years Period, I have a better understanding of the figures in my population report," remarked Mike.

"I'm sure you have, Mike," replied Miss White. "That is the reason I wanted you children to know the whole story of Terre Haute so that you might be able to see its development from the beginning to the present. Could you give your report tomorrow?"

"Yes, I can, Miss White," replied Mike. "If I may, I'll come in early again and write the figures on the board."

"That is a fine way to present your report, Mike," answered Miss White. "You may come in early."

Mike came in from the playground about ten minutes before it was time for the bell to ring and wrote the following population figures on the chalkboard:

TERRE HAUTE

1920	1930	1940	1950	1958
66,083	62,543	62,693	64,214	72,892

VIGO COUNTY

100,212	98,861	99,709	105,160

"I wondered why Terre Haute lost 3,540 people between 1920 and 1930," commented Mike, "until Miss White told us what happened during the twenties. I'm surprised that the figure did not go lower for there were 3,500 out of work due to the prohibition law alone. After the Pennsylvania Railroad Shops moved and the mining business slumped more people were out of work. The figures show Terre Haute held her own during the depression years of the thirties. I was happy to find Terre Haute had gained a few over 1,500 by 1950. Daddy said the reason for a census in 1958 was because Terre Haute annexed Harrison Township to the city. The gain came from annexation. Annexation means that Terre Haute joined or added the land and people of Harrison Township to the city. That is why Rankin, Thornton, Maple Avenue, Sugar Grove, Weldele, Ft. Harrison, and Highland are city schools now instead of township schools."

"Mike, your report gave us a lot of good information," said Miss White. "I'm sure your last remark will help to clear up the confusion that has come with the change in the school system."

In a day or so David brought his report on "New Industry".

"Mike's population report showed that Terre Haute has not grown much in population in the last fifty years," stated David. "However, Daddy and I agree with the Junior Chamber

of Commerce that Terre Haute will show a big gain by the regular census which will be taken in 1960. Here is a list of new industry since 1950:[56]

March, 1952--Visking Corporation
July, 1952--Expansion of Commercial Solvents
June, 1953--Columbia Records
October, 1953--Public Service Company Expansion
December, 1953--Borden's Expansion
January, 1954--Charles Pfizer Company
January, 1954--Allis Chalmers

We did not find dates for some other industries which we know have been built or expanded in the last two or three years. These industries are Tumpane, Bemis Brothers Bag Company, Wabash River Generating Plant, W. T. H. I. Television Station, and American Brass which is now being built. Indiana State Teachers College has built many new buildings and has added much land to its campus in the fifties."

"I want to be another one to agree with the Junior Chamber of Commerce that the 1960 census will show a growing Terre Haute," commented Miss White. "David, I'm certain your report gives us proof that Terre Haute is going forward again. Your daddy and you did an excellent job of finding facts that are hard to find."

"Other new developments since World War II," added Miss White, "are further expansion of Stran Steel, Hulman Field unit of the Indiana Air National Guard, Hulman Meadows subdivision and shopping center, Woodridge subdivision, several beautiful motels, and Meadows, Fuqua, and Schulte schools."

On Friday Mrs. Risher came to give her "Odds and Ends" report. The children were surprised to see her for they did not realize they were so near the end of the "Later Years" period. This time she was wearing one of the new style sack dresses under her coat. It was a little shorter than they were used to seeing and Grandma Risher seemed a little embarrassed.

After the greetings Grandma said, "There are two old sayings, 'History repeats itself' and 'There is nothing new under the sun'. I hesitated about wearing this dress for it is so short, but I wanted you to see how true these old sayings are. As you can see this dress is similar to the latest styles today. The dresses of today are a repeat of the late 1920 styles. The new styles are not new at all. This was my wedding dress. The boys need not laugh for men are wearing the straw hats like the men wore in the twenties."

Mrs. Risher took her report from her purse and glanced at it occasionally as she said in her "story-telling voice:"

From Jimmy's and Cindy's reports to me you have covered this period very well.

The Historical Museum of the Wabash Valley was dedicated on May 11, 1958. There were over 1200 visitors that day. The purpose of the open house was for the public to see the new home of the Vigo County Historical Society. It is located at 1411 South Sixth Street. Anton Hulman, Jr., very generously provided part of the money for the purchase of the old mansion.

Mr. Hulman lives just across Washington Street from the Museum. Tony, as most people call him, perhaps is

Terre Haute's most outstanding philanthropist. His family established the Hulman Company in 1850. The company sells food products and other items to grocery stores and other businesses. That kind of a business is called wholesaling. Tony Hulman owns many kinds of businesses the most famous of which is the '500 Speedway' at Indianapolis. He has given many gifts to Terre Haute. He gave land and money for Hulman Airport, gave generously to the improvement of St. Anthony's Hospital, and established a trust fund to build a community center within ten years from the time of the establishment of the fund.

William S. Rea left money for the building and grounds of the William S. Rea Municipal Golf Course located on South Seventh Street. He also provided funds in his will for sewer construction.

Another present day philanthropist is Ben Blumberg. An interesting fact about Mr. Blumberg is that when he was past seventy he graduated from the University of Miami in Miami, Florida, and received a Bachelors Degree in Botany. His plans are to teach there while working on his Masters Degree. He is largely responsible for the completion of the Y.M.C.A. located at 6th and Walnut. Many other Terre Haute families have contributed to the Y.M.C.A. too. Mr. Blumberg is a heavy contributor to the Vigo County Fair Grounds. Mrs. Blumberg is an artist and has had some children's books published.

The president of the world's largest corporation, the American Telephone and Telegraph Company is a Terre Haute man, Mr. Leroy A. Wilson. Their most important Indiana office is here.

There are four mainline railroads in Terre Haute. They are the New York Central, the Pennsylvania, the Chicago and Eastern Illinois, and the Milwaukee and St. Paul.

The Federal Prison was built south of Terre Haute in 1940. It is said to be the 'unwilling home' of 1100 men.

The 1954 City Directory states that there were when it was made up, 32,174 telephones, 99 churches and 129 manufacturing places in Terre Haute. The chief industries were manufacturing, agriculture, and mining.

According to a 1951 magazine article Vigo County had been Indiana's largest producer of coal for 13 out of the past 15 years. Ten mining companies were headquartered here at that time.

Terre Haute is an important hub in the middle western electrical power network. The two big power plants are Dresser Power Plant and the Wabash River Generating Plant.

In 1917, the Fire Department stopped using horses to pull their equipment. The bell from Number One Fire House built in 1857 at 3rd and Lafayette is on Sacred Heart Church. Number Two bell is on Westminister Presbyterian Church and Number Three is on the Fourth Avenue Methodist Church. Vigo Engine No. 2, nicknamed 'Old Vigo' is in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.

There were colored citizens in Terre Haute as early as 1816. The 1820 census showed 11, 1830 census showed nearly 100 and the 1930 census showed 3,461. Terre Haute has had many colored teachers, business men, postal employees, firemen, policemen, lawyers, doctors, preachers, and farmers. The colored people of Terre Haute have always been ready and willing to cooperate in any way for a better Terre Haute and Vigo County. Allen Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in June, 1839.

The children applauded politely as Grandma Risher finished her "Odds and Ends" report. They had learned a number of new facts. They informed her that they were just about ready to plan their tour to see the sites and places of historical importance.

The boys and girls said they could hardly wait until Monday for they would finish their chart by filling in the places and sites they had studied about in the "Later Years" report. They filled in the following information to complete their chart:

PLACES AND SITES THAT CAN BE SEEN TODAY

Memorial Stadium--Between Brown and 34th on Wabash
Post Office--7th and Cherry
Swope Art Gallery--25 South 7th
Numerous New Industries
Historical Museum of the Wabash Valley--1411 South 6th
Hulman Company--9th and Wabash
Federal Prison--R. R. 1

PART FOUR

School Excursion

AN EXCURSION TO VISIT HISTORICAL SITES AND PLACES IN TERRE HAUTE AND VIGO COUNTY

At last it was near the GREAT DAY. The day when the children were to see the sites and places which they had been studying about for several months. They had spent the last few days poring over county and city maps planning the best route to see the most places. They had realized that in one day they could not begin to see all the places they had learned about.

They had been told by a bus office clerk whom they had telephoned for information that they would need to know how many were going, what day they were going, what time they were expecting to leave and return, and the exact route they were expecting to follow. The clerk also had wanted to know what stops they were expecting to make. After the children had decided upon the necessary information Spike's father had taken Spike and Jimmy to several bus companies to see which company would give them the best price for the excursion. They had found that all of the companies charged practically the same. Since this would be their first experience in this kind of a trip they had had no idea of how long it would take. They had wanted to have enough time to make the excursion worthwhile so they had chosen the bus company which agreed to have no exact returning time providing it would not be later than 5:30 P.M. They had decided that that time would give

everyone time to be home for their evening meal.

The children had asked Miss Blake and Grandma Risher to go along.

Jimmy had said, "We found that we could have a bus seating forty people. There are 32 children, Miss White, Mrs. Risher, and Miss Blake, which would make 35. Subtracting thirty-five seats from forty seats leaves five seats which could be filled by some of our parents. I suggest that we invite five parents to go with us to share with Miss White the responsibility of the group."

"That is a wonderful suggestion, Jimmy," replied Miss White, "for I would like to be free of a great deal of responsibility so that I might tell you interesting stories 'on the spot'."

The children had been delighted when they found that David's father and Mary Ruth's grandfather would go along. The mothers of Janet, Ronnie, and Larry had planned to go also.

During the time the children had been studying the development of their town and county they had in various ways earned money to help pay for the trip. The biggest project had been their candy sale which had brought in twenty dollars. They had set up a savings bank in which each child had deposited (put in) money as he or she earned it. Mike had been elected the keeper of the accounts and he had encouraged

children to save. Most of the children had saved more money than they had needed for their trip and would have money to withdraw at the close of school.

One day while studying well balanced lunches in health class the boys and girls had decided what would be the best kind of lunch to take on their excursion. They had agreed to take a well balanced sack lunch for it could easily be packed into large cartons and stored in the baggage compartment of the bus. Arrangements had been made to have milk to drink and ice cream for desert.

The committee on "ways and means" had added the cost of the bus, the milk, and the ice cream together and had found the total cost of the trip. From this total they had subtracted the twenty dollars they had earned from the candy sale. Then they had divided the amount left by forty, the number of people going. The children had found that each child would need to draw from his or her savings fifty cents. It had been a lot of fun figuring the cost for each. It had made the children realize that arithmetic had many uses besides working problems from a book or the chalkboard.

From past experiences the children had known that it was necessary to have their parents sign consent forms in order that they might have permission to go on an excursion. Every consent form had come back signed promptly.

One glorious spring Thursday morning in April the

GREAT DAY came. The children had chosen Thursday so that Friday, while the trip was fresh in their minds, they could talk about their experience.

The big yellow bus was standing at the curb in front of Deming School. The children excitedly left their room after checking to see that everyone was there and everyone had their lunches. Partners had been selected and certain groups had been assigned to the grown ups going along. The children scampered about much like the spring lambs they saw in the fields a few hours later. Soon they were seated and the big bus started on that memorable, never-to-be forgotten, day.

The children carried in their pockets a short pencil and the little booklet which they had made listing the points of interest. Miss Julia, the office secretary, had become so interested in their trip she had memeographed the information, leaving spaces so they might write in some notes.

The bus turned left on Plum Street from Sixteenth Street and the children could see the Columbian Enameling and Stamping Mill. After crossing the railroad tracks on Plum they saw the Packard Shirt Company, Chesty Foods, and Recipe Foods standing where once stood the old Standard Wheel Works, which had manufactured the Overland car.

When the signal turned green the bus driver turned left again and drove down Thirteenth Street, passing Merchants

Freight to the left where once stood the old St. Ann's Orphans Home which Chauncey Rose gave to the orphans. A few blocks south at 13th and Locust the children viewed the old buildings of Gerstmeyer Technical High School which were in the beginning Rose Polytechnic Institute also founded and endowed by Chauncey Rose. Another left turn was made when the light changed to green and the driver went down Locust Street and turned right on North Fourteenth. At 14th and Wabash Steeg Park was seen. It was named for Henry C. Steeg who had been mayor at the turn of the century.[14] Part of the ground was given by the Beach and Gilbert families.[15] The bus moved on down 14th to Poplar and turned right. On the south side of Poplar at 1339, well back from the street, could be seen the old Preston House. The driver stopped for a few minutes while Miss White reviewed for the people on the bus some of the most interesting facts about the Preston House.

The bus went on west on Poplar. Miss White pointed out how many lots had been made from the large tract of land which Mr. Rose owned which had for its south boundary Poplar Street from 13th to 7th Streets. At Second and Poplar the driver turned left and parked for a few moments on the west side of the street between Poplar and Swan.

Miss White stated, "As you know there is much argument as to where Paul Dresser was born, but it is now thought that the two story brick house on the east side of Harding Avenue

between Poplar and Swan is the location."

The driver pulled away from the curb and turned left on Swan. He then turned right onto Third Street.

Miss White said, "Notice that Third Street is very wide. In the early days of Terre Haute it was the main street. On the east side of the street at 3rd and Farrington where we will turn is Crawford School. It was one of the schools built during the middle years. See the date on it?"

"Its date is 1870," answered Ronnie. "It also says 'City School Number 3!"

The bus turned to the right on Farrington Street and headed west. After it crossed Harding Avenue and First Street which seemed unusual to the children for it had a railroad track running down the middle of it, it came to Dresser Drive. The children spied the old broken down swimming pool which had been neglected and lamented (cried out in sorrow) that the city officials had allowed the pool to go to ruin. The driver parked the bus along the Drive and the children climbed from the bus and ran up to the Chauncey Rose Memorial Plaza. They had a good look at the Wabash River from the Plaza. They also were disturbed when they saw that the beautiful Memorial had been allowed to crumble and weeds had grown between the cracks in the floors and walkways. They also saw broken bottles and other litter thrown about.

"Next month when Terre Haute has 'Clean-up, Fix-up,

Paint-up Week', why can't we come down here and clean up this mess?" asked Richard very indignantly. (Angry at something very unfair.)

"That is a wonderful suggestion, Richard," answered Miss White, "but this Park is too far from our school. We might send the suggestion to Crawford School for it is in their district. I agree with you that something should be done."

It was time to go on. The children boarded the bus and the driver followed Dresser Drive to Ohio Street where he turned to the right. Between Harding Avenue and 3rd Street the bus stopped in front of the Old State Bank Building. The custodian (janitor) was waiting to take the children inside and show them the relics of the various wars in which Terre Haute and Vigo County men had fought. When they came out of the building the City Hall building was pointed out to them as the rather new building on the west side of Harding Avenue. They were allowed to cross the street at the intersection of 3rd and Ohio and walk up to 3rd and Wabash to see the Soldiers and Sailors Monument and the Memorial to Colonel Richard W. Thompson. They noticed the courthouse in the center of the block and they talked about "Old Vigo" the bell which was purchased with the money Colonel Francis Vigo had left through his will. They remembered the government did not repay the money to his heirs until forty years after his death, but the

heirs did see to it that the bell was purchased as he had requested.

By this time the children were getting a little weary from their walk and were glad to board the bus again. The driver took them up 3rd Street to Sycamore and turned to the left and drove to the parking lot of the American Can Company which was the site of the Old Indian Apple Orchard or Burying Ground. They did not take time to get out but sat on the bus while Grandma Risher reminded them of the legend about Lena and Nemo.

From the parking lot the bus carried them back to 3rd Street. At the southwest corner of 3rd and Locust, only a few blocks north of Sycamore, they saw the old Sibleytown School built in 1851. It had been brick, but years later it had been plastered with stucco. It was typical of the thousands of little red brick schoolhouses throughout the middle west during the middle years.

The driver drove up to the entrance of Woodlawn Cemetery on North Third Street. It was shown to the children that the cemetery was bounded by Second Avenue on the south, Third Street on the east, Eighth Avenue on the north and First Street on the west. The driver drove the bus around the circle so that they might see the monument that was a memorial to the confederate soldiers who died in Terre Haute while they were held as prisoners of war during the Civil War. He parked long

enough for them to see the marker which had recently been dedicated by the D.A.R. in memory of John Hamilton, a Revolutionary soldier.

Richard spied the name Oakey and asked, "Oh, Miss White, is that where Mr. C. C. Oakey who wrote Greater Terre Haute and Vigo County is buried?"

"Yes, I think he is buried there," answered Miss White. "However, that tall monument is probably in memory of several members of the Oakey family. You may go and see if you find his name there."

Richard soon returned and said that C. C. Oakey's name was on one side of the tall monument and there were other names on the other sides.

The children returned to the bus and the driver drove out of the cemetery and up North Third Street to Eighth Avenue. He crossed over to North Seventh Street. Several children exclaimed as they saw Union Hospital on the northwest corner, "That's where I was born!" or "So was I born there!"

When the bus came to Seventh and Maple Mary Ruth's grandfather told the children that from that corner north across from beautiful Collett Park was the site of old Camp Vigo and the old Fairgrounds.

A few blocks north and on the west side of the street the children saw the signboard which showed that the new "Ouabache Acres" subdivision was located there.

At Fort Harrison Road the driver turned to the west and followed the road into the spacious grounds of the Elks Fort Harrison Country Club. The children scrambled hastily from the bus and ran to the big stone which Spike had told them about. They eagerly read the inscription about the battle fought there in 1812. Quite a few minutes were spent at the site of old Fort Harrison. The manager of the club took the children inside the building and showed them some logs in a wall which were supposed to be some of the original logs from the fort. Outside again, David's father showed them the old canal bed and the tow path along the edge of it. As the children sat on the ground to rest Miss White retold some of the stories connected with the fort. The boys and girls gazed at the Wabash River and were reluctant to leave, but they knew that they could not complete their trip unless they hurried on.

From Fort Harrison they drove on Fort Harrison Road to North Thirteenth Street Road and turned north. They passed Allis-Chalmers Company and the American Brass Company which was still under construction. Spike had obtained permission from Mr. Curvey to see the Durkee Ferry Road.

Mr. Cheek, the bus driver, stopped the bus long enough for the children to have the story of Drummer Davis retold by Spike. "Next summer," said Spike as he finished telling the story, "Jimmy is coming up to our cabin and we are going

to ride our bikes down to the Wabash River where the old ferry used to cross."

The group then returned to where the pavement ended on North Thirteenth Street Road and took county road 24W to the Lafayette Road which is now called U. S. 41. Along road 24W they saw the control tower of W. T. H. I. Radio Station on the south side of the road and the old Denny Cemetery on the north side of the road. The children saw the date 1812 on the gate and wanted to stop but Miss White told them they could not go in without permission.

"It is not much farther to the Wood Cemetery into which we will go," promised Miss White. "It is typical of the old family cemeteries. We would spend several days just looking at cemeteries if we stopped at all of them for there were one hundred thirteen known cemeteries in Vigo County in 1938 when the Wabash Valley Remembers book was published."

On the Lafayette Road which partly followed the old road from Vincennes to Lafayette the bus drove north to one of the old interurban stops, Stop Twenty Road. The bus took Stop 20 Road which is now called road 41E from there one mile, turned left on 3N one-half mile, and right on 49E 4/10 mile to a marked post. The farmland over which these roads were made is called Spring Creek Prairie. At the post the bus turned into a lane which ran north through a field. The lane ended in a woods where Miss White had a cabin and an outdoor

oven with a picnic table.

"Boys and girls," explained Miss White, "from what Mr. Thomas wrote in his travel book during the summer of 1816, we feel quite sure he must have visited this spot and found here the camp site of the Indians. After we get off the bus I will lead the way to the spot where my father's grandmother pointed out to him the old Indian Pottery Grounds. Since we are quite a distance from any farm homes you may do all the yelling and running you want to as long as you do not get into Spring Creek or wander off into the woods. While we are here all of you must use the rest room for there will not be any rest rooms available until noon."

If there had been anyone within a half a mile they would have thought the Indians had returned. Such war whoops and blood curdling yells probably had not echoed in the woods for over a hundred years. The children truly acted like wild Indians.

The "little Indians" enjoyed the rough path through the blackberry briars and the dense woods to the Pottery Grounds. They wanted to dig into the hard earth to see if they could find some Indian artifacts. However, Miss White reminded them the time was passing quickly and they must be on their way.

"I wish we could eat our lunch here on your picnic table," said Timmy. "I'm so hungry I could eat a bear!"

"Timmy, I wish we could eat here too," replied Miss White, "but we have made arrangements to eat somewhere else. Perhaps some day when we are not on a trip to see a lot of places we can have a 'cook out' here. The Boy Scouts often camp overnight over by the ford of Spring Creek."

"Miss White," commented Richard, "when you said we would cross Spring Creek at the ford, I was looking for a Ford car. Then when I saw it was a shallow place where a wagon or car could go through the water I remembered you explained about how the pioneers had to find shallow places in rivers and creeks so that they could cross through the water for there were no bridges then. Those places were called fords. The travelers would say they forded a stream or river."

"I'm glad your memory is so good, Richard," remarked Miss White. "All aboard! Calling all Indians! We're going back to civilization."

At first the children were reluctant to leave the woods, but the prospect of seeing other places brought them scampering back to the bus. Mr. Cheek drove the bus back through the field to road 49E. At the intersection of road 3N he turned to the right and drove to the Spring Creek bridge where he parked the bus. It was necessary to walk down a lane to the old Wood Cemetery located on the south bank of the creek. Miss White helped the children recognize the various kinds of grave markers from the very early ones down to one that had

been placed just that spring.

The driver turned the bus around and followed 3N to 21E which was about two miles or more. There they turned right and after crossing the railroad they turned right into a lane which led up to the old Ostrander place. Mr. Joe Wagner welcomed the group. He explained how the old log house had been remodeled. He said it was a typical house of the period before the railroads.

Again it was time to move on. Mr. Cheek drove back to 3N and followed it to the Rosedale Road. Just a short distance south they crossed Otter Creek and parked near the foundations of the old Markle Mill. The children were delighted with the beauty of the water running over the old mill dam. Miss White retold some of the stories of her early childhood concerning her visits to the mill with her grandfather Welsh and her experiences at the Markle home. The group walked over to the old Markle home which had been built by Fred Markle in 1848.[51] Miss White had called Mr. Tom Larrison on the telephone and he had told her he hoped some day to have the old house so he could show it to school children, but right then, Mrs. Larrison was ill and they could not have visitors. Mr. Larrison said they might come into the yard and look around. In a short time the "little Indians" changed from wild savages to courteous boys and girls who quietly walked about the grounds of the old landmark.

Time to return to the bus seemed to come too quickly. However, the children came promptly and they settled down quietly for they were becoming very hungry and a little tired.

Miss White announced, "This will be our last stop before we eat our lunch."

Before she could continue the shouting was so great she thought the Indians had returned. However, it didn't last long. "From here we will go on Park Avenue to Fruitridge where we will turn to the left," she continued. "This little town has been called Edwards and Ellsworth, but right now it is North Terre Haute. As we travel south on Fruitridge we will see the Markle Cemetery on the right side. A little farther south on the left side we will see the old Meyer farm house which Mrs. Risher told us was now owned by Mr. Byron Smith. It was built in 1876, about ten years after the Civil War and is typical of the fine farm homes that were built then.[33] Still farther south you will see where Ft. Harrison Road makes a 'T' into Fruitridge. It used to continue across Fruitridge but During World War II an Ordnance Depot was built along Fruitridge for several blocks. The Tumpane Company now uses the sprawling warehouses. If you look down Ft. Harrison to the west you will see Visking Company. Across from the entrance gates of Tumpane you will see Columbia Records. The next building on the same side of Fruitridge is Bemis Brothers Bag Company. All of these industries have been started since

you were born."

The bus traveled over the route the teacher had told the children about. There was much talking among the children for practically all of them either had parents, relatives, or friends working in the various industries.

A typical Terre Haute situation occurred just as the bus approached the Pennsylvania railroad tracks. They were "railroaded" almost fifteen minutes. The children were quite familiar with the term "railroaded". The bus was in the line of traffic about two blocks from the tracks. Miss White took advantage of the situation by giving the children more information on what they would see next.

"That large building across the tracks," explained Miss White is the Quaker Maid. They process and can food for the A. and P. stores all over the United States. They also launder the white aprons and uniforms the employees wear in hundreds of stores. When we come to the signal light we will be at Wabash Avenue and Fruitridge. I'm sure you remember Johnny's Aunt Blanche told him that there used to be a toll-gate located near there. We will turn left and go part of the way up the bluff to Kean Lane to see the site of the old Kean Coverlet Shop. Just a short distance down that road we will make a right turn. Does anyone know where we will be?"

Several voices shouted, "Deming Park!"

"That's right and that's where we will stop to eat!",

exclaimed Miss White.

The fifteen minutes it took the trains to pass and switch seemed like the longest time the group had spent on the entire trip. At last the crossing was cleared and the watchman signaled for the traffic to move. The driver followed the route Miss White had told the children about. In Deming Park he parked the bus in front of the Ouabache shelter. The children were told that lunch would be ready in twenty minutes. They hurried to the rest rooms and then on to the playground which was near by.

The men opened the large containers in which the cartons of milk and "Dixie" cups of ice cream were packed. The ladies arranged the tables. It only took one blow on Miss White's whistle to bring the boys and girls fairly flying to the shelter. They quickly found their own sack of lunch for they had been placed in certain order in large cartons before they started on the trip. The children and adults seated themselves around the tables. They reverently bowed their heads while Grandma Risher said the blessing. It was amazing how much food was eaten. The teacher cautioned the children not to play too hard right after such a large meal. They had twenty minutes to go again to the rest room and get ready for their afternoon trip. When the twenty minutes were up they were eager to be on their way.

Mr. Cheek drove the bus out of the front entrance gates

of Deming Park and headed south. At the intersection of Fruitridge and Poplar Miss White pointed out that the beautiful subdivision on the southeast corner was Deming Woods. The first house on the right side was the old farm home of Joseph Gilbert. She reminded them that he was the horticulturalist--the one who pioneered the growing of fruit orchards and vegetables in Vigo County.

As the bus traveled down Fruitridge Avenue the children noticed the bluff on the left and the many orchards and gardens on both sides of the road. After they passed the intersection of Hulman Street they noticed the smell of gas. They soon passed pumping oil wells and oil storage tanks.

When Mr. Cheek came to the old Riley Road he turned to the right and at Mt. Pleasant Church corner he took road 24S. This road led past Mt. Pleasant Cemetery where many Vigo County pioneers were buried. He drove about a mile south on this road and turned left on county road 18E. He followed this winding road about two miles and just about the time the children thought he was lost they saw "the barn" which turned out to be the only remaining covered bridge in Vigo County. The bus stopped and the children swarmed about the bridge much like the bees must swarm in the honey locust trees nearby. Ronnie retold the story of how Honey Creek got its name.

The group saw many traces of the old Wabash-Erie Canal bed on their way back to Terre Haute. They went back over

the same route to the intersection of 24E and 24S and turned left to the west. Right after crossing the C. M. & St. P. railroad tracks they turned left on county road 6S and went past Spring Hill Mine. There they could see the old canal bed running along side the tracks in a southeasternly direction.

Miss White said, "If we had the time we could go to Riley, turn north on a county road and back in a dense woods see the remains of the old stone locks of the canal. Riley used to be called Lockport because of the locks there."

From road 6S the driver turned left and followed the Spring Hill Road to the South Seventh Street Road. He turned right and drove north past Paul Cox Field and Rea Park Municipal Golf Course. At the intersection of Davis Avenue they got a glimpse of the many greenhouses of the J. W. Davis Company where vegetables are grown.

The bus turned left on Voorhees and then right on South Sixth Street. The children noticed the homes on South Sixth Street. The farther north they went the larger and more pretentious the homes became. Miss White told them that many of the fine old homes were built during the middle years after the Civil War when Terre Haute was growing rapidly.

Near the corner of Sixth and Washington the bus parked. On the southeast corner was the Washington Avenue Presbyterian Church, on the northwest corner the home of Mr. and Mrs. Anton

Hulman, Jr., and on the southwest corner the Historical Museum of the Wabash Valley.

"This will be the last place we will stop," explained Miss White. "We will not have time to stay as long as we should to actually see things, but I want you to meet Dr. Waldo Mitchell, the curator, and get some idea of what you can expect to see in a museum. He will be glad for you to come either by yourself or with friends on visiting days. Then you may see the things that are of special interest to you."

Dr. Mitchell met the children at the door with a smile and welcomed them to the museum. Each took his or her turn signing the register. The boys and girls wandered about the rooms and found many items that interested them. They were especially interested in Paul Dresser's piano and his picture above it.

On the porch of the museum Miss White gathered her group about her and said, "We will be traveling through the downtown section of Terre Haute soon. Let's remember our 'bus manners'. Mr. Cheek will have to drive very carefully through a lot of traffic. Let's help him by being quiet and watching for some of the interesting things we will see. From here on to Wabash Avenue you will see many beautiful homes. On the left side of the street you will see St. Anthony's Hospital. On the southeast corner of Sixth and Walnut you

will see the Y. M. C. A. After we have turned on to Wabash Avenue you will recognize many stores and buildings. The ones we are especially interested in because of their historical importance are the Terre Haute House at 7th and Wabash, The Arcade Building where the old interurbans came in between 8th and 9th and the Hulman Building at 9th and Wabash which was built in 1893. All of these buildings are on the north side of the street. The old Wabash-Erie Canal had warehouses where the Hulman warehouses are now. We will continue on Wabash to Brown Avenue so you might see the site of the famous old race track where the Stadium stands. We will turn north there. On the southeast corner is Edgewood Grove subdivision which used to be Mr. McKeen's Deer Park. He gave the land for the old race track. We will follow Brown Avenue to Elm and then follow Elm along the railroad tracks to North Twenty-fifth where we will turn north again. I think when you see the many switching trains and tracks you will realize why we are 'railroaded' so often. You will see the new Public Service Company building on the south side of Elm. Just as we cross the railroad tracks on North Twenty-fifth you will see some large buildings on the right side which have Turner Glass Company on the office building. This was the site of one of several glass factories which used to be in Terre Haute. We will turn left on Eighth Avenue and where do you suppose we will stop?"

It seemed that one voice answered, "Deming School!"

The children were becoming weary, but were still interested in seeing the places of interest their teacher had called to their minds. They talked quietly and it was possible for Miss White to point out the Rose Home at Twenty-fifth and Wabash and the old car barns which had housed the interurbans a few blocks farther east.

After a few more blocks and turns in a north and west direction the bus returned the group to Deming School. The boys and girls tumbled from the bus and quickly disappeared in several different directions, calling as they departed, "I'll see you tomorrow! Thanks for a wonderful day!"

The next day the children were "re-living" their historical tour of places and sites that could be seen in Terre Haute and Vigo County. Practically the whole day was spent in talking over what they had seen.

"I got to do everything on our trip that I wanted to do if we had of gone to Vincennes," commented Johnny, "except buy a souvenir. I don't need a souvenir for as long as I live I'll never forget the trip we took yesterday. I got to take a long ride on a bus and take my lunch."

Tommy said, "I wanted to see the Wabash River if we had of gone to Vincennes and I saw it here twice."

"We all saw the site of old Fort Harrison," remarked Kenneth. "It was only the site of old Fort Sackville that we

could have seen at Vincennes."

"We saw the old Preston House and the old Markle House which have mysterious stories about them," added Bobby. "Perhaps some day it might be possible for school children to go into them. I imagine they are just as interesting as the Harrison House."

"We didn't go into any 'echoing monuments'," laughed Janet, "but we sure saw all kinds of monuments."

The conversation and the actions of the fourth grade boys and girls convinced Miss White that the study of the development of Terre Haute and Vigo County was quite worthwhile. She felt that her boys and girls had a better appreciation of the people who helped their town grow from a western frontier river village to a large mid-western town. She was sure they had a better understanding of the way that town became the present day Terre Haute.

Like Johnny said they didn't need a souvenir. All about them were places and sites of historical importance.

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48. Oakey, C. C. "Terre Haute, Illustrated." Terre Haute: H. R. Page Company, 1889.
A large illustrated atlas-type study of Terre Haute up to 1889. Data concerning railroads, electric lights, population, transportation, schools, parks and other points of interest were taken from this edition.

49. Peddle, Juliet (ed.). "Leaves of Thyme." Terre Haute: Vigo County Historical Society Bulletin, VI, April, 1955. (Mimeographed).
An article on Francis Vigo and the correct pronunciation of his name.

50. Peddle, Juliet (ed.). "Leaves of Thyme." Terre Haute: Vigo County Historical Society Bulletin, VII, October, 1956. (Mimeographed).
An article on Kean Coverlets and the site of the shop.

51. Peddle, Juliet. "Sketches of Old Terre Haute Homes and Business Houses."
A scrap-book of newspaper sketches and data on old houses in Terre Haute and Vigo County. The drawings were made by Miss Peddle. The data furnished dates for several old homes mentioned in the study.

52. Polk, R. L. "Terre Haute City Directory." St. Louis: R. L. Polk and Company, Publishers, from 1940 through 1954.
An alphabetical directory of business concerns and private citizens including much information of a miscellaneous character. Several directories were used in obtaining a variety of information, but especially for population figures.

53. Rerick Brothers. "The County of Vigo, Indiana 1895." Richmond, Indiana: Rerick Brothers, 1895.
An atlas of Terre Haute and Vigo County. The city population figures from 1850 through 1890 were used.

54. Risher, Mrs. The grandmother in the story gathered information from various places. This number was used to denote this variety.

55. Terre Haute Gazette. "Art Souvenir of Terre Haute 1894." Terre Haute: Terre Haute Gazette.
A pictorial representation of Terre Haute's citizens, institutions, and points of interest as they appeared in 1894. A great deal of general information was verified by the contents of this volume.

56. Terre Haute Junior Chamber of Commerce. Terre Haute:
A pamphlet listing the names of new industries and the expansion of existing industries since 1952.

57. White, Miss Anna. The teacher in the story interwove her general knowledge of the subject with information from various places. This number was used to denote this variety.