SOUVENIR PROGRAM

1853  ADA  1953
COMMUNITY
CENTENNIAL

AUGUST
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IN COOPERATION WITH
OHIO
SESQUICENTENNIAL
“MIGHTY OAKS FROM LITTLE ACorns GROW”

OHIO NORTHERN UNIVERSITY
ADA, OHIO

DR. H. S. LEHR’S FIRST BUILDING

With one little building and himself as the faculty, Dr. H. S. Lehr founded Ohio Northern University in 1871. Today it has grown to be a university with the four colleges of Liberal Arts, Engineering, Law and Pharmacy. From its halls untold thousands have gone forth to serve in state, nation and the world.
Ohio Northern is happy to share in Ada’s Centennial.

LEHR MEMORIAL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING ON FRONT CAMPUS TODAY
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 1, 1953

Dear Mayor Binkley:

I am happy to send my greetings to you and to the citizens of Ada on the occasion of this centennial anniversary. May your community spend a most enjoyable anniversary celebration.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

The Honorable Wilfred E. Binkley
Mayor of Ada
Ada, Ohio
A RESOLUTION
H.R. No. 150

MR. LADY

Commemorating the One-Hundredth Anniversary
of the founding of Ada, Ohio.

WHEREAS, In this Sesquicentennial Year our neighbors to the north in Hardin County are celebrating the One-Hundredth Anniversary of the founding and settlement of Ada, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, In the year 1853, S. M. Johnson established a sawmill sixty miles south of Toledo to furnish lumber to the railroad which passed through that area. This settlement came to be known as Johnstown until, in 1861, its name was changed to Ada and it was incorporated; and

WHEREAS, The growth of this community was slow until 1871, when Henry Solomon Lehr, a noted educator, opened the doors of the Northwestern Ohio Normal School. To this center of teacher education came scores of students to receive "the instruction and training of teachers in the science of education and the art of teaching and the best method of governing schools"; and

WHEREAS, The citizens of Ada had elected to tax themselves to erect buildings for the normal school in return for the granting of free tuition in the normal school to all Ada youth under twenty-one years of age who had graduated from Ada High School. Thus, for a half century, the normal school was in respect a municipal institution -- one of the first in the nation -- and since college education was as free as public school education, Ada came in time to have a larger percentage of college educated citizens than perhaps any other community in the state; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lehr had the rare ability of attracting, and bringing to his school, teachers of great brilliance and striking personality and his institution became one of the most notable private normal schools in the midwest. At the turn of the century, there was probably no other institution in Ohio that provided a greater number of brilliant lecturers than Ohio Normal, or as it is known now, Ohio Northern University, and the classes taught by the faculty were famous for their stimulating approach and masterful skill; and

WHEREAS, As is easily seen, the history of Ada is inextricably intertwined with the growth of Ohio Northern University and the fortunes of one affect the other to a great degree, but the past is secure and the future is bright; therefore be it

RESOLVED, In recognition and tribute to the centennial celebration of Ada, Ohio, and to extend our felicitations and congratulations, the members of the House of Representatives of the 100th General Assembly of the State of Ohio adopt this resolution and instruct the clerk of the House of Representatives to cause a copy thereof to be spread upon the Journal and to transmit properly authenticated copies of this resolution to Mr. Wilfred E. Binkley, Mayor of Ada, to Dr. F. B. McIntosh, President of Ohio Northern University, to the Ada Herald, Ada, Ohio, and to the Centennial Committee, Ada, Ohio.

Adopted
June 10, 1953

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Clerk
FOREWORD

It is our earnest hope that this book, published when the Ada community is celebrating its one-hundredth anniversary, and the state of Ohio its sesqui-centennial, will help to commemorate the achievements of the pioneers and those who followed in their footsteps. We believe the people of this entire area have reason to be proud of the record of the first 100 years.

The spirit of those that cleared the land and founded homes here a century or more ago has continued to prevail in many of our activities. It is strongly evident at this time when so many people, faced with their own problems, have devoted much time and effort to stage a fitting centennial observance.

May we all, as we take part in the festivities, and as we reflect on the contents of this book, feel a keener appreciation of our opportunity to share in the development of a strong community and a great state.

As no person or thing is perfect, so this book has its faults, but it represents the best efforts of the staff in the time available. The same is true of many others who have labored to make the centennial observance a success.

In behalf of the board of the Ada Community Centennial, Inc., allow me at this time to express sincere appreciation to all our committees who have served so faithfully. We know you have devoted an enormous amount of thought and hard work to make this celebration possible. We also wish to thank all persons and groups who have cooperated in any way.

Love's labor is never lost. In the years to come this volume shall aid in recalling the friendships, the work and play that added zest to life as we tried to be worthy of our great heritage. In the spirit of the pioneers,

"Not how much we gain, but how much we give, Is the rightful measure of the life we live."

Sincerely,

Ada Community Centennial, Inc.

Lewis G. Good, General Chairman
CENTENNIAL ADVISORY BOARD

Bottom Row L. to R.--HARRY SOUSLEY, EVELYN JENKINS, Sec'y; MARGARET MARSHALL, ROBERT COLE, LEWIS GOOD, Chr.; O. L. PATTERSON, IRVIN VANDEMAREK, Vice Chr.

Top Row--GAYLE ZIMMERMAN, W. E. BINKLEY, OTAS REESE, ROBERT DOWELL, Treas.; C. E. WINTRINGHAM, WARREN HULL

Not in picture--CARL SANDERSON, CHARLES PATTERSON, I. T. WARTHMAN, C. S. JAMESON, Dr. E. R. RODABAUGH

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Clyde Lamb, Pictures
STREET SCENE

MAIN STREET BEFORE AND JUST AFTER 1865

MAIN STREET 1953
HISTORY OF ADA

BY PEARL UNDERWOOD

When, in the course of time, a state, a town or an individual has attained the age of one hundred years, it is both fitting and proper that note should be taken of this, and that something should be done by way of celebrating the event.

It is now one hundred years since our town of Ada was founded, and started on its way to being the "Biggest Little Town" in the country. Its loyal and patriotic citizens are now, in this year of nineteen hundred and fifty-three, taking time for a backward look at those courageous men and women who were its founders and builders; and it is with respect, reverence and gratitude, that we attempt, in a small way, to write their history and record their deeds.

Liberty Township was organized in 1841. Its early settlers were pioneers from counties to the east and south-east, most of them coming from Allen, Richland, Columbiana, Muskingum, Tuscarawas and Perry Counties. The fine timber and rich level farm land was the lure that induced these people to push farther west. Among these early families who came into the Township between 1834 and 1840, one finds the familiar names of Klinkler, Johnston, Wingate, McElroy, Thorn, Shuster, Lattimer, Kindle, Candler, and many others.

In 1850 William Mitchell, a resident of Fort Wayne, Indiana, bought one hundred and sixty acres of timber land where Ada is now located. The Ohio Indiana Railroad was pushing westward, and he foresaw the value of owning the land through which the new railroad would undoubtedly pass. Active construction of the railroad began in 1852. The first train through Ada was on April 11th, 1853.

Mr. Mitchell induced S. M. Johnson to come here and set up a sawmill in 1852, and his coming brought to life the town of Ada. The name Johnstown was given to the village at first, in honor of Mr. Johnson, who had given it, its reason for being. This seemed quite proper at the time, but later, when there was enough mail and shipments of merchandise to become important, it was often confused with Johnstown in Licking County, and so the name was changed to Ada, by a Postal Clerk in the Post Office Department in Washington D.C. (1855) for his favorite sister, whose name was Ada. The Railroad changed the name in 1867. This clerk was Thomas Kelly, later a General in the army.

The early village consisted of a few cheap buildings in which were a couple of general stores and as one writer puts it "The Inevitable Groggeries". These were clustered around the railroad depot which was located a square east of what is now Main Street. This building was later used as a freight house and more recently has been torn down.

For many years Mr. Johnson's lumber mill was the only industry. Lumber, staves and headings were shipped over the new railroad.

Until 1855 all mail had been brought into the region by men on horseback from Findlay. In that year a Post Office was established here. In 1874 it was made a presidential or Third Class Post Office.

The U.S. established rural delivery in 1888 and in 1889 service was provided here on routes 1 and 2. Route 3 was authorized in 1902, and Route 4 in 1905. Free city delivery was begun in 1910.

In 1912 a beautiful new Post Office building was erected on the corner of Main Street and West Lincoln Avenue and the old building by the railroad became the home of a baking concern.

As was true of all pioneer settlements, the people were no more than settled in their cabins, until they were planning for a school and a church. Very early, John Cooney taught neighborhood children in part of Hugh McElroy's house. This became district Number 1. The first school in Johnstown was built of logs and measured 12x24 feet. It was located on the corner of Montford Street and Main Street near the present Ben Conner Home. The only text books used in this school were Webster's Spelling Book and the Bible. The first school after Johnstown was laid out as a village was taught by Louis F. Green. Among the few pupils in attendance were his three younger brothers. The first real school was in district No. 5 in Liberty Township and its first teacher was Ann Huffman (1853-54). She was followed by Phineas Turner (1854-55).

As so often happens the citizens of Ada didn't realize that an angel in disguise had come among then, when Henry S. Lehr, a veteran of the Civil War, came here to teach school. In his account of how he tried to contact the members of the school board he says there had been a great deal of snow and rain, and the only street open to travel was a sea of mud. The water was so deep in places that he had to climb along the rail fence, to reach the home of the president who, of course was S. M. Johnson. Mr. Johnson was at his sawmill, so Dr. Lehr had to wade and climb back to the railroad where he finally found him. There he explained his plan and desire to teach in the public school in this town until he became well a successful one, and then to ask the help of the citizens to put up a suitable building for a Normal School. His enthusiasm and sincerity convinced the School Board, and he was hired to teach for a summer term of three months on trial at $2.75 a day. If he did well, they were to pay him $3.00 a day for the fall term. The building was not in a suitable condition for his new school in the winter, but they gave him permission to use it for his select school the next winter, providing he would repair it at his own expense. School began April 9th, 1866.
The school was a great success, and the "Select School" of his dreams seemed near. Mr. Johnson told him (Mr. Lehr) that if he would pay for the sawing of the boards, the laying of the walk, and the nails, he (Mr. Johnson) would furnish the lumber for four blocks of sidewalk on Main Street. Mr. Lehr accepted the offer, and Mr. Johnson cut some large elm trees into planks two feet wide, and thus was laid the first sidewalk in Ada. This same summer the town had started a four room brick school house on North Main Street, but only two rooms were ready for use that winter.

The "Select School" was now in operation, with tuition at six dollars a term. There were sixty-three pupils enrolled the fall term of the second year, and people were looking forward to the much talked of Normal School which was to follow the "Select School".

Finally after almost superhuman efforts on the part of Dr. Lehr, committees were formed to solicit for a building fund and two and one-half acres of land on the main road through town, known as the "Dobbins Site" was selected as the location, and the Normal School was on its way.

In August 1871 the first term of the North-Western Ohio Normal School began, with a teaching force of six: H. S. Lehr, J. G. Park, B. F. Neilson, C. E. Rowley, Mrs. C. E. Rowley and Theodore Presser who later became editor of the Etude. In 1885 the name was changed to the Ohio Normal University and it was incorporated as an "Institution of learning not for profit". They now had five trustees and could confer degrees. Later it became the property of the Central Ohio Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the name was changed to Ohio Northern University. The sale was made at the Conference at Sidney, Ohio, in 1898, and the final transfer was made in 1899.
In 1874 the catalogue announced a course in Civil Engineering with "field work". Many of the students in the Liberal Arts College at this time took classes in surveying and engineering, and it was not until sometime in the nineties that it became a college.

Courses of instruction in Fine Arts were added in 1879, in addition to those already offered in Liberal Arts. A Stenographic Department was opened in 1882 and in that same year a Military Department, which became one of the great drawing cards of the University was begun. Again it was due to the magic of Dr. Lehr's personality and his powers of persuasion with President Grover Cleveland, that this was retained for many years. Many students who took the military training there, made good use of the knowledge gained when called to the defense of their country in later years.

The College of Law was established in 1885 and in 1924 a beautiful brick building was built for the college, to be known as the Warren G. Harding College of Law.

By 1885, there were ten colleges in the school, and this was rare indeed, as only a few large Universities in the East had courses beyond those of Liberal Arts and Music.

The College of Pharmacy was started in 1886. Its growth was so rapid that in 1894, a two story frame building was erected south of the old original Normal Building to be used as a Pharmacy Laboratory, with rooms on the second floor used by the Adelphi Literary Society. In the Fall of 1909, this building was moved to the northwest corner of the campus, and more recently has been torn down and removed.

In 1891 Dr. Lehr staged one of the cleverest bits of advertising the University has ever had. This was a debate between the two candidates for Governor: Hon. William McKinley and Hon. James E. Campbell. This debate took place on the old Fair Ground. It attracted the attention of people all over the United States, and brought them in by the trainload.

A display at the Columbian Exposition at Chicago, in 1893, won distinction and a medal for the school which was another fine bit of advertising. The schools only source of income was the tuition of the students, so it was necessary to have teachers of rare and unusual ability. "Heart Power" was Dr. Lehr's name for this and seldom has there been such a corps of teacher's assembled in one institution.

In 1903 an outright gift of $10,000.00 from Lewis Dukes of Hancock County, and a further gift of $20,000.00, was used to erect a Memorial Building, bearing the name of Duke's Hall.

In 1904, a gift of $10,000 from Edwin Brown of Carey, Ohio was used to build a Chapel Hall, known as Brown Auditorium, as a memorial to his deceased wife.

In 1903 Dr. Belt was made president of the school, with Dr. Lehr as Vice President. In 1904 Dr. Lehr retired and on June 27th, 1905 Dr. Belt resigned and Rev. Albert Edwin Smith, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Marion, Ohio became President. Dr. Lehr was made President Emeritus to the great joy of everyone connected with the school.

In 1909, the school purchased the Wesleyan Church Building, and with some changes in its use was made into a conservatory of music.

In 1913 fire destroyed the old administration building. Steps were immediately taken to replace it, the result being the present beautiful Lehr Auditorium. In the 1920's a new Music Hall, Presser, and a new Gymnasium, Taft, were added to the campus. Presser Hall was erected on Gilbert Street and Taft Gymnasium on Union Street.

The President now serving Ohio Northern University is Dr. F. Bringle McIntosh; Vice President, Dr. C. E. Wintringham.

Many changes have been through the years, Presidents have come and gone, thousands of young men and women have been trained in many fields, and many famous people are proud to claim Ohio Northern University as their Alma Mater.

GROWTH OF THE TOWN

The town was platted by William Mitchell of Kendallville, Indiana, for a consideration of $100.00. The original town had 74 lots as laid out by Mr. Mitchell. This was endorsed in 1853 by Samuel Smith J. P., and was received and recorded August 1, 1853 by D. Barron, Recorder of Hardin County.

The following is the certificate of the engineer:

I hereby certify that the annexed plot is a true copy of the survey of Johnstown, located in the South-west quarter of Section 22, Township 3 S, range 9 E, first meridian. The streets are 66 feet in width and cross each other at right angles. Those running north and south are laid parallel to the west line of said Section 22. The alleys are 14 feet wide and are laid out parallel with the streets. All lots measured otherwise on the plot are 60 feet wide and 150 feet in length. The point from which the measurements are made is the Southwest corner of Section 22 as established by the surveyor.

Henry I. Rudish
Asst. Eng. Ohio and Indiana R. R.
Johnstown, Hardin County, Ohio
May 20th, 1853

On this plat what is now Main Street was called Margaret Street in honor of Mrs. Margaret Johnson, wife of S. W. Johnson, founder of the village. The name was changed by an ordinance passed in July 1854.

Additions made and accepted by the village are as follows: Johnson's Eastern, Dec. 30, 1864; Montgomery's, Jan. 11, 1866; Ream's Dec. 19, 1866; Heisland's, March 29, 1866; Jameson's, Nov. 8, 1866; Newland's, Aug. 25, 1866; Cummens', July 22, 1867; Swain's, Dec. 10, 1867; Asliefeld's and Arbuthnot's, Sept. 3, 1867; Johnson's Southern, Dec. 30, 1879; Asliefeld's and Arbuthnot's, Feb. 3, 1879; Heisland's 2nd, March 21, 1872; Ream's 2nd, March 10, 1872; Dobbin's 1st, April 19, 1872; Diefendorfers, Oct. 28, 1878; Ream's 3rd, Dec. 4, 1875; Dobbin's 2nd. May 6, 1875; Ream's 2nd, April 29, 1878; Ream's 2nd.
S. M. JOHNSON
Founder of Ada

FIRST PLAT OF JOHNSTON - 1855
May 10, 1879; Ream's and Gilbert's, Nov. 20, 1879; Ahlefeld's 2nd., Aug. 27, 1881; Maglottis, June 30, 1882; S. Rice's, March 14, 1892.

Johnson Street was not opened further north than Montford until July 1901, when it was opened to Center Street, through the property of Henry Young and others. Mr. Young was awarded heavy damages, owing to the high state of cultivation of his lots for green house grounds. The south end of Johnson Street was opened by the Ahlefeld addition in 1881.

In 1857, there were but three houses in what is now the central part of town. One stood on East Buckeye, near the present Amory. A log cabin stood on East Lincoln Street, west of the new Lutheran Church; and the third was on the ground later occupied by the J. B. Murray home, 118 South Main Street.

But, only 15 years later, Monohan's Directory, published at Toledo, in 1876, lists one hundred and thirty seven business and professional places. Many of these have left the scene forever, being left by the wayside as having no place in our hurrying modern age. Some of them are the Blacksmith Shops; the Wagomakers; Jobber of staves and headings; Readier beer makers; Carrried beer makers; Boot and Shoe makers; Hoop Factory and Livery Stables. The saloons were not victims of the mechanical age but they were removed from Ada more or less painlessly.

The first organized Temperance movement in Ada was the Good Templars, about 1872. In 1877 the Francis Murphy movement swept the country. Great meetings were held in the old Methodist Church, and nearly 1200 signed the pledge to abstain from the use of intoxicating liquor. The first ordinance was passed June 14, 1886. In Jan. 23, 1888 a new ordinance was passed prohibiting "Ale", Beer and Porter houses. July 7, 1902, the village was voted dry 476 for to 182 against. Road houses outside the city limits were "discouraged" effectively. When the crusade of 1886 was in progress every member of the church had his house burned. Many new residences have been built, many of them following the Ranch type plan, adding to the charm and attractiveness of the village. One can judge the passing of time by the different styles of architecture, each of which was the last word in modernity when it was built. The population as of the 1950 census was 3640. 1200 of these were students of Ohio Northern University.


Dr. Wilfred Binkley, Political Scientist, Author and Traveler is Ada's present Mayor. His picture, with that of the Council, will appear on another page of this book.

The tax duplicate of 1932 was $2,280,455.00
The tax duplicate of 1952 was $4,067,580.00

HOW ADA'S STREETS GOT THEIR NAMES

Main Street was originally called Margaret Street in honor of the wife of the founder S. M. Johnson.

Johnson Street was named for S. M. Johnson himself.

Buckeye Street was named for Abraham Buckeye who laid off an addition to the village in the south-east part of town. Simon Street got its name from the Simon family prominent in the early history of the town. Edwards Street in the north-east part of town was named for Uncle Billy Edwards. Liberty Street was so named by Mr. Johnson. There had been an effort made to have the Post Office called Sweet Liberty, when the name was changed to Ada. Gilbert Street takes its name from the Gilbert family, many of whom resided here. Union Street was probably named so for patriotic reasons. These are the North and South Streets.

Of the cross streets:

Buckeye Street for the Buckeye State. Hoosier Street was probably named for the Hoosier State, but was later changed to Highland. Montfort, according to Dr. Walters was named in honor of Mr. Montford, who was one of the contractors when the railroad was put through here. Irwin Street between Main and Gilbert owes its name to Mr. Irwin who was a citizen of Ada for many years. Center Street got its name from the fact that it was the exact center of the Township North and South. Franklin, east of Main, the northern part of town was named by Peter Ahlefeld in honor of Benjamin Franklin. South of the railroad the first street was named Hill, because at one time there was a flour mill and a scroll mill located on it. Ballard took its name from Happy Jack Ballard, a former merchant here. Long Street was named for the Long Family. The street had two names. East of Johnson Street it was called Williams, and west of Johnson it was called Peach Avenue. It was so called because Uncle John Dobbs had a peach orchard from the Terrance to the Street, and back the length of two lots. Uncle John Dobbs gave the name "Normal" to the next street south, to honor the school. Next came Dobbs Street named for that loyal pioneer family. High Street was so named because of its elevation. Lima Street or Lima road is the last.

In 1905 Main Street was paved its entire length-one mile-and Buckeye Street half a mile. In 1908 Johnson Street was paved for half a mile south of the railroad, and two blocks were paved on East Montfort. In 1909 Gilbert was paved nearly half its length, and Highland was paved half a mile. Lincoln Avenue, formerly called Mill Street was paved from Main Street to Johnson Street, and the remainder of that street was curb ed and macadamized making a total of two miles of improved streets for that year.
H. S. LEHR
Founder of Ohio Northern University

Prof. Lehr and His First School in Ada.
Ada's Main Street is now State Route 69, running North and South and extends 1½ miles within the corporation. Lincoln is the longest East and West Street and is about three fourths of a mile within the corporation. All streets are hard surfaced.

Many changes and improvements have been made in the business district. Many business places have been remodeled and some new ones built. A new City Hall was erected in 1937 with the help of W.P.A. and the same year a fine swimming pool and bath house was constructed at what is now Memorial Park. This was made possible through the efforts of Mayor Harry J. Souley and Council members, along with Architect T. J. Smull and Engineer, Alexander Webb.

In 1909, by action of the council, Mill Street was changed to Lincoln Avenue, and Hoosier Street to Highland.

As late as 1876, a wooden sidewalk built on piling or "mudsills", extended in front of a row of stores on the west side of Main Street from Bucyres to the railroad.

EARLY PIONEERS

William Cleppin, born in Yorkshire, England in 1793, married Sarah Powell in 1823. He came to America in 1826, raised a family of nine children, and lived in Ada many years.

John J. Garlinger, born in Bedford County, Pennsylvania in 1824, came to Columbiana county in 1841 and married Mary Hardiman in 1847. He came with his wife to Liberty Township in 1848; they had eleven children.

John Shuster, born in Washington County, Pennsylvania in 1800, came to Tuscarawas County, Ohio and married Elizabeth Winget in 1821. They moved to Liberty Township in 1839; they were the parents of twelve children.

John Hoon was born in Somerset County, Pennsylvania in 1808 and came to Hardin County in 1837.

Nathan Ashlefeld was born in December of 1833, in Richland County. He came to Ada in 1855, where he clerked in Dr. Seiger's store for two years. Later he and W.L. Reece bought the store of Seiger.

Hugh McClroy, the first Justice of the Peace in Liberty Township, was born in Ireland in 1797. He came to America in 1803, and to Liberty Township in 1836. It was he who gave the township its name. He also donated the land for the McClroy cemetery. He died in 1854, leaving a family of sixteen children.

James Marshall Candler was the first young man to build his own log cabin in Liberty Township. He deadened the first tree and burned the first brush in the depths of the forest to build his own home. In addition to his farming, he became an ordained minister in 1862.

John Latimer came from Richland County, and was the second man to be elected Justice of the Peace in the township. He was a man of integrity, kindness, and generosity. He was a member of the Methodist Church and interested in all civic enterprises. He died in 1865.

The third settler was John Hackett who came in the fall of 1835. In 1840 he erected a grist mill, the first of its kind in the region. It was operated by the waters of Hog Creek. Difficulties arose, and in 1852 Hackett and his family moved to Iowa.

Robert Hyndman, a native of County Antrim, Ireland, came with his friend, Philip Hoon, to America, and in 1838 to Liberty Township, living a short distance north of the present Woodlawn Cemetery. He purchased eighty acres of land from the government, two dollars per acre. The Indians were always very friendly with the family and often ate with them; Mr. Hyndman said it required a lot of food to satisfy the appetite of a Wyandot Indian hunter. This early settler served twelve years as township treasurer, and was a school board member for many years.

Dr. John W. Walters, a graduate of the University of Michigan, began practicing medicine here at the close of the Civil War. He married Mrs. Mary Elizabeth McKelvey Thompson and built a residence and office at the North-west corner of Main and Montford Street. He continued his medical work until his death in 1913 at the age of eighty-three (83).

Some time after 1850, two brothers, Rev. John Wesley Kidd, and William Harrison Kidd came to Ada. William was a cabinet maker, and the fine walnut timber in the vicinity afforded him material for his work. He made furniture and caskets. Much of the furniture he made is now in the possession of his descendants, and are treasured heirlooms. One of his daughters, Mrs. Phoebe Lavina Rutter, was born in 1856 and lived near the first home he built. The family have always lived in this same block in Ada.

Rev. Wesley Kidd preached in the vicinity and often rode horse back to Mt. Blanchard to preach.

ADA'S EARLY INDUSTRIES

An engine, the forerunner of the tractor was invented by Noble M. Davidson long a resident of Ada. A few of these engines were built and proved quite practical. However the idea was stolen and improved upon by others and the project was abandoned in Ada.

In the '85's William and M. M. Connor did a big business in making two-wheeled carts, that were both practical and popular before the advent of good roads. Their plant was located at the corner of Johnson Street and Lincoln Avenue, and their trade extended throughout the Middle West.

About this same time a wind engine or mill was invented by W. N. Bryan. A stock company was formed to manufacture the device by Mr. Bryan, George Rothrock, Henry Young and others, but it was never a financial success.
The Ada Fire Alarm Co. was organized to build a magnetic fire alarm system under the P. E. Tarleton patents. Prof. J. G. Park was concerned in this, and the concern had a valuable invention that enabled smaller towns to have an efficient alarm system with less expense. The system was installed here and in Bluffton, and possibly one other town. The factory was first located in a building formerly occupied by the Reform Church, on West Lincoln. It later moved into a brick building on East Buckeye Street. The venture was not very successful.

A stave mill located on a large tract of ground on the east side of town and south of the railroad, began operations on Oct. 13, 1900. It was owned by the Edwards' interest of Leipsic. This was a flourishing business for several years.

In 1897, George Kephart moved his handle factory here from Spencerville. He used ash timber for making handles for hand tools. Also, he used bass wood for making flag sticks, rocket sticks and the like. After his death the business passed into the hands of the Ada Coal and Lumber Co. owned by H. R. Butler, Walter Souleye and C. J. Bohannon. At one time L. E. Ansphack was part owner.

In 1907, Peter Scott operated a saw mill on the south side of the east end of what was then called Long Street, now Lehr Avenue.

The Ada Canning Co. was another industry that flourished for a time. It was located near the present plant of the Water Co. The site was staked off May 15, 1900. Its officials were N. R. Park; Pres; E. E. McAlpin, Sec; George Rothrock, Treas; Directors were: S. W. Nixon, E. H. Turner, N. R. Park, S. F. Richardson, William Hoore, J. W. Clum, and W. H. Freund.

The output that fall was 125,000 cans of tomatoes, but the operation was not profitable and ended in 1905.

The Empire Mill on W. Montford was built by one of the Reams. In 1872 Wm. A. Edwards owned all or part of it. Wm. Rinchart became a part owner and sold his share to Wm. A. Edwards in 1878. Hall and Liles then became the owners. In May 1894, Justin Brewer bought out George Liles, and the firm became Hall and Brewer. They later bought the old Main Street grain warehouse, and in a few years the firm dissolved. Mr. Brewer took over the warehouse. The Empire Mill was later destroyed by fire.

The first grist mill in the township was built by the Young Brothers in 1873. It stood on Johnson Street opposite the present Lutheran Church. They sold it to John B. Corey.

Jacob Foembig of Fort Wayne built a scroll mill east of the mill of his brothers-in-law, the Youngs. He later sold this mill to the Youngs and moved to Kenton. The scroll mill burned in 1876. William Young lived directly opposite the mills. His son John later owned the home, and his widow Marguerite Young still occupies the lovely old brick home.

In 1861 Wm. Souder, brother of Dr. R. L. Souder, built a tannery on East Montford Avenue between Main and Johnson. Later he sold it to A. B. Huff and David Binns. They in turn sold it to Lewis Harsh, and on Jan. 15, 1871, Mr. Harsh sold it to Albert Shaw, who operated it until it was destroyed by fire Jan. 14, 1885.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The organization of the Ada Union School took place in 1862, at a meeting of the qualified voters of the Village of Ada. At this meeting the following men were elected to serve as members of the school board: C. E. Stumm for three years; W. L. Reese, two years; H. P. Roberts one year. Their term of office began "The second Monday in April". On April 13, 1863 the board voted to acquire ownership for a school site. With the village council, an agreement was made to detach the west half of section 23, "for school purposes", May 1, 1863. Samuel Adams was hired by this new board to teach for a term of four months at $1.25 per day. April 11, 1864, an election was held on the question of levying a tax of four mills, "for the purpose of building a school house". There were 65 votes for and none against the measure.

On June 10th, 1865 the board approved the purchase of a school house site on N. Main Street from Willis J. Gilbert. In May 1869, the name of H. J. Gilbert, Peter Hilesfield, W. L. Reese, Ralph Davenport, J. H. Williams, and David Burns appear as school board members, while Rev. W. M. Reed, H. S. Lehr and E. E. Stumm were appointed as a board of examiners for teachers.

On Oct. 7, 1869, with Dr. Lehr to head the high school department the following teachers were elected: Lois Marshall, grammar school, salary $32.00; Sadie McManus, salary $22.00; Miss Sadie Anderson, intermediate, salary $25.00; Miss Lizzie Anderson, primary, salary $25.00. School opened Monday, November 15th.

On February 12th, 1870, the board voted to sell at public auction the old frame school building. On May 13th, Dr. Lehr was employed as Principal at a salary of $80.00 per month.

There is evidence that the new brick building was not yet completed on Oct. 22, 1872, but was ready before too long. In a very short time it was too small to accommodate all the students, so bids were advertised for an addition. In the summer of 1894 a four room brick building was erected on the corner of Johnson and College Streets. This was known as the South School Building.

In 1892 the people of the district authorized the Board to expend $30,000 in erecting a new pressed brick 12 room school building on North Main Street. In 1905 the State School Commissioner gave it the rank of first class.

In 1929 a new modern Centralized High School accommodating students from Liberty Township, and eight sections of Orange Township, as well as Ada was built on the west side of town. It included a Home Economics and Industrial Arts, Music and Vocational Agriculture Departments along with a Gymnasium and a large Auditorium. At this time the South Building was closed and its teachers and students moved to the North Building which now housed the first six grades.
In 1951 a new Grade Building costing $250,000 was built west of, and connected to, the High School. The North Building was sold to Ohio Northern University. It has been remodeled and modernized, as the home of the Engineering College. The increase in population has been so great that the school finds itself in the predicament of the Old Woman in the shoe. We can't spank them and put them to bed, so it looks like another building program would have to get under way soon. Mr. I. T. Warthman is the present Superintendent and Mr. Richard Harbeck is Principal.
NEWSPAPERS

The Ada Record, a neutral paper, was established in 1872 by B. L. Thompson. In 1877 J. E. Fisher became business editor, and the name was changed to The Commercial. In 1877 the Literary Casket was started by Killar and Rutledge. Rutledge sold his share to B. L. Thompson in September 1878. The "Casket" and "Commercial" were consolidated under the name of the "Ada Record". Mr. Killar became sole proprietor in 1879 and continued as publisher until many he sold the paper to Agnew Welsh. The Record had been printed by hand power until Mr. Welsh introduced steam power in January 1883. In 1905 power was supplied by an electric motor. In April 1914 Mr. Welsh sold the plant to Harry Vestal. It was later owned and operated by J. A. Alexander. He discontinued the paper in 1928.

A monthly journal of 16 pages bearing the name of the Educational Advance appeared in April 1873. This was published from the Record office and lasted only a few months.

A religious paper, the Holiness Conservator, was published by Rev. S. Rice and Rev. Rowley from Oct. 1883 to July 1887.

In July 1886, Rev. John Atwater, pastor of the Church of Christ, published a monthly magazine in the interest of the Church. This was also printed by the Record but was discontinued in July 1887.

On June 20, 1885, the first issue of the University Herald appeared. It was founded by S. B. Wagner, U. S. G. Cherry and W. W. Poulteny. It was in magazine form, 32 pages and cover, and two columns to the page. In 1887 S. B. and H. P. Wagner bought out the others, and Miss Alberta Smith was editor. In October 1887, O. B. Pendleton became editor and later publisher. The form was changed to a nine by twelve inch page, ten pages and cover, and two wide columns to the page. In June 1890 it was changed to a semi-monthly.

On April 24, 1891, Ralph Parlette became editor and in 1893, Parlette and E. E. McAlpin bought Pendleton's plant and became the owners. It was changed to a weekly paper March 10, 1891.

On Feb. 8, 1895, Mr. McAlpin sold his share to Mr. M. L. Snyder, who had complete charge of the paper for many years while Parlette was off on his famous lecture tours. In that year the form was changed to an eleven by fifteen inch page, four pages, and four columns to a page. On April 1, 1898, the form was enlarged to seven columns with pages 17 by 22 inches.

The present owner, editor and publisher is Barton Snyder, son of M. L. Snyder, who died in 1923. Under his management, the paper has undergone changes and improvements, and is now very much the fine wide-awake newspaper, every wide-awake town and community should have. We are proud to send this paper to the "four corners of the earth", to former citizens of Ada, and graduates of ONU.

Of all the sheets from East to West
The local paper is the best.
Deep is our love, and deep our debt
To Record, Sentinel and Gazette.

When first I landed on this Ball,
A bit of flesh wrapped 'round a squall,
It welcomed me with joy and pride
My life has never been justified.

It follows me, my whole life through
With words all kind and mostly true,
And even after I am hearseed
It will still be my best, and hide my worst.
(Anon)

PUBLIC UTILITIES

In January 1887 the first attempt was made at public lighting of the streets. Sun gasoline vapor lamps were installed by a Canton firm. There were about 23 lamps in town and a man with a horse cart, especially arranged for the purpose, went about each day replacing the feed cans with filled ones, which he lighted and let burn dry.

Another contract with a Lima Company, headed by W. L. Silvey, who had patented a dynamo, was entered into. This eventually was taken over by Ada men, among them being Col. N. R. and Prof. J. G. Park. The Silvey Company assumed the old vapor lighting contract, and on Jan. 1, 1889, the streets of Ada were first lighted with electricity. The original contract called for 25 arc lamps. The five year contract expired in 1894, but was renewed and the number of lamps increased.

In the early 1890's the Ada Water, Heat, Light & Power Company was granted a franchise, and securing an option on the old company's plant began a new and up-to-date plant for furnishing water, electricity and hot water heat from a central system under patents issued to a Mr. Targan, of Toledo, who licensed the local company. The Ada Company was headed by Brigham Young. They erected a new plant. When their contract was renewed it was stipulated that they should furnish free water for five drinking fountains.

In 1926 The Suburban Power Company bought out the Ada, Heat, Light and Power Company, and then in 1930 sold it to the Central Utilities Service Corporation. They continued in business until December 1934 when it was purchased by the Ohio Power Company. The current comes from the Ohio Power Plant at Philo, Ohio and the Village of Ada is served by a 22,000 volt system coming from Dunkirk. The customers served by the Power Company in Ada and surrounding territory number 740. Erret Matter is the present District Representative.
ADA EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Top L. to R.: GREN ZIMMERMAN, RICHARD HARBECK, I. T. WARTHMAN, R. B. CRETERS.
Bottom: LEE M. MOORE, CHARLES HUBBELL, DR. F. M. ELLIOTT, LESTER FLESHING, EDWIN H. PARK-HILL

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In 1905 the Village Council, with the aid of the Board of Trade and the pledges and support of the Firemen, bought a fire alarm system known as the American Magnetic Fire Alarm, manufactured in Ada, where the bulk of the capital stock was held.

TELEPHONES

In 1882 the Bell Telephone Company gave Ada its first telephone connection with theoutside world, by opening a line from Kenton where it had a small exchange. In July the poles and wires were delivered here; by August 9 the wires were strung and communication opened on the 11th. E. W. Gilbert managed the Ada end of the line, the instrument being located in his store; then located where the Record Office Building was erected. After the Young Hotel opened its manager Hiram S. Shannon became the Bell agent here. Next it was moved to Samuel Davis' Furniture Store, and in 1880, it was moved to Kemp's Drug Store. On Oct. 8, 1896 the Ada Telephone Exchange was opened for business with 28 residence and 34 commercial phones. J. E. Hasser and S. F. Wilson were the promoters of this enterprise. In 1897 Prof. J. G. Park bought a one third interest. Through an arrangement with the U. S. Telephone Company a long distance connection was established in 1900. In August a line was built to New Stark and Dola. The first rural phones were installed by the Tabors and Highs that same year. The Stemple and Huntersville neighborhoods put in a private line connected with the local exchange. In June a line was built to Lafayette.

On April 25, 1900 John E. Hasser sold one third of his stock to Rev. Z. B. Campbell who resold it to Henry A. Clark. The line to Kenton was built by this company in 1898. In March 1901 the company merged with one owning plants at Bluffton and Bellefontaine. In March, 1901 the company purchased the local exchanges at Alger and McGuffey and on April 1, inaugurated free toll between all the subscribers of these lines.

When first established the exchange was located in a room on the second floor of the Elms Court Building, or City Hall Building and on completion of the Township House Oct. 1899 the plant moved there. The company bought or located exchanges at Dunkirk, Harrod, Lafayette, Alger, McGuffey and Dola. The early directories were printed on cards.

August 13th, 1931 the Postal Telegraph Company announced the opening of a new telegraph office located in the Ada Telephone Company office at 102 S. Buckeye Ave. Telegrams may be telephoned to the telephone office and the charges billed on the regular monthly bill. Allen High is now Manager. They now have 2300 telephones, and two private branch exchanges, one at the O.K. Plant and one at Ohio Northern University.

ADA WATER COMPANY

The present location of the Ada Water Company is at 208 North Main Street. Approximately 192,000 gallons of filtered water is pumped daily to 925 customers. They have two high pressure and two low pressure pumps. A water softening plant was installed in 1926. There are also forty fire hydrants. Irwin J. Ward is company president.

OHIO FUEL GAS COMPANY

The Ohio Fuel Gas Company which was formerly located at 117 S. Main Street was moved to its present location, 216 N. Main Street, in 1947. They supply natural gas rated at 1050 B. T. U. to the people of Ada and vicinity. This gas comes from the Ohio, West Virginia and Texas Oil Fields. The minimum rate is $1.00 per month and they serve 2500 customers. They are proud of the fact that the gas has never been off since 1929.

Al Storandt was the local manager for many years. Byron Bash now serves in that capacity.

THE ADA FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department was formerly the Empire Fire and Hose Company. The Department serves the Village of Ada, and Liberty Township, and ten square miles in Orange Township. They have two engines and eleven volunteer firemen.

The first pump was purchased in 1899 and the second one ten years later in 1949. These engines are capable of pumping 500 gallons of water per minute.

In 1947 A Water Hauler was purchased which will carry 610 gallons of water, for rural fire fighting.

The Fire Company formerly had twenty members, but in 1935 the number was reduced to twelve.

The Northwestern Ohio Volunteer Firemen's Association was organized here in 1874 and held its annual convention here in 1881. Ada will host to the convention here again in 1954.

George Umphress is our most efficient Fire Chief.

JOHN ATHA LUMBER COMPANY

In August, 1930, John Atha started a saw mill where the old Ada Clay Company formerly stood. He bought a saw mill at Jenera for thirty dollars and rented the ground where it now sits from Mr. S. D. Hanley, who owned it at that time. Two years later he bought the land, a small house and barn for $1000.00.

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At that time there was much good timber near Ada and it was hauled in to the mill by horses. From two to three thousand feet was sawed each day. An International truck was used to haul the lumber to Celina and Delphos. The depression came on and people had no money. Corn was 17 cents per bushel and hogs 32 cents a pound, so Mr. Atha traded his lumber for cows, hogs, potatoes, corn and onions. The men got part of their pay in this way. In the beginning there was only a rough lumber shed over the mill. They sawed ties for the Erie Railroad and hauled lumber to Cincinnati for $27.00 per foot which was top price and then sold on a grade down to $10.00 per thousand. Crate slats to be sold to the onions growers were also made.

During World War II orders got so heavy that more room was needed so a new mill was built in 1944. This was made of cement blocks and heavier machinery was installed to keep ahead of the orders. This new mill saws around 10,000 feet per day. It is electric with individual motors on each unit. In 1948, a new office with attached garage was built.

The old cross cut saws were first used, but now they have four twelve horse gasoline power saws. One of these will saw as much in a day as six men with cross cut saws could do.

The story of Mr. Atha and his wife building this industry, show such faith and courage, that we know the pioneer spirit still lives in Ada, and we wish them luck.
CEMETERIES

Ada's beautiful Woodlawn Cemetery was first called the Hoon Cemetery. The name was changed by Agnew Welsh. The first person to be laid to rest here was John D. Wilson in 1857.

David Schleister gave this plot of ground as a gift to the township in August 1858 to be used as a burial ground. The original size of the gift plot was 8 rods long by 20 rods wide. David Thompson later owned the farm from which other plots were purchased to add to the cemetery.

In 1888, through the efforts of Agnew Welsh and L. O. Reams, a receiving vault was built for the public.

The small and very old Maysville Cemetery in the southwest corner of the township contains more graves of Union soldiers than any other cemetery in northwestern Ohio, in proportion to its size.

John Candler was the first pioneer to die in the township. He was buried on his own farm Sept. 3, 1835. This later became the Candler Cemetery. James Marshall Candler deeded this plot to the township. It then measured nine by thirteen rods. Later the trustees bought land of Robert Eoff to enlarge it. It now contains several beautifully kept acres.

East of the Candler cemetery is the Kindle Cemetery, a plot of ground 75 feet square. This also began as a private burial ground, but in 1879 Isem Kindle deeded it to the Township. The first interment here was Ann Kindle, wife of Isem Kindle, who died in 1843. Only descendent and near relatives of the family are buried here.

In the northeast part of the Township is the McElroy Cemetery. The oldest date on a monument here being 1839. This monument marks the grave of Hazleah McBride, wife of John McBride. On July 9, 1892 David McElroy deeded the ground to the Township. In those very early days when a death occurred in a family the body was buried on a plot of ground near the home. Many of these graves have been lost or farmed over thru the years.

GROWTH OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Ada's first financial venture was a Building and Loan Company, organized in August, 1870 and known as Ada Building and Loan No. 1. It did a business of $17,800.00 the first eighteen months of its existence, and in 1872, No. 2 was organized with Prof. H. S. Lehr as president. By 1878 both had gone out of business.

The Home Savings Building and Loan Association was chartered Dec. 7, 1883, with Albert B. Ehrlich as secretary and treasurer. He was succeeded by John W. Morrow. On May 1, 1894, E. E. McAllpine was elected to the office, and held it for many years.

The Ada Exchange Bank was opened by W. L. Reese and Israel McJunkins in connection with their grain buying. A brick building on the west side of Main St. was erected in a few years. This bank failed on Aug. 14, 1893.

In 1872 June 1, Wm. and E. Carey of Kenton and Peter and Nathan Ahlesfield opened the Bank of Ada. The Careys withdrew in 1874 and Nathan Ahlesfield retired in 1877. Peter Ahlesfield continued the banking business alone, changing the name to The Citizens Bank. He was able to withstand the depression of 1893 and was forced to close the doors of his bank in July of that year, and the rapidly growing village was without banking facilities.

Justin Brewer began the organization of a new bank. The organization having been completed and stock to the value of $25,000 having been sold, the new bank was opened for business October 3, 1893. The new bank was first chartered and organized as a State Bank under Ohio Laws and was known as, at the time, the "Ada Savings Bank." On June 8, 1901 the bank was granted a charter to operate as a National Bank, and it then became the First National Bank of Ada, Ohio. When the Federal Reserve System was formed in 1913, the First National Bank immediately became a member.

For thirty one years, Justin Brewer served as president, and upon his death in 1924, Ben H. Conner was selected to succeed him. Mr. Conner served the Bank faithfully and well for 28 years until he retired in January, 1952.

During the period of the banks existence the original capital structure of $25,000 has increased to about $225,000, while deposits have increased many fold.

At the present time the following Officers and Directors serve the Bank:

Dana E. Welsh, President
Ben H. Conner, Chairman of the Board
Miss Anne Pugh, Asst. Cashier
Lester Bane, Asst. Cashier
Miss Loretta Moser and Mrs. Thelma Daniels, Tellers

directors:
Ben H. Conner
Harry Judson
W. E. King
Dana E. Welsh

J. M. Stambaugh
J. R. Eppley
Joe Break

THE LIBERTY BANK

The Liberty Bank was organized in April 1902 with William Guyton, President and N. R. Park, Cashier, with Elmer J. Carey, Assistant Cashier. The Directors were, Messrs. Guyton, Park, W. E. Cunningham, Prof. J. O. Park, E. E. McAllpine, J. R. Shanks, Walter S. Sosley, Alex Carmee, Dr. H. S. Lehr and G. D. Max Elett.

This bank opened for business in the building now occupied by the Dome Insurance Agency, 116 N. Main Street. The Bank moved to its present location on N. Main Street, July 1, 1917, purchasing the building in 1944.

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LIBERTY TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

L. to R. - J. W. HERTZ, OSCAR PATTERSON, JOHN W. SHADLEY, JOSEPH L. COTNER, Clerk; JOSEPH MYERS, Custodian.

ADA-LIBERTY TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

L. to R. - GEORGE UPHRIESS, Chief; JACK BOUTWELL, RALPH FISHER, ALLEN HIGH, CHARLES ANSPACH, GEORGE BINKLEY, DWIGHT MUSSEY, CHARLES UPHRIESS, TED HURLEBURG, DICK FRY, GROVER CAREY.

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Lloyd McElroy, when just a young man started to work for the bank. Mr. McElroy served the bank faithfully for 49 years as Asst. Cashier, Cashier, and President. Paul Hill was also a long time officer of this bank, serving for many years as Assistant Cashier. At the death of William Guyton, George Rothrock succeeded him as president. The present officers are Rodney Hover, President, Hale Messenger, Cashier, Miss Aleta Parshall, Assistant Cashier, H. M. Poveenire, Vice President. Directors are H. M. Poveenire, Rodney Hover, Jay Huffman, Burke Gardner, Dallas Krofft and Robert C. Cole. Deposits in October of the first year totaled $66,500. According to the last financial statement made April 20, 1953, they exceed $1,926,000.

ADA PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Ada Public Library had its beginning in a few books placed in the rest room of the old town hall for the country women to read while waiting there. In the fall of 1916 the Ada Club formed their federation with Mrs. George Anderson as president. One of the first official acts of the new organization was the appointment of a library board, leading to the formation of the Ada Public Library at the rest room June 1, 1917. Members of this board were: Cora Anspar, Mrs. George Anderson, Mrs. W. B. Bish, Mrs. Ralph Bogardus, Mrs. Nann Clayton, Mrs. Lena Clutter, Mrs. Lyman Conner, Mrs. W. L. Campbell, Mrs. Guy Detrick, Mrs. C. H. Freeman, Mrs. J. D. Judkins, Mrs. Laura McElroy, Mrs. Louisa McDowell, Mrs. R. L. Souder, Mrs. M. L. Snyder, Mrs. George Stambaugh, Mrs. Claudine Temple, Mrs. W. W. Runser, Mrs. Clem Runser, Mrs. Agnew Welsh, Mrs. Charles Jameson, Mrs. B. E. Long. Mrs. Cora Anspar was the first librarian, serving without pay until September 1919.

The library was moved to a room on the second floor of the Brewer block in October 1917. In March 1919, the books and cases were moved to a one-story brick building on Highland Ave., owned by Mrs. George Stambaugh. The library was open to the public Wednesday afternoons 3:30 to 5 o'clock and Saturday afternoons 2:00 to 4:00, and Saturdays evenings 7:00 to 9:00 with a librarian in charge. Mrs. Cora Anspar and Mrs. Rhea Stambaugh donated their services as librarians.

The town was canvassed by the ladies, who were members of the board, many times, to obtain books and money. Ways and means of financing the library for many years are recorded in the early minutes. Local talent concerts, club donations and finally subscriptions by individuals were the evident means of carrying on the expenses.

In January 1936 acting under a state law which provided that public libraries might be set up as county units eligible to share in the distribution of state tangible tax revenue, the local district board of education offered to take over the responsibility for the Ada Public Library if officers and directors of the federation would approve the change. At the annual meeting of the Federation of Women’s Clubs, June 18, 1936, with Mrs. D. O. Betz as chairman of the library department, the property was legally turned over to the board.

The school board went through the required legal procedure to set up the Ada Public Library as a Hardin County unit. Members of the board of trustees were Miss Agnes Auten, Mrs. Charles Hawk, Mrs. E. O. Betz, C. W. Pettit, Dana Welsh, W. S. Brans and Mrs. George Stambaugh. Mrs. Stambaugh was elected president, C. W. Pettit, vice president and Charles B. Moore, secretary-treasurer. The first distribution of funds was received in May of the same year.

A selection committee for books was appointed, with Mrs. John F. Stambaugh as chairman. Other members were Mrs. Emma Mertz, librarian, Mrs. D. O. Betz, Mrs. Charles Moore, Mrs. L. I. Mercer, Mrs. C. W. Pettit, Mrs. J. D. Judkins, Mrs. B. F. Snyder, Mrs. Paul Stober, Miss Agnes Auten. Mrs. Emma Mertz and Mrs. Opal Hixon served as librarians for many years.

In December 1941 friends of the late Charles B. Moore, secretary-treasurer of the board of trustees of the library established a memorial book fund.

In July 1942 a program to honor and perpetuate family names by means of marked volumes was sponsored.

In 1943 "The Friends of the Public Library Association" was formed. Persons who contributed received membership cards issued by a vote of the board, designating them as Friends of the Public Library. These gifts were held in trust by an executive committee appointed by Mrs. Awanell Stambaugh, president of the board.

April 29, 1952, bids were opened for the construction of the new library building. The lot on North Main Street was given by Mrs. Awanell Stambaugh and The Masonic Temple Association.

March 30, 1952, Friends of the Ada Public Library saw one of their dreams come true, when the new $74,000 structure on North Main Street was officially accepted by the board. Members present were Mrs. George Stambaugh, president; Harry Judson, Mrs. J. P. Taggart, H. E. Huber, I. T. Warthman, Dana E. Welsh and Dr. F. M. Elliott, chairman of the building committee.

The furnishings in the new library are all gifts. The current expenses of the library are paid from semi-annual tax checks from Hardin and Hancock counties. Fines collected from overdue books and dividends from funds left by the Carolyn Walker and George Stambaugh estates are used to meet annual expenses.

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FRATERNAL SOCIETIES

Ada Lodge No. 344 Free and Accepted Mason's was instituted August 24, 1863.
Ada Lodge No. 426, Independent Order of the Odd Fellows, July 6, 1899.
Ada Chapter No. 138, Royal Arch Masons, July 13, 1874.
Plymouth Lodge, No. 172, Daughters of Rebekah, May 22, 1885.
Ada Knights of Pythias, May 20, 1887.
Carmen Post No. 101 Grand Army of the Republic, July 5, 1883.
Ada Camp No. 902, Modern Woodmen of America, Aug. 21, 1899.
Ada Chapter No. 6, Order of the Eastern Star, April 3, 1890.
Ada Tent No. 205, Knights of the Moosabees, 1894.

Many other organizations have been started here but for various reasons have not survived.

THE MASONIC LODGE

The oldest lodge in Ada is, Ada Lodge No. 344, Free and Accepted Mason, which was instituted Aug. 24, 1863. Its charter members were: Nathan Ahlefeld, W. L. Reece, Hallis J. Gilbert, Samuel Arbuthnot, Calvin E. Stumm, John C. Stumm, Dr. E. B. Heistand, Balzar Mowar, Dr. J. W. Walters, John Scott and Orrin Curtis.

For some years the lodge met in Chris Reis building which stood on the corner of Main and Buckeye Streets, where the Pure Oil Station now stands. When Abram Ream built the brick block now known as the Rothrock Block, the lodge added to this the third story as its home. This was in 1870. In 1883 the membership was seventy, and by 1905, it had increased to one hundred.

Ada Chapter Royal Arch Masons was instituted July 13, 1874, with the following charter members: Christian Young, Peter Ahlefeld, William Graffton, P. W. Stumm, O. E. Stumm, J. E. Lowry, Frank C. Gastinger, Ben Murray, George H. Zugschwert, John Snick, R. R. Reid and George S. Thomas.

Several years later the lodge bought the Chris Reis home on North Main Street and remodeled it into the present Masonic Temple. This Temple was dedicated in 1925. Many of the charter members served as Masters of the Lodge, and one Ada member, Charles Wilson has been honored by being made Grand Master of Ohio in 1941, and Worthy Grand Patron of the Order of Eastern Star in 1945. He is also the only 33rd Degree Mason in Hardin County.

The Worshipful Master of the Blue Lodge now is Robert Main, and Austin Gant is High Priest of Ada Chapter No. 138 R. A. M.

The membership in 1953 is approximately four hundred and twenty-five.

ORDER OF EASTERN STAR

The Order of Eastern Star, an auxiliary of the Masonic Order, was instituted April 3, 1896, with fifty two members. One of its charter members, Mrs. Linda Lowry became Worthy Matron of the Chapter, and was head of the State Chapter for several years. It was through her efforts that Ada entertained Grand Chapter here October 20, 1897. That very grand person Mr. Agnew Welsh is the only living Charter Member in 1953. It is interesting to know that Ada Chapter No. 6 was the first chapter organized after the State had the necessary five Chapters to organize a Grand Chapter.

A Chapter of Rainbow Girls was instituted in 1951. Mrs. Joe Cotner is the present Worthy Matron and Joseph Elison is Worthy Patron.

THE AMERICAN LEGION

The Foss-Agin-Meyer
Post No. 185

American Legion of Ohio was organized Oct. 22, 1919, with 58 Charter members. It was named in honor of Stanley Foss, Walter V. Aglin, and Russell Meyer, Ada's three sons, 'Who went abroad to die' in the First World War.
The Legion rooms above the Welsh Drug Store, have been enlarged and modernized to suit the needs of the organization. The purposes of the American Legion are found in the Preamble to its Constitution: They are-
1. To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States.
2. To Maintain Law and Order.
3. To Foster and Perpetuate a 100% Americanism.
4. To preserve the memories and incidents of our association in the Great War.
5. To Inculcate a sense of Individual Obligation to the Community, State and Nation.
6. To combat the Autocracy of both the classes and the masses.
7. To make Right the Master of Right.
8. To Promote Peace and Good Will on Earth.
10. To Consecrate and Sanctify our Comradeship by our devotion to Mutual Helpfulness.

The Legion each year sends two Ada Boys to Boy's State. They have contributed much time, effort and money to Memorial Park. They have given aid to the Lima Canteen for Service men travelling through by train. They have raised money for the 'March of Dimes' since it began. They have booked and supported athletic events; contributed to the Boy Scouts and other organizations; backed the movement for better Church at-

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tendance; given flags to many groups; and erected the two stone booths on each side of the entrance to the Athletic Field. They annually observe Memorial Day with proper ceremonies.

It is not possible to list all the good works of the Legion, but we are thankful for all the things for which it stands, and salute the members who "carry on".

Post Commander, 1953 is Walter Rusher.
Present Membership is now 200.

THE LEGION AUXILIARY

The American Legion Auxiliary of the Foss-Agin-Meyer Post No. 185 was chartered Jan. 1929, with 41 Charter members. To read the records of the Auxiliary is to read of time, effort and money contributed for the good of the community by its members. Poppy Day is an annual event and thousands are sold each year. Christmas Gifts to the Children's Home at Xenia, and to Veterans Hospital in Dayton are sent. Sweaters are knitted by the members. Aid to the Lima Canteen for Service Men has been given by sending cookies, coffee, cigarettes and sandwiches. Each year a girl is sponsored to Girl's State. Money has been contributed to the Stadium at Memorial Park, to the Polio March of Dimes; the Red Cross; Heart Fund; Cancer Fund; T. B. Fund; and the Lima State Hospital. Their good works never end. There are now 136 members and 13 Gold Star Mothers.
GOLD STAR MOTHERS OF THE LEGION

1. Mrs. J. W. Agin
2. Mrs. Caroline McElroy
3. Mrs. Catherine Hawk
4. Mrs. Mary Beach
5. Mrs. Lucy Forest Long
6. Mrs. Goldie Gossard
7. Mrs. Lyda Irwin
8. Mrs. Viola Clark
9. Mrs. Rose Elliot
10. Mrs. Helen Carls
11. Mrs. Blanche Hankey
12. Mrs. Donna Fern Elwood
13. Mrs. Avonelle Ludwig
14. Mrs. Arah Baker
15. Goldie Bateson

Cecile Alcorn was the first president and Mary Dilts now serves in that capacity.

LEST WE FORGET

No history of Ada and its community could be complete without paying homage to her brave sons who left their peaceful pursuits and marched away to the defense of home and country. The Civil War, The Spanish American War, World War I, World War II and now Korea have taken their toll. Always have they served with courage and honor and it is with pride, humility and gratitude that we place their roll of honor on the pages of this book. Of those who made the supreme sacrifice we can only say:

"For how could man die better,
Than facing fearful odds,
For the ashes of his Fathers
And the temples of his God."

A beautiful living memorial was dedicated to these men on Oct. 3, 1947, in the form of a 23-acre park and lighted football field. This memorial was the gift of the entire community, and we are proud of the Park and its purpose. Dr. C. W. Brock, who presided at the dedication said, "We are honoring the dead and giving something to the living."

Let us build, so that people of the future can look back and say, "The founders of this Memorial Park did well."

George Hindall, member of the park board said, "We are dedicating this field not to cold inanimate marble, but to the living memory of our "Jewels" from this community who paid the supreme sacrifice."

On the Memorial Park Board at that time were Carey Clum, President; G. C. Hindall and Dayle Spar.

CHURCHES OF ADA

The Presbyterian Church or Society, organized August 21st, 1841, under the Sidney Presbytery, is the oldest Church organization in Ada. This society was formed at Huntersville. Its members were, Isaac Mathews, Nancy Mathews, James Nelson, Susanna Nelson and James Hamilton all of whom came from the Kenton Church; Thomas Irwin, John McClure, Robert Hyndman and Jackson Mathews entered by examination. Isaac Mathews and James Nelson were chosen as Elders and Rev. Clark, who lived in Logan county was the Pastor. The Rev. H. M. Badeau of Lima was another pastor of those early days. Services were held about once a month, as the pastor also served several other congregations, all widely scattered over a sparsely settled region.

In 1855 the Society was transferred from Huntersville to Johnstown (now Ada). Services were held at first in the school house. On April 11th, 1860 at a meeting of the Mt. Blanchard Presbytery the name was changed to the Johnstown Church. The name was changed to the Ada Presbyterian Church April 22, 1868.

In 1860, the need of a new church building was felt, and in 1861 a contract was let for the erecting of the new building to John H. Mustard, a citizen of Ada, and a pillar of the Church. The building was started, but the Civil War, which was in progress at that time, slowed up the work, and it was not completed until 1864, and not dedicated until 1867. Rev. T. P. Johnson preached the dedicatory sermon.

In 1889, the Ada Congregation employed the Pastors full time, and these served their community faithfully and well, as the growth of the Church can testify. In 1833 the Society was incorporated under the Laws of Ohio.

A great revival was held in 1888-1889 and after this there was a demand for a better house of worship. A building committee was formed, and the plans and specifications of Charles H. Miller of Lima were selected. Bids were sold and the contract for erecting the building was awarded to S. F. Swartz of Bowling Green, Ohio at $9,120.00. The old church was sold to John Huntard and was moved to Gilbert Street near the railroad where it was used as the Church until the new one was completed. It was destroyed later by fire. More room was needed for the new church, so a fifty foot frontage to the south was bought from J. T. Cronin, W. G. Scoules built the foundation. The cornerstone was set on Wednesday, July 23, 1890 with appropriate ceremonies. On February 20th, 1891 the keys were turned over and the building was completed to the entire satisfaction of the Committee. The actual cost of the Church was $9,735.00.

Rev. Robert Butz is the present Pastor.
ST. PAULS EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH

COUNTY LINE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

RILEY CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

SUGAR GROVE CHURCH

METHODIST CHURCH

The first services held by the Methodists in this area were at the home of David Sleister, three miles South-west of Ada, in 1850, by Rev. Samuel Hagerman of Huntersville. A small frame school house had been built near the center of the township in 1852, and some church services were held here, more or less regularly, until a congregation was organized in 1855, by Rev. Jacob Fechtly. They continued meeting in the school house until the Presbyterians had completed their first frame church building. The Methodist then met there until they were able to build a church of their own.

At a quarterly conference May 16, 1867, a building committee was appointed to make plans for this church. Serving on this committee were Solomon Smick, Nathan Ahlefeld, Horace Gilbert, Dr. Ralph Davenport, John Davenport, J. O. Philipp, Thomas Carson, Samuel Arbuthnot, and Samuel Stringfellow. The Church was to be located on the corner of Gilbert and Hoosier (now Highland) Streets. It was dedicated before it was completed in 1861, and again in 1871. The minister Rev. J. H. DeLisle seems to have been the hero of the day, for not only did he work for the salvation of souls, but he labored mightily for the new church home in which they could worship. It is said of him, that he not only worked on the building itself, but he hauled logs to the Smick mill to be sawed into lumber for it. He broke his leg on one of these trips, but in a few days he demanded to be taken to the Tressel Quarry north of town, where lying on his stomach, he quarried stone for use in the building. (What price glory?) For many years this church was used by the community and congregation. In 1894 the Central Ohio Conference was held here, and agitation for a larger church was started. After considerable discussion as to whether it would be located north of south of the railroad, it was finally decided, and in February 1897 two lots were purchased on the corner of Main and Highland Streets and on these was erected the present Methodist Church.

Rev. Harry Bright is the pastor, now serving the congregation.
FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH

CHURCH OF CHRIST

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
The Baptist Church was organized on October 2, 1866, and re-organized by a council Oct. 18, 1867. John and Mary A. Gilbert, E. Land, Rachel Sanford, D. S. and Cyrena Judd, William League, N. B. Holder, Clara McClanahan, Elizabeth Perry, Ann Glass, Mr. and Mrs. David Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Perry, Mr. and Mrs. Eno, Wm. A. Edwards, Grandy Leagney, Mr. Mannin and Mrs. Thomas were some of the earliest members of the organization. The church was planned as the result of a series of meetings held by Rev. E. E. Thomas who was sent here by the Home Missionary Society. Again the Presbyterians came to the rescue and allowed the Baptists to use their church until they could build one of their own.

Those who served on the Baptist building committee were William League, N. B. Holder and Wm. A. Edwards. The location chosen was the North-east corner of Simon and Montford Streets. The church was dedicated May 10, 1868. It cost $2,500.00. The first Board of Trustees consisted of D. G. Lewis, N. B. Holder, William League and Wm. A. Edwards. John Gilbert was Deacon and Rev. E. E. Thomas was the first pastor. The records show that their pastors served on short terms. Their church was one of the earlier ones to withdraw and went to Riley Creek. 1872 seems to have been a difficult year. They had no pastor, and for several years they struggled along with only part time pastors or none at all. However, in 1881 Rev. Allerton held a great revival meeting, resulting in an increase of eighty-eight in the membership.

The next ten years seems to have been a time of discouragement, with part time pastors or none at all, and only occasional services. In 1891, under the Rev. W. B. Hartzog, the congregation took new courage, and a new site on the North side of Highland Street between Main and Johnson Streets was purchased, and the church was moved and repaired. In 1893 the young, able and energetic Rev. B. F. Tilly was called as pastor, and the next year the membership was doubled. Later, a parsonage was added to the rear of the church. More peaceful and prosperous times followed and later this parsonage was used for Sunday School rooms. A new parsonage was secured.

At the present time, under the able leadership of Rev. Fara Lamon, the Church has a prosperous, active and interested membership and regular religious services.

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ, or Christians as they are variously called, was the result of a religious movement started by Thomas and Alexander Campbell early in the last century. Their great desire was to restore the forms of primitive Christianity particularly as it applied to the persons as it existed, and the one mode of baptism. They were also known in some sections as "New Lights". Their first service in this vicinity seems to have been held in the home of Elijah Wilson about 1840. In 1852 Marshall Carman and his wife, Deborah, came up from Southern Ohio and settled just south of the line between Liberty and Marion Townships, a few miles south west of Ada. It was through their efforts and financial aid that the first Church was built near the Carman cemetery. Among the neighboring families were those of George Sutton, Evan Jackson, and George Reese. According to the story of Dr. H. S. Lehr, it was after he came to Ada to establish his Normal School that he called together all the citizens of the neighborhood who were of the Christian faith for their first meeting. They met in a frame School House on that Sunday and there were twenty-seven who commenced. Elder Dana Call preached, and it was a time of great joy. They planned for another meeting to be held later (Dr. Lehr chopped the fire wood for it) and at that time there were 36 formed into an organization. When the School House was sold they met a few times at the home of Philip Axline, who later became the pastor. They also held meetings in Baes' Hall.

The membership grew, and they bought the lot on South Main Street where the Church now stands for $200.00. This was in 1874 and John H. Wilson was given the contract to build a square frame Church. Some years later a vestibule and belfry was added. By 1891 they needed a new building and the members pledged $2000.00 for the work. On June 14th the building committee was made up of Prof. J. G. Park, S. S. Wagner, and Agnew Walsh. An architect from Detroit drew the plans, and in the spring of 1892 the contract was let to C. S. Anspergh, and on February 1893 the completed structure was dedicated. Miss Louise A. Iden willed her home to the church, and its sale provided a pipe organ for the sanctuary. For many years Prof. J. G. Park taught a Sunday School class and hundreds of young men and women left this Church to become Christian workers over the land. Through the years they have had 24 ministers. Rev. Lee Moore is the present minister.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Father Sullivan of Tiffin, Ohio held the first Catholic service in Ada about 1858. Also Father Murphy of the Cleveland Diocese preached occasionally. In June 1866 Kenton was given a resident Priest, Rev. N. R. Young and Ada was taken into his field. The early Catholic families to arrive here were A. G. Baker, Michael Flynn and John Morrow 1856; Daniel Brein 1859; Thomas and Bartholomew O'Leary 1864; and Jacob Forbing 1869. Rev. Young held his first services on the second floor of a frame store room on the northeast corner of Buckeye and Johnson Streets that was owned by Mr. Bastible. Rev. A. N. Quatman succeeded Rev. Young and Rev. N. J. V. Fos came in June 1870. The work increased and the membership grew to such a degree that the Rev. A. R. Sherron was called upon to serve this parish, and thus he did for three years. Fire destroyed their first place of worship, and services were held among the homes of the members. In 1872 they leased a room in the newly completed I.O.O.F. block, on the second floor and here they worshipped for some years.
Rev. A. Siebenforer of Canton served the congregation here from 1874 until he gave up his work in Canton in 1905 with but one interruption. Some of his assistants were Rev. J. M. Quatman, Rev. Alfred Dexter, Rev. Andrew Ebert, Rev. U. B. Miguéz and T. S. Losance.

Mr. Forbing donated a lot located on the southeast corner of Ballard and Johnson Streets. This was not considered a suitable place so in 1874, this lot was sold, and two others were purchased on the northeast corner of Hoosier and Simon Streets. Ground was broken for the Church Sept. 30, 1874 and by December of that year a Church 30x50 feet was ready for use and was dedicated by Rev. A. M. Quatman. The total cost was $1,227.50, of which about $600.00 was contributed by Non-Catholic citizens of Ada and an equal sum from outlying districts. A new parish house on North Main Street was purchased Aug. 15, 1948. Father Hoch now serves as parish Priest.

LUTHERAN CHURCH

St. Marks Evangelical Lutheran society was organized at the home of Samuel Anspach, by the Rev. J. E. Smith, missionary president of this synod, on Aug. 23, 1876 with the following membership: Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Anspach, Mr. and Mrs. John W. Stambaugh, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Umbaugh, Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Anspach, Mr. and Mrs. Augustus Cronbaugh, Luther M. McGraw and Mrs. A. Oberlin.

The building of their Church on the northeast corner of Main and Center Streets was begun in 1877. It was completed the next year and dedicated Aug. 25, 1878. The bell was added in 1880. The first Pastor was Rev. J. G. Reiffer of Lima. He was followed by Rev. Frank F. Cook, of Mt. Pleasant, North Carolina. Rev. Cook was installed
by Rev. Thomas W. Corbett of Lafayette, Ohio. He remained here as Pastor for seventeen years, resigning in 1895 to become pastor at Jewett, Ohio. He was followed by sincere dedicated men, and the Church has grown by confirmation and letters into a steady and faithful following. In 1907 they added new pews and other improvements that were necessary. On Nov. 25, 1928 a beautiful new Church was built on the corner of Lincoln and Johnson Streets. The old Church has now been converted into a filling station.

GRACE GOSPEL CHURCH

The Grace Gospel Church at 321 N. Gilbert Street was founded and dedicated July 23, 1939 by its pastor Carl C. Clum. Previous to the building of the Church, the group met in homes, and later a meeting place known as the Ada Mission was established. The Church is undenominational and has a spiritual fellowship with believers from Ada, Alger, Lima, Beavercreek and Bluffton. The object of this fellowship is to assemble for public worship at an Evangelistic Bible Teaching Church, teaching and preaching the Gospel of the Grace of God according to Acts 20:24 as revealed by Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles. The government of this Church is vested in those who compose it, and is not under the control of any other ecclesiastical body. It recognizes the oneness of all believers in the Body of Christ (Cor. 12: 12-13) and desires fellowship with all Christians who are faithful to the Word of God. Present officers are: Carl C. Clum, Pastor; J. A. Mowry, Sec.; Herbert E. Clum-Supt.; Max C. Klinger, Treas.; Robert Amstutz-Supt.

Other Officers: Earl Hetrick, John Collins, Gran Pratt, Howard Sherer.

Other Churches that have been organized but for various reasons were not continued were: National Holiness Society, March 15, 1884; The Universalists 1880; Church of the Strangers, in the mid-seventies; A Reformed Society 1884; The Wesleyans, a split off from the Methodist built a brick Church on the southwest corner of Gilbert and College Streets in 1879. This was the building later purchased and remodeled by the College for a Music Conservatory.

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND ST. PAUL'S REFORMED CHURCH

On March 1, 1851 the following persons met at the house of George Rusher as representatives of the faith and doctrines of the two above denominations, respectively, for the purpose of organizing a church. Of the first mentioned church, George Rusher, Samuel Anspach and Solomon Anspach; of the last mentioned church David A. Klingler, Charles Asire and Christian King. At this first meeting the following persons were elected as Building Committees and Board of Trustees: George Rusher, Samuel Anspach and Charles Asire, with George Rusher as Clerk. They erected a log house for church purposes, 26x34 feet which was dedicated to service November 14, 1852. Rev. A. Doner preaching the sermon. This was the first church edifice ever erected in Liberty Township. They continued to worship together under Rev. A. Doner for about eighteen months until his death. From this time on to 1874 they held services together, having a preacher every two weeks. At this date 1874 it was necessary to erect a new house of worship, as the old one was unfit for use. When the matter came up before the congregation, some differences of opinion arose, and it was finally decided that each denomination should build a house of its own, which they did. The Lutherans erected their church at a cost of about $1,700. In the same year 1874 St. Paul's Reformed Church named a building committee: S. Hetrick, S. C. Fought, David Klingler and John Klingler. A brick house, 36 x 50 was erected and dedicated January 1875 by the Rev. Prof. Good of Tiffin, Ohio, assisted by the pastor in charge, Rev. James F. Hale.

THE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

The Church of the Brethren was founded as a Christian Church about eighty years ago on land that was donated for a church site by Mr. Daniel, grandfather of the late Marvin E. Huber. The Guthries, Grants and Gobneys were the pioneer members, and Rev. Candler and Rev. Grubb were the first Christian ministers. A few years later it was taken over by the Brethren Church and Eli Beagle was the first Brethren minister. In World War I the name was changed from the German Baptist Brethren to the Church of the Brethren. At the present time they are building a six room modern parsonage near the Church. This Church building was erected in 1906. They have a membership of 150. Rev. W. D. Landis now serves the congregation.

AREA CHURCHES AND GRANGES

BETHEL CHURCH

The Bethel Church of Christ is located four miles north and one mile east of Ada on U.S. 30 N. The Church was founded in 1870 by two men, Wm. Parks and Isaac Thompson, who believed that the New Testament instruction concerning the Church was sufficient to serve one Lord. Other pioneers who helped in the work were: Elias Diehl, U. L. Henry, Lee Main, George McElroy, Hugh McElroy, James McElroy, T. U. Morrison, John Morrison, Weasly Shilling, Allen Thompson, Chester Thompson and Jesse Crawford. These men were strong in the faith and the Church grew under the ministry of such men as Bro. Fall, J. U. Updike, Frank Harris, George Smith and W. A. Brundige.
During Pastor Brundige's ministry, the congregation outgrew the old building, and in 1912 they erected the present building. The Church now stands on the original ground donated to them by Wm. Parks. The Church has continued to grow under the leadership of such ministers as J. E. Haws and George Richard. In 1943 the congregation erected a parsonage on the Church grounds. The present minister is Rev. Harold C. Prong who came July 13, 1952.

SUGAR GROVE CHURCH

The Charter Members of the first Sugar Grove Church when it was organized in the Fall of 1875 were: George Ryan and wife, Banka Miller, Mrs. Thomas Carey, Samuel Carey and wife, George Clapham and wife, Henry Scott and wife, J. M. Porter and wife, John Wilcox and wife and J. D. Davis and wife.

That winter a revival was held and T. J. Carey was the first convert. These meetings were held in the little white frame school house and later in the brick one as it was twenty-three years before a Church was built.

The early pastors were J. J. Jagger, Gershon Lease, D. R. Cook, A. C. Barnes, Wm. Fitzgerald, N. N. Pigley, Ven Carter and Jeremiah Kelley.

In 1899-96 there was no regular pastor and finally no Sunday School. In 1897 a student Geo. D. Gray re-opened the Sunday School and preached through the summer. That fall Rev. T. J. Carey was assigned as regular pastor. A revival that winter brought in 27 new members. It was after this that a new Church was planned. Nicholas McElmurry donated the land for the site. Trees for the lumber and almost all the labor was donated. J. N. Carter was the architect and head carpenter, giving his time and labor until the Church was completed.
In the building of the Church it is said that some of the men carried the boards from the mill across the road, and others nailed them in place almost as soon as they were sawed out. The dedication was held in the Grove in Aug. 1898, with A. U. Jamison in charge. Many good and able ministers came and went through the years. In 1920 under Rev. Pierce it was decided to remodel the Church. The dedication this time took place in 1921 with Dr. A. E. Smith officiating. Pledges had been made to cover the expense of this, but some of it was not taken care of right away, so in 1933 a campaign was begun to eliminate this debt. Rev. Carvey was again the minister and in March of that year the first note was paid and the note itself was burned. In Oct. 1933 the last note was paid and burned.

Sugar Grove has sent six men into the world to carry the Gospel message, namely: T. J. Carvey, Neil Peterson, R. U. Kimble, Frank Anderson, Leroy Thompson and John Elwood. An odd coincidence about them is that at some time in their lives they all lived on Route #75, going north and south over the Peterson Crossing.

The Sugar Grove Community does honor and credit to their courageous forbearers. It is a wide awake, up to the minute community, which has built well on the foundation so well laid in that early day.

The present pastor is Lorin Seacook. E. N. Shadley has taught the Friendship Class for over thirty years.

HUNTERSVILLE CHURCH, GRANGE AND COMMUNITY

The village of Huntersville was surveyed into lots Jan. 21, 1836 for Thomas Hitchcock and lot No. 26 was sold to the trustees of the Methodist Church for the purpose of building a Church.

Jobey Hunter was the second man to locate here, and in his honor, Mr. Hitchcock named the village Huntersville. Mr. Hunter owned the land which is now the Huntersville Cemetery in which many pioneers of the community are buried.

In 1843 Johnathan Mathews came to the village. Benjamin and John had a grist mill and a saw mill which was operated by ox power. James Miller was the wagon maker and Peter Peck was the village shoemaker. There were three general stores owned by A. L. Halley, Reuben Huff and Mr. Wilson. There were three doctors, Blackburn, Davis and Evans to look after the health of the community. Reuben Huff became the first postmaster.

Huntersville's first Church was built of logs at a cost of $110.00. The first trustees were Thomas Hitchcock, Joseph Powell, McGuire Core, Moses Kibby, Jonathan Mathews and Smiley Mathews. The first preacher was Enos Holmes. As the community grew, a new and larger Church was needed and in 1862 a frame church was built at a cost of $9000.00.

Among the early pioneers of Huntersville we find the names of Kibby, Jackson, Mathews, Hagerman, Preston, Cooney, Thompson, Carman, Nelson, Runser, Wilson and Shadley.

The Huntersville lovely roadside park also is evidence of the civic mindedness of the community. It is a haven of rest and comfort to the weary traveler.

PLEASANT HILL, GRANGE

Pleasant Hill Grange at Huntersville was organized Feb. 22, 1874, in the Pleasant Hill School House. Its Charter Members numbered thirty-one. They were instructed in the four degrees by Park Snodgrass, Deputy. William Reed was the first master and Cyrus McGuffey the first secretary. This Grange has backed every movement for the betterment of Agricultural Methods, Rural Community Life and Means of Transportation and Communication. The citizens of this community do honor to their founders by continuing to build carefully and well on the foundations laid so many years ago.

JACKSON GRANGE

Jackson Grange No. 341, one of the oldest Granges in Allen County, located four miles west of Ada on the High Road, was organized Jan. 6, 1874.

There were 26 men and thirteen women charter members. The first meeting was held in the home of David Fisher, which is now the residence of Eliza Clum. The first officers were John Austin, Master; John Halser, Overseer; John B. Grubb, Lecturer; Solomon D. Snider, Steward; David Klingler, Ass't. Steward; Samuel Foehn, Chaplain; Joseph Sevity, Treasurer; James B. Halser, Secretary; Cornelius Fisher, Gatekeeper; Elizabeth Grubb, Jere; Anna Binkley, Pogonsa; and Sarah A. Halser, Flora.

Mr. Fisher, the last surviving charter member died May 16, 1937. He had held continuous membership for 63 years. The first regular meetings were held on or before the first full moon of each month on Friday night.

Some interesting notes of the early meetings were:

- Bills allowed for candles to light the hall. These furnished by Levi Lones at .08 per pound.
- The first oil lights were purchased March 3, 1874. Bill for five lights, can and oil was $8.90. Kerosene cost 25 cents per gallon.
- On March 26, 1874 a motion was passed to pay the Master $1.50 for attending State Convention.
- On March 25, 1875 a motion was passed to start proceedings for a new Grange Hall. The contract was given to William Clum for $91.50. Most of the material was donated by the members.

The first meeting in the new hall was on Nov. 19, 1875. No smoking or spitting was allowed in the Hall, and some had their membership cancelled on these charges. From the beginning of the Grange the members were interested in buying co-operatively. Members brought their eggs which were packed in barrels and shipped to market. A gro-

-33-
cery store was added and all members purchased their groceries and supplies there. This continued for over forty five years. The business done, passed the $5000.00 mark.

The Grange used the first hall for 16 years. On Aug. 15, 1890 a motion was passed to build a new hall, and in the spring of 1891 the present hall was started. It was dedicated Dec. 1, 1891. This building is still used but through the years, a stove, electric lights, stage and curtins, and some changes have been added. A juvenile Grange was organized Dec. 10, 1920 with 23 Charter Members. Dot Binkle was the first juvenile matron. The present matron is Mrs. Lucille Hauenstein.

During World War I the Grange had 23 members in service. Gary Cris had his life for his Country. In World War II there were 24 boys and 1 girl in service. At the present time there are nine names on the Honor Roll.

Mrs. Anna Binkle has a record of 75 years of continuous membership. Around 1750 people have through the years, been members of the organization. The present membership is 235. An all day Thanksgiving meeting is an annual event. On Jan. 6, 1949 the 75th anniversary was observed with a program and basket dinner.

Chester Long is the present master.

WASHINGTON GRANGE

Washington Grange No. 576 was organized March 31, 1874 in the home of George Darst of Washington Township, Hardin County. The first Charter was granted March 28, 1874 by Oliver Kelley, Secretary, and Park Snodgrass, Deputy State Master, with twenty-five Charter Members. W. H. Martin was the first Master; J. H. Willeke the first Overseer; John Depler the first Secretary; and William Gulder the first Treasurer.

Washington Grange was successful, but the decline in membership all over Ohio between 1890 and 1920, so affected this Grange that from 1890 to 1900 they had to give it up for the lack of members. However, in 1899 a meeting was called in the Maple Grove School house for the purpose of reorganization. A new Charter was granted Jan. 1, 1901 with seventy five members which was the largest membership of any subordinate Grange at the time.

They continued to meet in the Maple Grove School until 1902 when a new Grange Hall was built. The site was purchased from Lawrence Camper for thirty dollars and a large part of the labor and material was donated by the members. Andrew Huffman was the carpenter. Dues were $1.00 a year until 1926, when they were raised to $1.80 per year. As the membership increased a larger building was needed so they bought the Maple Grove School House for $461.00. The Grange Hall was moved to, and joined with, the school house in 1923. This new hall was re-dedicated by Harry A. Cayton, State Master of Ohio, on March 31, 1924. The Grange now has a membership of 167 with two of the Charter Members, Mrs. Andrew Daniels and Mrs. J. H. Willkie, still living.

In 1917 a piano was purchased and in 1921 gasoline lights were bought and served until 1927 when electric lights were installed. A Grange orchestra was organized in 1925. In 1926 this Grange won first honors on a booth display at the Ohio State Fair and received a prize of $180.00. In 1930 they received second honors and a prize of $100.00, and in 1931 they received third honors and $50.00. They served dinner to 8000 people on National Field Day, on the Ben Conner farm, operated by Ira Marshall, then the World's Champion Corn Grower. Net profit was $545.00. They still have the first gavel presented to the first Master by W. H. Martin in 1874. Edgar G. Wagner is the present Master of the Grange.

LIBERTY GRANGE

Liberty Grange is located two miles North of Ada on Route 69 in what used to be the old Rhinehart school house. It was organized March 17, 1931 with eighteen Charter members. It has had a steady growth and now has about 130 members. It is one of the most active Granges in the County. It has a very active youth program, including both boys and girls basket ball teams. A number of its members have served as officers of Hardin County Pomona Grange. Otis Reese is the present Master, Mrs. Florence Wright, lecturere and Dorothy Staley, secretary.

CLUBS

The first of the Ladies' Literary Clubs was The Current Events Club organized in 1893. Soon after this the Twice Ten Art Club was formed. The 1902 Club began of course in 1902 and the Advance Club was organized in 1906. Many Debaters' clubs were organized in short time, and on Nov. 23, 1916 they were Federated. The present members of the Ada Federation are:

Twice Ten Art--Mrs. Dana Welsh, Pres. Cosmopolitan--Mrs. Wm. Sonnet, Jr., Pres.
Research --Mrs. J. B. Runney, Pres. Pastime --Mrs. Hester Huffman, Pres.

Since 1916 the Federation has had thirty-four Presidents. Mrs. Glenn Marshall is the President for 1952-53.

BOY SCOUTS OF ADA

Boy Scout Troop 1, in Ada was organized in 1913 by C. B. Beckes, minister of the Presbyterian Church. Clinton Dobbins was the active leader. In 1926 it was placed under the supervision of the Area Council and the number was changed from 1 to 24. More than seven hundred former members have grown to manhood and are filling key posi-
tions in civil life. Two of them, Vance Leonard and John A. Brewer, are professional scooters. More than forty of these boys became Eagle Scouts. In World War II over one hundred and seventy former scouts served their country in the theaters of the war. One-Bobby Ream-did not come home. Frank Miller is now the local scout Master.

Special tribute should be paid to Errett Motter, who gave many years to the Boy Scouts of Ada, as probably was a greater influence for good in their lives than any other one person. Also special thanks are due Mr. and Mrs. George Stambaugh for their unfailing interest and financial backing.

ADA GIRL SCOUTS

Ada's first Girl Scout troop was organized in 1927 with Mrs. Eldred Anapach (nee Isora Scott) as leader. A scarcity in the ensuing years resulted in a brief period of inactivity. Re-organization was effected by Mrs. George Hindall (nee Billie Arbogast) who served as a leader from April 6, 1932 through 1935. Camping trips were inaugurated at Indian Lake, August 1932 and in August 1933 and in July 1934 at Lake Idlewild, Kenton. During this early period the services of Laura Kampmeier, Lois Mitchell and Gertrude Herrick were enlisted as leaders. In 1936 Mrs. John Arthur Brewer (nee Betty Lee Arbogast) who received her training at Camp Legedwood, Cleveland began a four year term as leader of local scouts. During Mrs. Brewer's regime, the present Junior intermediate Senior Scout Troop was formed. The Brownie troop was started by Mrs. Mildred Coburn in 1941. All four troops operated as "lone troops" until 1950 when they were admitted to membership in Ft. Amanda Council. Now there are 119 girls and 42 adults registered.

Some outstanding events sponsored by the Girl Scouts have been:
- Internationale Tea and exhibit, honoring guests from other lands.
- A Juliette Low Birthday Party.
- Court of Awards held at Avanellie H. Stambaugh Day; Day Camp;
- Open House and exhibit at Cabin on Farmers and Merchants Picnic Day;
- Girl Scout Week and activities.

Many more interesting things could be told about the Girl Scouts if space and time permitted.

SERVICE CLUBS

KIWANIS CLUB

The Kiwanis Club was organized in 1924 by Rev. Wilbur Vorhis, who became its first President, Thomas J. Smull was Vice President and Edgar Parks, Secretary and Treasurer. The motto of the club being "We Build", one would naturally expect to find the club a power for progress and improvement in the Community, and the Ada Kiwanis is no exception.

Some of the projects and activities they have carried on through the years are:
1. Backing various youth projects.
2. Aiding underprivileged children.
3. Sponsoring and donating money to both Boy & Girl Scouts.
6. Sponsored Agricultural programs.
8. Supported Churches.
9. Gave $1000.00 to the Hardin County Hospital.
10. Purchased school play ground equipment.

Many other achievements could be added to the list.

Dr. Rodbaugh is President and Burch Wilson, Secretary.

Dr. T. J. Smull, Dr. Wilcox, Barton Snyder and Harry Sosley are the only Charter Members now living in Ada.

THE ROTARY CLUB

On December 30th, 1936 another fine thing occurred to our town, for it was then that our Rotary Club was organized. It was an out growth of the progressive thinking and spirits of Ben Pocht, Tom Bartlett, George Conn, Arthur Phillips, Bob Cole, Charles Collett, Erv King, Bill Runser, Dr. Don Prints, Cha. Wilson. Others subsequently became Charter Members. A Charter was applied for and received to form a group to be known, and federated with, ROTARY INTERNATIONAL.

The Club has functioned regularly ever since and is active in a diverse field of public relations extending throughout the civilized world. It also works for civic improvement.

Youth Work, Boy and Girl Scouts, 4H, FFA, crippled children and athletics all come within the philanthropic scope of ROTARY'S attention. Annual crippled children banquets have long been a feature of club service.

The local history of Rotary started with the organizing of the Club in 1936 with George Conn as its first president.

Rotarians underwrote the cost of the lights at the athletic field, and in one way or another have contributed over thirty thousand dollars to things of a like nature since its inception.

The present president is Robert Cole who for a number of years was treasurer of the organization. Cha. Hawk is Vice President and he has been secretary for a long time; James Reissig, the new secretary, is a past president of the local group. Charles Fowler is treasurer.
MRS. F. W. TURNER
Oldest living female resident.

MR. JAMES W. IRWIN
Oldest living male resident.

Left-FORMER HOME OF FRANK B. WILLIS

Right-OHIO NORTHERN STUDENT CENTER, FORMER HOME OF S. M. JOHNSON FOUNDER OF ADA.
The Business and Professional Women's Club was organized in Ada in 1950 with Cecil Sinks serving as first president. In the three years they have been organized they have collected $150.00 to the Library, $35.00 to the Stadium and bought one uniform for Ada's High School Band. In 1952 they entertained the 22 clubs in District No. 1. They now have a membership of 35. Evelyn Jenkins is president for 1953-54. There were 30 Charter Members.

P. E. O. SISTERHOOD

Chapter O, of the P. E. O. Sisterhood was organized in Ada in 1927, with the following thirteen Charter Members: Elma Jameson, Nann Clayton, Mary Bogardus, Avanelle Stambaugh, Laura Conner, Alice Webb, Ella Soursley, Pearl Underwood, Marie Snyder, Laura McElroy, DeBrillo Hindell, Bertha Buck, and Carolyn Ames. Mrs. Mary Ensign sponsored the organization of the local chapter.

This Sisterhood is international in scope and educational in its purpose. Gatty College in Nevada, Missouri is the property of the Sisterhood, and thousands of girls have been educated through P. E. O.'s Loan Fund, which is nearly a million dollars. It also has many foreign students here in various schools and to aid in promoting international friendship and peace.

BUSINESS MEN'S CLUB

On February 6th, 1912 the business men of Ada met in the Masonic Club rooms for the purpose of organizing a "Business Men's Club". It was officially organized March 3rd, 1912, with W. C. Ewing, president, A. C. Mertz, vice president, M. L. Snyder, secretary and L. C. Povmire, treasurer.

At a meeting on June 19, 1914 the Ada Business Club formulated plans for an annual Farmers and Merchants' Picnic. The officers of the association at that time included Harry J. Soursley, president, Dana E. Welsh, treasurer and M. L. Snyder, secretary. A motion was duly made that a committee be appointed to discuss with local business operators the idea of setting a side one day in each year for the picnic to be held in Ream's grove. The purpose was to create a better feeling between town and country.

The attendance at this picnic is between four and five thousand, showing that it has met with great success through the years. Old residents of Ada come from all over the country to re-new friendships.

The Memorial Park today is no doubt an out-growth of this picnic.

ADA NURSING HOME

The Ada Nursing Home was opened in 1945 to care for the sick and the infirm. It is open to all kinds of patients and has had an average of thirty-two to thirty-six patients for several years. James Irwin is the oldest patient now in the Home, being ninety-seven years of age. Mary Turner, another patient, is ninety-five years old.

There is always a list of patients awaiting entrance into the Home, since the number of people cared for is limited by the amount of room available. Opal Clay is the manager.

There are many bridge clubs, birthday clubs, and social organizations in town. It is rumored there are seventy-five, but since there is no way of learning all the names and histories, it will have to suffice to say that they exist.

THE SCIOTO MARSH

When the last glacier of the Great Ice Age melted away, great masses of Glacial Drift and Glacial Tracks remained to tell the story.

In Hardin Co. a great basin 6 miles long and half as wide had been formed in this "Drift" of clay, pebbles and boulders.

During the centuries that followed this was to become a lake; a marsh; the scene of a giant engineering project; one of the richest farming centers in the country; a place where men were wealthy one day and poverty stricken the next; a social problem; the subject of pioneer experiment in the suppression of poverty.

At first this was a lake of ice water from the melting glaciers. After centuries it had passed a few water plants grew along the margins and finally died. Later plants grew more luxuriantly and eventually the swamp plants flourished.

Silt from the banks washed in and clogged it, and it became a stinking black muck of decayed vegetable matter.

In this great expanse of water and emerald swamp were locked fabulous natural resources that were to make men rich or ruin them.

The Indians found the marsh near, Happy Hunting Ground. These Indians saw in the marsh, a region haunted by evil spirits and alive with wild game. Here they killed elk, bear and deer for food and clothing. They hunted and fished in complete ignorance of the vast wealth in the ooze beneath their feet.

With the coming of the white man this 16,000 acre treasure saw the beginning of its end.

The white pioneers saw in it at first only a means of food, clothing and shelter. It was not necessary to look far, for the red deer, occasionally traveling in flocks of 50 or more furnished food, hides, harness material and ropes.
Seated L. to R.-ROBERT RAMBO, LEO WRIGHT, HOWARD McBRIDE, W. JAMES, CLOYCE HAUENSTEIN, LEE BRAAG.  Standing-JOHN TOMPSON, RUSSELL BROWN, BOB SCHMIDT, DEE KLINGNER, DON YOUNG, GARLAND GUNN, DR. ROBERT TIPPLE, FRANK MILLER.

Seated L. to R.-JAKE MARLING, WARREN HULL, ALVIE CASPER, PARK SHRIDER, BOB PARKS, DON DUNBAR.  Standing-DOYLE RAINIE, DALE REESE, IVAN GILBERT, WOODY SHULAW, RAY MCCLURE, CALVIN CROUSE, BRYAN EARL, WARREN CASPER, WALTER SOUSLEY, BOB RUNSER, RALPH PRICE.

THE BEARDED BRETHREN

Seated L. to R.-OLIVER McEIROY, RAY FRY, Dr. A. TIPPLE, ROYNEY HOVER, HARRISON STOBER, WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM.  Standing-WAYNE COONEY, BRYAN HARROD, BURT McBRIDE, DARYL BAKER, JIM WALLS, RUSSEL STAUFFER.

Seated L. to R.-BRITTON MANSFIELD, EARNEST KLINGNER, RALPH WILLEKE, HENRY ZITTER, R. G. FUERTES, ORVEL LEE, CLYDE LAMB.  Standing-DEAN TINSLER, DAVID SOUSLEY, CHARLES HAVK, CLAUDE BROWN, VANCE REICHERT, HANK CASPER, BRUCE NELSON, ROBERT KROFFT.

Seated L. to R.-EVAN SIMON, DALE WESTENBARGER, N. THOMPSON, BILL HOYT.  Standing-CAREY GLUM, LEWIS G. GOOD, GEO. ANSPACH.
Bears were found in the vicinity as late as the 1880's. There was one area of dense undergrowth where they were found, and every one gave it a wide berth unless they were really "loaded for bear".

The place swarmed with pheasants, wild turkeys, geese, ducks and partridges. There were many fox, raccoons, muskrat and squirrels and a few porcupines.

Gray and black wolves ran in packs, and there was still a bounty on wolf scalps as late as 1883.

A human interest story of early pioneer life relates how a woman herded her pigs into her cabin and stood guard in the doorway with a loaded gun, to drive off a wolf pack that threatened them. (The door was only a curtain).

Wild pigs with tusks a foot long roamed the woods. There was always open season on panther, lynx and wildcat.

Also the swamp writhed and coiled with snakes. They coiled in patches in the tall grass. They slithered into the cabins of the settlers. Racers, copperheads and prairie rattles were the most common.

Many settlers used the Indian cure for snake bites, which was to chew "Rattlesnake weed," swallow the juice, and bind the pulp on the bite.

One pioneer woman, calmly kneeling before the fire, saw a huge snake crawling down the chimney. She had a kettle of milk heating on the fire, so she watched in terror until the snake dropped into the pan of milk. She quickly clapped on a heavy cover, and built up a roaring fire, which put an effective end to the existence of that one particular snake.

Turtle hunting was a great sport among the boys. Whole wagon loads could be sold at Bellefontaine at three cents a pound live weight.

Muskrat pelts were worth from five to eight cents. "Rat Town" as it was called covered an area of 100 acres, and the muskrat homes were so numerous that they could have been used as stepping stones. Two trappers of that day estimated their season's catch at 6000 muskrats and from 75 to 100 raccoons and mink.

Wild turkeys were trapped by the hundreds. Again the pioneers copied their red brothers and built traps like the Indians.

At least a million passenger pigeons spent the summer on the Scioto Marsh. A forty acre island later belonging to John Stambaugh was known as "The Pigeon Roost." The pigeons returned to this island every year. At least five hundred tons of fluttering, clawing live weight, crushed down the willow trees on the island. From dawn till dusk a million birds voices cluttered and clacked over the marsh.

Two million hungry pigeons could and did strip nearby fields of 4000 to 5000 bushels of grain in a single day. They have been known to fly a hundred miles and back in a single day to find food. Their speed in the air often reached sixty miles an hour.

They became fair game to farmers whose grain they devoured, and so the slaughter began. Dressed pigeons could be sold at fancy prices in Cincinnati and market hunting became a side line with many marsh residents.

In the Cincinnati zoological Gardens the last passenger pigeon died on Sept. 1, 1914.

The pioneer working unceasingly to clear the land to plant his corn and potatoes, looked longingly at swamp with its rich soil. But how to get rid of the water: In this shallow basin surrounded by low hills it seemed to be there to stay.

It was not until ten years before the Civil War that anything was done about draining it.

On June 8, 1850 under the leadership of Daniel Campbell, the Scioto Marsh Draining Co. was formed. The company estimated that 15,000 acres of muck could be drained at a cost of $700,000.

In 1881 this group petitioned the State of Ohio, which owned the Marsh land, to do something about having its property ditched. The State ceded the marsh, with all its mosquitoes and rattlesnakes to Hardin Co. The only strings attached were that they should advertise for bids on the draining. Ditches were to be paid in reclaimed land.

There were no bids - nobody wanted the job on the State's terms. After eight years, John Stambaugh of Franklin Co. thought he could do it, and on March 9, 1859 he was awarded the contract. He was to receive $2.50 an acre. By the time he was seventy years of age he owned thousands of acres of rich farm land.

He always wore a silk plug hat and a Prince Albert coat. He is described as a nattily dressed old gentleman who in his time had swung an axe and followed a plow with the best of them; an educated man who never went to school; a man who provided well for his sons, and sent them head-over-heels with his long cane when they disobeyed him.

In Nov. 21, 1862 the ditching was finished, and Mr. McGuffey received 4,550 acres of land worth $5,685. Spring rains flooded the place, but it was not considered a total failure. A few additional ditches were dug, but did not help much.

In 1881 the Erie R. R. was put through Hardin Co.

Sage, a civil engineer, who arrived at about the same time knew how to drain the marsh and did it. His plan was to dredge the Scioto River, so there would be fall enough to carry away the water. The ditch was sold on Aug. 28, 1883 to Wm. F. Morris for $57,000. It was to be completed by Feb. 1, 1886.

By 1890 the River was dredged, and crews laid tiles and cut lateral ditches. The water finally vanished, leaving in its wake deep black muck of incredible fertility steaming in the sun.

For two decades the marsh yielded enormous crops of onions.

Then in 1913 the Upper Scioto Drainage and Conservancy District was formed, headed by W. G. McGuffey. A survey showed the size of the river channel would have to be increased 400 percent. In 1916 The Morgan Engineering Co. estimated the work could be done for $296,000. World War I increased the cost to an estimated $700,000. Bonds were sold at 6%. Last payment was set for 1940.
Great difficulties were encountered when the settlers tried to farm the new land. A special plow was invented to break the sod, but under the sod the powdery muck became a sucking ooze after every rain. Plates of iron like "pontoons" had to be strapped to the horses feet to keep them from sinking. It was not until the 1890's that the pontoons could be discarded. Houses were built on pilings driven through the muck and into the clay.

Even courtship was carried on under difficulties. The gay Lochinvars did not come riding out of the west on a white steed. Instead they took their shoes and socks in their hands, rolled up their pants and waded through the mud. The lady love would thoughtfully provide a tub of water outside the door, where the mud could be removed. Then they would don shoes and socks, knock upon the door, and present themselves gay and shining, as if the trip over had been a most delightful experience.

Onions became the great money making crop, and by 1918 they covered 5500 acres of muck, yielding as much as a 1000 bushel to the acre. Storages were built and the towns of Alger and Mc Huffey began to boom.

Year after year nothing was planted but onions. The soil became depleted, the muck began to blow and then there were muck storms, and onions were blown out and destroyed. Sometimes there were disastrous fires from the burning muck.

Now, the onion no longer produces heavily enough to be profitable, and a more diversified cropping is being used. Potatoes, corn and wheat are grown, potatoes being the major crop.

Cheap labor from Kentucky caused a social problem which is not yet completely settled.

Sugar beets and peppermint have been grown since 1937.
HOG CREEK MARSH

Hog Creek Marsh was at one time infested with wild animals, and among the most ferocious of these was the wild hogs with tusks nearly a foot long. The story is told that Hog Creek was actually named by the Indians.

In 1796 Gen. Benjamin Logan of Kentucky marched an army of volunteers into the Indian country at the headwaters of Hog Creek, Logan County and destroyed eight Ma-o-chee Indian Towns. The British agent, Alexander McKee lived in the larger of these villages. He owned a large drove of hogs, and when he learned of Gen. Logan's approach he ordered his hogs driven northward, through the woods, to what is now known as Hog Creek, to prevent their being captured by the American Army. Bands of Indians followed some time later, and were greatly surprised to find all these hogs rooting along the banks of the creek. The startled hogs gave their usual grunt, and the Indians exclaimed "Kosh-Ko-Sepe" which translated means, "This is Hog Creek", and the name stuck. The first ditch through Hog Creek Marsh was cut by the Ohio and Indiana Railroad Company in 1853-54. In 1868 plans were made for draining the marsh. The leader in this was Benj. H. Bruning. A newly elected commission was formed. Lateral ditches were to be cut and Hog Creek itself was to be widened, deepened and straightened for a distance of nearly five miles. There were 8000 acres of land in the marsh at this time. This was quite successful, and cost the land owners about $13.00 an acre. Since then other improvements have been made.

"WHERE HONOR IS DUE"

Many of Ada's sons and daughters are filling posts of distinction in Financial, Political and Literary fields and of these we are proud.

We can only mention a few by name, because of our limited space, but we do want to mention Mrs. Sarah Lehr Kennedy, for her splendid book, on her illustrious father, Dr. Wilfred A. Kennedy, Political Science Teacher and Author; Tom Freeman, son of Dr. C. H. Freeman, novelist; and Wheeler McMillan, Author and Editor of the Farm Journal. Also we salute Dr. C. H. Freeman whose teaching and interpretation of literature has been as inspiration, not only to the students in his classroom, but to the people of Ada and the entire community.

In the world of politics and government the name of the Hon. Frank B. Willis ranks first among Ada's citizens. He served as Ohio's Governor and a United States Senator for many years. At the time of his death he was a candidate for the nomination for president. His old home on Ohio Northern's campus is now occupied by Mrs. Ella Trice.

The Hon. Simeon D. Fees, another of Ada's sons, also served many years in the United States Senate. His old home is now the Norwood Apartments on North Main Street.

Irving Garwood, now living in McComb, Illinois was the author of several text books. His Ada home is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Lantz south of town.

"CENTIMETERS"

In a letter to the Editor of the Record, W. L. Reese a former business man of Ada tells the efforts he and a friend Andy Grubb had in getting their partners, the Lee girls home from a dance. The girls lived about four miles west of town, and since there were no buggies or carriages available in that pioneer day, they had to rent two horses guaranteed to carry double. They started out in a driving rain. They found the bridge over Hog Creek washed out and could not cross. Reese left his girl sitting in the rain, while he walked a quarter of a mile to Marshall Candler's, got him out of bed and with a torch he guided them across the creek by a byroad. They paid Mr. Candler two dollars and went on their way finally getting the two thoroughly soaked girls home safely.

A corduroy road was laid between Ada and Kenton, and it took a whole day to make the trip one way.

In 1894 Hugh Peterson dried 805 barrels of sweet corn.

The first operation for appendicitis in Ada was performed in August, 1895. The first physician in Ada was Dr. Albert Wiley.

The first child born in Ada was Mary Johnson nicknamed "Pud".

In Oct. 1897 a number of Mongolian peasants were released here. An ordinance forbidding saloons in Ada was passed in Nov. 1896. Cornelius Unger was the first man to enlist to serve in the Civil War. This was on April 19, 1861. He served in Company C of the 4th Infantry.

Many Wyandot Indians hunted in this vicinity in the early days.

In 1866 there were ten saloons in Ada.

In another "Letter to the Editor" a lady tells of coming from Kenton to Ada, in a most primitive vehicle drawn by a big frowsy overgrown gray horse, to attend a Fourth of July Ball given in the cabin home of a Mr. Yorke a mile west of town, on what is now the Baker farm. After enduring the hot sun and the corduroy road to get here, they had supper at William Green's and there donned their party finery. Their young men took them on a hand car down the railroad track to the scene of the festivities. Most of the boys had brought their girls behind them on a horse. The girls all wore white cotton gloves and carried large red bandannas to clip the mosquitoes off. All their clothing was homespun and the boys wore their trousers tucked into high topped boots.

In 1896 the wedding of Daniel Noon and Eliza Simpson was a great social event. A huge dinner was served and people were invited for miles around.

Log rollings, house raisings and corn huskings by the men, and quiltings and sewing bees by the women, with a dance following these were the chief social functions.

John McElroy, brother of Hugh W. McElroy was born on the ocean while his parents were coming to America.

-43-
The first settlers had to go through the almost unbroken forest to Bellefontaine to obtain their grinding, taking from four to five days to make the trip.

Central Standard Time was officially adopted on June 17, 1899.

In 1891 the local merchants sold 9,240 pounds of candy, bringing about $1700.00. On May 26, 1894 Randall's division of Coxey's Army camped on the Fair Grounds. On May 25, 1892 an election was held to decide whether hog pens in the village should be allowed. It was decided to dispense with the "odorous nuisance".

In 1890 Hardin County land was appraised at $20.33 per acre.

One of Ada's pioneer physicians was Dr. Robert McGaveen, who began practicing here in 1849.

Three public wells were put down on Main Street by popular subscription in 1886. For the season of 1886-87 Ada consumed 780 gallons of oysters.

The first "pike" road was built from Ada to Kenton in 1872.

A terrible fire in 1885 burned every building from the railroad to Kemps Drug Store (now Dr. J. T. Johnson's office).

The next year another fire burned everything from Deglar's block just North of the Railroad to the square. These buildings were replaced by the present brick structures.

"All is not golden that glitters", was also true of furs, as Mr. W. L. Reese learned in 1860. He bought mink pelts for five dollars a piece from a man living north of Hog Creek Marsh. When he examined them closely, he found one to be the skin of a black cat with a mink tail attached.

Brambles of prickly Ash covered the banks of the stream that meandered across Buckeye Street near the National Bank corner.

The first farmer's Institute was held here in 1883.

The last Tri-County Fair was held in 1901.

Ada is 964 feet above sea level.

EPILOGUE

To try to write the history of a hundred years in three weeks and in twenty thousand words is a task impossible to accomplish well. In this effort, there are, no doubt, many things in, that should be out, and many things left out that should have been included. For all such errors I apologize.

But whatever my sins of omission and commission, I am sure if the tiny little Ada of 1853 could see the modern, bustling Ada of 1953, she would exclaim as did the old lady of the nursery rhyme, "Lawk! it's a mercy! This be none of I."

Perhaps some will think there should be more of the present, but after all, history records the past. We will leave what we are doing now to the historian of 2053. May the record of the next hundred years show the same faith, vision, and courage as that of the pioneers of Ada Community.

Pearl S. Underwood
ADA CENTENNIAL PROGRAM
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 19, 1953
FARMERS' AND MERCHANTS' PICNIC DAY

9:00 A. M. -- NOON
Team Pull
Flower, Vegetable, and Handicraft Show
4H Judging -------- Methodist Church.

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Free swimming for all children up to and including high school age.

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Boy Scout and Girl Scout Exhibits

12:00 NOON
Basket Dinners-- Family Gatherings-- Band Concert

1:30 P. M.
Centennial Welcome Speeches

2:00 P. M.
Cochran's Majorettes

3:00 P. M.
Children's Contests--Horseshoe Pitching

4:00 P. M.
Introduction of Queen Nominees

7:00 P. M.
Drawing
"The Ada Centurama"
Memorial Park Stadium
PROGRAM
THURSDAY, AUG. 20, 1953

2:00 P. M. -- 4:00 P. M.
Swimming Meet

4:00 P. M.
Band Concert -- Style Show

5:00 P. M.
Fantastic Costume Parade

7:00 P. M.
Drawing

8:30 P. M.
"The Ada Centurama"
Memorial Park Stadium

FRIDAY, AUG. 21, 1953

2:00 P. M.
Band Concert

3:00 P. M.
Pet Parade

4:00 P. M.
Coronation of Junior Queen

7:00 P. M.
Drawing

8:30 P. M.
"The Ada Centurama"
Memorial Park Stadium
PROGRAM
SATURDAY, AUG. 22, 1953

1:30 P. M.
Parade
Classifications- Antique automobiles (in operating condition); floats (non-commercial); horse drawn vehicles; saddle horses and riders; antique fire equipment; Boy Scout marching units; Girl Scout marching units; public school bands; individual baton twirlers.

4:00 P. M.
Bearded Men's Contest and Judging

8:30 P. M.
"The Ada Centurama"
Memorial Park Stadium

10:30 P. M.
Car Drawing

SUNDAY, AUG. 23, 1953

8:30 P. M.
"The Ada Centurama"
Memorial Park Stadium

10:00 P. M.
Candle Lighting Service
Sponsored by 4H Boys and Girls
"THE ADA CENTURAMA"

Staged and Directed by
CHRIS. CARTER

A John B. Rogers Production

PROLOGUE

Spectacular pageantry in brilliant lighting and colorful costumes, as the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H Boys and Girls, Sailorettes, States Representatives, Cadets, Nation's Queens and Antebellum Men and Women join together to greet the Queen of the Centennial and her royal court.

EPISODE ONE: "IN THE BEGINNING"

We see an Indian village where the red man sits in council and smokes the peace pipe with his white brother. A visit of Simon Kenton is portrayed. The Indians perform "The Dance of Green Corn", as a supplication to the God of Growing Things.

EPISODE TWO: "EARLY AMERICANA"

The early pioneers pause to rest from their arduous journey. A wagon train arrives upon the scene, and the pioneers set about their daily routine. A travelling preacher passes by, and performs a wedding. In a gay spirit of celebration a square dance is performed.

EPISODE THREE: "MITCHELL PLATS THE TOWN"

William Mitchell and his associates are seen as they plat the town, laying the foundations for Johnstown, which was later to become known as Ada. They find the land fertile and the location perfect for the growing town which Mitchell could even then envisage.
EPISODE FOUR: "REMEMBER THE SABBATH"

The devout gather to worship in a scene which depicts the faith of our Fathers. They pause from their labors to....

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy;
Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work;
But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord, thy God."

EPISODE FIVE: "DAWN OF EDUCATION"

The teacher in the one room school house encounters the tribulations of imparting knowledge to her young charges. Anna Stewart holds class in the first school, and we find that kids have not changed greatly over the years.

EPISODE SIX: "THE COMING OF THE IRON HORSE"

Excitement mixed with trepidation greets the arrival of the Iron Horse. Everyone gathers at the depot to see the first train as it arrives in Ada. An air of jubilation captures the spirit of the crowd and they join in a Virginia Reel.

EPISODE SEVEN "THE GREAT CONFLAGRATION"

Fire breaks out on Main Street and before it can be halted, the entire area from the Railroad to the Kemp block is completely devastated. There is great concern in the community, and many other volunteers are on hand to help the Fire Laddies extinguish the blaze.

EPISODE EIGHT: "HENRY SOLOMON LEHR"

This is a tribute to the practical dreamer who was the founder of Ohio Northern; an intimate glimpse into the very beginning of a great institution.

EPISODE NINE: "OHIO NORTHERN"

A great day in the life of the early students.....Graduation! The rising generation start on the long road of life...becoming involved in the business of being "those upon whose shoulders the future rests."
EPISODE TEN: "THE FARMERS AND MERCHANTS PICNIC"

This unique community celebration has come to be one of the really big events of the year. A life size picture of one of these early picnics contains all the ingredients of a great festive occasion including a Bathing Beauty contest.

EPISODE ELEVEN: "WORLD WAR I"

The conflict to end all world conflicts becomes part of our history. Many were called and many were chosen, but there were those who never came back. Perhaps a Gold Star Mother knew and evaluated the loss.

EPISODE TWELVE: "THE ROARING TWENTIES"

The wild and woolly 20's! The Charleston is the rage! Short skirts, touring cars, bobbed hair and bath tub gin are the order of the day. A hilarious adventure into the mad period with the "Flappers" and "Cake Eaters" doing the Charleston!

EPISODE THIRTEEN: "COLLEGE CAPERS"

The history making pranks of the students of Ohio Northern are part of the life of our community. There was a time when the result of a practical joke was massed mayhem. The students take over the town and finally bury the hatchet.

EPISODE FOURTEEN: "WORLD WAR II"

The Naval and Air forces of Japan attack American installations and shipping at Pearl Harbor, throwing the Nation into another bloody and devastating war. Iwo Jima..Lest we forget!

FINALE: "ADA LOOKS FORWARD"

The town of Ada looks bravely toward a great and glorious future.
TECHNICAL STAFF

General Chairman-------------------------Billie Hindall
Cast----------------------------------------Betty Miller
Costumes-------------------------------------Helen Baker
Music----------------------------------------Orlo Sprunger
Properties------------------------------------Edwin Parkhill
Stage----------------------------------------Henry Hollinger

Entire Spectacle under the supervision of the
Ada Community Theatre

COMMITTEES

CAST
Betty Miller
Lela Sousley
Joy Ranney
Roma Collett
Miriam Parkhill
Bessie Lamb
Robert Price
Jean Warthman
Linda Coburn
Marie Snyder
Audrey Hanson
Robert Pickett
Francis Brown
Mary Bowden
Helen Hites
Betsy Remsberg

COSTUME
Helen Baker
Grace Sheldon
Jane Lowry
Berniece Kramer
Mary Graeser
Frances Price
Gladys Welsh
Martha Conner
Christine Smith
Lila Suhr
Marie Peper
Dorothy Morehart
Cleo Searson
Lela Hooper
Mary Bash

STAGE
Hank Hollinger
George Hindall
Glenn Marshall
Robert Sheldon
Ferd Garwick
William Lenthart
Mark Ramsey
Doyle Rainey
Stan Levin
Jack Miller
Miller Brown
William May
Ted Hubbell
Don Zickafoose
Wayne Kimble
Ernest Carpenter

MUSIC
Orlo Sprunger
Majorie Hollinger
Fred Conner
Marcella Smith
William Ansley
Ernie Routson
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Ada, Ohio
Town Hosts Firemen in '54
80th Fete of Volunteers
Big Crowd Attends Two-Day Affair

Ada will be the scene next year of the 80th Fete of Volunteers, sponsored by the Firemen's Association. A telegram accepting the invitation to the event was received by Acting Mayor Jack Messenger from the firemen in Mumbai at 10:30 p.m. Wednesday. The men said:

"Thank you for extending the invitation to the Fourth of July Air Show. We are looking forward to the event and will make every effort to ensure its success." - Jack Messenger, Mayor.

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JUNE 31

McCurdy Buys Business Block; Will Modernize
Former Pawnshop Owner To Become Doctor's Office

Former pawnshop owner McCurdy has purchased the Business Block, which he has operated as a pawnshop for over 20 years. The building will be renovated and used as a doctor's office. The former pawnshop will be closed immediately.

July 4 Big Day at Park; Ball, Aquatics, Fireworks

Ada's only Fourth of July celebration, including a parade and fireworks display, will be held at the park this year. The event will feature a fireworks display, a parade, and a ball. The parade will begin at 10 a.m., followed by the ball at 1 p.m.

Dr. Love and Family Move Back To Ada

Ada native Dr. Love and his family have returned to Ada after spending several years abroad. The family is looking forward to reuniting with friends and family.

Moving Books To New Public Library This Week

Hope To End Heavy Job Next Week

The new public library is expected to be completed by next week. The library is located in the basement of the old courthouse.

FARMERS & MERCHANTS PICNIC BOARD

Seated L. to R.: GLEN MARSHALL, CARL SANDERSON, ERNEST RUTJON, CLARENCE FLEMING, OSCAR PATTERTON, BERNARD EPLEY.
Standing: OTTO REESE, WALTER SOUSLEY, DICK FULKS, W. R. SMITH, OTHO MOORE, CAREY CLUM, IRVIN VANDERMARK, LEWIS GOOD, RUSSELL REAM, CLEM HOVER.
-66-
Organized 1935

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2nd Row -- MIRIAM PARKHILL, LOU STambaugh, BETTY MILLER, LEITMIA McELROY, JOANN HINALL, MARY BOWDEN, EUNICE COLE, VIOLET BARANSY

1st Row -- ROMA COLLETT, BILLIE HINDALL, ELEANOR SONNETT, NORMA HUBBELL, ANNA MARY SHANKS, VIRGINIA NEISMANDER, SUZANNE ROOF

Members not pictured -- HELEN ALLEN, ELOISE BISCHOFF, MARGARET STOBERT

STATE FEDERATED 1945
First Row L. to R.--MARIE BINKLEY, OLA MILLER, HAZEL TALLMAN, CELESTE ARBOGAST, MARTHA TROWBRIDGE

Second Row--ETHEL BEACH, JOAN THOMPSON, ALICE BRUNDSTETT, EVELYN JENKINS, LILLIAN DESENBERG, BERNICE DOWELL, ERNESTINE LANTZ.

Third Row--ESTHER HIGH, LOIS McCURDY, CECILE SIRKS, MILDRED FOX, FLORENCE SMITH, DEBORIS HALLOW

Not in picture--VIRGINIA DAVIS, BESS HARP, LETA JUMP, DOROTHY REESE, HARRIETTE RITZ, MARY STARR, MAURINE STUART, ALICE WEBB, RITA WOOD, HAZEL YOUNGMAN, ULDINE GANT, ELIZABETH ROUTSON, EVA DETRICK, MARY BASH, MARIE SNYDER, ANNE RUBE, HELEN SHELLEY

The Ada Business and Professional Women's Club, a service club, was chartered in 1950 with 30 members. The club is a member of the State and National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs.
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Third Row--EARL DOME, W. H. KROFFT, A. L. TIPPLE, RALPH NELSON, DARYL BAKER, RAY SMITH, E. M. ROUTSON

Fourth Row--CARL BAUMAN, S. D. PEPER, RALPH OBENOUR, WALTER SOUSLEY, ERRETT MOTTHER, BARTON SNYDER, WARREN ROOF, OSCAR PATTerson

Fifth Row--G. T. TALLMAN, BYRON BASH, HARRY SOUSLEY, RODNEY HOFFER, VINCENT REICHERT, HARLEY MESSICK

Absent members--HARRY BRIGHT, DALE GARDNER, DR. F. B. McINTOSH, A. C. SMITH, GEORGE UMPHRESS, DAVID McFARLAND, T. J. SMULL, JOHN LANTZ, EARL HUBER, J. T. JOHN

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3rd Row--BURKE GARDNER, FRANK MILLER, ROBERT BISCHOFF, DOUG. JAMES, BILL ARBOGAST, CARL GRAESER, RALPH WILLENE, M. U. ENTERLINE

4th Row--BILL SONNETT, BILL KNELL, LAMAR YOUNG, CHAS. BRADLEY, WAYNE MORKHART, BARRY MOYER, JIM HEISSIG, BUCK RANNEY, WILLIS WINKLER

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1858 PIONEERS 1923

I am speaking of an almost forgotten family. In 1858, Rinaldo S. Enos, with his wife Sarah Jane, moved to a log house on what is now known as the Highway Farm on State Route 81, just east of Ada. This couple was blessed by the arrival of a darling daughter who early in 1864 saw her daddy march off to war, staying until its finish. After his return two more daughters joined this family. Needing a larger home, Mr. Enos then built a frame house. While schooling his children, Mr. Enos was very active in civic, social and neighborhood events. As the girls grew to womanhood, they married boys from Ada and vicinity. The daughters were: Melvilla Enos Mumea, Savannah Enos Matheny, and Effie Enos Wood. After the children had all married, the then ageing parents decided to move from the farm, and in 1900 purchased land on West North Street at the North end of Gilbert Street, and built a new home. All but the daughter Effie, have passed to their heavenly abode. She now resides with a daughter, Mrs. Mabel Cary, of Lima. Submitted by FRED R. MUMEA.
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<td>Radio and Television Service</td>
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<td>Phone 5</td>
<td>O. N. U. - Campus</td>
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<th>COMMUNITY</th>
<th>GANT &amp; SON</th>
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<td>V. C. Trowbridge</td>
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<th>BOUTWELL &amp; SON</th>
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<td>GARAGE</td>
<td>110 N. Main St.</td>
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<td>GENERAL REPAIRING</td>
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<td>Phone 312</td>
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<th>VARSITY</th>
<th>CLUM’S MARKET</th>
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<td>BARBER SHOP</td>
<td>GROCERIES AND MEATS</td>
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<td>Art Keller, Prop.</td>
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<td>Ada, O.</td>
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<th>E. M. NEISWANDER</th>
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<tr>
<td>BARBER SHOP</td>
<td>VETERINARIAN</td>
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<td>Ada</td>
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<tr>
<th>MRS. OLA MILLER</th>
<th>ALLEN'S BARBER SHOP</th>
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<tr>
<td>DRESS AND HAT SHOP</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
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<td>Ada</td>
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<tr>
<th>PARK FIRESTONE STORE</th>
<th>D. E. RAINNEY</th>
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<tr>
<td>FARM TIRE SERVICE</td>
<td>Roofing — Spouting</td>
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<tr>
<td>117 South Main St.</td>
<td>Awnings and Door Canopies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ada, Ohio</td>
<td>Phone 277</td>
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<tr>
<th>H. M. KAMMER</th>
<th>BALISH</th>
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<tr>
<td>Agent</td>
<td>Confectionary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEALTS CLEANING CO.</td>
<td>Ice Cream — Candy</td>
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<td>Ada</td>
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1913

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