



Bulletin photo

It's A first for Daleville

Ellen Rose Nixon, Daleville clerk-treasurer, holds up a volume of the Indiana Code during the swearing-in ceremony for the town's first governing body Wednesday night in Daleville Elementary School. Delaware County Clerk Scott Hole (right) administered the oath of office to Nixon and the five trustees and gave the statute books to the newly-incorporated town. The board will run the town's business for the next year.

Four of the trustees are seated behind the county clerk. They are (left to right) Bruce Bailey, Dave Shellabarger, Arthur Schlegel Jr. and Don Chambers. Fifth member is Norman Levell, partially visible behind Nixon. More than 50 persons attended the ceremony, which was a preliminary to the first official board meeting Jan. 3 in the fire station.

THE inside STORY . . .

FEB. 6, 1983

Compiled by The Herald staff

News travels far

Tiny Daleville (population 1,829) created quite a few local headlines when it became Indiana's newest town after 143 years as an unincorporated community. But the town's residents didn't really expect the publicity to travel from one end of the country to the other.

At a recent school board meeting, Supt. Bob Mantock gave board members copies of an article from the Orlanda Sentinel in Florida.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS article ran with the headline: "Town makes it without one cent of taxes so far." A former Daleville resident, now living in Orlando, recognized the dateline on the article and mailed it back to her former hometown.

Mantock also received a call from a radio station reporter in Palm Springs, Calif., who had seen a wire story about Daleville and was interested in more information. Mantock referred the caller to Clerk-Treasurer Ellen Rose Nixon and board President Don Chambers.

The reporter from KSPI did contact Nixon. He was most interested in the town's financial situation, she said.

"THEY KNEW we had just become incorporated and we had no money," she said. "We won't have any until 1984."

Nixon had to pay \$120 to be

bonded in order to handle the budget that doesn't exist.

She reported that she has seen other newspaper clippings about Daleville from Virginia and Bradenton, Fla., also

2-6-83

Lack of budget big problem for newly incorporated town

Associated Press

DALEVILLE, Ind. — Daleville is a newly incorporated town of 1,829 residents, one stoplight, a general store where a cherry-flavored cola costs 23 cents, and a bank that was once robbed by John Dillinger.

It also has no local taxes.

There's no budget deficit to worry about, because there's no budget. On the other hand, town officials, who work for nothing, can't buy anything.

When Daleville became Indiana's newest official town last August, the deadline had passed for establishing the town's tax rate and budget for 1983.

One man, who doesn't even live in Daleville, donated \$100 so that the town could buy stamps and stationery.

Another man wanted to donate a building for use as a town hall, but the town board couldn't accept the offer because there was no money to pay for heat, electricity or telephones. For now, the town hall is a small room in the local fire department.

Another complication surfaced when the town realized it would be eligible for

some state funds, but only if its population of 1,829 was certified by the U.S. Census Bureau. The only problem is the census bureau usually charges a fee to certify a new town's population.

To be bonded as the town's clerk-treasurer, Ellen Nixon had to pay the state \$120 — out of her own pocket — so she could handle a budget that doesn't exist.

Because there are no funds, there also is no pay for Mrs. Nixon, the five members of the town board and the town's attorney.

Even so, Mrs. Nixon said incorporating Daleville was a good idea. The move prevented the nearby town of Chesterfield from annexing this 143-year-old community, she said.

But that wasn't the only reason Daleville became a town, according to Donald B. Chambers, the town board president.

"We needed to be a town," he said. "We weren't going anywhere. We were staying the same. That's not bad, but now we have the opportunity to do things for ourselves."