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HISTORY OF CHRISMAN

Years after Illinois became a state in 1818 and Edgar County was formed in 1823, Ross Township came into being. The township was organized as a separate precinct in 1857, being one of the original "thirteen" to accept the township organization act. In those days Ross Township was an undrained, swampy country covered with a coarse, pointed wild grass that grew several feet high. The southern portion of the township was fringed with timber and here were the first settlers. The pioneers, of that day, came from timbered country, and they could not believe the prairie land was of any value, but only an abode for wolves, deer, snakes and wild fowl. The Kickapoo Indians roamed the broad prairies when the first white men came to Edgar County. These Indians were peaceable and caused very little worry for the pioneers.

In 1832 several families came from Kentucky, Ohio, and Indiana and settled in the township, and before 1852 the following families were residing here: Samuel Scott, Elijah Bacon, Abram Smith, John Chrisman, Samuel McKee, Johnson Ross, Daniel Triplett, Silas Dickson, Matthew Houlst, James Gaines, Robert Swank, Robert Knuckles, William Boone, William Wyatt, Eugenia Houlst, William Hurst, and Sarsafield Clark.

Samuel Kenton and Charles Caraway came during that year, and by 1856 Allen Varner, James T. Scott, Thomas Carson and others had arrived.

These people came with money, took up large tracts of prairie land, created wealth, organized society, and made this part of Edgar county as fine as any in Illinois through their work and ability to meet hardships.

The most important actions taken by the township, in an organized capacity, were those by which the location of Paris and Danville, and the Indianapolis and Decatur Railroads were secured through this section. The latter road had been located and much work done a number of years before, but the panic of 1857 coming on, work was suspended.

In 1870, the Legislature of the state having previously passed an act favorable to voting township aid to railroad corporations, a company was formed for the completion of this line, provided the townships through which it was located should render substantial assistance. Among others, Ross Township voted for the scheme and agreed to subscribe \$12,000. This action took place in 1869, the terms being that the road should be completed by 1873. The provisions agreed to by the company being complied with, the proper authorities issued the said amount of bonds to the corporation as stipulated. This, however, did not give this section an outlet to Chicago, and it was not long before a scheme was started by which that desirable end should be accomplished. The Paris and Danville railroad, to connect with the Chicago and Eastern Illinois at Danville, was incorporated, and township aid solicited. To this line Ross Township contributed most liberally, donating \$50,000 in May, 1870.

The right-of-way for the present Baltimore & Ohio road had been secured a few years before. The Chrisman family gave the right-of-way and eighty acres of land to secure this road. The first train through this section was run from Danville to Paris in 1872. Several neighbors of the Chrisman family gathered on this farm to see the train pass over the new road. During the time they were waiting that day, the dream of a city was born. When it became certain that the Indianapolis-Decatur road would be completed, the intersection of the two railroads became a most desirable site for a village. The 800 acres which Mathias Chrisman owned was divided into four nearly equal parts by the railroads.

The land where the city of Chrisman stands today was entered from the government by Abraham Smith in 1840. He was the first man to venture on the prairie to make a home. His farm was purchased by John Chrisman, who came from Kentucky in 1851. At that time there were about twenty families in the township. A few years later, in 1860, he built a home where the Nazarene Church stands today. John Chrisman lived in this home until his death in 1870 when this farm of 800 acres became the property of his son, Mathias Chrisman.

On August 5, 1872, the site for a new town was surveyed by Nelson Guthrie, county surveyor. He was assisted by Mathias Chrisman, Charles T. Caraway, and William Kenton. The name of Chrisman was suggested by William Kenton in honor of Mathias Chrisman, the owner of the land where the town was plotted. For a few months the

village bore the name of Dolly Varden. The town site extended from the south side of the square to the Montezuma road on the north, now known as Washington Avenue, and from the State Road on the east to the new railroad on the west. One hundred acres were platted.

Before the coming of the railroads, Bloomfield had been a thriving village just south of Chrisman for 41 years. It was one of the most prosperous business, religious, and social centers in the county. The State Road, established by an act of the Illinois Legislature in October 1830, started from the west bank of the Wabash River, opposite Vincennes, and ran through Paris and Danville to Chicago. The Montezuma Road and the State Road crossed in the South part of Bloomfield, and this was a great advantage to the village.

Some time between 1840 and 1850 a stage route was started between Paris and Danville. Along this old State Road the stage coach traveled. If the mud was deep, four horses were used, but in the summer two horses were sufficient. The stage coach carried the mail, as well as passengers. Those living in the south portion of the township went to Bloomfield for their mail, while those residing in the north portion went to Ridgefarm and Indianola.

In the stagecoach days an inn was located north of Chrisman on the present site of the Elmer Malone home. Here Abraham Lincoln stopped when he traveled this road during his court practice 1847-1859. The advent of the railroads brought great changes to Bloomfield. The business men foresaw the doom of the village and commenced moving to what they considered better locations. Stanfield and Mitchell were among the first merchants to locate in Chrisman. Earhart Brothers moved their blacksmith shop, Abe Mitchell his harness shop, and James Boles and Son their drug store. By the end of 1872 Bloomfield had practically vanished.

The first building erected in Chrisman was a carpenter shop owned by Samuel Kenton. It stands south of the Presbyterian Church, and was built just before the erection of a two-story store building by Mr. Kenton in 1872. This building stood on the northwest corner of the north side of the square. One room was occupied by Jacob Brant and C. A. Smith with a stock of dry goods and groceries, while the adjoining room was occupied by James Boles and Son with a drug store. These were the pioneer business men of the town. These rooms were later occupied by J. R. Sousley with groceries and S. W. Thayer with dry goods. Later J. F. Newlin, Lee Moss, and J. M. Heidrick operated this grocery store.

In the fall of 1872 Alexander Clark built a two-story building with two store rooms on the first floor, on the northeast corner of the square. In one room Stanfield and Mitchell sold dry goods and groceries, and Stubbs, Rafferty & Johns sold hardware in the adjoining room. Butter and eggs were traded for dry goods.

The first lot purchased in the town was by Frank and James Earhart. This was the lot where the United Methodist Church and parsonage now stand. People were quick to see that this was an excellent place for business. Lots were sold rapidly; Earhart Brothers paid \$200; W. M. Livett, \$100; William Kenton, \$200; Harvey Stubbs, \$100; Dr. Welch,

\$500; B. F. Waldruff, \$100; Henry Barth, \$100; John Mitchell, \$200. The first house was built on the site of the Chevrolet garage.

Mr. John Boles, the son in the drug firm of Boles and Son was given three lots by Mathias Chrisman for his assistance when the town was laid out. He built his home where the apartment house owned by Israel Say re now stands; it is a part of the present building. Mr. Cash Chrisman received the lots where he built. Later E. W. Hartley built on this location and it is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Otis Clark today.

Mr. Chrisman enlarged the Boles house and he and Mrs. Chrisman opened the Chrisman Cottage. Mr. and Mrs. Boles built and moved to a new home which is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Stultz at the present time.

Mr. Chrisman helped to make the town, as he was a plasterer of those early days, and Henry Barth followed the same trade. The latter was an artist in decorating the ceiling for the hanging lamp. The town, growing at a rapid rate, gave all classes of workman plenty to do.

The town was incorporated March 24, 1874. Its first officers were: President, W. T. Hunt; Trustees; Watson H. Murdock, John H. Mitchell, and Joseph Stanfield. In order to incorporate the first census was taken by John Scott to determine if the required 200 people could be found in the village. The last member of the 200 arrived just two hours previous to the taking of this census. The honored baby was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Rafferty.

The first post office was located on the northwest corner of the north side of the square in conjunction with a dry goods store. C. A. Smith was the first Postmaster. On November 4, 1872 the first mail arrived. This was quite a convenience for the public since mail had been received at Bloomfield up to this time.

Milling was one of the first occupations in the new village. The first mill was built west of the Pans and Danville tracks on the north side of Madison Avenue. It was a feed and meal mill, a corn products factory built by Mr. Sanderson. Mathias Chrisman built the flour mill that stood west of the railroad and northwest of the first mill. For a number of years the farmers exchanged wheat for flour at this mill. Later in the eighties when flour from the city roller mills was on sale in Chrisman, this mill was closed.

The Campbell brothers and Charles Rice built a hominy mill that stood where the elevator on the B & O railroad stands today. This was a project that was a success for a number of years, in the eighties, but was destroyed by fire. All three mills burned. Later Isaac and Ben Scott operated a flour and feed mill on the north side of Jefferson Avenue between Illinois and Indiana streets.

William Livett was the first shoemaker, and he was considered the best in this section. He was particular about the leather used and the proper fitting. The men wore boots to combat the mud and for dress the boots were made with the box toe. The calfskin shoes

in the spring and winter were often greased with tallow to cause them to turn water. Some early shoemakers tanned their leather, but William Livett was of a later period. Even after the merchants handled shoes of various makes, the men had their boots made for they lasted much longer.

Women as well as men knew how to handle a horse, and they rode horseback to town wearing a long riding skirt to protect their dresses from the mud and water. They would often carry a basket of eggs or butter to trade for groceries. On each side of the square were stiles where women could alight.

In the days of the pioneer the grain of the township was fed to stock. Men without sufficient stock would take in stock to feed at a normal price, so in this way the grain from the farms was disposed of prior to the days of the elevators which followed the building of railroads.

When Chrisman was young, the cows grazed in the streets and on the commons. Everyone who could purchase a cow owned one, for a dairy was unknown. Folks gave milk to people without a cow. Fences were necessary to keep out the town cows. On each cow was a bell. After school the children went for the cows, and they knew the sound of their bell just as the children today know the sound of the motor in their car. The cows continued to run at large until the townspeople began building sidewalks. It was a sorry day for the men on the town board who declared the cows a nuisance and must no longer run at large.

Chrisman, like all other towns, had saloons. The reputation of the town spread far and wide on two occasions when men were killed in the saloons. Outside of this blemish, Chrisman has ranked as a high-class town.

The Chrisman Cottage was known far and near for its excellent meals and accommodations. Many traveling men (often called drummers in those days) made a special effort to include an overnight stop at the Cottage to enjoy Mrs. Chrisman's good food and friendly hospitality.

GROWTH OF CHRISMAN

The Original Town of Chrisman 1872, consisted of the part bounded by Monroe Avenue on the south, the railroad on the west, the State Highway on the east and Washington Street on the north.

The Railroad Addition 1873, (eighty acres given previously by the Chrisman family to secure the east-west railroad) extended from the south side of Monroe Avenue to the railroads on the south and west, and to Vermont Avenue on the east.

The John Moss Addition 1874, known then as Moss Town, included the land within the present city limits south of the B & O railroad.

The S. R. Gray Addition 1874, extended from Ohio Street on the west to Jefferson on the south, Washington on the north, and the old State Road on the east.

The Robert Swank Addition was north of Washington Street and west of the Penn Central railroad.

Mapleton Addition in 1904; was an important addition for Chrisman. It comprised the land north of Monroe Avenue, east of Vermont Street, south of Washington, and east to Maryland. The homes on the east side of Maryland were included after 1959. Homes on the north side of Washington Avenue and east of Delaware Street are outside the city limits.

The Samuel Scott Jr. Addition October 1905, was bounded by Monroe Avenue on the north, Vermont Street on the west, Lincoln Avenue on the south and east to the present city limits.

The Chrisman Addition included that part of the city west of the Penn Central railroad bounded by Alabama Street on the west and Jefferson Avenue on the north.

Blanchard's Addition extended north of Jefferson Avenue to Alabama Street on the west, Washington Avenue on the north, and the railroad on the east. The five homes on the west side of Alabama Street are outside the city limits.

The Highland Addition in 1913; takes in that part of Chrisman which lies north of Washington Avenue between the Penn Central railroad and New York Street. The two homes east of New York Street and north of Washington Avenue are outside the city limits.

Acreage sold in plots and not included in the different additions are designated as County Clerk's Sub-Division for tax purposes.

CENSUS FIGURES

In 1920, after almost fifty years of existence, the census figures showed Chrisman with a population of 1,101. In 1970, after another fifty years, the population was 1,265, and it has made little change since. Although Chrisman's population has remained almost constant, it is a beautiful little city with an excellent location and many advantages.

PUNKIN CENTER

The history of Chrisman would not be complete without mentioning Punkin Center or Hollywood as some call it.

The first business in Punkin Center was a filling station at the corner of Monroe and Pennsylvania. The station was built by Frank Senter in 1923, and later sold to Ott Mason and Bert George. Mr. Senter later built a grocery store south of the filling station and it

was operated by Mr. Mapes. Soon other businesses were added and Punkin Center became a thriving little community of its own.

The store and restaurant on Route one was purchased by the Haws family, and they operated both businesses for several years. Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Knight rented the restaurant from Mr. Haws, and in 1959 Mr. Knight sold his business to Mr. Dixon. At the same time Matthew Hoult had a grocery store on the south side of the restaurant.

The Standard station was erected on the corner of Madison and Pennsylvania by Po Perrin. The John Yelton house was moved from the corner farther east. Mr. Perrin operated this station until 1932. Several years ago the station was remodeled and has since been used for a restaurant. At present it is known as the Chuckwagon.

CHRISMAN STREETS

The first streets in Chrisman were almost impassable in bad weather. Doctors and others needing transportation often rode horseback. In better weather they went by horse and buggy. Then came gravel roads and later rock roads. Ross Township, organized as a separate precinct in 1857, has always worked to develop and keep good roads. It was first in the county to experiment with the building of hard roads.

Some of the early road commissioners were: Joseph Ellsberry, Nimrod Coe, William T. Scott, O. E. Patrick, Andrew Smith, and Pierce Clark. Under Mr. Clark the last mud road vanished. Mr. Kenneth Coe is road commissioner today.

Improvement in township roads led to improvement in the streets of Chrisman. Hitching racks, watering troughs, and mounting blocks were to be seen around the city park for many years.

The first sidewalks of Chrisman were wooden walks. There were few concrete walks before the early 1900's.

In 1914 the first paving of streets started with the paving of Madison Avenue. It was a brick pavement. In 1915 Monroe Avenue was paved from the east side of city limits to Illinois Street and north of Illinois to Washington Street. Then in 1919 Illinois Street was paved south to the railroad, Monroe Avenue from Illinois west to Colorado, and Colorado north to connect with Madison Avenue.

When the State Highway was paved in 1921, Chrisman then had two east-west pavements and two north-south pavements. Other streets in Chrisman have been black topped from time to time. Chrisman can claim more paved streets and hard roads than most towns of its size.

In 1904 the city council appointed the City Attorney, J. F. Van Voorhees, and Alderman, A. E. Schnitker, to rename the streets of the city. Their plan, presented in the form of an ordinance, is still used today. The streets run north and south and are named for states.

The avenues run east and west and are named for the presidents of the United States. In 1951 new street name signs were erected on steel posts at every corner. The new four-way signs were made of steel with a baked enamel finish and can be read from any direction. The street name sign project was sponsored by the Chrisman American Legion Post under the direction of Wilbur Yates, chairman. The signs were paid for through public donations. When installed, Mr. Yates and Mr. Nash Breen, commander of the local Legion, officially presented the new street signs to the city, and the Council accepted the signs as permanent city property.

MAYORS OF CHRISMAN

Chrisman received its charter as a city in 1900. Mr. A. G. Tucker was the first mayor elected. Succeeding mayors were:

1901-1903 H. T. Pierson
1903-1905 J.T. Johnson
1905-1907 W. H. Robison
1907-1909 L. B. Bacon
1909-1911 L B. Bacon
1911-1913 Wm. H. Scott
1913-1915 Wm. H. Scott
1915-1917 J. M. Rhoads
1917-1919 I. D. Sayre

The municipal form of city government was adopted in May 1916. There were four commissioners. Mr. Sayre served two years, and after that time the mayors were elected for a four-year term.

1919-1923 John H. Owens
1923-1927 R. P. Morris -- W. J. Gonwa, Sr.
1927-1931 John M. Wasson
1931-1935 H. P. Perrin
1935-1939 C. C. Smitley
1939-1943 C. C. Smitley
1943-1947 Howard E. Wilson
1947-1951 Lyman J. Ellsberry
1951-1955 Lyman J. Ellsberry
1955-1959 R. W. Abel -- Marshall Sparks
1959-1963 Marshall Sparks
1963-1967 Marshall Sparks -- Fred Yates
1967-1971 Fred Yates
1971- Lyman J. Ellsberry

FIRES

On Monday, July 20, 1891, fire destroyed the entire west side of the square with the exception of the Gilkey and Schnitker Drug Store located in the brick building on the northwest corner. The fire started in a frame building just south of the drug store that was occupied by the M. E. Henderson restaurant. Driven by a north wind the flames ate their way to the south consuming all the buildings in their path. The following places of business were destroyed: S. W. Thayer, Clothing Store; J. B. Vietor's Barber Shop; Lawson Seybold Grocery; H. M. Galloway, Jewelry; Mrs. H. M. Galloway, Millinery; Smith and Hartley, Dry goods, Groceries, and Post office; Standiford Brothers, Bank; Courier office conducted by A. S. Harmony above the bank; Judd Mussleman and Mel Matheney, Furniture and Undertaking; U. W. Waltrip, Hardware. All of the buildings were frame except the bank, furniture, hardware, and Seybold's.

Mr. Schnitker said their store was saved by pumping two 10-gallon fountains of soda water onto the store and the adjoining building which was on fire. A. E. Schnitker was in the drug business at this location until 1897.

After the fire the Standiford Brothers moved their vault to the Newkirk Harness Shop on the east side of the square and carried on their banking business. Mr. James Thomas came to work September 28, 1891, and found his employers had absconded taking merchants' insurance money from the west side fire as well as the entire savings of many depositors. They were not apprehended.

Some of the lots on the west side of the square changed hands after the fire, and it was not long until the work of rebuilding was started. By the first of September 1894 it was entirely rebuilt.

Chrisman was visited by another large fire on December 11, 1902. This time the old frame buildings comprising the west half of the north side of the square were destroyed. In December five years earlier (1897), several of these buildings had been damaged by an explosion of dynamite which had been placed in the entrance of the building Dr. Linebarger now occupies. Later, the remainders of the buildings were destroyed by fire. Chrisman's third large fire on the square was in November 1946, when the Chrisman Milling Company burned with a loss of nearly \$50,000. The mill, property of Walter Daily, was located on the north portion of the east side of the square. The mill had been operated here since 1832. Eight people were employed besides Mr. and Mrs. Daily. It was one of the larger businesses in Chrisman at the time. Their "Burr" cornmeal had been shipped to points all over the United States. The mill was also well known for its "Chrisman Maid" and "Markitop" brands of hog, dairy, and poultry feeds.

The Empire Theatre on the south side of the city square was destroyed by fire on the morning of March 19, 1959. The blaze was believed to have started from a trash fire in the alley at the rear of the building. The heat from the wind-fed fire was so great that a large tree in the park directly across from the theatre ignited and sparks were extinguished by the firemen. They were able to contain the fire and kept it from spreading

to other buildings. The Legion Hall was on the west at the time, and a restaurant was on the east side of the theatre. Damage was estimated at \$35,000. The building was 140 feet long with a 20-foot frontage. There was a stage, but the building was used chiefly for a motion picture theatre. There were approximately 335 seats in the theatre.

FIRE PROTECTION

In the early days when a fire was discovered, someone had to run and ring the fire bell to arouse the townspeople. The first bell we have knowledge of was mounted on a metal tower similar to a windmill tower. This tower was located by the old jail on West Madison Avenue where the Municipal building is today. The bell, property of the city, has been stored in Mr. C. C. Smitley's building for years. The first fire-fighting equipment was a two-wheel hose cart or reel which was pulled on the sidewalk and a ladder truck. The city policeman was paid \$2.00 to rewind the hose after a fire.

When Chrisman changed from the bell to a fire whistle, the switchbox was installed in the telephone office. On receiving a fire call, the operator rushed to the switchbox and pulled the switch. Then she rushed back to the switchboard to answer the innumerable calls asking the location of the fire. Chrisman was divided into four fire zones. The first fire department was organized in 1894. Mr. A. E. Schnitker was the first fire chief and continued to be for over fifty years.

The first fire truck is still owned by the city and is stored in the old locker plant. The bell from this truck is kept at the present fire station. In 1948 the Chrisman Fire Protection District was organized. The new fire station was opened for operation in January 1953.

At this time the district had two fire trucks. A new siren was placed on top of the building. The city and county are each divided into four zones for the location of fire calls. Mr. Robert J. Hoult was fire district chief at this time.

Now, the district has three fire trucks, a rescue unit truck and a motor to furnish lights in case of a power breakdown. The station has two attendants each working a twenty-four-hour shift.

At present Mr. Elmer Malone is the Fire Protection District chief. The district has an organized force of twenty-four or more volunteer firemen. They hold regular training meetings and receive payment for each call they answer.

In recent years the fire department has added greatly to the Christmas season by the lovely decorations in the city park and along State Route #1 which they sponsor.

STORIES OF CHRISMAN

After the village of Chrisman had grown in sufficient numbers, the people living in the south portion of the township thought the election should be held in Chrisman. Those living in the north section asked that it remain at Ross school house where the election

was held each spring, then at Cherry Point where fall elections were held. Chrisman asked that all elections be held in that village.

On the day of the election, to settle the question, every voter was present and arguments were settled with fights. The men had rushed outside to watch a fight, except two from Chrisman who gathered up the ballots, walked out of the school house, mounted their horses and rode away. The next year the election was called at Chrisman.

New schools were opened in the community, and each district soon had its school house. The first Christmas tree was in 1875 in the Baptist church. The church had been dedicated in elevated water storage tank. The water tank was completed in 1963. The old water tower was dismantled and removed in 1966.

Mr. Roy Perry was superintendent of the Water Department for nearly 45 years. George William Hoult is the present superintendent.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM

Chrisman has enlarged its sewer system from time to time, and sewer taxes have been levied. In 1916 a large concrete sewer was built through the city from the southwest part of the city to the north boundary and emptied into Brouillett's Creek. Later another system was constructed east from the New York Central railroad between Washington and Jefferson Avenues. It crosses Washington Avenue just east of Ohio Street and empties into Brouillett's Creek.

On January 8, 1957, a special meeting was called to consider the correction of stream water pollution in order to comply with requirements of the State Sanitary Water Board. The consulting service of Clark and Daily, Consulting Engineers of Urbana, was obtained. In a special election on December 5, 1959, citizens voted to issue bonds for the purpose of paying part of the cost of constructing necessary improvements and extensions to the existing sewer system.

Today all sewage west of Route #1 and two blocks east of Route #1 has to be pumped "over the hill" to the natural drain leading to the disposal plant located east of Woodland Cemetery. Two large pumps located twenty feet underground are used for this purpose.

After the sewage is treated, it flows into Brouillett's Creek.

GAS

Most of Chrisman's homes have been heated by gas for many years. Natural gas was first supplied by the Panhandle Pipeline Company of Texas in 1941. It is supplied by Central Illinois Light Company, Peoria, Illinois, today.

ENTERTAINMENT

In the early days festivals were quite popular, especially if some organization was in need of money. At one such festival Nettie Hartley and Laura Camerer were placed in nomination for the most beautiful girl. The winner was to receive a cake. Each girl was supported by her friends, and the cake proved quite a luxury, bringing about sixty dollars.

In those days the young people supplied their fun in different ways such as taffy pullings and parties. The parties in the homes were the chief pleasures. Each year the town had a rousing Fourth of July celebration. These celebrations were held in the grove where the high school stands. By eight o'clock in the morning the town was active, and about eleven o'clock a parade would lead the way to the grove. After arriving at the grounds all listened to some speaker, then led by the band all would march to dinner. For a few years all dinners were placed together, but later families and neighbors would place their dinners together and have a good visit.

The afternoon was given over to pleasure. Many girls made new dresses for the occasion, for in the afternoon those who enjoyed the pleasure would dance.

Sunday school picnics were quite popular. The different schools would vie with each other for the most beautiful turnout from their school. A hay rack filled with children dressed in red, white, and blue, driving six or eight white horses to a decorated wagon, was a beautiful sight.

Delegations would come from different schools for miles around. Then in the presidential year during the campaign, rallies were held and girls would ride horseback wearing blue riding skirts, white waists, and red hats; the young men wore sashes of red, white, and blue. This was quite different from today, but people had good times.

When Tilden ran for president, seventy young people led the parade to the high school grounds. This was a popular grove for all occasions.

Many church and home weddings added gaiety to life, for they were always made joyful by the friends of the bride and groom. The train on which the newly weds were to leave was decorated along with their luggage.

Near the turn of the century an Opera House on the south side of the square brought traveling theatrical companies and various entertainment groups to Chrisman. This theatre was located above the present Yates store and the building to the east. The traveling companies presented plays from time to time. School plays and other home-talent plays were also given here. Later, the hall was used for basketball games until the Township High School was built and for dances until the early '20's.

In the early 1900's Chrisman also had a Nickelodeon on the north side of the square. It was located about where the Knicley Insurance office and the Walls Barber Shop are today. The floor of the open-air theatre was covered with sawdust and patrons sat on

benches. Music accompanied the showing of the silent motion pictures, and there was a roof over the piano to protect it from the weather. In 1906 Miss Corinne Hull played for the pictures. Mr. Joe Fugett operated the Nickelodeon.

Excursion trips were popular, and there was competition between railroads. Round trips to Indianapolis and Decatur cost \$1.40. The Big Four had a \$.40 round trip rate from Chrisman to Reservoir Park, Paris for the Water Carnival. In 1907 the Big Four advertised excursions to the West for Home seekers, Settlers, and Colonists. In 1910 the C. H. & D. advertised round trips to Indianapolis for \$2 and to Cincinnati for \$3.

Often early forms of entertainment were transient. In October 1909 the Chrisman Courier reported that P. W. Koontz opened an electric theatre in the Light house on the south side of the square. The newly painted room had one hundred folding opera chairs and motion pictures were shown. Mr. Koontz decided to remain in Chrisman all winter.

In July 1911, F K Thayer built a swimming pool on the north side of Monroe Avenue in the second block west of the square. Francis Robison owns the lots today. Mr. Dan Scott was in charge of the pool which was a very popular attraction in Chrisman and surrounding communities for several years.

About 1913 Mr. James Watson opened the Empire Theatre, a modern motion picture theatre for the times. The theatre was located just east of The First National Bank. The Empire also had a stage where plays and entertainments were given. Usually prices were \$.10 and \$.15 for the motion pictures. Later prices increased to \$.10 and \$.25. The theatre presented good pictures and played an important part in the life of the community for many years. It was destroyed by fire in 1959 and was not rebuilt.

At one time Chrisman also had a skating rink in the building where the Chevrolet garage is now located, and later a bowling alley was operated on the west side of the square. Pool halls have also been operated in the city from time to time. At the present time band concerts are given in the park during the summer, and merchants sponsor a motion picture show in the park.

TEMPERANCE IN CHRISMAN

The Edgar County History (1879) tells us several organizations for temperance work had, at times, existed in Chrisman and in 1879 no saloons were to be found in the village. In 1875 a man had been murdered in a saloon on the north side of the square and the townspeople wrathfully destroyed the place of business and the owner left town.

In 1900, the Chrisman Courier, in reporting the Horse Show, says, "The crowd numbered about 3,000 people and although the saloons did a thriving business hardly a man was seen on the streets that would be considered drunk." One advertisement in this Courier asked, "Have you tried a glass of "Home Brew?" If not, do so. It's the best tasting beer sold. Call for it at Heidrick's or Scott Bros. They have it. Brewed by the new Danville Brewing Company."

The W.C.T.U. was active in the early 1900's. Saloons would be banished for a while and later return. An Ordinance dated February 11, 1911, levied a fine of not less than \$20 or more than \$100 against anyone who sold intoxicating liquor to a minor, an intoxicated person, or an alcoholic.

Then came Prohibition and the 18th Amendment; after the repeal of Prohibition on April 1, 1933, Chrisman had taverns until they were voted out June 21, 1943. Just previous to this date there were four taverns in the city -- one at Punkin Center, the Top Hat on the south side of the square, the Lone Pine Tavern on the west side and the Wonder Bar on the north side.

On April 21, 1955, Chrisman voters again rejected the proposed return of package stores and taverns to the city.

Chrisman has been without liquor stores and taverns for almost thirty years. This is another important reason why it is a desirable place to live.

CHRISMAN BAND

The band was a very important part of community life in Chrisman's early years and continued to be through the years. According to the 1879 Edgar County History, the Cornet Band of Chrisman was organized in 1875 and consisted of twelve pieces. The first leader was N. Y. Nelson and the second, Carl Temple. Melvin Matheney was manager. The band had attractive uniforms and has been referred to as the Military Band.

In the early days, during the winter months, the band would serenade the town board and other friends, so the men always kept a supply of cigars for the occasion. It was delightful to be awakened by the band playing at your door. Ice cream suppers in the summer and oyster suppers in the winter were given for the support of the band.

The housewives vied with each other in baking cakes for the band festival, for it was an honor to be invited to do so. On the night of the festival the band members were seated at a special table decorated with flowers. Then, young girls sold buttonhole bouquets to the young men at ten cents each to swell the fund.

The Chrisman band became known all over the Middle West as an excellent one. When at political rallies where there were sometimes as many as thirty bands, this band was always placed at the head of the procession. The fire and bank failure in 1891 caused it to disband.

About sixty years later the Danville Commercial News published a picture of the Chrisman Cornet Band and stated it was organized in 1876. The thirteen members at this time were: Mel Matheney, W. E. Holden, C. H. Temple, Bade Hannah, C. C. Rice, N. Y. Nelson, C. W. Seybold, J. R. Cretors, E. E. Cretors, D. C. McClure, Ed Hill, Buck Baker, and Otis Matheney.

A picture dated 1906 showed the band in "marching regalia" with the following members: Frank and John Buhl, Tom and Bert Stevenson, Everett Hull, Harry Rinesmith, Mel and Otis Matheney, Charles and Chester Smith., W. E. Holden, William Odell, Dave Tucker, and Otis Aikman.

For many years Chrisman had a Municipal Band which was organized in 1914. It was chiefly supported by public contributions. In 1927 a Tax Levy Ordinance made definite funds available. In 1928 during the Edgar County Fair and the Chrisman Horse Show, the old band wagon in which the band made its appearance in the 1884 presidential campaign was brought out of storage and painted in fresh circus colors.

Only one member of the band of 1884, W. E. Holden, played with the band during the two parades in 1928. Mr. Otis Matheney led the parade and did not ride in the band wagon. The band wagon, which many can recall, was in Chrisman until about three years ago.

A few years later loyal band members that many residents will remember are: J. S. Bishop, Judge Dawson, Harry Haworth, Richard Jamison, Russell Jamison, William Jamison, Lewis Moss, Russell Moss, Santos Osborn, Roger Yontz, and Elmer Wheeler. William Jamison, the only surviving member of this group still living in Chrisman, lives on North New York Street.

In the 1950's the High School Band, aided by adult members, took over the summer concerts. At the present time concerts under the direction of the High School band director are given for ten weeks during the summer.

HORSE SHOWS

In the heart of a thriving agricultural community it was natural for Chrisman to be interested in and proud of its horses. Early horse shows and races were held in the grove north of the village. Colt shows were popular in the 1880's, and in 1900 Chrisman's first annual horse show was held on the town square. The city had a street sprinkler at this time, and it was used to keep the dust down. An estimated crowd of 3,000 attended in the afternoon.

The horse show undoubtedly brought more people to Chrisman than any other annual event. For about twenty years the Chrisman Horse Show Association organized a well-run show that drew excellent horses from quite a distance, several entries having been shown at state fairs. The money won was never great, but ribbons from the Chrisman Horse Show were highly prized.

Usually the show was held for three days. Mules, draft horses, and ponies were shown in the afternoons, and the society show was held in the evenings. Chrisman's last horse show had a fourth day for a Western show.

The shows were held on the east side of the square. Bleachers were erected and special events made the horse show an outstanding occasion. It was estimated that over 5,000 persons attended the last show.

The Chrisman Horse Show Association assisted in raising money for the Boy Scouts, the Salvation Army, an Honor Roll and Flag Pole erected in the City Park, and liberal contributions to the Army and Navy Relief Societies. It was not a profit-making organization. The last horse show was held in 1946.

WEDDINGS

The first great social event in Chrisman was the wedding of Miss Florence Chrisman, a niece of Mathias Chrisman, and George W. Henry, of Chicago. The happy social event took place at the M. E. Church on December 18, 1876. The ceremony was described as the grandest and most impressive that ever transpired in Eastern Illinois.

Conspicuous among the early autumn events in 1925 was the international wedding at the Methodist church when the marriage of Miss Catherine Thio of Tandjong Balei, Sumatra, and Mr. Henry T. Siek of Parakam, Java, was solemnized.

CHRISMAN LIBRARY

In the years before Chrisman had a Public Library, there were lending libraries and book clubs at different times in the village. Mr. Lee Moss had books to loan in his grocery store. Each member contributed a new book. In 1932 the Padlock Circle of the Methodist Church opened a small library in the church. They continued to keep it open two afternoons each week for about seven years.

The Chrisman Library was opened November 1939 in the front rooms of the Presbyterian Church. The Chrisman Woman's Club and the Booster Club were instrumental in starting the library. Miss Agnes Hault, the librarian, donated her time two afternoons and an evening each week to maintain library service.

The library remained at this location until November 1950 when it was moved to the new Municipal Building. The new building was constructed largely through the efforts of the Chrisman Commercial Club which was very active at the time. Many citizens made liberal donations. As in the beginning, the library was supported by the clubs, organizations, and citizens of the community.

After investigation by and recommendation of the Chrisman Lions Club, the City Council voted funds on March 25, 1957, to establish and maintain a city library. A tax, approved by the voters, was levied for its support. For the first time the librarian received pay for her services.

Marshall Sparks, Mayor, appointed the following as members of the Board of Directors: Iverson Barr, president; Mrs. Allen E. Overaker, secretary; Ben R. Cook, Martin

Dalrymple, Robert Ellis, Stanley Lewman, Raymond Newlin, Clyde Samford, and E. O. Tate.

After Miss Hoult's death in May 1961, Miss Ivy M. Compton served as librarian until her resignation in 1962. Mrs. Goldie Jenness became librarian and serves in that capacity at the present time.

Today the Chrisman library is a member of the Lincoln Trails Library System. This service provides late books, films, framed art works, records, and reference materials for loan through our library.

WOODLAND CEMETERY

When Chrisman first came into existence, a place to bury the dead was soon set apart. Mr. and

Mrs. Charles T. and Sarah Kenton Caraway gave the land just northeast of the village for this purpose. They suggested the name Woodland.

The cemetery was laid out in 1875, and Mr. William Kenton was the first to be buried there. Stanfield, Caraway, Mitchell, and other names of men prominent in the early development of Chrisman are found here. (Some are found at the Hoult Cemetery south of Chrisman.) In the center of the cemetery is a large monument presented by Samuel Kenton as a memorial to the soldiers of the Civil War.

Through the years many veterans have been buried here. In August 1971, American Legion records showed 30 Civil War, 1 Confederate, 5 Spanish-American War, 34 World War I, and 13 World War II veterans making a total of 83 veterans buried in Woodland at that time.

HOULT CEMETERY

The Hoult Cemetery has served as a burial place for the people of the Chrisman area for the past one hundred-thirty years. The first burial in the Hoult Cemetery was made in 1842. This was a nine month old child named T. Jollicliff. This burial was followed by two more members of the Jollicliff family; James H. Jollicliff aged 55 years in 1844 and Polly Jollicliff, an infant in 1845.

No more burials were made until 1851 when two children of the Hoult family were buried. Their names were Adolphus and Virginia and their ages were both one year. Elisha Hoult who was the first of the Hoult family to settle in the area was also buried there in 1851 at the age of 66 years. Our records show that his wife, Dorothy, was buried there in 1862 at the age of 77 years.

The original plot of the cemetery contains forty-three graves and includes many of the first settlers. Members of the families of McKee, Manning, Wynn, Wyatt and Hoult were buried there during the early years of the cemetery. The average age of the forty-three

people who are buried on the original plot is thirty-one years. Many of them were infants and young children.

The cemetery was known as the Hoult Graveyard. On July 22, 1871 a group of men having families buried there met at the graveyard for the purpose of establishing a public burying ground and selecting a board of trustees.

Those present at that meeting were John, Samuel and John McKee Jr., Matthew and Eugenia Hoult, Melvin, John and Oliver Manning, William, James S. and E. W. Hartley and Thomas Wyann.

The first trustees elected were Samuel McKee, president; James S. Hartley, secretary and Thomas Wyann, Trustee. On July 25, 1871 two acres of land was purchased, from John and Caroline Manning for the sum of seventy dollars. Lots were then laid out and established as a public burying ground.

July 17, 1886, the trustees met and drew up a set of laws for regulating the operation of the cemetery. They applied for a charter to operate as a corporation, known as the Hoult Cemetery. The trustee board was then changed to five members. The Charter was then granted, by Secretary of State on September 1, 1886.

On November 15, 1886 Elizabeth Hartley deeded thirty acres of land adjoining the original plot to the Hoult Cemetery for the use of burial purposes. On December 26, 1926, twelve acres of land was deeded to the cemetery by Artie Hartley and in March 1950 an additional twelve acres were deeded to the cemetery by Ida Mitchell making a total of fifty-six acres now owned by the cemetery.

New plots have been laid out through the years for burial purposes and the cemetery now has a total of four hundred fifty-five plotted lots.

ROSS TOWNSHIP

The first permanent settler of the township was William Trimble, who came from Kentucky in 1825 and later Frank Lowry, also from Kentucky, settled near Mr. Trimble. The Lowry farm was later sold to John Summerville and is the land directly east of Chrisman. By 1830 the families of Frank Lowry, John Summerville, Augustus Wyatt, Thomas Holden, Joseph Munn, Horatio Blanchard and Joshua Van Fleet were living in the township.

The first homes were on the north fork of Brouillett's Creek, just east of the present city of Chrisman. The houses were constructed of round logs and were usually about sixteen by twenty feet with a partition thru the center and a large fireplace in one room for cooking as well as heat. The Horatio Blanchard double log house stood where the home of the late Harold Yelton stands today.

Robert Knuckles was the owner of the first tavern in the township. It was located on the site now containing the home of Elmer Malone at the north edge of Chrisman. Abraham Lincoln frequently called it his "half way place," because he was a frequent guest here on his trips to and from Chicago. The front of the building faced the "Chicago Wagon Road." The house was erected about 1838 by Robert Knuckles and operated as a tavern there until about 1860. He sold the land to George Wellman, who in turn sold it to Josephus Scott.

The township was organized as a separate precinct in 1857. The following officers were elected: Supervisor, John G. Green; Clerk, Franklin F. Barber; Overseer of the poor, Robert Swank; Commissioners of Highways, C. A. Clark, Michael Kizer and William Adams; Constables, Girard M. Osborn and Joseph Doherty; Assessor, James Gaines.

HIGHWAYS

The Ocean to Ocean Pike's Peak Highway came through Chrisman about 1912. This highway extended from New York to San Francisco. Its route through Chrisman was west on Monroe Avenue and north on Illinois Street (including the south and west sides of the square) to Washington Street and west. The highway markers were painted red, white and blue and were lettered P.P. - 0.0. When the state constructed Illinois 121, a new east-west paved road, the Ocean to Ocean Highway, a good rock road, became one of our better rural roads. Illinois 121 later became the present U. S. 36.

Illinois Route 1 first entered Chrisman from the south on Ohio Street. It came north to East Madison Avenue and east to State Street. In 1921 the highway was moved to its present location and paved.

CHURCHES OF CHRISMAN

You go to your church, and I'll go to mine.
But let's walk along together;
Our heavenly Father loves us all
So let's walk along together
(By Phillips H. Lord)

NAZARENE CHURCH

The Church of the Nazarene was organized February 20, 1916 by Rev. W. G. Surman with eleven charter members. Rev. C. A. Dent of Olivet was the first pastor.

Rev. Jack VanAllen was able to build a basement church and in June 1941 plans were made to build the auditorium over the basement. The beautiful brick work was done by Boyd Kegley.

Many friends assisted with the labor and money. The pastor at this time was Rev. Melton with Glen Davis as Sunday School superintendent. In 1966 the members of the church

decided to sell the church and it was purchased by the American Legion and was deeded to the City of Chrisman. The building is now used as a Community Center.

The members of the church bought the land where the old Gray place stood and a new church was started. The building was dedicated June 18, 1967. Rev. and Mrs. Cecil Carroll came August 1, 1967 from Pittsfield, IL. Under the leadership of Rev. Carroll the church has continued to grow.

UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

The Universalist Church of Chrisman was completed in 1877 costing \$2,500. Rev. D. P. Bunn was the first minister and N Y Nelson was superintendent for the Sunday School. The church was later sold to the Christian denomination and then to the Presbyterians. This church stood where the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Smith now stands.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Presbyterian Church was organized in 1873. Rev. A. L. Knox was the first pastor and William Livett was superintendent of the Sunday School. Services were held for years in the Camerer's Hall which was over the old post office.

The church was built in 1881 and the building committee consisted of Robert Swank, John Williams, John Moss and Harvey Stubbs. In 1952 the Presbyterian Church was sold to Mrs. Maude Thomas and Mrs. Madge Conn, former members of the church. They bought the building to prevent its being torn down or used for other purposes.

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Mrs. Thomas and Mrs. Conn gave Rev. M. H. Wright permission to use the Presbyterian Church free of charge. On September 28, 1952 Rev. Wright preached his first sermon.

The church was then known as the Christian Church. Rev. Wright served as minister until June 27, 1954. In 1960 while Rev. John Gharst was minister, work was started on the church annex. These rooms are used as class rooms and for social gatherings.

During April 1968 the church steeple and bell were removed. Made in Switzerland, the bell was originally presented to the church by Mary J. Foley on her 18th birthday. The bell is now mounted on a Bedford stone base and is located in the yard south of the church. Rev. Read serves as pastor and the church continues to grow.

BAPTIST CHURCH

Mathias Chrisman offered to give lots to church organizations in the town of Chrisman. The Baptist denomination was the first to accept the offer and the church was moved from Bloomfield where it had been since 1842. In 1873 the Baptists built a new frame church costing \$6,000. Rev. William McMasters was the first minister and James and

John McKee, Lewis Woodyard, and J. S. Hartley were influential in the organization and building of the church.

A peculiar idea in the architecture of this building was the placing of two chimneys in the north end and wood stoves in the south end. Green wood in the stoves kept the long stretches of pipe directly over the aisles dripping with creosote. Then the next winter coal stoves were tried and the pipes clogged with soot. Finally Mr. Cash Chrisman furnished fuel and lights for \$65.00.

In April 1904 the church was remodeled for \$8,000.00 and the dedication services were held on December 10, 1905. In 1967 the work was completed on a \$26,000.00 educational building. The contractor was Robert Jenkins. The building committee was Edgar Dixon, Rena Riggen, Mae Sanders, Lannie Robison, Franklin Low, Dorothy Rogers, and Archie Samford. This section is now used for classrooms. Rev. Robert Craig is the pastor.

METHODIST CHURCH

The first Methodist Church in Chrisman was organized in 1861 and met at the Cross Roads School House which stood across from our present high school. In 1875 a church was built on lots now used by the John Deere Implements. By 1890 church memberships had grown so large it was necessary to build an addition. In 1905 the need became urgent again for a larger church and steps were taken leading to the erection of a new church.

Rev. R. Y. Williams was the pastor at this time. The last meeting in the old church was held on March 18, 1906. The old building was then sold to William Welch, the liveryman.

The land for the new church was bought from James Earhart. The cornerstone was laid on October 24, 1906. After the construction was started, the east main vestibule collapsed, taking the entire front and two sides with it and the cornerstone had to be re-laid. Work was finally completed and the dedication services were held on Sept. 29, 1907. Before the dedication \$8,000 had been pledged and the remaining \$10,000 was pledged at the dedication services.

In 1933 the Methodist Church had the first organized Children's Choir in the community. They were under the leadership of Miss Alice Glithero, director, Mrs. W. B. Swank, organist, and Rev. Sutton, minister. Many improvements have been added to the church since the dedication. Rev. Glenn Grammer is the pastor at the present time.

CHRISMAN AREA HOMES----YESTERYEAR AND TODAY

Chrisman has long been noted for its nice homes and the pride its residents exhibit in maintaining their lawns and surroundings. A drive through the residential sections of town in the summer will point out to even the most casual stranger the interest and care that residents take in their neatly mowed lawns, flower gardens, and upkeep of their homes.

In the next few paragraphs are pictured a few of the older homes in the Chrisman area with a brief description of each.

Built in 1895 by James Hoult and occupied by him or family since. Only slight changes have been made in architectural appearance. With lathe and jigsaw the late Victorian age produced "carpenter's frenzy" in porch trims and brackets. Porch banisters have been removed and a patterned slate roof has given way to rubberoid one. Four picture windows and a back porch breezeway are from the beginning.

Rooms have high ceilings and ornate woodwork. Most of the wood came from the old family farm - white oak, wild cherry, black walnut, and butternut. This wood was carved in Rockville, Indiana.

The home of Joseph B. Moss and Madge Kendall Moss of 308 N. Alabama St., Chrisman, Illinois is one of the older homes in the Chrisman area. According to the records the 2 1/2 acre plot was established and deeds recorded at Paris, Illinois on November 8, 1880.

The four room house with wide entrance hallway was erected for Delia Earhart by her father between the years 1883 and 1887. While it was a small house, it was considered to be one of the best constructed and of the finest material available.

The paternal grandparents of Mr. Moss acquired the property in 1891 and added a room to the back of the house to be used as a kitchen and dining room.

Some members of the family have continuously occupied the home to the present time. Madge and Joe Moss bought the home in 1943. Even though remodeling and additions have been made in the home, the original heavy joists and massive framing timbers were left intact.

From the original cottage to the gracious 1972 version with its indirect lighting, Tennessee Crab Orchard stone fireplace, bay window planter as an integral part of the living room, glass block wall in the master bath, and many other custom built features, the house has become most modern. The original owners cellar was made into a larger basement which now houses a complete air conditioning system, a pocket billiards room and a family hobby center - all designed and executed by the owners.

202 East Madison was a girlhood home of Mrs. Olive Stanfield in the later 1800's, her father Josephus, a local merchant, having purchased it from Jimmy Johns. It was next owned and occupied by a Carson family until Guy York purchased it in the 1940's and made many changes inside and added the front west room and one to the back. By the early fifties Mrs. York was alone, so she built a smaller home to the north and sold the larger one to Herbert P. Shirrefs - then to High School Principal Davis. Caleb and Mary Lou Brinkley purchased it in 1958 and are responsible for many decorative changes including the rear porch with wrought iron posts and trim shuttered facade.

The land was purchased from Mathias Chrisman on November 1880 by Clement and Hettie Standiford. Evidently Mr. and Mrs. Standiford had traveled extensively throughout the south, because the two-story home they built on this land was of Georgian Revival Architecture; the southern Plantation look. The bay window on the front is very Victorian. The two large and two small columns on the front are of the Ionic Greek Architecture having scrolls in the capitals of the columns. This house was one of the first of Georgian Architecture built in Illinois.

The house was sold April 1892 to Thomas G. Ellis, and then sold to William F. Hoult on March 1894. Robert R. and Lucille Yontz purchased the property in September, 1949. The house had stood empty for fifteen years. A large remodeling project was initiated on the outside of the house.

The inside was also remodeled, retaining the walnut hand carved banisters and newel post, very Victorian Gothic Revival, with steep peak, as found in the Church of England. The top parts of two large glass window panes in the dining room are of stained glass from the period of Bohemia glass.

The Yontz's with their children, Beth, Robert Jr., and Katrina moved into their remodeled home in August 1950. The children are married and have homes of their own now, but return with grand-children to visit this lovely old home.

The home of the John Harlan See family at 202 North Alabama Street was known, in the early days, as the Mathias Chrisman "summer home." Construction date of the house is unknown but it is now the oldest in Chrisman for it was here when the city was laid out. In 1898, James R. Hartley, arriving from West Virginia, via the C. H. and D. railroad, purchased the home and surrounding farm land from John Moss. This was the first sale in this part of the country for which \$100 an acre was paid. The house has been occupied continuously since by his descendants; foster daughter, Nettie L. Hall Glick, granddaughter, Mary Jane Glick See, and now great-grandson and his children.

Other than the hard maple trees, two rooms, one upstairs and one downstairs on the south, added by Mr. Hartley in 1898 and the removal of the white picket fence in 1924, the exterior of the home retains its nineteenth century character.

Inside the chimneys for fireplaces and stoves in each room have been replaced by steam heat to make more comfortable surroundings. The rooms are large with lovely black walnut woodwork and the open stairway and newel post is in walnut and the dining room is paneled in walnut and ash.

This home was the scene of the "big wedding" in the early 1870s the oldsters reminisce about. The guests, caterers, etc. came from Chicago by private railroad car. The bride was Miss Florence Chrisman and the bridegroom was Mr. George W. Henry of Chicago.

This house at 324 Alabama Avenue is 92 years old. The property on which this house as built was deeded by the United States Government to Abraham Smith on December 27, 1838. Abraham Smith sold the land to Thomas Littlefield in 1848, and Thomas Littlefield sold to Mathias and Philip Chrisman in 1851. In 1880 Mathias and Mary Chrisman sold a portion of land to Alexander B. and John E. Standiford; known as the Standiford Brothers. Alexander and Hettie Standiford built their home at 324 Alabama and John built next door, both sharing the barn.

In 1891 after the Standiford Brothers absconded with the money from their bank, the homes became the property of the state. The next owners were George W. and Nancy Triplett in 1909. The Triplett's remodeled the house, adding the porch and new kitchen and baths. The Triplett family included sons Gerald, Daniel and daughters Nora Voris and Grace Brothers. Nora has a daughter, Lou Coe, and Grace a daughter, Berniece Haworth, living in Chrisman.

In 1928 the Triplett heirs sold the house to J. E. and Leona Davis. Dr. Davis was a veterinarian. Mrs. Leona Davis now lives with a son J. E., Jr. in Ohio. Their daughter, Elizabeth Hanson is deceased. After the death of Dr. Davis the property was sold to Bert and Elspeth Lund in the year 1946.

The Lund's have three children, John in Seattle, Washington; Carl, in Paris, IL; and Virginia Johnson in the Chrisman area.

One of the country's showplaces is the imposing brick mansion on the Cherry Point road northwest of Chrisman built in 1909 (on land then owned by the family for 60 years) by Charles Hoult for his active, fun loving family of four sons; Everett, Warren, Louis and Howard, and two daughters, Annette and Martha.

The third floor was designed for billiards and dancing, the second included seven bedrooms opening off a spacious lounge area; and the plan of the main floor incorporated areas for formal and informal dining, music and conversation, and relaxing around two handsome fireplaces. The oval mahogany dining table with chairs which Mrs. Hoult purchased in Chicago, was the scene of many dinners for 18 to 20.

In the fifties Allen and Muriel Lewis and daughters, Becky and Nancy, lived several months in the home and were responsible for quite a bit of decorating. In 1955 the property was purchased by C. K. Crispin, local contractor, for his growing family.

He did a complete remodeling of the pantry, kitchen and breakfast room complex for his dietitian wife, Kay. Mrs. Crispin, now a widow, and her youngest of five children, Bill, still maintain it as their residence and on the first floor operate the popular dining spot, HARDY HALL.

Actual construction date of the home of Hilah P. Bishop, widow of J. Sherman Bishop located at 204 E. Monroe Avenue is unknown. Sarah Barkley obtained the land in 1873 when Mathias Chrisman had his farm divided into city lots. She married James Boles in

1893. Their heirs sold the property in 1897 and it was resold in 1899 to Mrs. Bishop's father, O. E. Patrick. Mr. and Mrs. Bishop purchased the property in 1927 and have occupied it since.

The original house was built on this lot in the early 1880's by Joe Camerer. Later it was occupied by Joel W. Nye. In the early 1920's Fred Thayer bought the house and did considerable building and remodeling. Later the L. E. Slaughter family moved to the property and after them the James Chestnuts. In 1950 Raymond and Rachel Stewart purchased the property and have since made it their home.

103 E. Monroe Avenue has been the home of George W. and Katherine R. Samford since 1936. In the original town the property was owned a very short time by a Cairus family but from 1875 to 1900 Dr. and Mrs. J. M. Welch resided there. The widow Welch sold to Frank M. Legate in 1900 and John T. and Maude Owen held title for a year prior to the Samford's purchase. This home has been kept much the same as it was when it was built.

In closing out our paragraphs on old homes in Chrisman, we have undoubtedly left out of this listing several old homes worthy of mention, but time dulls memories, and in many cases we have only the memories of some of our senior citizens to provide details and information on these early homes. We must not fail to note the contribution to present-day Chrisman made by these early builders and owners, in transforming Chrisman from a virgin prairie covered with native prairie grass to the pleasant thriving town of today.

Chrisman has always been a nice place to live, but this has never been more true than today, with the improved highways and the faster modes of transportation, making it convenient to live in Chrisman and commute to other towns to work, and have the enjoyment that comes from being a part of a community like Chrisman. Truly the outstanding asset of Chrisman can be summed up simply in the following words -- "It's a good place to Live."

People in the Chrisman area have continued to show their faith in the community by continuing to construct nice homes. Some of these are pictured below:

EDUCATION

The first school house was built of logs and stood east of the present high school building. In those days the pupils studied from the books they could procure. A shelf was built along one side of the room for writing and a fireplace furnished the heat. The wood was furnished by the men having children in school. This school was built in 1847 and the children of the new town attended this school until they were crowded three into a seat.

The next fall Miss Ada Gibbs taught in a small building on the south side of the square. The small children living in town were transferred to this school. That same winter Nate Reed taught an advanced school similar to the high school of today, in a room over the J. R. Soursley Grocery in the Kenton Building on the north side of the square.

Finally in 1876, the needs for more space being compulsory, contracts were let for the building of a four room brick structure. The school grounds were originally an apple orchard, extending from the south side of the grounds and as far north as the former Frank McCuddy home. When Dr. S. R. Gray purchased the home of Mathias Chrisman in 1873 this orchard was included in the purchase, and a portion was sold to the district for the new school building.

The new school was built at a cost of \$8,000 and was occupied in 1877. It included the elementary grades and three years of high school. The length of the school year was eight months. The first teachers were Frank P. Green, principal; Miss Alice Starr, Intermediate; and Miss Clara Camerer Earhart, Primary. These teachers received thirty or thirty five dollars for teaching in the grades. The building consisted of four rooms and again the primary room was crowded then the next year a fourth teacher was employed, Mrs. J. P. McCullogh.

Between the two upper rooms there were sliding doors and many were the meetings for debate in the high school, when the parents were invited to hear the children debate on lofty subjects such as "Which is the most useful in the house, the dishrag, or the broom?" These meetings were held at night and those living near the school house took their lamps trimmed and ready to burn. During this time the principal, G. W. Carrico, taught the boys to play baseball. Previous to this time they had only played town ball.

F. W. Dundas came with many new ideas for the school. Slates were discarded and each pupil was required to purchase a tablet for each class. In the high school for the first time the students heard such words as freshman, sophomore, junior and senior classes. Under Mr. Dundas's management the school was a real high school.

The first class to graduate from the three year high school consisted of W. F. Hoult, Rachel Hoult, Nettie Hartley and Eva Crawford. The class of 1890 had the distinction of being the only class with one graduate, Mrs. A. E. Schnitker, (Lulu Waldruff Schnitker).

The enrollment grew from 133 in 1888 to 334 in 1905 and again the building was too small. On April 3, 1905, the directors, (Mr. Wm. M. Smith, President, Mr. John Mitchell and Mr. D. O. Light), started procedures to finance a four room addition to be added to the front of the original building.

A special election on April 15, 1905 approved a tax to finance the construction. Bonds were sold (26 for \$250.00 each) and the contract was let to Davis, Mitchell & Company on June 8, 1905 for \$8,244.00. The work was to be completed by September 15, 1905.

The partition between the two original upstairs rooms was removed and this room became the high school assembly room. Mr. G. H. Henry was hired as Superintendent at a salary of \$90.00 per month for 8 1/2 months. Also the following teachers were hired: Miss Helen Booker at \$55.00 per month, Miss Oella Barth, Miss Ella Wasson, Mrs. Lyda

Moss, and Miss Edith Levitt at \$40.00 per month. The first Board of Education was elected April 26, 1907.

Elected were Mr. John Mitchell, president, Mr. D. O. Light, Clerk, and Mr. W. F. Hoult, Mr. J. F. Van Voorhees, Mr. George Fair, Mr. Oscar Jones, and Mr. William M. Smith. The cornerstone for the new Chrisman Township High School was laid in October 1914. Their first Board of Education was: A. K. Hartley, President, Oscar Jones, James Payne, Dr. C. L. Kerrick, James Hoult, William T. Scott and Jacob Ellsberry.

The first year in the new building was 1915-1916. The new school was under the supervision of Principal P. M. Watson, Assistant Principal Helen E. Booker and six other teachers. In 1948 voters in the Chrisman area overwhelmingly approved the consolidation of the Chrisman High School District No. 149 and ten grade school districts around Chrisman. The new district was known as Community Unit School Dist. No. 5 with Mr. Cecil E. Smith as Superintendent.

In 1949 a new addition to the high school was begun. A bond issue of \$120,000.00 had previously been approved and the cornerstone was laid August 4, 1949.

In April 1950 a new bond issue for \$110,000 was approved to complete the addition. A combination gymnasium and auditorium, a farm shop, new Home Economics and some class rooms were provided.

As the enrollment increased and space was not available in the ten room elementary school, grades were transferred to the high school until the kindergarten, seventh, and eighth grades were all held there.

On September 12, 1964 a bond issue of \$350,000 to build a new grade school was passed. The new school has 17 regular class rooms, a central library, music and art rooms, health room, teachers' room, office space, kitchen and cafeteria.

It was first occupied in the fall of 1966. The old school was torn down before the new building was occupied, but the bell which called the children to school for so many years was preserved. It is displayed today near the North West corner of the school grounds. The base on which it rests was designed by Joseph Moss.

Bricks and the circular stone inscribed District No. 6; 1,877 were used in its construction. Chrisman was the first Edgar County School to install and use educational television which began in 1961 with the Midwest Program of Airborne Television, Inc. The elementary school has television outlets in each classroom. Chrisman was the first school in the county to start the "Modern Math" program. Chrisman was the first Edgar County School to support a public kindergarten. In 1950 the kindergarten was opened in the Methodist Church basement with Mrs. Beatrice Scott in charge.

SCOTTLAND SCHOOLS

The land where the school building now stands was donated by William Scott. The first school was held here for grade school pupils only. After this building was damaged by a cyclone, a new building was erected in 1906. J. C. Gault of Terre Haute was hired as the architect. The blue print was drawn and approved by the first directors: J. F. Jennings, C. P. Adams, and J. L. Dawson. The building erected did not wholly follow the original plans and was not completed by the time it was scheduled to be.

In 1907 a petition was put forth to combine Districts 18, 19, and 23. This was put into effect. The first record of ninth grade students was in 1906. These students held classes with the grade school. The school continually grew in the next few years. One new addition was added in 1928 and another in 1936. Then in 1937 the first four year class graduated from Scotland High School.

CONSOLIDATION OF CHRISMAN AND SCOTTLAND SCHOOLS

Earlier this year, Citizens of Chrisman and Scotland voted to consolidate Scotland Grade School Dist. 23 and High School District 162 with Chrisman Community Unit 5.

The new unit will be District 6. Now students in the sixth through eighth grades will attend the Scotland School and high school as well as lower grade students will attend Chrisman Schools.

On May 28, 1972 an election was held for the purpose of electing a new board for this new district. Those elected were: David Lorenzen, Marvin Glick, Robert E. Craig, Dean Samford, John Craig, Gail Scott, and Allen H. Knicley.

FOOTBALL

Eleven man football was inaugurated as a major sport in Chrisman High School in the fall of 1928. D. V. Peacock, Jr. was the coach. Members of this team were Walter Jenkins, Frank Morris, Max Lunger, Raymond David, Raymond Mason, Leland Collier, Dale Gresham, Samuel Buck, Russell Daily, Warren Krughoff, Carl Hendrix, Maurice George, George Buck, Leon Alexander, Warren Slaughter, Roy McAllister, Chester Meyers, and Richard Sayre. The schedule consisted of teams such as Oakland, Charleston, Clinton, Newman, Hindsboro, and Ridgefarm. The sport was dropped at the end of the 1934 season. Joe Moss was the coach.

In 1940 the revival of football in our high school was mostly due to the efforts of Mr. Franklin D. Mayfield, a former coach. This was not a six man team. The "old grads" who played in the past were also a driving force in helping the sport come alive again.

Mr. Max Hannum was named the new coach after Coach Mayfield left to go to another school. Squad members of the 1st 6 man team were Justin Wible, Captain; Eugene Lunger, Charles White, Jr., Edward Scott, Phillip Wible, Joe Turner, Jack Henry, Don

Ferry, Derral Wilson, Wayne Ferguson, Bernard Byrd, Carl Dalrymple, George Hackler, Bill Mankin, Don Miller, Sam Trout, Don Coe, and Earl Rogers.

The fall of 1950 was the last year football was played in Chrisman High School. Richard Kinneman was the coach. Some of the opponents were Fisher, Sidell, Longview, Perrysville, and Homer. The squad consisted of Richard Ellis, William Fouts, Allen Lientz, Jack McVicker, Eddie Morgan, John Owen, Paul Britz, Harry Lientz, Hobart Price, Wayne Tapp, Larry Johnson, Fred Colter, Paul Walters, and Jerry Wilson, Captain.

BASEBALL

Baseball was not seriously started until the school year 1950-51. Members of that first team were Stanley Decker, Harry Lientz, Allen Lientz, Eddie Morgan, Gerald Rhoden, Frank Montagnino, Dean Ackmann, John Owen, and Ray Martin.

They were coached by Dick Kinneman. Chrisman has had a tradition of winning baseball teams. From 1953 thru 1962, a span of 10 years, the Cardinals won the Ambraw Valley Conference championship with a combined record of 91 wins and 23 losses.

C.H.S. picked up the winning stride again from 1970 thru 1972 for the Ambraw Valley Conference championship. The combined records during those three years were 53 wins and 19 losses.

Their best record was in 1971 when the Cards won 20 games while losing only 5, and were undefeated in the conference race. The squad consisted of Earl Kindred, Steve Rogers, Rick Taylor, Randy Lunger, Jon Crispin, John Jenkins, Tom Nolen, Doug Barker, George Rogers, Jim Jenness, John Low, Paul Scott, Steve Drake, Lynn Good, Nick Lientz, Tom Baker, and coached by Don Anglen and Roger Beals.

TRACK

In 1923 the Chrisman track team had a good year winning the county track meet and brought home the silver cup. This was the second time Chrisman had won the county meet, the first being in 1915. The track squad consisted of Winfred Moss, Capt., Lewis Turner, Henry Sharp, Bernard Loop, Clayton Morris, Ora Wilson, James Wasson, Eugene Lewis, Clark Newlin, David Fouts, Grover Lewis and was coached by P. H. Spain.

The 1924 track squad won the county meet, placed 4th at the larger school Tiger Relays, crowned champion at the Eastern Illinois meet at Charleston. They also won their own Invitational meet held at Chrisman. At the State meet held in Champaign Henry Sharp captured 3rd place in the 440 yard dash.

In 1933 Chrisman won the Edgar County track meet by defeating Paris, the defending champion. Bob Jenkins set a new high hurdle record of 17 3 seconds and a new low hurdle record of 27.4. Joe Moss was their coach. Walter David sent the javelin hurling

through the air for 190 feet at the state meet in Champaign. This was a record for the 1935 meet. The old record was held by Windmiller of Pleasant Hill for 185 feet 7 1/2 inches.

From 1949 thru 1957 Chrisman had a track dynasty winning either the Edgar County track meet or the Ambraw Valley meet. The years 1958 thru 1962 were slow, but from 1963 to-the present, excluding 1968, the track teams won the Ambraw Valley Track meets. Chrisman has had a track champion 18 out of the last 23 years.

In 1961 Dave Boyer qualified in the high jump for the state track meet as did Tom Bolton in the 100 and 220 yard dashes. Tom also set school records which still stand in the 100 (10.1 seconds) and the 220 (22.0 seconds).

The following is a list of the current records in the Chrisman High Track:

100 yd. dash, 10.1, 1961, Tom Bolton.
200 yd. dash, 22.0, 1961, Tom Bolton.
440 yd. dash, 55.0, 1964, Lynn Chandler.
440 yd. dash, 55.0, 1972, K. D. McKee.

880 yd. run, 2:06.5, 1964, Barry Jenkins.
1 mile run, 4:46.9, 1964, Steve Matheny.
2 mile run, 10:45.0, 1964, Steve Matheny.
180 yd. low hurdle, 21.5, 1956. Mike Emmons.

120 yd. high hurdle, 16.5, 1969. Mike Powell.
Long jump, 21'3", 1962, John Frazee.
High jump, 6'0", 1969, Allen Greenlee.
High jump, 6'0", 1972, K. D. McKee.

Shot-put, 45'2", 1939, Lester Vanscoyk.
Pole vault, 11'2", 1969 and 1970, Rick Mitchell.
Discus throw, 142'2", 1965, Howard Meeks.
Javelin throw, 190'0", 1936, Walter David.

880 varsity relay, 1:40.1, 1972, Tom Baker, Rusty Krabel, Curt Ingram, Dennie White.
1 mile relay variety, 3:31.4, 1964, James DePlanty, Ben H. Jenness, Gary Thompson, Lynn Chandler.
Freshman 880 relay, 1:46.7, 1971, Rusty Krabel, Dave Chandler, Steve Rogers, Joe Mitchell.

BASKETBALL

Basketball had its beginning in Springfield, Mass. in 1891 but it wasn't until about 1913 that it hit Chrisman. Chrisman held some of its games on the second floor of what is now known as the Red Yates T. V. and Radio Shop.

Chrisman schools have always had good basketball teams. One of the first outstanding of the many good teams was the squad of 1924. This group of players won the district tournament held at Danville for the first time in the history of the school. The "24" Cards defeated nearly everyone of importance, including Villa Grove, who was the defending state champion of 1923.

There were 18 teams competing at this tournament. Chrisman defeated Sidell for the championship with the score 17 to 11. The Cards then went on to the sectional at Decatur but lost to Morrisonville 24 to 19. They ended the season with 22-7 won-lost chart. The squad members were Winfred Moss, Capt., Bernard Loop, Clayton Morris, Kenneth Rogers, Henry Sharp, Lewis Turner, Nelson Wakefield, Ora Wilson, Herbert Smith, Larkin Sharp, Dale Remeley, Francis Robison and coached by P. H. Spain.

In 1928 the Paris Chamber of Commerce held a county banquet honoring the Chrisman team which had won the tough Redman tournament and the county tourney. Knute Rockne, the famed football coach of Notre Dame, was the guest speaker of the evening. Keefer Lientz, James Glick, and Orie Weston were named to the Edgar County all-star team.

The 1949 team was a successful squad with a 15-5 won-lost record and winning the Ambraw Valley tourney. Members of this team were Bob Morris, Keith Henderson, Dave Lorenzen, Charles Rhoden, Harry Lientz, Bob Emmons, Bob Adams, Walter Sublett, Don Sanders, Jim Spillman, and coached by Dick Kinneman. When this squad returned home from their last game of the year, they were informed that the board of education had voted to build a new gym for next year if it could be finished by then.

The 1950 team had a fine season record of 16-8 but the new gym was not finished until 1951. With Dick Kinneman as coach, the Cardinals recorded one of the best seasons by winning 20 games and only losing five. Members of this fine team were Frank Montagnino, Ray Martin, Allen Lientz, Aaron Swinford, John Owen, Capt. Jerry Rhoden, Hobart Price, Bill McNeeley, Bill Fouts, John Lund, Dick Ellis, Jerry Wilson, Dean Ackmann, Pawley Smith, Joe Huskisson, Dale Adams, Fred Colter, Stanley Decker, and Allen Curtis.

In 1954 the Cards compiled one of the winningest records ever listed. They won 26 games while losing only 3. They won the Ambraw Valley title and the District championship, only to lose to Charleston High School in the second game of the Regional played at Casey. Members of this very fine team were Capt. Dale Adams, Stanley Decker, Jim Brooks, Carroll M. Calhoun, Gene Ryan, Cecil Garner, Richard Swank, Mike Emmons, Richard Pyle, Charles Garner, David Daily, Bill Honnold and coached by Dick Kinneman.

The season of 1957 was another "bang-up" year as they piled up 24 wins against 5 losses. This squad consisted of Charles Wolfe, Allen Knicley, Richard Pyle, Bill Wood, Bill

Honnold, Lannie Robison, Bob Honnold, Jerry Lunger, Norman Knicley, John Collins, Bernie Morris and Jack Savant as the coach.

19-9 won and lost chart was recorded by the 1968 team in which Allen Greenlee was voted the most valuable player. Norman Reisor was the coach. The 1969 team, coached by Harold Clark, won 21 games and lost 6. This team won the Ambraw Valley Tournament and the District. Unluckily they were defeated by Paris in the finals of the Regional at Casey. Members of this team were Rick Mitchell, Alan Samford, Allen Greenlee, Jon Crispin, Larry Baker, Mike Powell, Jim Jenness, Rick Lewsader, Tony Lorenzen, John Jenkins, Randy Lunger, George Rogers, Rick Walls was the manager.

The 1970 Cardinals won 23 and lost 5. They captured the Ambraw Valley championship, the District title, and set 2 new team records (73.5 points per game average and scoring 44 points in one quarter). The team consisted of Randy Lunger, Rick Mitchell, Joe Stewart, Lynn Good, John Jenkins, Jim Jenness, Rick Taylor, Mike Powell, Jon Crispin, Larry Baker, Tony Lorenzen, Rick Lewsader, Darrell Payne, and coached by Roger Beals.

1971 was an outstanding year for the hustling Cards, winning 27 and losing only 1 game and breaking the all-time won-lost record of 26-3 in 1954. This team set a state scoring average of 91.6 points per game and 156 scored in one game. The Cards went over the century mark 9 times in the season of '71 with 119, 156, 124, 126, 102, 141, 104, 124 and 109. They won championships in the Rossville Holiday Tourney, Ambraw Valley Conference, A. V. C. tourney, and the District but then they were beaten by Marshall in the Casey Regional by one point on a shot with one second left on the clock. (A shot which Coach Beals and the team see in their nightmares only too often.)

Members of this fine team were Rick Taylor, Jon Crispin, John Jenkins, Randy Lunger, Tony Lorenzen, Lynn Good, Jim Jenness, Tom Baker, Curtis Ingram, Darrell Payne, Ken McKee, and Dave Chandler. In 1972, the year of our community centennial, the Chrisman Cardinals broke the all time games won record by ripping off 29 victories against 2 defeats. The Cards captured every tournament entered except the State. They won the Rossville Tournament, the Ambraw Valley Conference, the A. V. C. tournament, the Regional at Catlin, the Sectional at Tuscola and were defeated by Lincolnwood in the Super Sectional at Decatur, a team which placed third in the State finals.

This was the first year for a two class system for Illinois and the Cards reached the Sweet 16 in the small school division. (Below 750 enrollment.) This is farther than any Chrisman team has ever gone. Team members were Rick Taylor, Darrell Payne, Mark Neil, Tom Baker, Dave Chandler, Paul Scott, Dennie White, Curt Ingram, John Low, Earl Kindred, Ken McKee, Joe Mitchell, Rusty Krabel and coached by Roger Beals.

CHRISMAN BUSINESSES-Past and Present

Chrisman has always been fortunate to have an excellent business community. The next few pages are devoted to many of these businesses both past and present.

AUTOMOBILES and GARAGES

When the horseless carriage became so popular, little did anyone dream that one day the highways would be so crowded that it would become necessary to build freeways and toll roads to take care of people commuting to and from their place of employment and for the tourists.

In the spring of 1904 the first automobiles were purchased by Chrisman citizens. They were "Oldsmobile type of the two passenger style" and the first purchasers were Oscar Jones, C. J. Holden and A. G. Tucker. Before many months several of our citizens were driving five-passenger cars. Mr. and Mrs. Willis Holden, one of the owners, drove to Paris in just 63 minutes. The first cars were not used in the winter. Most of them were jacked up and kept in the Holden and Tucker Garage or in their own barns and garages.

The first automobile dealership in Chrisman was operated by Holden and Tucker. They originally sold the Auburn and were located in the building where the Francis Robison John Deere is located today. They also sold the Empire automobile.

For a short time, in the 1920 s, E. M. Miller sold the Franklin. Guy W. York was a car dealer for a time in the Mooney Building on the south side of the square. In 1937 the G & L Chevrolet was opened by Galeener and Lindley in the present Mooney site.

Galeener later moved to the John Deere site. Dick Fulton was associated in the Chevrolet business. Later Don Lindley and Howard Wilson were partners in a Chevrolet Agency at the Mooney site, and later Wilson had his own business in the present Hixon site. Mr. Wilson sold his business to Mat Barkman of Danville in 1955, and he in turn sold it to Mr. Banta in 1957. In 1958 it was sold to Harold Hixon who still operates the agency. Mr. Hixon moved to Chrisman from Marshall, IL.

The Scott Brothers, Purl and Guy at one time had a Ford Agency in the present Hixon location. For several years Keith and Max Culton sold Fords in the present Mooney Building.

In 1953 Mr. and Mrs. Norman Mooney purchased the Ford Agency. Mooney Motors is one of the largest Ford dealers in the nation to be located in a town the size of Chrisman. They have won many honors for their excellent salesmanship.

The building on the east side of the square which now houses Speed Wash was owned and operated by Glenn Compton and E. P. Jones and later by Mr. Jones. They had the Kaiser-Frazier Agency.

This same building was purchased by the Sanders Brothers, Claude (Slim) and Dave. They moved their Pontiac Agency to this location from Punkin Center where they had been in business for a number of years. After Dave's death in 1963, the business was

carried on by Slim alone until 1966 when he gave up the Pontiac Agency and sold the building to Norman Mooney.

With the rapid growth of the automobile age sprang the need for a new business -- that of dispensing gasoline and oil products and parts for repairs. Thus gasoline tank wagons and filling stations began to appear. Also farm machinery changed from the horse drawn to gasoline propelled machinery serviced by a gasoline tank wagon.

As there have been many different filling stations and owners and managers in the Chrisman area, only a few of the past and present are pictured below.

BANKING

Standiford Bank

During the 1880's Alex and Edgar Standiford owned and operated the Standiford Brothers Bank, a private institution in a brick structure on the west side of the square. They lived in pretentious homes at the west edge of Chrisman, and in general held the respect of the community.

Then one morning, in 1891, the bank did not open. Alex and Edgar had absconded with the bank funds. Many people's savings, proceeds from a recent farm sale, and large deposits of insurance settlements collected after the recent disastrous fire which consumed the frame buildings on the west side were included in the deposits. Thousands and thousands of dollars were missing.

Due to this unwelcome incident, people far and wide learned the location of Chrisman. Merchants on buying trips to Chicago or Cincinnati had but to say "Chrisman" and people had heard of the big bank robbery. One local family on a vacation trip to California, a decade later, encountered strangers who knew the particulars.

Alex's family stayed on; the wife taught a Sunday School Class at the Methodist Church and children, Edgar and Lucy, attended school. When Lucy graduated from high school, twelve years later they moved to Mrs. Standiford's hometown.

State Bank of Chrisman

On August 11, 1891, C. W. Pavery, Auditor of the State of Illinois, granted R. S. Cusick, William Hartley, Willis O. Pinnell and R. G. Sutherland permission to organize a Bank of Banking Association to be known as the State Bank of Chrisman with a capital stock of \$30,000 divided into 300 shares of \$100.00 each. January 5, 1892, a charter was issued to the State Bank of Chrisman by the state of Illinois.

The bank was opened on the west side of the square where Dr. Kirsten's office is today. The old bank vault is still in this building. The first directors of the bank were: R. S. Cusick, Will Hartley, A. B. Huston, E. W. Hartley, J. A. Earhart, William Jones and W.

B. Galway. R. S. Cusick was the first president and Will Hartley the first cashier. Other early presidents were E. W. Hartley and A. K. Hartley. Early cashiers were R S. Cusick, E W. Hartley and D. O. Light. Mr. Light served as cashier for almost 37 years.

On November 13, 1915, the bank purchased the lots from J. O. Kizer where it is located today and set about the planning and erection of a new and modern bank. The building committee members were: H. H. Adams, C. A. Newkirk, J. Russ Grace, D. Owen Light, J. R. Hartley, W. N. Newkirk, F. J. Light, and O. B. Riley. Architects for the building were George C. Liese and George W. Ludwich, and the contractors were Harry Rinesmith and Israel D. Smith.

The officers of the new bank in 1916 were: C. A. Newkirk, President; D. Owen Light, Cashier and F. J. Light, Assistant Cashier. Mr. Newkirk served as president 28 years. Other presidents were Raymond Newlin, O. N. Brothers, J. V. Rogers, Dr. C. L. Kerrick, R. A. Peters and James Freeman. Cashiers were B. M. Riley, R. A. Peters, R. H. Daily, and Raymond Newlin. Some directors were: Cash Newkirk, F. R. Grace, Max Newlin, Ruth Couch, J. Thomas, B. M. Riley, Madge Conn, Daisey Kerrick, Ralph Donovan and Roger Yontz.

After a fire in January 1970, the bank was remodeled and redecorated. An open house was held during the city's Western Days Celebration on July 10th and 11th. The present officers are: A. J. Wegeng, President; Russell H. Dailey, Executive Vice President; Zelma Garver, Vice President and Cashier.

First National Bank

On October 12, 1903 an application was made to the Comptroller of the Currency to reserve title for The First National Bank of Chrisman. On October 15, 1903 approval was received and title was reserved. Articles of Association were executed on December 19, 1903 by the following subscribers who were also appointed directors: Jesse B. Lindley, Silvanus W. Neighbors, Alfred W. Lindley, Jonathan Lindley, William T. Watson, and Noah Gaddis.

At a special meeting of the Board of Directors held on January 14, 1904 the following officers were appointed -- Silvanus W. Neighbors, President; William T. Watson, Vice-President; J. B. Lindley, Cashier; and L. A. Osborne, Assistant Cashier. The bank opened for business February 1, 1904. It was temporarily opened in a room owned by A. E. Schnitker on the south side of the square in about the location of the present Yates TV business. The new bank building was then in a planning stage. The bank moved into the present building upon its completion in 1904. The east half of the present building housed a grocery store later operated by Charles Ballard and Chester Kelly; afterward owned and occupied by the American Legion Post. Dr. J. L. Funkhouser had offices in the immediate rear of the bank quarters and Sidney W. Ramey operated a barber shop at the rear of the building until his death. The second floor of the building has been the home of the I.O.O.F. and Rebekah Lodges all these years.

As the Chrisman community grew and prospered, so did the bank. It has always been recognized as one of the soundest banks in Eastern Illinois, and one of its proudest days was when bank officials were notified by the Comptroller of the Currency to open for business the morning after the "Bank Moratorium" in 1933. On that date all the banking business in Edgar County was done in Chrisman.

In the early years of business, new directors included William M. Smith, Walter B. Swank, C. L. Kenton, Fred K. Thayer, W. T. Scott, George W. Fair, William T. Watson, W. E. Holden, James Hoult, Charles Hoult, W. F. Hoult, R. P. Morris, Dr. E. G. Conn, Roscoe G. Smith, Walter J. Gonwa, Sr., Frank McCuddy, and C. E. Scott.

The following men have served the bank in the capacity of President - Silvanus W. Neighbors (1904), A. W. Lindley (1905), William M. Smith (1906-1911), W. E. Holden (1912-1916), William M. Smith (1917-1924), J. B. Lindley (1924-1943), John Wasson (1944-1947), Frank McCuddy (1948-1962), and Donald J. Lindley (1962-present).

Cashiers of the bank have included -- J. B. Lindley (1904-1923), Frank McCuddy (1924-1947), Robert Wyatt (1948), Hilah Bishop (1948-1959), J. Harlan Owen (1960-1971), and Don O. Tate (1971-present).

J. B. Lindley served the bank for 39 years as Cashier and President. Frank McCuddy served the bank as bookkeeper, cashier and President for over 50 years. J. Harlan Owen started his career in the bank in 1952. He served as Assistant Cashier, Cashier, and at the time of his retirement in 1971, he was Executive Vice-President and Cashier.

In 1968 a Trust Department and Farm Management Department were organized. In 1969 the bank purchased the building on the east side from the American Legion, and in 1970 did major remodeling and expanded into that building. The present board of directors consist of Donald J. Lindley (Chairman of the Board), Paul L. Scott. Dr. W. J. Gonwa, Jr., George V. Dole, J. Harlan Owen, Raymond L. Stewart, Roger R. Schnitker, and Don O. Tate.

The present officers of the bank are Donald J. Lindley (President), Don O. Tate (Executive Vice-President and Cashier), Roger R. Schnitker (Vice-President), Raymond L. Stewart (Assistant Cashier and Assistant Trust Officer), Patricia Langford (Assistant Cashier), and Paul L. Scott (Trust Officer).

BARBER SHOPS

Some barbers of the early 1900's were William (Billy) Nichols and his son, Charles; J. M. Heidrick, Merle Fulton; Sid Ramey and Sid's brother-in-law, Mr. Freeman. Sid Ramey came to Chrisman in 1900 and first worked shining shoes.

Later Mr. Freeman came and they operated their own barber shop. They were the only colored men to ever make their homes in Chrisman. Mr. Freeman left after a short time, but Mr. Ramey conducted his shop south of the First National Bank for many years.

More recent well-known barbers were Mr. Ted Lundgren and Mr. John Hubbard. Today Mr. Fred Yates and Mr. Richard Walls operate shops in Chrisman.

BEAUTY SHOPS

The population of beauty shops in Chrisman has waivered with the winds, but the demand for them will never die for women's whims will always center on their "crowning glory" their hair. Two of our first beauty operators still have shops here today.

Fresh out of beauty school, William Carl Board opened the Karl's Beauty Salon in February of 1939. The location was upstairs over Hanger's Meat Market, in the Hula Parks' Building. The price of a shampoo and set was from 35c to 50c and permanents were from \$2.00 to \$5.00. Now you can go as high as \$100.00 for a permanent. Three years later the salon was moved to the Ed Jones Building, upstairs over the Louie Turner Drug and Sundries Store. About 20 years ago, the Fred Light Building at 207 West Monroe Avenue, was purchased for the salon where it is still located.

With trophies from five different states and a second in the national and being a permanent member of the Illinois Hair Fashion Committee, Mr. Board and the salon have carried on with the assistance of many: Sarah Lunger, Opal Bennet Hoult, Geraldine White, Kathryn Hawkins, Connie Henry, Nita Thomas, Phyles Truelove, and for the last five years, Karen Frazee.

Mrs. Lavila Felgar opened Lavila Felgar's Beauty Parlor August 29, 1939 on the south side of the Chrisman square in the building known as the Dr. O. R. Scott Building. In May of 1944, the Felgar's bought the Armita Moss house at 222 E. Monroe. They moved their shop there and are still in business at this location.

Other beauty shops in Chrisman at the present time are: Mary Lou Brinkley's Shop, 202 E. Madison; Wilma McCann, 604 E. Monroe; Sue's Beauty Shop, 212 E. Madison; Charlotte's Charm Shop, 624 E. Lincoln; Jo's Beauty Shop, 711 E. Jackson; Nila's Beauty Shop, 223 S. Iowa, and Jean Thompson's Beauty Shop, 731 E. Jefferson Avenue.

BLACKSMITHS

The blacksmith of the earlier days was an essential part of the community and transportation industry as it was he who shod the horses and worked and repaired iron. The first lot sold in Chrisman was purchased by Mr. Frank and Mr. James Earhart. On this lot they set up the first blacksmith shop in the village. The United Methodist Church stands on the site today.

The two brothers had been in the same business with a third brother, Mr. Charles Earhart, at Bloomfield. Charles moved first to Edgar and had a shop there for a while. Then he, too, moved to Chrisman and with his son, Elmer, operated a blacksmith shop. In those days much of the time was spent in the shoeing of horses. Frank and James Earhart

moved their shop to the north side of the square. It was just east of the alley and next was an implement store which Mr. James Earhart operated.

Other blacksmiths were James Sloat whose shop was on the east side of Iowa Street between Madison and Monroe Avenues, Tutor Etchison, Harry Yates, C. C. Smitley and Cloyd (Noodles) Ellis.

Mr. Yates, Smitley and Ellis all operated the shop on the north side of the square at different times. Mr. Smitley, a former mayor, operated a blacksmith shop in Chrisman for many years. His last shop, which he still owns, was in the old Rayfield building and he worked at his trade here until about five years ago.

Mr. Ellis engaged in other blacksmith work, but did not shoe horses. In the last issue of the Chrisman Courier on December 24, 1969, a large picture of Mr. Ellis before his present shop and a short resume of his work was given. "Noodles" has been in business in Chrisman since 1924. At that time he operated a garage in "Punkin Center" just south of the Mooney Used Car Lot on Route #1. He opened his first Blacksmith Shop in 1935. Since that time he has occupied various locations. He has been at his present location about 18 years. This is the site of the first building built in Chrisman and is just south of the Christian Church.

Chrisman has one citizen who shoes horses today. Mr. Allen Gardner devotes his full time to this work and carries his "tools of the trade" with him when answering calls.

DRUG STORES

Mr. James Boles and son John operated the first drug store in Chrisman. They came from Bloomfield in 1872 and opened their store on the northwest corner of the north side of the square. The next record we have of a drug store in Chrisman was one owned by Camerer & Musselman located at the northwest corner of the square. In 1891 Mr. A. E. Schnitker came from Cincinnati, Ohio. He and his father-in-law, Mr. W. T. Gilkey, purchased the stock of Camerer & Musselman. On July 20, 1891 fire destroyed the entire west side with the exception of the building where the drug store was. During the next few years the west side was rebuilt and Mr. W. E. and Charles Holden opened a drug store which later was operated by Mr. W. R. Green. In 1906 Mr. Schnitker and his brother-in-law, Mr. R. L. Waldruff, purchased the stock of Holden Brothers. They conducted the business until 1913 when Roger Schnitker bought out Mr. Waldruff's interest and the business was known as A. E. Schnitker & Son.

This business continued until 1946 when it was sold to Mr. C. V. Cummins. Then in 1957 it was sold to Mr. Ben R. Cook now known as Cooks Drug Store.

Mr. A. J. Shurte had a drug store for several years located in what is now Wolfe's Auto Supply Store.

Mr. Chester Johnson had a drug store, later owned by Mr. George Lyons, on the north side of the square in what is now Bill's Mower Shop.

DRY GOODS, SHOES and CLOTHING STORES

The first building erected in the village was by Samuel Kenton, in the fall of 1872. This was a storehouse, and was occupied by Jacob Brant and C. A. Smith in one part of the building, with a stock of dry goods and groceries, and in the other part by Messrs. Boles and Son with a stock of drugs. These gentlemen then, were the pioneers in business in Chrisman. The building was later occupied by J. R. Sousley in the grocery trade, and by S. W. Thayer with dry goods.

Alexander Clark also built a store the same fall into which Stanfield and Mitchell put into one part dry goods and groceries; and Stubbs, Rafferty, and Johns occupied the other part with hardware.

The first exclusive men's clothing store in Chrisman was established in 1904 by E. M. Miller. Mr. Miller, his wife and two daughters moved to Chrisman from Shelbyville in February and the store was opened for business in March. It was located where the Villager is today. One daughter, Mrs. W. J. Brothers, still lives in Chrisman. The other daughter, Mrs. Harry Jarvis, lives in Detroit.

The Ellis Brothers; Everett and Hobart, operated one of the best and well-known clothing stores in the county for many years. On the death of Everett Ellis in 1935, Hobart continued in the store until his death in 1946. Mrs. Ellis and Roger Schnitker continued to run the business until it was taken over by Mrs. Ellis' son, Robert, in 1960.

In 1925 Mrs. E. P. Jones and Mrs. Ruby Newlin started a Dry Goods store on the west side of the square, now occupied by "The Villager." In 1929 Mrs. Newlin bought full interest in the store and continued in its operation until her health forced her to close in 1964. In August 1964 Mrs. Ben Cook did extensive remodeling to the same building and has given Chrisman an up-to-date women's shop called "The Villager."

In July of 1952, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Kime of Indiana opened a family shoe and men's clothing store in Chrisman in the building now occupied by Wolfe's Auto Supply. The Kimes retired in 1959, and sold their store to Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Tate. Then later Robert Ellis sold his store to the Tates and they moved to the Ellis building and continued to run a family shoe store and men's clothing store until Mr. Tate retired in 1964. This building is now occupied by the Legion.

At the present time Adam's Clothing, owned by Dale and Barbara Adams continues to furnish Chrisman and the surrounding territory with up-to-date men's and boys' clothing.

FURNITURE AND UNDERTAKING

The first Furniture Store was operated by Melvin Matheney and Joseph Weaver around 1875. At this time furniture dealers were actually cabinet makers and carpenters, therefore, when a death occurred, the furniture dealer or carpenter was contacted for a coffin. Melvin Matheney Furniture and Undertaking business was completely lost in the fire of 1891.

The next firm was known as Matheney and Cretors. About 1900, William Wasson bought Matheney's share and the business name was changed to Wasson and Cretors. Very shortly after this (possibly 1902) the late John M. Wasson joined his father and the firm continued operations as Wasson and Son. They owned the first Auto Hearse in Chrisman.

In 1920 John T. Owen bought the Wasson and Son Furniture and Undertaking business located in the building now occupied by Samford Hardware Store.

Mr. Owen continued to operate the Furniture store in that location. In 1933 he purchased the F. W. Scanlon residence at 121 E. Monroe Avenue (presently owned by Robert and Dale Adams). This building was remodeled into Chrisman's first Funeral Home.

In 1940, the firm name was changed to John T. Owen & Son when J. Harlan Owen joined his father in the business. In 1947 the Owen Funeral Business was sold to O. Raman Scott. The Owen family sold the Furniture business in 1949 to Lloyd Bowyer of Newman, who closed out the business a short time later.

The only other retail Furniture Store was owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. George Sherfey in the building east of Dr. Linebarger's Office. The Sherfey Furniture Store was closed out in the early 1950's due to ill health. Mr. and Mrs. J. Ben Jenness are presently operating a used Furniture Store in the old Post Office building on the North West corner of the square.

O. Raman Scott opened Scott Funeral Home at 602 E. Madison Avenue in 1935. He purchased the Owen Funeral Business in 1947. The Scott Funeral Home continued until 1967 when Ronald Bolen entered the firm. Mr. Bolen is presently operating the business as Scott-Bolen Funeral Home at the same location.

Paul J. Honnold opened Honnold Funeral Home at 604 E. Monroe Avenue in 1950. In 1965, his son, James, entered the business and presently operates as Honnold and Son Funeral Home. Honnold and Son also operate Funeral Homes in Ridgefarm and Sidell.

In the early 1900's the late G. W. Wasson operated a Funeral business on the north side of the square. Also in the late 1930's a Mr. Cline started a Funeral Home in the present Otis Clark residence. Both of these businesses were short lived and exact records and dates are unavailable.

GROCERIES AND RELATED BUSINESSES

As early as 1872 a grocery store was operated by Jacob Brant and C. A. Smith. This store was located on the north side of the square. In the early 1900's this was followed by groceries run by the following people: I. D. Scott, Luna Smith, Perry Roberts, Charles Ballard and Ballard and Kelly. James Heidrick, father of Fern Anthony and Lelia Wimmer, operated a grocery located on the north corner where the old Blue Room was located. The McCalmont Brothers had an excellent grocery on the north side of the square for several years.

In 1887 a grocery-dry goods store was operated by William Smith on the south side of the square.

During the years many grocery stores have been operated on the west side of the square. In 1900 a grocery was opened by O. E. Patrick. For some time an Oakley store was located here. In 1936 Grab-It-Here opened a store in the building now occupied by S. W. Yontz & Sons. Other grocerers on this side of the square included Clarence Lunger, Wyatt and Owens, Tucker and Fellowers, Linderman, Sheets and Owens, and C. W. Newlin & Co. Fresh meats were also available to customers in specialty shops, Erastus Hurst Meat Market, F. W. Dustheimer's Meat Market, Jacob W. Daily, Ben Lamb, and Gutherie Butcher Shop.

For many years E. P. Jones operated a grocery on the west side in the building now housing Adam's Clothing Store. He also supplied people with groceries via the huckster wagon which had regular routes through the country side.

Mr. Jones later sold the store to Paul Honnold. Mr. Honnold sold the store to Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Tate of Indiana. The store was opened for business on January 21, 1949. Mr. Tate operated the Regal Store until 1952 when he sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Lewman who operated it as an Eisner More until they sold it to Al Davis. Mr. Davis built the new building on the east side of the square where Riggen Produce Market had been located. In November 1964 the new Chrisman IGA Foodliner was opened for business with Mr. Freemont Ireland as manager.

Another food related business were the services provided by creameries serving as middlemen between the farmers and large dairies and poultry companies. Lonnie and Lottie Lunger operated a Creamery and Produce Co. from 1939 to 1958. In the forties Robert and Rena Riggen followed Robert's father in the Riggen Produce business.

HARDWARES

S. W. Yontz & Son, Inc.

Samuel Warner Yontz, Sr. of Smithfield, Pa. purchased in January 1910 the Hardware Store in Chrisman from the firm of Storm & White. He later was joined by Samuel Warner Yontz, Jr. of Battle Creek, Mich. They took over the store on February 15, 1910.

Roger Yontz was taken into the store in 1923. In 1930, another son, Karl, Sr., was taken into the store. In 1946 the youngest son, Robert Sr., was taken into the hardware and plumbing business.

These three men were all sons of S. W. Yontz, Jr. In 1920 S. W. Yontz & Son extended their activity to Paris, and five years later business demands in Paris led to opening of a second store which was managed by Karl Yontz, Sr. This store is now located on the east side of the square in Paris and managed by Karl Yontz, Jr.

The Yontz Corporation purchased in 1958 the Dri-Gas fuel business from The Inman Firm of Paris. The storage and bulk yards are located in Chrisman and supply fuel to customers in eastern Illinois. In June, 1967 S. W. Yontz & Son, Inc. purchased the building to the south from Paxton Grocers. This transaction was like old home week to the Hardware Corporation. Previous to 1922 the Yontz store was located in the south half of the store building just purchased. At that time it was divided into two stores. The Yontz's moved to the present location in 1922 and have continued in business there until present time. In November, 1967 open house was held for the completed remodeled double store building.

Today the independent plumbing contractor is nearly a thing of the past in the construction field, where general contractors now perform all building work. But the sale of household articles, small appliances, kitchenware's and garden supplies, mostly unknown sixty years ago, now are a major industry. The Chrisman Yontz store is the oldest business firm that has been in continuous operation in Chrisman, and is now managed by Robert R. Yontz, Sr.

Also setting records for service with the Chrisman Yontz store are four employees with from ten to twenty-five years service each. They are Ed Murray, Don Hollingsworth, Cary Thurman and Francis Langford. Other full-time employees are Beverly Henry, Edna Potter and Leigh Johnson.

George W. Samford & Son

George Samford moved to Chrisman in March, 1921. In 1927 Samford and S. L. Newlin formed a partnership. In 1930 they bought the building located at the corner of Iowa and Monroe Street. In 1937 George Samford bought out Newlin's interest and started George W. Samford & Son. In 1950 Samford & Son moved to their present location, which was formerly the John T. Owen Furniture Store. George retired in January, 1957 and Clyde, his son, still operates the business as George W. Samford & Son.

Some other early hardwares were owned by Proctor & Storm, C. D. McKay, Lon Busby & Wally James, William Waltrip and R. J. Smith.

HARNESS SHOPS

In 1875 W. N. Newkirk purchased the Harness Shop on the east side of the city square from Abe Mitchell. At the time the shop was torn down in 1947, it was the oldest business establishment in the city and the building was also one of the oldest. Mr. Newkirk died in 1933 and James E. Thomas operated the business until 1947. Three men who worked in the shop many years were: John Wilson over 50 years, Charles Mumford, a Civil War veteran, 30 years, Russell Jamison 25 years - a total of 105 years.

The stock in the shop was sold to a harness dealer in the Amish community where harness is still used.

EARLY HOTELS

Mr. B. F. Waldruff owned the first hotel in Chrisman. It was located on the south west corner of the square where Mrs. Cora Fulton operated a hotel and restaurant until a few years ago.

The Chrisman Cottage on East Monroe Avenue and the Shawhan Hotel on West Monroe Avenue were among the early hotels. The Shawhan Hotel was located just east of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Richards. This building burned. The Hammond House on West Monroe was also an early hotel.

Other business places around the square served meals and a few kept roomers. The Stickle's restaurant on the east side of the square advertised the best meals in town for twenty-five cents.

INDUSTRIES OF THE PAST

Due to the efforts of A. E. Schnitker, president of the Chrisman Business Men's Club, and F. K. Thayer, the Rayfield Motor Car Company of Springfield was brought to Chrisman in 1912.

Officers for the company were President, F. K. Thayer; Vice-President, Charles Hoult; Secretary and Treasurer, A. E. Schnitker; and Sales Manager, E. E. Staley. The plant was located on the north side of Madison Avenue just west of the railroad in the Light and Water Company building.

The first car was completed in September. Later in the same month the Brown Auto Co. of St. Louis contracted with the Rayfield Company to take their entire output for three years. Two cars were shipped to them in October -- one to be used as a demonstrator and one to exhibit at the St. Louis Auto Show.

In May, 1914 a Rayfield Hughes car was entered in the Indianapolis "500" but failed to qualify. A few large touring cars were manufactured and sold in the community.

The Company left Chrisman in 1914. As in Springfield, it had been running at a loss and had never paid a dividend. The sign Rayfield Motor Company can still be seen on the building today.

In the early years of 1900, the C. E. Bonner Manufacturing Company was started in Chrisman and for some years did a flourishing business and employed at times as high as 175 men. The factory stood where the Hixon Chevrolet Co. is today. They manufactured Victor pipe wrenches, a device of great mechanical merit, patented by Clarence and William S. Bonner. This factory made pipe wrenches for the Panama Canal.

In about 1911 the equipment was moved to Champaign, IL. The building was purchased by the Scott Brothers for a garage. At one time there was a broom factory, just south of the railroad. A good broom could be bought for 15 cents. Charles Hurl and brother were the owners.

The milling industry was of great importance in early times and continued to be for many years. One that has not been mentioned previously was the Charles McAllister mill in the east part of town which was in operation for many years. Besides the milling industry others were added to bring prosperity to the village. There was a tile factory in the south east part of town run by W. A. Jones.

Ice was a necessary commodity in the village and Chrisman had two ice houses. One pond and ice house was located at the south east edge of the town. This was operated by John Scott. Another was located at the site of the present Montagnino pasture and was operated by Erastus Hurst. Many farmers put up their own ice. The ice was cut from the ponds and stored in sawdust. In 1912 work was started on a new ice plant and it was placed in operation the following spring.

The plant turned out to be a fine paying proposition in Chrisman. R. A. Bennett was manager. Two years after the ice plant was built a 300-ton coal silo was erected. The coal was dumped into a pit under the railroad and elevated into the silo by electricity and then dumped into wagons. A 50 or 60 ton car could be unloaded in less than two hours. Mr. Bennett did a thriving business for about 20 years, but with the increase of electric refrigeration in the homes, business decreased and eventually the plant was closed.

In 1912 the Chrisman Construction Company was organized and a good building erected in the south west part of Chrisman. The company thrived and its concrete products, such as tile and septic tanks, spread over the fertile acres of the surrounding community. Early officers of the Company were F. K. Thayer, President; W. H. Robinson, Vice-President; A. K. Hartley, Treasurer; and F. W. Scangling, Secretary.

In 1919 the H. M. Crites & Co. Canning Factory was placed in operation, the company having taken over the old Rayfield building. The farmers were a little skeptical at first, but it was found to be the greatest boon to them, which had made its appearance in many years. In fact, it was a life saver to many of them. The building was equipped with the latest machinery and closing devices. During the canning season, which was usually six

or eight weeks, as many as 175 men and women were employed. The plant was under the able management of Mr. T. C. Jamison. The corn acreage in 1919 was 1,300 acres. After Mr. Jamison left Chrisman, Mr. McMahon managed the plant before it closed.

In 1944 The Rogers Bros. Seed Co. Inc. purchased the ground in the south west section of Chrisman at the site of the old tile plant and a new industry was started there. This plant was used for production of sweet corn seed. Lawrence Taylor was the local manager. In the beginning three or four local men were employed full time, and later a force of 20 to 50 women worked at the picking tables.

Rogers Bros, closed the plant in 1948 because of seed corn production difficulties. In 1946 a new business, Frozen Food Lockers, was opened in Chrisman. Mrs. Mabel Sayre Jones was the first manager. A good meat and dairy products store was operated in conjunction with the Locker business which butchered and prepared meat for the lockers if desired. This business flourished for several years and the former building is still referred to as the locker plant.

Through the efforts of the Lions Club, Production Incorporated opened a plant in the Haws Building on State Route One. They assembled such items as toilet articles, hair nets, needles, hair pins and candy. They hired about 24 women to work. They closed in September, 1948.

INSURANCE

Wiley Rogers was an early insurance agent in Chrisman. His office was in a small wooden building just south of the present Haworth-McClintock building. It was in this same building that Mr. Livett had made shoes and Mr. D. W. Fouts had his police magistrate office. Mr. Rogers also sold school supplies and candy to the school children.

In the early 1900's A. E. Hudkins had an insurance office on the south east corner of the square, the present site of the Mooney car lot. On the second floor of a two story frame building he shared an office with J. F. Van Voorhees, lawyer.

Early insurance agents who operated agencies for many years in Chrisman were James Wyatt and W. D. Scott. In 1925, after eighteen years, Mr. Scott took his son into the business. The Haworth Insurance Agency operated by Berniece and Harry Haworth purchased the Scott Agency from Mr. and Mrs. Owen Scott, December 1, 1950. Mrs. Haworth became a licensed Realtor in 1954.

Mr. Frank McCuddy and Mr. William Smith were popular insurance agents in Chrisman for many years. J. Harlan Owen, James B. Jenness and Wendell Snyder were more recent insurance agents Mr. Owen was a general insurance agent in Chrisman from 1949 to 1968. His daughter, Mrs. Marilyn Jo Varner, was also associated with Mr. Owen in the business. Mr. Jenness began selling insurance in Chrisman in 1954. He is a licensed Real Estate Broker. Mr. Snyder sold insurance for several years and is a Real Estate Broker.

Mr. K. D. Knicley entered the general insurance business in 1954. He bought out Mr. Smith and later Mr. McCuddy.

Mr. William McClintock became a partner of The Haworth Insurance Agency January 1, 1965. Mr. Haworth passed away in 1968 and Mrs. Haworth continued in the Haworth-McClintock Agency until January 1972. At that time Mr. W. M. Bowman became a member of the firm which is still known as the Haworth-McClintock Insurance Agency. Mr. McClintock is a licensed insurance and real estate Broker. Mr. Russell Chainey has been a life insurance agent in the city since 1965.

LAWYERS

One of the earliest lawyers in Chrisman was J. Fay Cusick who had an office on the west side of the square. He also had a millinery store at one time. Mr. J. F. Van Voorhees was a lawyer in Chrisman for many years. His first office was over the former post office. At the time he was city attorney, he and Mr. A. E. Schnitker named the streets of Chrisman. Later he occupied an office with A. E. Hudkins, insurance agent, on the south east corner of the square. The office was on the second floor of a two story frame building. (At one time a bakery was located on the first floor and at another Mr. Israel Scott and Sons operated a grocery store here.)

Mr. Carvel Henderson Laughlin practiced law in Chrisman from 1910 to 1913. He was admitted to the bar first in Oklahoma and then in Illinois. His office was above Dr. Linebarger's office. After moving to Denver, Colorado, he was employed by Dunn and Bradstreet for many years. His widow, Mrs. Verta Laughlin, is one of Chrisman's honored senior citizens today.

It was necessary to "go out of town" for legal aid for many years. Then in July 1952, Mr. Allen E. Overaker opened his legal practice in Chrisman. Mr. Overaker received his law degree from the University of Illinois and was admitted to the bar in 1950. He was located in Havana, Illinois for one year before coming to Chrisman.

LIVERY STABLES AND DRAYMEN

From the 1880's to the 1920 s livery service was much in demand. Passengers alighting from the trains would hire a rig to take care of their luggage or merely for pleasure trips. The drummers would hire a rig and a driver to take them to nearby towns, but they were always eager to make the Chrisman Cottage for an overnight stop. A cab was also available and for a fee of twenty-five cents one could be taken anywhere in Chrisman.

This service was nice for the ladies. In bad weather they could call a cab to be taken to a party or club meeting. Livery Stables were owned by William Welch. Wiley James, Hugh Brummett, John Dalrymple, Ashby and McKee, John Ashby, O. E. Patrick, Alex Scott and others. As part of the livery service, Draymen were very much in demand, and were the only means of hauling, trucking and freighting before the advent of today's truck

lines. Of Draymen there were many; some we can recall are Ike Traphagen, William Traphagen, Frank Lientz, Wesley Bell and Owen Scott.

LUMBER YARDS

As soon as Chrisman was platted, lots were sold and feverish building activities set in. The sound of hammer and saw were constantly heard. The first building erected was a carpenter shop owned by Samuel Kenton. Lumber for inside finishing was hauled from as far as Montezuma, Indiana. One of the first permanent mills was located where Harlen Owen lives today.

In 1888 Mr. B. F. Waldruff deeded land at the corner of Illinois and Jackson to Mr. William McAnnally for a lumber yard. Mr. McAnnally kept the business until 1933 and it was sold to A. E. Rinesmith and Son. By this time it was a thriving business in Chrisman. After Mr. Rinesmith's death the business was deeded to his son, Harry Rinesmith. Later Mr. Rinesmith bought the Chrisman Lumber Yard on West Madison where Dr. K. W. Frailey's office is today. The lumber yard on Illinois Street was torn down. Harry Rinesmith also was a contractor and built many homes in Chrisman.

The present lumber yard on West Monroe was built and operated by James and Lester Vanscoyk. They later sold it to the Redmon Lumber Company. The last owners of the Chrisman Lumber Company were the House Bros, of Newman who bought the company from Mr. Paul Peach of Champaign. It had been operated by his son-in-law, Clifford Buckles. The House Bros, bought the lumber yard on West Monroe and combined the two yards. The Chrisman Lumber Company is now located on West Monroe. Mr. George Parker is the present manager.

MAIL

The first mail arrived in Chrisman on November 4, 1872. The Post Office was located in the Smith and Hartley dry goods building, located on the North West corner of the square. Carry Smith was the Post Master for many years. The Post Office had many locations, but occupied the first floor of the Masonic Building for a long time.

The first mail arrived just three months after Chrisman had a name. By 1903 there were five rural routes and now the community is served by three routes. Village service was established in 1916 and in 1949 Chrisman obtained city delivery service and air mail service started in 1944.

The B & O Railroad discontinued mail and passenger service in 1926 and the N. Y. C. in 1957. Indianapolis to Decatur High Way Post Office Service was planned to start about August 1, 1952. It was to be very similar to that service performed by the trains.

The big red, white and blue Highway Post Office rolled into Chrisman on September 27, 1952. Assistant Post Master General John M. Redding of the bureau of transportation made a short address. The "Hypo" as it was known, was met at the intersection of U. S.

Highway 36 and Route 1 by Post Master Dalrymple and other city officials. Special stamps were available for the First Trip of Highway Service. The Star mail route truck operated between Danville and Ridgefarm after the trains discontinued and in May 1957 came to Chrisman.

The Star mail route truck operated between Danville and Ridgefarm after the trains discontinued and in May 1957 came to Chrisman. On August 31, 1970, a new and up-to-date Post Office was opened. It is located just west of the State Bank.

The Postmasters and their appointment dates are as follows: Cary A. Smith - September 26, 1872; John S. Hartley - April 6, 1885; Cary A. Smith -- March 15, 1889; Timothy McCuddy -- August 4, 1893; John F. Newlin -- July 22, 1897, James Wyatt -- March 20, 1916; Carmie Lee (acting) - January 23, 1923; Roy L. Waldruff -- January 7, 1924; William F. Hoult -- October 1, 1927; Purl A. Scott (confirmed) -- June 1, 1932; Martin M. Dalrymple (acting) -- October 19, 1933, (confirmed) - June 12, 1934, Donald I. Wood (acting) - October 11, 1963; Robert F. Bennett (assumed charge) -- April 17, 1964, (acting) -- April 28, 1964, and (confirmed) -- March 10, 1966.

MEDICAL

Physicians

The first physician in Chrisman was Dr. S. R. Gray who came March 4, 1873. He came from Baldwinsville where he had practiced since his graduation from Linn Medical College in Chicago after previously graduating from Indiana University. Dr. Gray purchased Mathias Chrisman's home.

Dr. Welch came to settle in the new town a week after Dr. Gray and a few months later Dr. Camerer came from Logan to Chrisman. These men served the community for many years. A few other doctors came for short periods. Dr Phelps, Dr. Cunningham and Dr McCulloch were among the early doctors.

Dr C. L. Kerrick was the next physician to settle permanently in Chrisman. Upon graduation from Louisville Medical College, Louisville, Kentucky, he practiced for a while with his brother at Brocton, Illinois. He came to Chrisman in 1897 and spent fifty-two years here in his chosen profession.

Dr. O. R. Scott, who practiced in Edgar County for over fifty years, came to Chrisman in 1903 from Metcalf where he had practiced since graduation from Starling Medical College, Columbus, Ohio in 1898. Dr. J. L. Funkhouser came about 1908. He was a graduate of Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, Indiana. After practicing in Chrisman about ten years, he moved to Danville, Illinois.

Dr. H. A. Linebarger came in 1911 upon graduation from the American School of Osteopathy at Kirksville, Missouri. He has served the area as an osteopathic physician sixty-one years.

Dr. E. G. Conn located next in Chrisman. He came in 1914 upon graduation from Loyola Medical University, Chicago, Illinois, and practiced here over thirty-one years. Dr. Heald came soon and built the office on the south side of the square occupied by Dr. Gonwa today. He practiced medicine here for a few years then moved to Bay City, Michigan.

Dr. J. F. Jennings moved his practice from Scotland to Chrisman in 1920. He had come to Illinois and settled in Scotland in 1894 after graduating from Starling Medical College, Columbus, Ohio.

Dr. Cynthia Morton (now Mrs. George Anner) practiced medicine in Chrisman from 1946 until 1966 when she ended her practice and moved to St. Joseph, Illinois. Before coming to Chrisman she was employed at the Paris Hospital from 1941 to 1945. Her husband is a professor at the University of Illinois. Dr. Morton received her medical training at the University of Nebraska, College of Medicine.

Chrisman has always been fortunate to continue to have the family type doctor who is not only a dedicated physician but friend, advisor and counselor.

Today the Chrisman area is served by Dr. Linebarger, Dr. Joseph F. Montagnino, and Dr. Walter J. Gonwa, Jr. Dr. Montagnino established his practice here in 1948. He received his medical training at the University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy. Dr. Gonwa began practicing in Chrisman in December, 1948. He shared the office of his father, Dr. W. J. Gonwa, Sr., the dentist of the area. Dr. Gonwa, Jr. received his medical education at the St. Louis University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri.

DENTISTS

Dr. C. G. Bacon practiced dentistry in Chrisman for a short time before moving to Newman, Illinois in 1902. His office was on the second floor above the former post office. Dr. Bacon received his training at the Chicago College of Dental Surgery, Chicago, Illinois.

Dr. Campbell was one of the earlier dentists of Chrisman. In the early 1900s his office was above the present Cook Drugs. Dr. Phillips was the next dentist to practice in Chrisman. He also had an office over the drug store for a few years.

About 1914 Dr. G. M. Trafton came to Chrisman. He had an office with Dr. Heald and Dr. Linebarger where Dr. Gonwa has his office at the present time. Dr. Linebarger and Dr. Trafton moved to the north side of the square when Dr. Conn and Dr. Gonwa Sr. purchased the Heald building. Later Dr. Trafton moved to Paris.

Dr. W. J. Gonwa, Sr. came to Chrisman in 1915 upon graduation from the Chicago College of Dental Surgery, Chicago, Illinois. He practiced dentistry here until 1958. Dr. David L. Danes purchased Dr. Gonwa's equipment and continued in his office for a short

time until he moved to California. After Chrisman had been without a dentist for almost a year, Dr. James Reader, under the auspices of the Chrisman Lion's Club and business and professional men, came to the city. Dr. Reader, a graduate of the Chicago College of Dental Surgery (now part of Loyola University), erected his present office on the north side of the city square and began practice in 1960.

OPTOMETRIST

Dr. R. T. Kirsten, Optometrist, opened his office in Chrisman in September of 1968. Dr. Kirsten is a native of Paris and received his education at Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois; the University of Illinois, Champaign, Illinois; and from the Illinois College of Optometry in Chicago. Dr. Kirsten makes his home in Chrisman, but also has an office in Marshall, Illinois which he serves on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday of each week.

VETERINARIANS

Dr. Van Cleve came to Chrisman in 1908 and provided veterinary service for the community until about 1920 when they moved on to Peoria. Dr. J. Emmett Davis (formerly of Hume) filled the vacancy until his death in the late 1930's. During the next decade stock and pet owners had to rely on the surrounding communities for professional assistance.

Early in the fifties Dr. Robert Abel arrived from Marshall but moved on to Danville in 1960. However, this time the locality was not without aid for Dr. Kermit Frailey, a U. of IL graduate, from Ramsey, Illinois was on the scene and continues to doctor our four-legged population.

NEWSPAPERS

The first newspaper, "The Chrisman Enterprise," was issued December 3, 1875, editors, Ben Biddlecum and Melvin Matheney. The first sheet run off the press was sold to Mathias Chrisman for five dollars. The second sheet was sold to William Hartley for three dollars.

The advertisements in this issue were: Stanfield & Mitchell, dry goods; Smith & Hartley, dry goods, the post office was in this store; H. M. Galloway, jewelry; W. S. Waltrip, hardware; E. Creators, painter; and M. Keys, dry goods. Melvin Matheney was the cartoon artist for the paper, contributing some good humor.

The first edition of the Enterprise spoke of the need for a new school and the second edition of a new city hall with a stage for theatrical performances and movable seats so the hall could be adapted for dancing and other purposes. In the first edition of the Enterprise the price of shelled corn was \$.70, ear corn \$.33-\$.34, turkeys \$.06-\$.10 per pound, eggs \$.15 per dozen, ham \$.16-\$.18 per pound, cheese \$.20, coffee \$.28-\$.30, sugar \$.11-\$.12 and salt \$1.90 per barrel.

The paper was purchased by Jacobs and Thompson in 1876 and renamed "The Chrisman Leader." New advertisements included W. F. Stickle, restaurant and confectionery; Koons and Nelson, carpenters; E. J. Rafferty, livery, sale and feed barn, buggies, carriages, horses and lumber.

During the time the paper was owned by these men, the wedding of Florence Chrisman was solemnized at the Methodist Church and was given two columns of space. The Chrisman Progress came next in 1878, when the paper was published by G. W. Payne and Anna Cruikshank. The official director was Police Magistrate, D. W. Fouts; Supervisor, C. T. Caraway; Town Clerk, W. S. Waltrip; Commissioners of Highways, L. W. Stigleman, Benjamin Dickson and Amos Watson; Justices of the Peace, Joseph Weaver and Daniel Rogers; and the Constables were Joseph Ellsberry and J. P. Crawford.

New names in the business directory included: W. N. Newkirk, Mr. Coats, William Livett, Standiford Brothers, Camerer and Musselman, J. R. Sousley, Miss Pool and Miss Stewart, dressmaking; Miss Gunn, milliner. The second Village Board of Trustees consisted of Joseph Stanfield, John Moss, Joseph Weaver, William Roth, N. Y. Nelson and S. W. Thayer; Melvin Matheney, clerk; John Mitchell, treasurer; D. W. Fouts, police magistrate, and J. R. Sousley, marshal.

The next name for the paper was "The Chrisman Advance," in 1879. The paper was edited by new printers for short spaces of time until C. R. Livingston purchased the paper and began the improvement in size, type and all that goes with the printer's trade, until the paper became an asset instead of a liability. During the years the home of the paper was in various upper rooms along the west side of the square, until a building was erected for a permanent home west of the Camerer building and it was in this building when it was purchased by C. R. Livingston.

The Enterprise was published on Fridays, the Leader on Saturdays, the Advance on Wednesdays and the Courier on Fridays -- later on Thursdays.

In 1905 Mr. Livingston moved the paper to a modern brick building which he built south of the First National Bank. He continued publication until his death in 1933 when his daughter, Mrs. Fayelle L. Radabaugh, became editor and kept up the excellent standards of the paper. She sold the Courier to Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Kent in 1946.

The Kents published the Courier until 1964 when it was sold to Mr. Robert Hemphill who sold it to a publishing corporation which became the Edgar, Vermilion Publishers, Inc. This corporation ceased publication of the Courier December 31, 1969. After almost three months without a newspaper of its own, a group of enterprising business men succeeded in bringing Mr. Keith Tingley to Chrisman in March, 1970. Mr. Tingley publishes the Chrisman Leader at 140 West Madison Avenue. The Chrisman Leader competently serves Chrisman and the surrounding area including Ridgefarm, Metcalf, Scotland and Dana. A good newspaper is essential in a progressive community.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Mr. Robert Hoult, Chrisman route three started as a photographer in 1946. Later he and Mrs. Hoult enlarged their business to include catering of parties, weddings, etc. They now have an extensive business and are recognized throughout the state for their good photos, lovely cakes and mints, and for their ability to make parties and weddings beautiful and successful.

Earlier photographers in Chrisman were John Maughner, who operated a trailer type photo gallery just east of the First National Bank in 1905, W. N. Wells, Ashmore, Pettitt and Davis.

RADIO AND TELEVISION

Over the years Chrisman has had several people in the radio and television sales and service business. In 1946 Wendell and Helen Snyder opened a radio, record and TV shop in the room on the west side of the square where Fred Yates later had his barber shop. In 1957 the Snyders moved to 503 E. Monroe, and Snyder continued his TV repair business from his home. In 1960 they bought the property of Chet Marvin on Route 1 just north of Chrisman, and put up a new building from which he has since had his sales and service.

Mr. Snyder is one of the few men in this area who is qualified to install Closed Circuit TV such as those in our public schools, etc.

“Red” Yates first started his radio and repair business in 1928 in his father's coal office which was located in the elevator between Hixon's Garage and the railroad. For some time Mr. Yates was in various locations in the block where Dr. Montagnino has his office. In October of 1954 Mr. and Mrs. Yates purchased their present building on the south side of the square and are still in business at this location.

For the past few years Allen Lientz has operated a TV repair business at his home on 602 E. Jackson. During the summers, AL is assisted by his two sons.

RAILROADS

Chrisman was fortunate in having the two railroads which were responsible for the location of the city. Each railroad had its own station and the controlling tower was located at the south west corner of the intersecting railroads. The tower was known as M. A. on the B and O and Rose on the N. Y. C. The Tower was closed Jan. 4, 1961. Walter Skinner served as agent for the C.H. and D. for many years; W. E. Boone served as agent for the N. Y. C.

Frank Walls was the last telegraph operator to work at the tower. He retired in 1961 after 51 years of service, 35 of which were at the tower in Chrisman. J. S. Bishop and Floyd Richards both served as station agents for the N.Y.C. after Mr. Boone's death.

Some of the operators who spent several years at Rose Tower were Vaughn Benson, John Hobbs, J. S. Bishop, Floyd Richards, Frank Walls, C. F. Horn, Frank Drake, Roy Hamm, Roy Wade, Fred McGown, Ben Compton, Sam Jenness, Don Johnson, Gene Postlewaite, Grover Johnson, Fred Pulliam, Call Richards, and Joe Mason.

RESTAURANTS

Chrismanites have always had the opportunity to eat out. Restaurants have through the years been operated singly, or in conjunction with hotels, bakeries, pool halls, taverns, service stations, groceries and dance spots. In the early decades of our history the Frank Stickle restaurant on the east side of the square was a popular place for young folks to stop for cheese and crackers and oyster soup, and people kept track "when they would be making a fresh freezer of ice cream."

Moses Henderson combined his restaurant with a bakery. This establishment was burned out in the west side fire of 1891 as was the Charlie Ellis eating spot. The latter revived and was still doing business in the early 1900's and serving Thanksgiving dinners one resident can remember.

About this same time there was an Orahood family with a restaurant-bakery and a Parks' delicatessen. The Chrisman Cottage at 304 E. Monroe had a lovely dining room run by Mrs. Cash Chrisman. The large hotel on West Monroe, owned by John Dalrymple, had a fine dining room operated by the Hull family. This building burned in 1908 and soon after the Hull family located on the north side to continue their trade.

In World War I days a Mr. Wyant was serving especially tasty butterscotch pies here and in the thirties, Carl Hutson served delicious banana splits here. Ray and Frankie Haws ran the last one at this spot, now occupied by The Chrisman Leader.

In the late twenties, eateries were combined with rooms or groceries. By 1937 Max Newlin was operating the Campus Lunch next to the high school grounds, then he went off to World War II and W. D. and Ada Daugherty cooked for the students for six years until 1948.

Route 36 was constructed in 1932. Where it intersected with Route 1 H. P. "Po" Perrin paid \$1,000 for a triangular shaped acre on the North West corner. Here, he constructed a restaurant and service station which the family operated many years. In the late sixties Dick Joseph remodeled the facilities and now operates Poor Richard's Cafe in conjunction with a filling station and service garage. The south east corner of this intersection has had taverns, restaurants, service stations and combinations of these businesses. At present, John Harris has a restaurant and service station here.

A popular spot with the teenagers in the forties was the Blue Room on the North West corner of the square which combined a small cafe area with counter and booths with a large dance floor and booth area. This site, vacant for several years, has just been completely remodeled and decorated. In July, 1972 the Vermillion Steak House opened.

It is operated by George and Shirley Vermillion who also operate the Sad Sack which specializes in pizzas on the south side of the square.

Punkin Center has had eating spots on the west side of the highway, Chet's, Haw's Cafe, Knight's Cafe. In 1955 Route 1 was rerouted and in the fall John Blakeney opened the Chuck Wagon. The following spring he sold it to Don Woods who operated it for a year and then sold to Lester Vanscoyk. Other proprietors have been Leonard Hoult, Mr. and Mrs. Francis DeBolt, the Crabtree Sisters, the MacMasters and the present owners are Mr. and Mrs. Tom Lack.

In 1955 the Frostop also started business on the newly routed highway. The E. O. Tates built this establishment, Chrisman's first drive-in, and ran it until 1959. The Vandevaners owned and operated it for two years and the Robert E. Riggen family purchased it in 1961 and continues to do a thriving business from April through October.

In 1951 the Shady Rest Motel, restaurant, service station area was developed by Merrill Wayne in part of Ellsberry woods west of Chrisman. Wayne Blakeney was the first restaurateur in the new facility. In the early sixties Margaret Lindley and Carver Frazier managed such a successful smorgasbord at the location that after two years they built their own, much larger facilities at the intersection. They opened the Colonial Kitchen on Mother's Day, 1965 and are hosts to many travelers as well as the local individuals and party groups.

In the 1950's Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Lund operated a tea room in their home featuring delicious dinners with homemade breads Starting in the mid-sixties Kay Crispin is operating Hardy Hall in her country home north of Cherry Point. With so many fine establishments, featuring so much variety, it is no wonder people drive for miles to eat at Chrisman.

TELEPHONES

Telephone service was inaugurated in Chrisman seventy-nine years ago this spring. In 1893 the Holden and Schance Telephone Company was organized. At that time there were about 22 telephones working on one line and the "Central" was in the Holden Drug Store. This was previous to the installation of a switchboard. In the fall of 1893 G. W. Fair acquired the interest of C. Q. Holden and the name of the company was changed to the Schance and Fair Electric Company. During 1894 three switchboards were installed in the old Wallace house. This house, the first house built in Chrisman, was located on the site of the Chevrolet garage and faced Iowa Street. The new switchboard contained a 25, 50, and 100 drop capacity, with Miss Lora Wallace and her mother in charge.

In 1895 the company was incorporated; the stockholders were G. W. Fair, J. G. Schance, Byron Ash and James Hoult. The exchange was then moved from the Wallace house to a house across the street (the present home of Mrs. C. J. Dalrymple) on October 31, 1899.

Mr. Schance retired from the company and sold his interest to the Fair brothers, George and Charles. The name of the company became the Fair Telephone Company and a new switchboard of 200 drop capacity was installed. The office was across the street in the present Arrasmith building. Mr. James Hoult was bookkeeper. The workshop and supply room were on the second floor. It was while working here that John Haworth fell from an outdoor stairway, breaking his neck. He died shortly afterward.

In 1901 the company consolidated with the Paris and Marshall companies and took the name of Wabash Valley Telephone Company. In July 1905, the Kinlock long distance company purchased a controlling interest. Mrs. America Beck, Mrs. Pearman and Mrs. Verta Laughlin were exchange operators in the early times. Miss Jennie Hollingsworth began working at the switchboard in 1901. She took over the duties of bookkeeper and collector about 1919. The office and switchboard had been moved to the second floor on the northwest corner of the square.

The Wabash Telephone Company, successor to the Wabash Valley Company, operated nine exchanges and maintained general offices in Bloomington. Miss Hollingsworth, with Mrs. Martin Dalrymple as assistant, managed the Chrisman and Metcalf exchanges. Automatic equipment was installed in Chrisman in 1930. This was many years before such service was available in most small towns. The community is furnished telephone service today by the General Telephone Company with local offices at Paris. During the time Mr. Hill Moss was manager of the Wabash Valley Company here, Mrs. Walter Brothers (Lola Miller Brothers) was secretary and collected the telephone bills in Chrisman and Metcalf. She also worked under Mr. Farwell who succeeded Mr. Moss when he became manager of the telephone company in Charleston, Illinois.

VARIETY STORE

A Variety Store was started about 1937 on the south side of the square, in a room now added to the First National Bank by Mr. Amos Tucker. Mrs. Lolita Pritchett and Mrs. Muriel Fulton were employed there.

Mr. Tucker sold the store to Mr. Cloyd Trout in the early 1940's. Mrs. Lolita Pritchett and Mrs. Dorothy Ann Vanscoyk managed the store for Mr. Trout. The store was moved to the west side of the square at its present location when the American Legion bought the building it had occupied on the south side of the square. Mr. and Mrs. Escoe Groff bought the Variety Store on the west side in 1949. They operated it as the Groff Variety Store until 1954. The Groffs sold the store in 1954 to Mr. and Mrs. Roy O. Robins. It was operated as Robins Variety Store for 17 years at the west side location.

In January 1971, the Robins sold the store to Mr. and Mrs. Sam Scott III, and is now being operated by them as the Chrisman Variety Store. The store has had a part in the growth of Chrisman by carrying a good stock of staple merchandise needed in the community.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN CHRISMAN

Woodlawn Subdivision

This new subdivision is in the process of being developed now. It will consist of twenty-eight large lots, many with large trees. All utilities will be underground and city water will be provided and there will be new sanitary sewers to accommodate basements. There will be eighteen protective covenants for the benefit of the homeowners. This pleasant setting for many beautiful homes is being developed by Bernie Morris and Benton Caldwell.

Pleasant Meadows Christian Village

The Pleasant Meadows Christian Retirement Village will be located on the northwest side of Chrisman, four blocks from downtown Chrisman. The Village will include 30 to 40 one and two bedroom retirement apartments for independent living. Also included will be a 100 resident long term care Home which will include shelter care and nursing care. The entire village complex will be surrounded with a beautifully landscaped and well developed site.

Residents moving into the retirement apartments will be able to have the assurance of lifetime care in the village. The Home will include Activity rooms, crafts, therapy, chapel and other ancillary areas. These services, plus meals and some medical care or treatments will be available to the apartment residents, if they so desire. The Home will be a one story, brick and fire resistant structure. The Village is a non-profit corporation sponsored by the Christian Churches and the Churches of Christ in Illinois.

FARMING IN THE CHRISMAN AREA

1872-1972

"Of all occupations from which gain is secured there is none better than agriculture, nothing more productive, nothing sweeter, nothing more worthy of a free man." (Cicero)

Speaking of Ross Township the 1879 History of Edgar County says, "This is one of the richest and most productive sections of land in the county; some portions that in early times were considered the best, as it is the richest land in the township. Corn, wheat, rye, oats and other grains common to this latitude are produced in abundance. Considerable attention is given to the raising of stock, and hogs are raised in large numbers."

Farming has always been the most important occupation in the community. Since Abraham (spelled Abram in Edgar County History) Smith ventured out on the prairie before 1840, farming has grown and prospered. Mr. Smith sold the land where Chrisman now stands to John Chrisman, father of Mathias Chrisman, in 1851. In those days two or more yoke of oxen were used to break sod. Horses could not be used on account of the enormous number of green head flies.

Wooden mold boards were used having iron cutters made by a blacksmith at Ft. Harrison, Indiana. As time passed all the government land in the township was taken up. Through the years farming methods improved. The era of the steam threshing machine led to increased grain acreage. Threshing time was a cooperative time not only for the men but the farmers' wives as well. Threshing dinners were real social affairs and each housewife tried to have the best dinner on the "threshing ring." Often there were forty to fifty people for dinner and sometimes they stayed for supper. The threshing crew remained over night.

Corn was picked by hand and it was not unusual to still have corn in the fields after Christmas. Many farmers concentrated on raising cattle and hogs. Large barns were built. In the early 1900s many still used earlier methods of construction and had "barn raisings." The framework for the sides of the barn was constructed on the ground with the timbers fastened together by wooden pegs. Then neighbors assembled and pulled or raised the skeleton erect. Work continued on the barn all day and a social time was made of the affair.

Grain was usually taken from the fields to elevators and then shipped by rail. (In earlier days Chrisman had small mills.) At one time Chrisman had three elevators -- one on the east-west railroad and two on the north-south railroad. Mr. Oscar Jones owned several elevators in the area. One was on the north side of Madison Avenue just east of the railroad. Hartley and Waldruff, Hartley and Johnson and others owned and operated elevators through the years. Later Mr. Jones operated the Henry Woodyard elevator for several years. Later the Chrisman Grain Company owned by W. B. Swank, R. P. Morris, John Wasson, Frank Coe and J. B. Lindley operated elevators at Chrisman and Scotland and at Scott's Crossing north of town.

Today there is one elevator in Chrisman owned by B. C. Christopher and Company with Mr. Leonard Fuel in charge and one elevator at Woodyard Station owned and operated by Eugene and Donna Taylor d/b/a Taylor Grain Co. Much of the grain is transported by trucks. The Illinois Cereal Mill at Paris and Lauhoff Grain Company at Danville uses a large part of it.

With the ever increasing improvements brought about through the years, farming has held its number one position in the community. Many farmers today farm as much as one thousand acres of land. The works of the IL Agriculture Department, Universities, the Farm Bureau, Farm Advisors, and Soil Conservationists have all played a part in this development. It has been brought about largely by the understanding and use of fertilizers, insecticides, hybrid seeds and improvements in farm machinery, and expanded credit.

In a century we have gone from the single plow share to the six to ten bottom plow, from the horse powered thresher and the steam thresher to the large combines that cut and thresh the grain in one operation, and from hand picking to the corn picker that picks and shells the corn in one operation. These large combines have air conditioned cabs -- heated

or cooled as desired. Two-way telephones keep those in the field in touch with their homes, etc.

We were unable to locate the first implement store in Chrisman, but Mr. James Earhart had an implement store on the north side of the square in the early days. It was a large frame building and stood where Dr. James Reader's office is today. Later Mr. Mike Remley owned and operated this business. William Sayre had a hardware and implement store at one time. Since the twenties, the John Deere Implement business has been run by Harry E. Yates, H. E. Bollar, Adams and Tucker, Newlin and Robison. For the past 30 years Francis Robison has operated this business on West Monroe Avenue, on the site of the Holden and Tucker garage and location of the Jarred Skating rink of the early 1940's.

The Chrisman Farm Center, Inc., (located on Route 1), deals in Massey-Ferguson Farm Equipment; it is owned and operated by J. L. Foor and John Craig. This business was formerly owned by the Culton Brothers who moved their implement business from the south side of the square.

On January 30, 1953, a new modern feed and seed mill was opened by the Lime Service Co. owned and operated by John R. Collins, The mill is located on East Grant Street. Mr. Collins served the farmers of this community with lime, phosphate and fertilizer for five years before opening the new mill. The new, modern mill serves the people with a wide variety of feed and seed products. Mr. Collins retired about five years ago. The mill is now owned by Robert Cox of Paris, Illinois under the new name, Chrisman Feed Service.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

VESPERIAN CLASS OF THE METHODIST CURCH

The Vesperian Class of the First Methodist Church was in existence as early as 1909. The class consisted of the young married matrons of the community. The group prepared and served many dinners and held bazaars to earn money for the benefit of the church. They helped sponsor many worthwhile projects in connection with the church such as the orchestra organized by Mrs. Fern Anthony. Mrs. John Lewis is the only living member of this club.

HESPERIUS REBEKAH LODGE #503

The Hesperius Lodge was instituted June 30, 1897. The first officers were: Noble Grand, Lena Hartley; Vice Grand, Nellie Johnson; Secretary, Nannie Stephenson; Treasurer, Jessie Welch; Warden, Julia Boles; Conductor, Lula Schnitker; Outside Guardian, John Boles; Inside Guardian, J. T. Johnson; Right Supporter to Noble Grand, A. K. Hartley; Left Supporter to Noble Grand, A. E. Schnitker; Right Supporter to Vice Grand, Jennie Scott; Left to Supporter to Vice Grand, Victoria Tucker. There were 25 members.

This lodge has always met the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month and in the same place it was constituted, above the First National Bank of Chrisman. At present time there are 39 members, with Mrs. Edna Calhoun as Noble Grand.

THE ODD FELLOW LODGE

The I. O. O. F. met in 1874 in the Masonic Hall at Chrisman for the purpose of instituting Chrisman Lodge #541 at Chrisman. Soon after the lodge was instituted, the following officers were elected and installed: Noble Grand, C T. Caraway; Vice Grand, E. W. Hartley; Secretary. A. B. Gibbs, and Treasurer, William S. Cairnes.

They initiated the following brothers: B. L. Basley, J. P. Crawford, Charles Mitchell, F. M. Earhart, William Kenton, Robert Minor, James B. John, E. V. Stanfield, William Livett, J. P. Price, and C. D. Crawford. The Noble Grand then appointed the following officers: Warden, J. B. John; Conductor, F. M. Earhart; Inside Guardian, Charley Mitchell; Outside Guardian, Anthony Mark; Right Supporter to Noble Grand, J. P. Crawford; Left Supporter to Noble Grand, William Livett; Right Supporter to Vice Grand, B. L. Basley, and Left Supporter to Vice Grand, C. D. Crawford.

The meeting night of the lodge has always been on Wednesday of each week. At present they have nineteen members.

The Willing Workers Club was organized in the fall of 1894 and was known as the "WWC." The purpose of the organization was for social and literary past-time. The meetings were held at the homes of various members. The charter members were: Osa Mitchell Bacon, Ora Mitchell Thomas, Ella Dillton Thompson, Dollie Dillon Inskip, Maggie Koons Carson, Ida Glick Rork, Ella F. Wasson, Dollie Russell, Ola McPheeters, Louise McPheeters, Arminta Lawther Moss, who was president of the club for 17 years.

When the "Indians" were formed, they gave the WWC the nickname of "SQUAWS" which name has persistently clung to the club.

EASTERN STAR CHAPTER

In January of 1894 a meeting was held for the purpose of organizing an Eastern Star Chapter in Chrisman. The Charter was granted on October 4, 1894 with forty-eight charter members. Mrs. Emma Swank was the first Worthy Matron and Mr. W. T. Watson was the first Worthy Patron of the Chapter which was to be known as the Glendora Chapter Order of Eastern Star. The Chapter has one member, Mrs. Vertie Laughlin, who has been a member sixty-nine years. There are, also, eighteen fifty year members. Mrs. Hazel Clark has served as an officer for the organization for forty years, starting in the station of Esther. The meetings have always been held in the Masonic temple located on the northwest corner of the square in the third story of the building.

BLOOMFIELD MASONIC LODGE

The Bloomfield Masonic Lodge was organized in 1853 and chartered in 1854. In 1873 permission was granted by the Grand Lodge to change the place of meeting from Bloomfield to Chrisman. John Hartley was the Worshipful Master at this time. The membership was seventy-five. The lodge built the present lodge room, the third story on the Camerer Building. The Shakespeare Club was organized February 16, 1893. Some of the town ladies expressed a desire to study Shakespeare, so this meeting date was set. At the meeting they decided to form a club. Since their main aim was to study the works of Shakespeare, it was agreed to name this club the Shakespeare Club. This club today is known as the oldest club in the county.

CHRISMAN HOUSEHOLD SCIENCE CLUB

The Chrisman Household Science Club, now in its 66th year, was organized on March 4, 1916 in the Methodist Church. The First meeting was held in the Domestic Science Room of Chrisman Township High School. There were 20 members present. Mrs. C. L. Kerrick was elected president and the hostesses were Mrs. Kerrick and Mrs. Ellis. Mrs. R. L. Waldruff gave a paper "What constitutes a balanced meal." Mrs. J. M. Heidrick had prepared a paper "Best Kitchen Costumes" which was read by Mrs. Lee Moss. It is their custom to have roll call, program and a demonstration concerning the home. At the present time there are twenty-four members.

HOME BUREAU

The first Home Bureau unit in Ross Township was organized in September of 1936 at the home of Mrs. Harry Haworth. In 1937 the group joined the Edgar County Home Bureau, after one year with the Vermilion County organization. Helen Harrison Hurt was the home advisor. It was her duty to give the major lesson at the meetings and a local leader was in charge of the minor lessons.

The aim of Home Bureau is to have every home: economically sound, mechanically convenient, mentally stimulating, morally wholesome, artistically satisfactory, socially responsible, founded upon mutual affection

and respect. A night unit was later formed for the younger group. Both units are still very active in the community.

INDIAN CLUB

The Indian Club was organized as early as 1899. It consisted of a group of local young men who loved a good time. It was purely a social club.

The club room was located in the second story front room above what was in more recent years known as the Blue Room on the northwest corner of the square. Many bountiful dinners and receptions were held here. Mr. Harry Rinesmith, being a member and having a restaurant on the north side of the square, prepared many of these sumptuous dinners. Mr. Walter Brothers is the only living member of this club.

AMERICAN HOME CLUB

The American Home Club was the youngest in terms of age of the affiliated Woman's Clubs. In 1926 Miss Agnes Hoult was instrumental in forming a club of young women. It was then called the Junior Woman's Club. In 1929 the club became affiliated with Woman's Club and changed their name to the American Home Club.

The object of their association was mutual enjoyment and united effort for the welfare of the community. In the past the club has been a contributor to many local organizations such as the Heart Fund, Red Cross and the Cancer Fund. For several years members have painted Christmas cards for the avenue of cards displayed on the grade school campus each Christmas.

Charter members still active are Mrs. O. R. Scott, Mrs. John Watson, Miss Blanche Glithero, and Mrs. Rex Anthony.

THE GARDEN CLUB

The Garden Club was formed in 1931. Mrs. Roger Schnitker was the first chairman. The club did many things to preserve the beauty of Christmas. They were instrumental in planting the Washington Elm tree on the grade school campus. It was descended from the old elm tree under which Washington assumed command of the American Army on July 3, 1775.

After the death of Miss Agnes Hault, the club planted a rose colored flowering Almey crab apple tree in her honor. This was in appreciation of her many hours given in the Chrisman Library and to the community.

MUSIC AND ART CLUB

The Music and Art Club was organized by a number of women deeply interested in both music and art.

In May of each year, the club sponsored a musical program for the public. Both schools and any musically gifted persons were asked to perform.

In the Art Department, the club sponsored the state program. Local students of the grade school were asked to participate in drawing some particular subject for that year.

BOY SCOUTS

The first Boy Scout Troop in Chrisman was organized in 1915. Mr. Charles Rork was the first Scout Master and Mr. Marion Fouts was the assistant leader. The Scout Commissioner was John H. Owens. The Troop enjoyed many day trips and camp outs. The most outstanding camping trip was to Turkey Run. The trip to Turkey Run was hiked and Scout Master Rork took a team and wagon to haul the camp equipment and provisions. He also picked up the weary stragglers.

In 1916 after the tornado went through Charleston and Mattoon, Illinois, the Scouts went to help in the cleanup operations. At night they slept on the floor in the Charleston Court House.

These early Scouts also worked in the Liberty Loan Bond campaign during World War I. This troop had twelve Eagle Scouts, the largest number in any one troop in the world at that time.

The present day Cubs and Boy Scouts are very active in the community. Anson Ferrante is the Cub Master with Earl Langford as the Webelos Leader. The Boy Scout Leader is Victor Bodart, Jr.

PRISCILLA CLUB

Ten thrifty ladies met at the home of Mrs. James Lane one summer afternoon in 1909 and organized a Larkin Club. The group met once a month, each taking her basket and needlework. The baskets were to take home the Larkin products they had ordered the previous month. The club was to order \$10.00 worth of products each month. Then each month one of the members took home a gift from the Larkin Club. By the end of the year, each member had received a gift.

After 3 years the ladies decided to trade with home merchants, but not wanting to give up the pleasant meetings, they decided to organize a literary club. They changed their name to the Priscilla Club but continued to take their needle work to these meetings. During the year they had special meetings such as family nights. The club met twice a month and later the daughters were invited to join the club.

CHRISMAN RED CROSS

In 1873 a call came from the state of Kansas for help following the great grasshopper plague which left them without food and crops. This was the beginning of the Chrisman Red Cross work. Led by Charles T. Caraway and William M. Kenton the community filled two cars with corn, pork and clothing for the Kansas sufferers. The two men brought back buffalo meat, hides of antelope, and jack rabbits.

Chrisman has continued to be a loyal supporter of the Red Cross. During the war years their activities were many and varied. The women of the community carried on extensive knitting projects, rolled countless bandages and made hospital gowns.

At one time the community held a large auction in the city park and the proceeds went to the Chrisman Chapter of the American Red Cross. Farmers donated stock and grain. Business organizations and other individuals donated many other articles to make the project a success.

In recent years the local unit, with the help of the W. S. C. S., have made and filled 200 Ditty bags for the boys in the service. The community has contributed liberally with funds for Red Cross work. They have also been very active in making the Mobile Blood Bank program a success.

AMERICAN LEGION

The Chrisman American Legion Post #477 was organized under a temporary charter with Dr. J. F. Jennings, Post Commander, and Roger R. Schnitker, Adjutant. They received a permanent charter in February of 1929. At that time the Post had a membership of thirty. There were: James E. Wasson. William T. Mankin, M. W. Newlin, Don M. Cox, Hershel F. Smith, Carl C. Dustheimer, Carl Patrick, Roger Schnitker, Clarence L. Murphy, Halford O. Jones, William Jamison, R. A. Moss, Don Kerrick, Earl Markle, Howard Manning, Harry Boston, Forest Remley, Orrin D. Cox, Levi Board, Mort Kelley, Martin Dalrymple, Harry R. Thompson, Taylor Roberts, Ross Ramsey, McClellan Minnick, H. D. Smith, Hobart Ellis, Harry Jarvin, Ora Smith and Fay S. Snyder. When the post was organized the patriotic citizens of Chrisman and vicinity gave them two thousand dollars as a gift of appreciation.

Chrisman Post #477 has been very active for the community. They have planted trees for shade and beauty, provided a new sound system for the high school gym, helped to purchase a video tape recorder, given new flags to the school, provided new score boards for both Chrisman and Scotland Schools. Each year they provide a Christmas treat for the children of the community. The Legion also awards an annual scholarship of \$250.00 to a high school senior from Chrisman or Scotland. This scholarship continues for four years provided the student receives satisfactory grades. In addition, they make awards to the outstanding girl and boy in the Senior class and also in the eighth grade. They pay delegate's fees to Boys State for a boy of the community each year.

Most recently the Legion placed permanent flag holders on the light poles around the square, on Madison and Monroe Avenue from the Penn Central tracks east to Maryland Street, along Route #1 from the B & O tracks north, along Maryland Street to Woodlawn Cemetery. They display the American Flag on all legal holidays and on veterans' funerals. The approximate membership today is 220.

The American Legion Auxiliary was organized in 1946 with Mrs. Freda Glick, President and Mrs. Hazel Coe. Vice President. The chapter is active in work contributing to the welfare of veterans in VA Hospitals. Locally they

sponsor a girl of the community to Girls State each summer. They have approximately 140 members.

HONOR ROLL

The dedication of the Chrisman Honor Roll was held in the park on July 18, 1944 with a large crowd attending the ceremony. The Army-Air Force Band from Chanute Field gave a concert. They were guests of the Chrisman Lion's Club. The Dynamo Class of the Methodist Church served the dinner. First Lieutenant Arthur L. Hanson, Chaplain at Chanute Field, was the main speaker. Formal presentation of the War Memorial and Honor Roll was made by Rev. Lawrence Beebe in the absence of Seaman John Harlan Owen. The roll of honor was not sponsored by any organization but was made possible by voluntary subscription after Seaman Owen, business men and individuals decided to do something for the men and women in the service. The original roster was erected in the park with two hundred ninety three names of soldiers from the community. Now the Honor Roll is in the window of the American Legion Hall. It includes all names of the men and women in the area who have served in their country's armed forces.

LIONS CLUB

The Chrisman Lions Club was founded in October 1941. Charter members still living are Robert Yontz, Sr., Howard Decker, O. Raman Scott, Dr. H. A. Linebarger, J. Harlan Owen, Raymond Newlin, and Russell Daily.

The club sponsors an annual scholarship to a senior boy or girl of \$100.00 for a two-year period. They have contributed about one fourth of the cost of the combination tennis and basketball courts at the Chrisman Grade School. Every year they sponsor the annual 8th grade trip to Springfield and New Salem. The Lions contributed to the purchase of a video tape recorder for the school. The chief money raising project of the club is the annual fish fry held in the city park each fall.