



Willard VanMatre in 1900 was the first driver of a school bus in Salem Township, and his route transported pupils from Mt. Healthy to Cross Roads. VanMatre received \$1.22 per day. The photo was supplied by the late Mrs. Cora G. Phillips, Muncie teacher and Delaware County historian. Kemper's "History of Delaware County" (1908) supplies information on the two schools. Consolidation of schools in Salem Township was the second in Delaware County, the first having been in Hamilton Township in 1899. "The Cross Roads School (No. 10) was already graded, having been made so in 1891, had two teachers and a two-room building," Kemper's account reads. "In 1900 the seven pupils in District 11 (Mt. Healthy) were hauled to Cross Roads and distributed among the grades, the most distant pupil living not more than five miles. The accession of Cross Roads did not need another teacher nor did it increase to an appreciable extent the burden of instruction or extension of facilities in the school; yet the advantages accruing to No. 10 pupils from the consolidation were all that the advocates of the new system had claimed." Charles A. VanMatre, superintendent of county schools at the time, was a resident of Salem Township.