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Greensburg: The City of Democracy

BY PAT SMITH DAILY NEWS

There aren't many people now who remember February 15, 1949, when the announcement was made that Greensburg had been selected for "The City of Democracy" award. The award was given by The United States Junior Chamber of Commerce. Greensburg was evaluated as a "typical American small city."

That was such a big opportunity for Decatur County that no February should go by without our remembering it. Big opportunity? Well, yes. It gave the county an opportunity to show the rest of the world what a fine place we live in, and "show the rest of the world" are the right words because a replica of a good portion of Greensburg was made and that replica went around the world for others to see.

The replica, actually a scale model, cost \$12,000. There were 54 buildings in the scale model and automobiles were even included. It was made to take to Brussels, Belgium, for the International Congress of the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

The diagram or blueprint for the replica was approved on March 5, 1949, less than a month after being chosen as the Typical City of America. And, just a month later the replica was ready to be shown to the citizens of Decatur County. I must try hard to learn who made the replica. I didn't have the presence of mind to ask Charles Scheidler when I talked with him about this event several years ago.

I doubt if we can truly understand how big a deal this was. The weekly magazine "Business Week" of March 26, 1949, carried a story about the selection of Greensburg as "Democracy's Typical City." I interviewed Charles Scheidler about the year that Greensburg went international when he was an elderly man and still as sharp as a tack. The article in Business Week called him "young Charles Scheidler, who owned the Greensburg Ice Co. with his mother and has a 135acre farm to run."

Under the paragraph titled "Industries" it says the town "is bigger than before the war (WW II), the population is up by about 400. Williamson Heater Co. opened a plant in 1946 and employed 175 people. Consolidated Veneer Corp had a new building on the west side of town. Other new busi-

See **DEMOCRACY** on 5

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For more information, visit dcmh.net/100

Batesville Tool & Die continues to grow

JOSIE CLARK DAILY NEWS

BATESVILLE - Batesville Tool and Die is a global supplier of precision metal stamping components and assemblies founded in Batesville, Indiana, in 1978, Since their inception, the company has grown from three employees to more than 1,000 and has become a multimillion dollar enterprise.

In 1968, Ron Fledderman was managing a family-owned metal stamping company in Norwood, Ohio, called P&W Tool and Die. Fledderman was eager to move into automotive stamping, according to an article about BTD called "40 Years - A Success Story." Fledderman began working with a sales representative named Whit Johnson and an engineer named Jack Chestnut to bring automotive stamping contracts into P&W.

As the years passed, Fledderman realized it was unlikely that he would become a part-owner in the family-owned business that employed him. During a trip to Metamora's Canal Days in making parts for General Elec-October 1977, the three men began to discuss the idea of opening their own business together. Chestnut had a shop in Annville, Kentucky, were topping \$17.5 million and with enough equipment to get

started. Each man contributed \$10,000 in startup funds to open "Kentucky Mountain Industries" with Fledderman as the company president.

The company turned a profit after only two months. According to BTD's 1978 statistics, the company was 3,200 sqare feet with five employees and six shareholders. The BTD building (separate from the KMI building) sat behind the Quail Meadows area and served as the first home of BTD. It was leased from Harold Steinkamp in '78 and purchased the following year. The founders took a pay cut to maximize available funds in order to grow the business and it paid off. By 1979, BTD has recorded \$846,400 in sales and employed 12 people.

In 1980, the decision was made to separate KMI and BTD. Chestnut sold his shares of BTD and became the sole owner of KMI.

BTD experienced four major expansions in its first five years. Square footage increased nearly 700%, sales increased almost 500%, and the company added 59 employees. They also started tric appliances in addition to the automotive parts. In 1983. the company recorded \$4.9 million in sales. By 1988, sales the company opened "Bates-



Pictured is Batesville Tool & Die in 1980.

ville Tool & Die of Ohio, Inc." Make it Memorable It was during this expansion in '88 that Ron Fledderman decided it was time to begin grooming his son Jody to become the company's president. Jody had been working full-time for his father since 1980. During the transition between the father and son, See TOOL on 5

Accent architectural details in your home or breathe life into your existing design with custom creations. More than just your flooring resource, our experienced team can help you utilize the latest styles in tile, wood, carpet and more to create a look that will make an impact.



Pictured is Batesville Tool & Die in 2017.



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Serving area families for many years

BILL RETHLAKE DAILY NEWS

GREENSBURG - Gilliland-Howe Funeral Home in Greensburg has been helping families make important memories since the beginning of the 20th century. As one of more successful mortuaries in Decatur County, they have faced the changes of time and still remained a trusted servant to their community and their state.

Brothers Brazier and Bert Kirby established Kirby Funeral Home located in the old K of P building in the 200 block of Broadway Street just a few steps from downtown Greensburg.

In 1921, Charles Howe added his name to the venture, forming the Kirby - Howe Funeral Home. By 1926, with the death of the last Kirby brother, Charles Howe was left to run the growing funeral business.

Dallas Gilliland joined the business in 1929 after graduating from the College of Mortuary Science in Indianapolis.

After nearly 40 years of serving the community out of the K of P building, Howe purchased the Harry Woodfill home on the corner of North and Broadway streets. After extensive renovations of the large 2 1/2 story home, Howe and son opened Greensburg's first of its kind funeral "home."

Gilliland went on to marry Howe's daughter, Beulah Mae, and was made business partner in 1942.

After Howe's death in 1947, the Gilliland's changed the name from Kirby-Howe Funeral Home to Gilliland-Howe Funeral Home.

Gilliland's son Charles joined the business in 1962 after graduating from the same mortuary college as his father.

A few short years later, the Gillilands acquired more land around the funeral home and broke ground on a brand new state of the art funeral home reported in the Greensburg Daily News "like none of its kind in southern Indiana."

All one level and completely



Photos provided

Gilliland-Howe Funeral Home before the owners purchased the Harry Woodfill home.

GILLILAND - HOWE FUNERAL HOME

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The newly constructed Gilliland-Howe Funeral Home in 1968 as seen from W. North Street. It wasn't until GH purchased the Harry Woodfill home that their existing parking lot was built.





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TOOL

CONTINUED FROM 3

BTD Treasurer Mary Stock was named president in order to ease the transition. Jody became president in '89. By 1995, the company recorded nearly \$62 million in sales under Jody's leadership.

Ron Fledderman was quoted after 25 years in business as saying, "You know, there were many stressful times and endless hours of hard work and sacrifices, but I would do it all over again."

CEO/Chairman. Bob Holtel in 2020. Jody said that BTD focuses on integrity and honesty and those are the values with which he leads.

sharing, onsite health clinic, just to name a few. I know their spouses and or kids its workforce.

Today, Jody serves as the working here also."

assumed the role of president has added a walking track, updated breakrooms, Wifi to breakrooms, offers tuition reimbursement and deferment programs for all employees, "We expect a lot but offer and created an on-site Ivy much in return," Jody said. Tech lab. An internal Pay for "Good pay, benefits, profit Skills training program for financial gain and increased skill level and a workforce it sounds cliché, but we certificate with Ivy Tech allow really do promote a family BTD employees the opportuenvironment. Many of our nity to receive a credential. employees have worked here These efforts are a few of the for three decades and have ways BTD looks to strengthen

The Batesville location about 400 individuals in the Batesville area. Additionally, they opened a plant in Aiken, South Carolina, in 2017 that employs 100 people. A third facility was opened in Oueretaro, Mexico, in 2013 which employs 630 people today. In 2018, BTD became a majorityowner of an E-coat facility in Tipton, Indiana, called DC Coaters. At the time, their annual sales were \$4.1 million.

BTD currently employs the community," Jody said. plies directly to automotive "We sponsor many events, donate to charitable causes and many of our managers and such belong to local boards or committees. We recently bought a building and donated it to the Kid's Discovery Factory. I believe the community supports us by confirming our reputation when talking to people looking for a good job."

According to Jody, there is Worldwide, BTD properties no "okay," only exceptional recorded over \$133 million in work when BTD accepts a consales with 977 total employees. tract. The company is a Tier-1 "BTD is heavily involved in automotive supplier that sup-

plants. Jody said technology, commitment to detail and outstanding work ethic are the tenets that set BTD apart from their competitors. In the face of workforce shortages, the company has committed to automation in order to foster continued growth.

"We have a really strong, committed group of people," Jody said. "We banded together and survived the crisis and hopefully soon we will all return to a more normal life."

DEMOCRACY

CONTINUED FROM 2

nesses were Ashley Machine Co.'s chicken picker and Dry Clime Lamp Corp which made health-ray lamps."

Of the "old line" companies named in the issue of Business Week were American Steel & Wire Co.'s Cyclone Fence Divi-

the king pins. Liggett & Myers ground gave out, the farmers Tobacco Co. operated 10 aging barns, where it stored pipe and chewing tobacco. The magazine states, "The story goes barns in Greensburg about 15 years ago when it found 'night riders' were taking too heavy a toll of the crops stored in the South."

sion and Racine Shirt Co. were neer crop was flax; when the town to sit out the rest of their

switched to sorghum cane, later went to corn, "the main crop today. The farms around the town average about 125 that Liggett & Myers set up the acres; you see plenty of hogs and dairy cattle.' The magazine stated that

many of Greensburg's big homes were built by farmers who did well on the rich The magazine says the pio- silt loam, "then moved into

days. One of the town's prize showplaces is the home of J. C. Johnston. He runs a big wholesale grocery firm, is also a director of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce." (No mention that the Johnston home was built by Civil War hero Wilder.) Business Week goes on to say, "The Robbins and the Deems rank high on the list of the town's biggest landowners.'

And then the magazine gets into the Aspen tree on the courthouse tower. "If you ask anyone to name the town's best-known landmark, he's bound to pick the Aspen tree that grows in the courthouse tower. It has been there for 70 years, though no one is sure how it started. Anyway, it thrives, so much so that it had to be trimmed a few years ago."

The article closed the story by telling readers that the Jr. Chamber would be taking the scale model of the city to Brussels, then to London and Paris. It went to more cities than that and eventually came home again where it was on display in the Armory in 1959 and then it got lost. It has not been seen since. County's officials have made the effort to find it but had no luck.

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1899 street fair was well attended

RUSHVILLE - In 1899, Rushville organized one of its most historical events, a street fair that would advertise the city, promote local businesses, and bring in visitors from around the state.

The street fair was opened to hundreds at 10:30 a.m. on July 24 by Mayor John M. Fraze. Shortly after the mayor's speech, U.S. Representative and later U.S. Senator James Watson addressed the crowd to praise the many spirited businessmen for creating such a creditable display.

The downtown streets were lined with elaborate booths, many featuring decorations of red, white and blue. Four large stages, with some featuring several tiers, were built to house a multitude of entertainment.

This entertainment included a marionette show from the Crystal Palace in London. Electric lights were added to allow shows to continue late into the night. A large-scale model of the London Bridge, built by local merchant Bliss and Cowing, was present amongst the many attractions along Main Street. Visitors could also enjoy horse races at Riverside Park.

The fair was highlighted by several contests including the "Best Looking Baby" contest, cake walk contests, dance contests, and a fiddler's contest.

Several weddings also took place, including the public marriage of a biracial couple. Another Main Street wedding was that of John Buell and Miss Effie Bray. The couple arrived in an ornamented car-



This photo shows one of many keepsake items that were available during Rushville's 1899 street fair.

riage, escorted by a band and large crowd. They were gifted many prizes donated by local merchants, including a road wagon, a fine dining table, a moquette rug, an iron washing machine, a carving knife and fork, a lap robe, a whip, a fly net, a box of toilet soap, half a dozen napkins, half a dozen desert peaches, half a dozen tea spoons, a one year's subscription to the Jacksonian newspaper, a picture, 50 calling cards, a photo of the bride and groom, a one year dentist discount, shampoo, and dinner for the bride and groom.

On July 29, after a week of promised festivities and excitement, the street fair came to end.

This was the first event of its kind for the county and was praised by all, including many neighboring newspapers, long after its conclusion.



Photos courtesy of Brian Sheehan

- Story provided **The intersection** of Second and Main streets was an especially busy intersection during Rushville's 1899 street fair.



DCMH observes 100 years of community healthcare

KEVIN GREEN DAILY NEWS

GREENSBURG - As Decatur County Memorial Hospital celebrates 100 years serving the community, the organization is looking back at significant milestones in its history.

The DCMH story begins in 1918, four years prior to opening its doors. After several attempts, citizens Dr. D. W. Weaver, Sam Bonner, Dr. I. M. Sanders and John F. Russell were finally successful in convincing the county commissioners of the need for a hospital to serve Decatur County.

As the Spanish flu pandemic raged and infant mortality increased due to inadequate healthcare access in rural areas, the commissioners agreed to propose a \$100,000 bond issue toward establishing a county hospital. An additional \$5,076 was raised by local churches, Sunday schools, lodges, sororities, clubs and individuals.

In honor of the local veterans who served in World War I, the name "Decatur County Memorial Hospital" was selected.

During its first year, 65 patients were admitted including eight births as well as surgeries and general in-patient care.

As admissions and need for care increased, a small building expansion added two private patient rooms and public area sun parlors in 1927.

A dozen years later, a \$100,000 expansion was partially covered by the federal government's Public Works Administration (WPA) as healthcare advancements like the development of penicillin and a vaccine for yellow fever extended the lives of patients.

Scientific developments like these were the impetus for the change of perception in modern hospitals. While the hospital of the 1800s was a place to go to be sick, the 20th century hospital evolved into a "line of first defense" that resulted in cures and a return to home.

Although the country would still face significant healthcare challenges like the polio epidemic, infant mortality dropped as life expectancy



This photo shows the second floor Female Ward at DCMH as it looked in 1955.



This 1922 postcard of Decatur County Memorial Hospital shows how far the facility has come over the years.

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increased.

advancements too numerous to detail set the scene for further expansions and significant additions like an expanded pediatric wing and obstetric wards, the Cancer Center, a Med/Surg unit and an Advanced Care Unit.

Most recently, and perhaps one of the most significant mile-

DCMH was named among the Medical and technological top 15% of hospitals nationwide and one of 13 Indiana hospitals (out of 190) recognized.

Darlene Roberts, the longest tenured staff member at DCMH at 47 years, works in the outpatient clinic with the specialty doctors as a unit coordinator.

She attributes the long-term success of the hospital to the staff, doctors and employstones in the hospital's history, ees who have worked there



Photos provided

These nurses were busy attending to a baby born at Decatur County Memorial Hospital at some point in the past.

throughout the years.

'We all work as a team and put all our effort into being the best we can," Roberts said. "We are a five star quality hospital and can only go further."

Roberts said she wouldn't trade her years at DCMH for anything.

This has been my calling. and I believe we all care about our hospital," she said. "We have become not only employees here, but friends and family

in each and every department. I'm proud to say I belong to the DCMH team."

Nurse Practitioner Tracy Ingram agrees that the staff at Decatur County Memorial Hospital is what sets it apart from many other similar facilities.

"It is definitely the people," she said. "I have worked in several departments throughout the years and have worked with

See DCMH on 11





Rushville designated a Stellar Community

In 2016, the city of Rushville was awarded the coveted Stellar Community designation. This program was administered by the State's Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA). The Indiana Stellar Communities Designation Program was designed to recognize Indiana's smaller communities (less than 50,000) by awarding two communities each year with a multi-milliondollar investment in projects of the community's choosing that met the various funding sources criteria.

In April 2016, Rushville was named one of six Stellar finalists. Within this finalist group, Rushville competed against much larger communities including Shelbyville and Warsaw.

On July 26, 2016, the Indiana Stellar Communities Selection Committee came to Rushville for a three-hour presentation and site visit. The Stellar Selection Committee was composed of 18 state officials representing 11 partner agencies.

On that day, Rushville's Stellar team was led by Mayor Mike Pavey and Stellar Chairman Brian Sheehan. The core presentation team also included John McCane, Economic Development Director; Bryant Niehoff, Planning Director; Brittany Meek, Partners for Progress; and Mason Gordon, City Intern. The group prepared for several weeks and focused their presentation on how Rushville would use the awarded dollars to transform the downtown and the community.

On August 11, 2016, Indiana's Lt. Governor Eric Holcomb called the city of Rushville to inform the team they had been selected as a Stellar Designee. In the five years following the designation, Rushville's downtown and the city's overall quality of life transformed immensely. The Stellar designation implemented nine projects in Rushville, totaling \$18 million.

Those projects included the following:

Restoration of the Durbin and Girls Club into the Wind- ing Company



This photo was taken at the ribbon cutting for The Overlook splash park on Rushville's south side.

Photos provided



Rushville's new splash park was a quality of life improvement for the city made possible by the Stellar Communities program.

Hotel into the new Campaign sor Apartments **Ouarters Apartments**

Restoration of the old Taff Restoration of the old Boys building into Fish Moon Brew-



Members of the local Stellar Presentations team are pictured in 2016.

New Overlook at Riverside Park and Riverside gateway & parking Main Street Streetscape

Project Flatrock Run Trail

Downtown commercial revitalization

Neighborhood Owner Occupied Rehab Program

On July 26, 2021, the city of Morgan Street corridor and Rushville celebrated the completion of all Stellar projects.

Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch and Denny Spinner, Director of OCRA, visited Rushville to celebrate this accomplishment alongside other key partners in making the city's Stellar projects a reality. At the celebration, an official ribbon cutting of the final stellar project, the Overlook at Riverside Park, took place.

In just five years since the designation, Rushville has seen a total of 158 improvement projects take place, totaling just over \$136 million. In addition to this monumental accomplishment, it was announced in November 2021 that Diamond Pet Foods will be making an investment of \$220 million dollars in a new 700K square foot production facility, with completion planned for 2024.

A return to roots JOSIE CLARK access to their physician. Dr. Johnson focuses on at each location so he sees the

GREENSBURG DAILY NEWS

BATESVILLE – Dr. John B. Johnson began serving the people of Batesville in 1998. Over the years, he chose to transition from the common, fast-paced, efficiency-focused approach to a patient-centric model of medicine.

Growing up outside of Cincinnati in a small town called Morrow, Dr. Johnson attended Little Miami High School before pursuing a career in medicine at Ohio University and Wright State. He began practicing medicine in Beavercreek, Ohio, after completing his residency in Internal Medicine as Chief Resident.

He and his wife Denise moved to Batesville to be closer to her family in 1998. Dr. Johnson began working for the local hospital and the couple put their three sons through school. Dr. Johnson said that the only thing he had ever wanted to change about his job is to spend more time with his patients. To him, the goal is to give the best care to a few people rather than passable care to many.

Dr. Johnson is committed to the full model Concierge Choice Program. Concierge medicine is sometimes referred to as retainer-based medicine because the patients pay an annual retainer in addition to some other healthcare charges, according to Definitive Healthcare's website. They then have better of the program.

Through this program, Dr. Johnson limits the amount

of patients accepted in order to offer better service to his patients. He is available by cell phone on weekends and after hours and will make house calls if necessary. He calls it a return to the way medicine used to be. According to the Concierge Choice Program website, Dr. Johnson is the only Indiana doctor in their program.

"I tell other doctors that are thinking about this [program], 'Why did you go to med school? Did you go to med school to get people in and out every five minutes? No, you went to med school to get to know people, to give them a chance to ask questions and have a chance to teach them things to help them become more healthy," Dr. Johnson said. "So, I'm living the dream right now because I'm doing exactly what I went to school for."

Appointments are relaxed, begin on time and are always with Dr. Johnson rather than an extender. With the limited patient number, he is able to offer same-day or next-day appointments. Additionally, by joining the Concierge Choice Program, networks of concierge physicians are made available to patients when traveling. A comprehensive annual exam with customized screenings, patient advocacy and convenient email communications are all benefits

internal medicine for people aged 13 and older. The concierge model works well for those without insurance because if medically appropriate they can avoid expensive visits to an unknown provider in an urgent care by utilizing telemedicine with their own physician.

"I can't think of anybody that's come to meet with me and then not joined," Dr. Johnson said. "They realize, 'Wow, you're really listening to what I'm saying. My doctor types in a computer when he sees me."

Recently, Dr. Johnson had a member visit with a chainsaw wound that he wanted to have sewn up but did not want to visit the Emergency Room so Dr. Johnson treated the wound for him. He told another story about a father calling for his son's ailment outside of business hours and the doctor offered to meet him at the office in about an hour. The father asked if he could just come out to Dr. Johnson's farm and was able to have his son seen sooner because of the membership service and the relationship he had with his physician.

When he isn't treating patients at his own location at Northside Drive, he also serves as the Medical Director for Arbor Grove Village in Greensburg, St. Andrews Health Campus in Batesville and Manderley Health Care Center in Osgood. He visits one quarter of patients weekly the city."

entire residency at least once a month.

Retirement is not in the near future for Dr. Johnson. He told a story about his son asking how he pictured his retirement. He explained to his son that if he could serve just six or eight patients a day, that would be the perfect idea of retirement to him. Now that he is doing just that, Dr. Johnson explained he could see himself serving the community in this way until he's 80 providing he stays mentally sharp enough to do so.

When he and his wife moved to Batesville, he remembered the Baptist Church visiting their home and inviting his wife to a playgroup for other moms with infant children. He reminisced on memories of the ways the local community welcomed his family over the years.

"One of the moments that sort of defined it all for me, I was at a soccer game with my two older boys and they were on the same field," Dr. Johnson said. "My little guy was about four or five years old and he was on the playground, so I was two soccer fields away from him. I could see him over there and I knew parents that were there and I knew them so I knew they also knew him. And I thought, you know, I'm sitting back here watching soccer and my fouryear-old is 200 yards away from me. You can't do that in the city. I wouldn't do that in

Dr. John Johnson

Johnson has a very diverse

set of interests outside of

medicine. He was a Boy Scout

Assistant Scout Master for

years but fell out of it at some

point. He said he'd like to

scouts and learn how to play

golf one day. He raises meat

cows on a 125-acre farm. He

previously demonstrated



Photo provided

As far as hobbies go, Dr. Carriage Hill Farm outside Dayton, Ohio. He just finished building a cedar cabin behind his home. The 16x24' cabin houses a 7x8' sauna paying homage to his Swedish roots.

Dr. Johnson plans to conlearn how to get back into the tinue to serve the local community in a way that builds mutual trust between himself and his patients and continues to strive for radical antique woodworking at hospitality in healthcare.







A noteworthy family tradition lives on

BILL RETHLAKE DAILY NEWS

The Greensburg Daily News ran an article on June 28, 1979, titled, "The Levenstein Story: 70 Years of Service to Homemakers of Southeastern Indiana." Cus-tomers were quoted saying: "Our parents, grandparents, and even our great-grandparents bought rugs, carpets, and other flooring from Levenstein's, so we are keeping it alive, a family tradition."

Almost 50 years later, good fortune has continued to smile on a business that has changed much, but stayed relevant to Southeast Indiana residents.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Levenstein opened its first store in August 1909. The Leven-stein Department Store handled clothing, vard goods, and floor coverings. Following the passing of Mr. Levenstein in 1927, his son, Mose A. Levenstein, took over management of the store. and in 1938 Mose expanded the business to include appliances and home furnishings.

In 1951, Mose and his brother, Gerald, built the current location on E. Ind. 46 in Greensburg. This newly built 10,000 square foot building housed a large stock of carpet, rugs, linoleum, floor tile, and ceramic tile. As time went by, they added an additional 20,000 square feet to the building, making Levenstein's one of the largest showrooms in Southeastern Indiana.

After Mose Levenstein passed away in 1980, Gerald took over the family busi-ness, eventu-



Photos provided | Daily News

A family portrait of the Levensteins family taken in 1924. Pictured are "left to right) William, Gerald, Helena, Sheftel, Mose and Louis.

ally selling off Levenstein's started working at Levenstein's, Home Furnishings and Appliances. After owning the flooring father to me." store and managing it for many years, Gerald sold the busi-ness to a longtime friend, Randy Domingo, in 1997.

In the mid '80s, Dr. Ricardo Domingo and Gerald Levenstein struck up a friend-ship, even though Levenstein was almost 20 years older. Levenstein, with his children grown and gone, took Ricardo's son Randy under his wing and the two became fast friends as well.

"He always told me that when I was old enough he'd give me a job, and he did," Randy said. "So when I got my drivers license I

and Gerald became like a grandalways treat the customer right," Gerald was always a pres-Randy said.

ence in the Domingo household, always attending the Domingo Thanksgivings and Christmases. He lived to be 98 years old.

"He always told me that the secret to his long life was that he hung out with peo-ple younger than himself," Randy said.

When Randy took over the business, it wasn't modernized. No fax machines, no computers, eeverything was done on ledger cards.

But Levenstein's was very well known, and his business already

had a large client base.

"He taught me that I should

Domingo renovated the building and showroom in 1999. Shawn Green of Green Sign Company designed a new Levenstein's logo and store sign. This sign was included in the International Sign Times Magazine and was recognized as the Best Main Store Identification and Logo of the year.

But all Levenstein's sold was carpet, and Randy soon realized that changes were needed.

"I felt like I didn't have to do much to get business, but some modernization was important,"

Randy said.

Interior home trends started to move away from all carpet floors, and the newer trends called for more tile and wood floors.

"I didn't have the installers to put in those kinds of floors, and we had to teach ourselves how to sell the newer stuff," Randy said

But Randy realized that he was going to have to compete with the smaller Abbey Carpets owned locally by the Meadows brothers.

Dr. Domingo was very involved with the community of Greensburg, and the Free Clinic needed new flooring. Dr. Domingo called his son and asked him to help out. Randy priced the job, but Abbey's bid was cheaper.

"I did everything I could. I wasn't giving it to them, but we weren't making any-thing on it," Randy said.

With that as the final straw, Randy called Rick Meadows and asked him, "What are you guys doing? I bid on the Free Clinic and you beat my price!"

Both men, Randy and Meadows, realized that competing wasn't going to benefit either business, so in 2000, after a few dinners out of town (to avoid the word spreading) and some discussion, the two companies merged.

"And now we're doing five times the business we were before. No one's getting rich, but we're all living comfortably, so it worked out," Randy said.

Randy said he feels like the business is well rounded.

"The Meadow's brothers have all the technical know-how, so it works" he said.

And he admits he's learned a great deal from his employees as well. His most tenured employee, with the business straight out of high school, was Jane How-ard.

"She worked here more than 50 years, and she taught me so much," he said..

There are several things that are important to me, when a job is done," he said.

"When the guys sweep, that's when we find issues with the installation," he said.

Randy believes that he is very particular about things. If a job isn't something that he would have in his house, then it's not finished.

Levenstein's just finished installing new flooring in the Beach Tiki Bar in down-town Greensburg.

"After the installers were done, I noticed a spot that wasn't cut in right. A cus-tomer might not notice that, but experience tells me that issue is going to cause problems in the future," he said. "So it gets fixed before we're done, and I want people to know that if there's a problem later on then we'll fix it."

Randy is not happy with a customer just "living with" a problem.

"I want them to brag about it and be proud of their new flooring, and I want them to brag about us as well. That's really what I want for Levenstein's, I want our customers to brag about it," he said.



A photo of Levensteins in mid-1960's. Levensteins sold carpet, appliances and home furnishings until Gerald levenstein sold everything but floor coverings in 1980.



Levensteins current co-owner Randy Domingo remodeled the existing building and showroom in 1999, and merged with Meadow's Brothers' Abbey Carpet in 2000.

DCMH

CONTINUED FROM 7

wonderful people."

Ingram also said she believes the services provided at DCMH will continue to improve as technology designed to advance healthcare is developed and put into use locally.

Linda Shirk-Volk, whose grandfather, Samuel Shirk, a Clinton Township farmer, helped establish DCMH as we know it today, said her grandfather would be proud that it has been in operation through all these years to serve Decatur County.

"It's great to have a local hospital in Decatur County and then receive the award that recognized DCMH as one of the top 100 small hospitals," she said.

She also noted that her



Photo provided

The main entrance at Decatur County Memorial Hospital as it looks today.

grandfather worked with his to start the hospital," Shirk-Volk neighbor, Arthur Stewart, to help convince the county commissioners a hospital was needed.

"Samuel Shirk had an 18 that may have been a motivator

said. She also noted that through

the years those seeking medical care get personal attention at DCMH, and credits that as part month old son die. I suspect of the reason it's been serving Decatur County for 100 years.

SERVING

CONTINUED FROM 4

handicapped accessible, the new funeral home opened in 1968, on the same lot, but directly behind the old Woodfill home.

After the new funeral home was opened and was fully functional, demolition began on the old Woodfill home to make way for the existing carport and the current parking lot.

In 1975, Dallas passed away unexpectedly; his son Charles was left to carry on the business with the help of Carl Hellmich and Jack Fletcher for many years.

Gilliland-Howe ran the ambulance service for all of Decatur County until the late 1970s when Decatur County EMS was established.

IN 1999, Gilliland-Howe Funeral Home was bought by Keystone, and again in 2013 by Dignity Corporation.

Charles Gilliland passed away in January 2017 and his family's legacy is now carried on by Leslie Asche-Thackery with the help of Braiden Ryle.

It seems like so many changes for an industry staple that has survived for more than 100 years, but according to Thackery, changes continue as society changes, before, during and

after the pandemic. "In the last 20 years alone, things have drastically changed," said Thackery.

Thackery started in her career nearly 20 years ago, and she takes her work very personally. As a native of Decatur County, she has a personal connection with the families she works with. And she remembers the very last two-day visitation/ funeral she prepared.

Families required two days to commiserate and say "goodbye" with friends and family after a death. And then, traditionally, the departed was buried on the third day.

"Prominent families in town felt they owed it to the community to give everyone two days to say goodbye, I think," she said.

"And 20 years ago, the funeral director became a part of the family when there was a death. We held their hands and helped them as they grieved," she said.

Also, cremation is more accepted today than it was 20 years ago.

"Now, nearly 30 percent of our passings are cremated by the family choice," she said." And the rate keeps going up."

Religion plays a major part in the beliefs we harbor about the treatment of our dead.

"That just shows you that our culture, the Catholic Church included, is more accepting of ents just like we always have."

cremation," she said.

"We also have seen the generational change of families not having a church base," she said. "Those who don't attend a church, the values they place on our dead are different as well."

And history proves her out. Technology and shifting morals are the largest contributors to societal change. "We aren't really the 'face to face' culture we were once," she said.

Cell phones have changed us as well.

"I don't think we meant to become a detached society, but instead of calling Mom you send a text. That's where we are," she said. "We don't form such deep connections anymore because we don't hear each other's voices nearly as often as we used to."

Then came the pandemic. "COVID changed everything,"

Thackery explained. With the onset of the COVID

crisis, human contact became, for a period, taboo.

"So now we had people watching a funeral on ZOOM or Facetime," she said. "I've had families that have appreciated the safety of technology, but some have been very upset. We have to realize that all these factors are changing how we deal with the dead. We've become desensitized to death, but we'll continue to take care of our cli-

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PARADE of HONOR 1858-2022





RCCF celebrates 25th anniversary of service



Founding RCCF Board Members: Front Row (Left to Right): BJ Cox, Vicki Kellerman, Cathy May, and JoDell Koelling / Steuver

Back Row (Left to Right): Daren Baker, Carter Everage, Mark Comer, Steve Gookins, and George Brinkmoeller.

JOSIE CLARK DAILY NEWS

RIPLEY COUNTY - This year commemorates the 25th anniversary of the Ripley County Community Foundation. The organization has been leveraging resources needed to achieve the dreams for a better Ripley County since 1997.

For over two decades the **Ripley County Community** Foundation has worked with local governments, citizens, and organizations to identify opportunities, develop action plans and leverage resources. This collaborative spirit has allowed the Ripley County Community Foundation to grow from \$19,000 to \$17 million in charitable assets while simultaneously granting over \$16 million back into Ripley County.

In 1997, a group of innovative individuals came together to create a permanent source of grant dollars to benefit the quality of life in Ripley County. Together, and with the assistance of Lilly Endowment Inc. and the Rising Sun Regional Foundation, they established the Ripley County Community Foundation.

Over the last 25 years, the enthusiasm expressed by those first board members has multiplied exponentially and has spread to every corner of Ripley County.

Former RCCF Executive Director Sally Morris discovered the foundation shortly after its. Morris had been in various social work positions for 25 years and had learned how to work with racially and income diverse people.

"Articles began to appear along with pictures of the founding board members, many of whom I knew and respected," Morris said. "I saw RCCF as a perfect opportunity to 'connect people who care with cases that matter."

Morris said RCCF supports the local community by the identification of needs and providing solutions by grants and scholarships. The community returns support by creating funds and donations that match their passion, or memorialize

See RCCF on 15

RUSHVILLI

Utilitie

Сітч

Professional Ruality PAIN1 Workmanship aintina & Decoratina LUMBE C. B. B. D. D. Restorative Work Painting HARDWARE Wallpapering Repairing & Finishing Faux Painting Plaster & Drywall PLUMBING Ceiling Texture
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RCCF

CONTINUED FROM 14

those they loved. According to Morris, one of the most important lessons of the foundation is that everyone can be a philanthropist, whether the gift is very small or very large.

"Looking at the next 25 years, we are confident that the Ripley County Community Foundation will continue to impact our communities and will be a valuable resource to those who want to leave a legacy for future generations," stated Amy Streator, Executive Director of the Ripley County Community Foundation.

A new logo will launch the Community Foundation into its next phase of stewardship. As part of the rebranding process, the board of directors conducted an introspective review of the Community Foundation's mission and identified four pillars that will guide their future grant-making. Those four pillars are: 1) Arts & Culture, 2) Business & Entrepreneurship, 3) Education, Health, & Well-Being, and 4) Environment & Natural Resources.

"Our new logo is a reflection of the Ripley County Community Foundation's evolution into the next phase of our growth," Streator said. "This logo reveals who we are as an organization and where we are headed in the future.'

The colors of the Community Foundation's new logo represent the four areas of service. Arts & Culture is represented by the color purple which stands for inspiration, wisdom, and innovation.

Business & Entrepreneurship is represented by the color blue to spotlight loyalty and stability.

Education, Health, & Well-Being is represented by the color orange, which promotes generosity and optimism.

Environment & Natural Resources is represented by the color green to signify growth and renewal. The heart represents the Community Foundation's love for Ripley County.

"We are grateful to those who had the foresight to establish the Community Foundation, those who have donated, and those who have given their ris said. "Success to me is the Each donor, hopefully, sees the wonderful, knowledge- to Executive Director, Amy for RCCF."

expertise to ensure that our grant making and programming has been, and remains, impactful," said Streator. "In appreciation for those 25 years of support, the board of directors has established a 25th anniversary Impact Grant opportunity."

The 25th Anniversary Impact Grants make a total of \$100,000 available to 501(c) (3) charitable organizations that are serving the people and places of Ripley County. Of the total funding available, \$25,000 will be made available in each of the Community Foundation's four service areas. Organizations can request between \$1,000 and \$25,000 per service area.

Eligible applicants are nonprofits who identify a plan or program which will leverage an opportunity available within the county, create a sustainable impact amongst one or more communities, can demonstrate cross-sector, cross-community, cross-county collaboration, and can clearly articulate how their organization, or project, aligns with more than one of the Community Foundation's four service areas.

The 25th Anniversary Grant Application is accessible through the Community Foundation's website at www. rccfonline.org/grants. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, and will be reviewed each month beginning in April, 2022, or until available funding is expended. The first round of grant recipients will be announced on June 21st during the Ripley County

The Community Foundation's Annual Dinner, and the second round of grant recipients, will be announced November 4 during the Ripley County Community Foundation's Annual Day of Giving. Applications will no longer be accepted after Friday, September 9, 2022.

To learn more information about the Ripley County Community Foundation's 25th anniversary, contact Streator by emailing office@rccfonline.org, calling 812-933-1098, or visiting 13 E. George Street, Suite B, Batesville.

"I am so very proud of the success of the Foundation through these 25 years," Mor-

provides for full tuition, required fees and a special allocation of up to \$900 per year for required books and required equipment for four years of undergraduate study on a full-time basis leading to a baccalaureate degree at any eligible Indiana public or private nonprofit college or university. Lilly Endowment Community Scholars may also participate in the Lilly Scholars Network (LSN), which connects scholars with resources and opportunities to be active leaders on their campuses and in their communities. reputation of RCCF, and all the that their gifts have created able, long serving members of Streator, her team and board. lives that have been touched. a stronger, kinder, more fis- the team that I worked with They have brought new energy,

Another way that RCCF works to support the local

Community Scholarship. For 2021, that student was

community is by awarding the Lilly Endowment

Each Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship

Emily Meyer of Batesville High School.

That includes not only grant cally sound Ripley County. I through the years. The reins new people, ideas and many recipients, but the donors, attribute this success to all have now been handed over new opportunities for service



Photos provided

Batesville High School, Milan High School, and Oldenburg Academy varsity football teams raised \$26,000 to "Turnover Hunger" among Ripley County's elementary school children.

Turnover Hunger is an initiative of the Ripley County Community Foundation that supports football teams in their efforts to give back to their communities. The 2021 football season was dedicated to raising funds to support the Weekend Backsack Program. The Weekend Backsack Program sends a backpack of nonperishable, kid friendly food home with elementary school students on the weekends.

According to Gleaner's Food Bank, 1.665 children in Ripley County are experiencing food insecurity, which is approximately 6% of the population.





Local Ford dealership had long, successful run



"Donald P" and Kay Meyer in a photo taken before "Donald P" passed away.

of a small town is the history of the people who live there. Their interests, their successes and their failures are all written as part of local history.

The Don Meyer Ford auto dealership was a prime example of the growth and history of Greensburg for more than 50 years.

Kay (Scheidler) grew up in Greensburg and Don grew up in Batesville, Don enlisted in the Marines after graduating from high school, but before his tour was over he received word that his father had passed away, received a discharge and returned home.

No one in the family remembers how the two actually met, but shortly after marrying they both got jobs at the Grand Mackinac Island Hotel and moved there.

According to Mike, the youngest of the Meyer children, Don was the outgoing one and Kay was shy.

GREENSBURG - The history to Mackinac Island had it not been for Dad," he said.

The couple eventually moved to Indianapolis to create a life together. Don always had dreams of owning his own car lot one day, so he took a job in Kokomo working for Dan Young Chevrolet.

just smiles when she's asked. "And we had all those kids!" she said.

An ambitious young man, Don traveled back and forth from Beech Grove to the Dan Young dealership in Kokomo. Don worked his way up to Sales Manager for Dan Young Chevrolet.

Kay remembers a lot about those times but says only, "We didn't see much of him then."

The Ford Dealership Program During a holiday with family back in Greensburg, Don was overjoyed when he heard the McCoy and Douglas building (228 E. Main Street, currently Rick Adams Plumbing and "They would never have gone Pools) was vacant, and the money. It had to be cash," Kay

Photos provided | Daily News

Kay remembers the event but The Donald Meyer family. Pictured left to right are (seated, I to r) Dave, Kay, Parts Mgr. Ron Burkhart and Greg Meyer. Standing are Donna Tewmey, Mike and Debbie Meyer. The Meyer family ran the most successful auto dealership in Greensburg for more than fifty years before being purchased recently by Hubler Auto Group.

> across the street was up for sale. It was perfect.

> "After that, that's all he talked about," Kay said.

But money was tight. Don and Kay were a young couple with five children, and getting finances to start a new business was difficult.

"You have to know that Dad had nothing starting out," Tewmey said, "Times were tight."

"In those days, you could not get a Ford dealership franchise with money from a loan. You weren't allowed to borrow the thing we could, but it wasn't enough. So he asked brother Bob (Scheidler) to get a loan for him, and he did."

Tewmey shared a childhood memory: "Dad put his offices and the mechanics in the old Reed and Lynch building and had his showroom and salesmen in the Rick Adams building (McCoy and Douglas building). A new dealership in town.

The newly formed dealership needed staff. Cousin Jim (Scheidler) became the first mechanic, Adrian Scripture

Reed and Lynch Service station said. "We scraped up every- Ellen Kilgore became the first became a fixture among busibookkeeper.

"I called him 'Donald P," Kilgore said. "That's how I called him over the loudspeaker in the office.

Kilgore's memories of working at the dealership are plentiful and sweet.

"Donald P was a very nice boss. He cared a lot about his people and he took care of them, and he told me once that he would never ask anyone to do something that he wouldn't do himself," Kilgore said.

The new enterprise sucbecame the first salesman, and ceeded and Don Meyer Ford nesses in Greensburg.

"That's about the time Don learned that he loved to travel," Kilgore said.

"Oh, and how he got hooked on those cruises. They're not for me, but it's what he wanted, so we went," said Kay.

According to Ellen, she and her husband sometimes traveled with Don and Kay.

"We always had a good time," she said.

They traveled most of the world together throughout the

See HISTORY on 19

RUSHVILLE POLICE



Bottom left: Rushville Police officer Jim Waits is pictured in 1944.

Decatur County women during World War I

PAT SMITH DAILY NEWS

GREENSBURG - No one was surprised when the United States Congress declared on April 6, 1917, that a state of war existed between Germany and the United States.

The news of America's entry into World War I met with many residents wanting to help in any way they could. And they did. Men as well as women worked hard. Women had helped during the Revolution and the Civil War and they did everything they could to help their country when needed. Teachers, clerical jobs, sales jobs, nurses or wherever someone was needed was filled with women.

Mayor James E. Mendenhall called upon residents of the county to attend a "Patriotic Meeting" at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 6, 1917, at the K. of P. Opera House and to think of ways in which they could best serve the country. The K. of P. Opera was just off the square on N. Broadway.

It was quite an evening. First a large flag was presented to the Grand Army of the Republic by the "Pap" Thomas Women's Relief Corps Auxiliary. There was music by the YMCA Orchestra (yes, the Y had an orchestra at that time). The audience sang "America,' and a prayer was repeated. A stirring history of the American flag was given by Mrs. Eliza Crisler, who was president of the Women's Relief Corps. The song, "Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean," was sung by Mrs. Winona C. Deiwert. Civil War veteran Taylor F. Meek brought in the American flag with Ed Ware representing the Army and Jack Foster representing the Navy. Both men had been in the war.

Mrs. Taylor F, Meek presented the flag to Dr. C.C. Morrison, president of the YMCA Board of Directors. An estimated 1,500 school children and hundreds of citizens were present. The American flag was raised by young Philip Deiwert and Von Scott with many cheers as the flag



Women from every township went to work and did anything needed for soldiers. They met at the YMCA to report on what had been done and what was needed.



Red Cross girls served food at the Railroad Station for soldiers during World War I.

went up. Jane McKay played the cornet as The Stars Spangled Banner was sung by those present.

young men of the county to a company. volunteer at once their services

Norman C. Schlemmer gave to support the government. He an address appealing to the and Ira Miller were organizing

K. of P. Opera House patri- Bonner who had been named

Photos provided

The theatre was packed by

7:15 and the doors were closed.

The overflow went to the court-

At the theatre, members

of the GAR, the Women's

Relief Corps and Daughters

of the American Revolution,

were seated on the stage. The

crowed stood and cheered

when a drum corps preceded

by Recruiting Officer Sgt.

Hayes bearing a large Ameri-

can flag and followed by Walter

Crisler, Claude Coher, E. J.

Harbison, Will Kline, John

Boyl, Harry Robbins, Ed.

Ware, Frank Buckley and Sam

Evans, all former servicemen

in the Navy, Marine Corps or

the Army and all in their ser-

vice uniforms, marched in and

Mayor James Mendenhall

called the meeting to order.

Rollin Turner read the Mavor's

call for the meeting and turned

the meeting over to Walter

across the stage.

otic meeting

house.

the permanent chairman. Mrs. Deiwert sang "The Old Flag Never Touched the Ground." The audience loved her voice so much that she was asked to sing another song, "Don't Bite the Hand That's Feeding You." Mr. Bonner then introduced the speaker the Hon. Archibald Hall of Indianapolis. The crowd stood many times and the applause was tremendous.

After the meeting many men of Decatur County signed up for service to their country and women went to work in so many ways. Mrs. S. P. Minear became Red Cross Women's Work Chairman. Miss Bright Emmert was in charge of Surgical Dressing, Lillian Miller was shop superintendent with Ella Wilson. Lizzie Wilson was Assistant Superintendent, and Mary Rankin was Knitting Chairman..

Women who had not been appointed to a specific committee helped any committee where they were needed. That included Myrtle Benner, Bright Emmert, Mrs. T. E. Stevenson, Charles Baker, Vessie Riley, Mrs. Wm. A. McCoy and Mrs. F. H. Erdmann.

The women made hospital and surgical garments and surgical dressings. Every township had a sewing unit and every item was inspected before shipment. For most of the war the garments were cut by hand until they received some from division headquarters. For many weeks, at least 150 garments were shipped every Tuesday. The largest shipment was 401 articles.

Every housewife and grocer observed, without complaint, the regulations regarding sugar, flour and meat. Food had to be rationed. Charles Zoller was appointed by the state to be the food administration. Killing young animals and chickens was not allowed. Even turkey shoots were outlawed. Fruit and vegetables had to be unloaded within a certain time limit. Sugar was purchased only with a "sugar card." For canning, five pounds was allowed and

Learning about Decatur County schools

PAT SMITH DAILY NEWS

In 1857, two years before Greensburg became incorporated, the first free school was established. The early pioneers wanted schools for their children but it seemed impossible with lack of income and conditions at the time. Even so, as soon as it was possible the rural areas of the county

homes.

Until 1853 there was not a single free school in Indiana much less in Decatur County. But in 1832 Decatur County took advantage of the Indiana law providing for a county seminary. That was not the seminary for religious careers

children, even in private in 1834. In 1852 the state abolished the seminary system. The building is still standing.

In 1857 the first free school in Greensburg was opened in July. The first graded school opened in 1861. African American children were admitted to the school along with white children. What became but simply meaning higher known as the old West School education. One was built was built in 1863 at a cost on the corner of McKee and of \$12,000. Additions were

school, and another addition was still being used as a high ing said the first school cost in 1899. It was torn down in 1958. The first high school commencement in Greensburg had two graduates.

schools added more curriculum including music, art, domestic science, and manuel training. In 1914 a new high school building was built on W. Walnut Street where an Sisters from Oldenburg served orphanage had been located. the school for more than 100 found ways to educate their Franklin streets and opened added in 1876 for the high After 40 years the building years. Principal Nancy Buen-

school but was facing dangerous overcrowding. A huge building spree was begun and the building was used for fifth As years went on the and sixth grade students for several years.

The first Catholic school in Greensburg was St. Mary's, built in 1875 with classes begging in 1876. The Franciscan

nearly \$20,000 with enough room for 75-100 students. As enrollment increased, in 1915 a new school was needed and was completed in 1916. An expansion was added in 1956. In 1968 it again became a school for up to the 5th grade, and a day care and after school care were added. In 2011 a new building was needed and land

See SCHOOLS on 21

HISTORY

CONTINUED FROM 16

years with the dealership and especially after Don decided to let the boys handle more of the business.

"He never let go completely," Kilgore said." That was his baby, and it was hard for him to not stop in pretty often after he retired."

THE AWARDS

Many of the trips were paid for by Ford Motor Company, too.

The dealership won the President's Award for the first time in 2000. Thirty-five dealerships across the country out of nearly 3,000 won the President's Award for service, sales and customer compliments.

"They'd give us completely free trips with everything paid for, and Don was so proud," Kay said.

"At the time, that was a big deal. It was huge, and I remember when Mom and Dad won that. Ford took them on a fourday excursion to Arizona, and Dad fell in love with Arizona. They had such a good time," said the youngest Meyer, Mike.

Time passed, children were born, and the family grew.

Recently, Russ Hubler purchased the business. The Don Meyer Ford sign on the front of the building has been removed and replaced with a temporary banner announcing new ownership.

Donald P" died in 2015, and in 2016, another special award was placed on the wall with all the many awards and recognitions the dealership had received through the years.

State Rep. Randy Frye made a special presentation of an American flag to Kay with a plaque that reads:

"From the State of Indiana House of Representatives: It is my honor to present this American Flag flown at the Indiana Statehouse on December 8, 2016 to Don Meyer Ford. In grateful recognition for their service to the citizens of Decatur County and Southeast Indiana.

(Signed) State Representative Randy Frve."

Greg has retired completely. Mike and David are staying at the dealership. Debbie has not worked since her son died 10 years ago.

And Kay enjoys her retirement, but misses Donald P. She's well taken care of by a beloved family and friends, and that's how it should be.



Photos provided | Daily News

A Daily News clipping from 2000 featuring Greg, Dave and Mike Meyer on Don Meyer Ford winning the Ford Motor Company's, Presidents' Award. The Presidents' Award, Ford's Highest Award recognized 340 out of 5,000 dealerships across the United States that year for excellence.

WOMEN

CONTINUED FROM 18

no one was allowed to charge more than nine cents per pound. Bread was the biggest problem and substitutes were

used. Young girls took food and something to drink to the railroad station when trainloads of soldiers were due. They served sandwiches, cookies and food that had been prepared especially for them.

Decatur County Commissioners George C. Hamilton, president, Charles P. Johnson and George C. Walker voted to publish a county history of the Great War, also known as World War One. Winona After the war was over Crisler Deiwert (Mrs. George)

had been appointed County War Historian by the County Council of Defense in June 1918. Arthur Donnell had also been appointed, but the original order from the council was changed and Donnell withdrew.

Mrs. Deiwert was asked to collect reports of all of the war activities of every organized group in the county. The list of activities of the county residents was long. Mrs. Deiwert finished her book with help from many residents.

She did an outstanding job. The work of every township in Decatur County is told in the book. So too were other places where work had been done for the war or especially for the boys fighting in the war.

THE SHIP



Contributed by the Batesville Historical Center

The Ship was a car dealership in downtown Batesville located in the building which currently houses WRBI across from the Memorial Building. The vehicles were stored inside and driven in through the pictured garage door. The photograph's exact date is unknown but no younger than 1980.



THE RUSHVILLE LIONS

Photo courtesy of Brian Sheehan





Contributed by Batesville Historical Center

Hellmich's Standard Oil gas station and service center once stood where the Pizza Haus and barbershop now reside. The photo is no younger than 1970, which is the year that Pizza Haus owners acquired the building.

In 1962 Schmidt's Place opened on Walnut Street selling doughnuts and pizza. Then, in 1970, when Schmidt Bakery moved to the new Batesville Shopping Village, the pizza portion of the business was sold to Jake McKittrick and Brent Gibson and operated under the name Jake's Pizzeria.

According to Pizza Haus's website, McKittrick and Gibson bought the pizza oven Schmidt's used for eight years. That same oven is still used today to bake every Pizza Haus pizza. On February 22, 1974, Pizza Haus opened under the ownership of Lowell & Marge Yorn and Jack & Vicki Kellerman. The Pizza Haus name was chosen to emphasize the German heritage of Batesville.



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SCHOOLS

CONTINUED FROM 19

was purchased with nearly full financing by St. Mary's parishioners. The expansion continued with the addition of the church and middle school classrooms. Today the school has 334 students from prekindergarten through the 8th grade and has a daycare.

As the county grew, the student enrollment increased each year. Residents began commenting on the situation. School board members in 1955 were: Lowell Headley, Art Lynch, Louis Ricke, Jim McLaughlin, and Oscar Hurt. School superintendent Gerald Alexander knew the situation had to be solved soon so he called a meeting of the school

talking about how the situation could be solved.

In 1953, trustees of the Greensburg School Corporation and the trustees and members of the advisory board of Washington Township had made the resolution to consolidate Greensburg and Washington Township into a single school corporation. The building fund had grown over the years, and when needed it came to more than \$500,000. That began a school building era without using any federal funds.

Elementary school buildings, the west building and east building, actually had some areas of the buildings condemned and/or some structure problems. After examining the buildings it was decided that remodeling board to start thinking and the buildings would probably

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not be the solution to the problems. A team of experts were called in to help determine whether the schools should be remodeled or new ones built. The decision was made to build a new high school, and three elementary schools.

Near the old East Elementary School, that was built in 1889, was a site that seemed perfect for one of the new elementary schools. This became the Rosenmund Elementary School, named for Frieda Rosenmund, a longtime teacher in the high school.

When the land was cleared a new Greensburg High School was completed in 1957. The gym would be the building across the street that the Works Progress Administration had built during the Depression. The school

Jerman Junior High School were keeping up with everyand is still being used for that age student. Elmer C. Jerman was superintendent from 1903 to 1927.

On the west side of Greensburg the old West School building was demolished and the Billings Elementary School built. The school was named for Carl Billings, who had served as high school principal from 1922 to 1937 and superintendent from 1937 to 1951. The school was used for the first time on February 1, 1957. A third elementary school

was built and named Washington Elementary School. That school was built on the southwest side of the city especially for students who lived south of the city and from outer Washington Township.

The residents in each of the building was then used as the townships in Decatur County

thing recommended by the in Washington Township in state just as the Greensburg schools were. Each township had arranged for their children to learn and built schools beginning with one room schools to later years when the schools, including high schools, were as good as any in Indiana. The book "Schools in Decatur County, Indiana 1820 – 1978" written by Lorene E. Shirk will show and tell about most of the schools in each township in Decatur County. The library and the museum have copies. Marion Township is the only township not to have a high school. No railroads or interurban ran through the township and the roads were in poor condition. The other townships had high schools and popular basketball teams.

A new high school was built 1972 and a new elementary school in 2004, The three elementary schools and the high school on Walnut Street are still standing and being used for other purposes.

The North Decatur Junior-Senior High School was completed in 1967. The school included students from Sandusky, Clarksburg, St. Paul, New Point and some from an area in Burney. The North Decatur Elementary School was in use by September 1978.

The South Decatur Junior-Senior High School was completed in 1969 and included students from Burney and Sandcreek. The elementary school was built on the land that was once the Sandcreek School. It opened in 1978.



Insurance Estimates Welcome JIM PULSKAMP 9045 E St Rd 46, 2100 S County Road 700 E Greensburg, IN 47240 812-663-7769

PO Box 129

New Point, IN 47263











We thank EVERYONE for their support, dedication and hard work over the years. <u>YOU</u> make the difference!

40 Yea Jim Win		S 30 Years Teresa Allen Eric Blanken Keith Caudill Christopher Hornst Jason McKittrick Lana Meyer James Rennekamp Mike Sparks Paul Wilson		25 Years Donald Borgman Donald Christenberry William Hazelwood Arthur Hodapp Gregory Laker Myra Moore Charles Osborn Brandon Vohland	Mi	20 Years Audrey Gallant Jorge Lopez Michael Webber-Fowler Matthew Weisenbach		15 Years Russell Thomas		Fledderman Di dall Gibbs de Green - berly Kinker wn Renck He	Beverly Ball illon Brackmar Eric Brandes Travis Combs Linda Diaz nry Fledderma Jillian Freese John Heil	Caleb Howard Penelope Jackson Michael Moore Isaiah Perry Christopher Riffle Ronald Riffle Tammy Stinson Dessie Tirey	
Michael Abrams	9	Roger Collins	<1	Patricia Gilbert	17	Michael Jewell	32	Michael Meyer	33	William Roell	37 0	aina Sullivan	23
Blaine Adams	<1	Harlee Combs	<1	Toby Gilbert	<1	Kevin John	37	Richard Meyer	36	Jacob Rohrig	<1 N	/laryJo Swain	3
Gregory Adams	37	Larry Comley	34	Robert Glover	<1	Travis Johnson	<1	Tristen Miller	1	Deborah Rosenberge	r 17 J	leremy Taylor	8
Morgan Allen	1	Barron Cook	<1	Christopher Godsey	21	Cody Jones	6	Melissa Moll	6	Brittany Rowe	~1	Samantha Thompson	-
William Anderson	19	Bob Cook	<1	Clarissa Gonzalez	21	Garrett Jones	4	James Mosley	2	Anthony Roy	23	-	
Annie Baldwin	<1	Cory Cook	1	Glenn Gray	33	Phillip Jones	2	Charles Moss Jr	3	Jennifer Russell	<1	lichael Thornton	<1
Adam Bammel	9	Taylor Cooper	<1	Mark Gray	4	Jarod Kerker	18	Brent Muckerheide	22	Matthew Rust	1 ^J	lames Tirey	<1
Ronald Barhorst	7	Ocean Courter	2	Erik Greve	<1	Michael Kilby	4	Danny Muckerheide	21	Melissa Salyer	31 J	lonathan Tirey	2
Jason Barrier	<1	Efrain Covarrubias	4	Tiffany Haessig	<1	Gregory King	<1	Thomas Muckerheide	33	Telesforo Santiago	17 J	loshua Tirey	1
Matthew Bedel	22	Chad Cummings	4	Jeffrey Hafer	34	Brandon Klingman	3	Robert Murphy	3	Nikki Sarringhaus	23 4	Anita Turner	23
Aaron Bell	2	Frederick Dall	32	Brooklynn Halcomb	<1	Samuel Koch	2	Lauren Mynsberge	9	Linda Sauers-Mills	<1 ,	revor Turner	8
Jeffery Bell	3	Eddie Davidson	23	Christian Halcomb	<1	Darlena Krieg	4	Randal Niese	26	Jennifer Scarber	14		
Fran Bessler	36	Scotty Davis	9	Corey Halcomb	<1	Ronald Kuntz	7	Angela Nunez-Alejandre	<1	Debra Schantz	4	Danielle Underhill	21
Angela Bolser	16	Steve Davis	34	Douglas Halcomb	28	Gene Lambert	43	Chad Offill	<1	John Schiller	34 [Danny Vanosdol	21
Troy Bolser	28	Joshua Dickey	4	Grant Halcomb	<1	Timothy Lambert	34	Joseph Ostendorf	<1	Todd Schlotter	6 Т	imothy Varns	1
Sheila Boss	3	Karlie Dickey	2	Dustin Hampton	<1	Michele Lattire	34	Martha Owens	27	Amanda Schneider	1 T	'yler Varns	1
Alex Brackman	8	Alex Draeving	6	Jessica Hardy	<1	Richard Lewis	<1	Karen Palmer	6	Carol Schneider	22 K	(yle Voegele	<1
Chad Brackman	12	Colin Dunn	<1	Susan Harmeyer	<1	Rita Lewis	23	Kenny Partlow	16	Clinton Schomber	17 1	ori Voegele	23
Urban Brackman	41	George Dwenger	22	Robert Hartman	26	Debra Livingston	3	Shawn Partlow	3	Steven Scudder	20	lichael Volk	
Chad Bradley	28	Brandalynn Edwards	3	Josh Hartwell	2	Lydia Lockhart	8	Mallory Paul	1	Sammy Seropian	<1		<1
Dawn Brinson	2	Timothy Elstun	7	Rebecca Hatfield	4	James Luers	36	Taylor Peak	<1	Kelly Shepherd	1 6	arlyn Walke	9
James Brock	7	Austin Enzinger	1	Jay Hayes	28	Kelly Luking	9	Stacey Perry	4	Betsy Sherwood	з т	obias Walsman	34
Amber Brown	<1	Carla Enzinger	32	Salina Henderson	<1	David Lynch	32	Cory Peters	<1	Valerie Shoemaker	1 Y	/iWang	11
Kristine Brown	3	Kenneth Erhart	8	Maggie Henson	27	Mary Lynch	19	Jonathan Peters	3	Kaylee Short	<1 0	Cheryl Watters	1
Sherri Brown	2	Gavin Ertel	<1	Bradlev Herd	31	Jason Mack	22	Rena Phillips	6	Clarence Shupe		lunalyn Wernicke	3
Dylan Browning	4	Kristina Flannery	<1	Cecilia Hernandez	<1	Clarence Magers	4	Cameron Powers	<1	Tyler Shupe	•	/aria Wesseler	23
Jenetta Caine	<1	Bryan Fledderman	2	Lindsey Hersley	9	Destiny Manley	<1	Kevin Powers	14	Samuel Sittloh	-1		
Boone Caldwell	3	Daniel Fledderman	4	Tim Hillman	39	Stephen Martini	2	Jeffrey Prowse	23	Jason Smith	2	Anthony Whaley	<1
Clayton Calhoun	36	David Fledderman	38	Clifford Hiltenbeitel	8	Christeen Mathews	3	, Mischele Prowse	23	Mariah Smith	1 0	Charlene Whittaker	27
Shanna Camarena	14	Elizabeth Fledderman	8	Brett Hofer	7	Christopher Mathews	18	Ronald Prozanski	23	Dale Sorber	9 0	Charles Wilkening	27
Bradley Cappel	4	Jody Fledderman	43	Greg Hoffman	31	Kyle Mathews	28	Dennis Pugh	22	Melissa Sparks	31 E	Brian Wilson	26
Caitlyn Capper	<1	John Fledderman	42	Kyle Hoffman	6	Amy McConnell	1	David Raab	34	Angela Speckman		Cody Wilson	1
Nade Carpenter	23	Shirley Fliehman	27	Robert Holtel	36	Brittany McCray	9	Tanner Reatherford	<1	Nicholas Stanton	_	lelvin Wilson	37
lina Carson	<1	Zach Floyd	1	Maryann Holzbacher	4	Donald McDaniel	27		3	Denver Steele			
Vilma Caudill	<1	Leidy Gaona	<1	Daniel Hooten	22	Austin McDonald	3		1	Brian Stirn	24	aige Wintz	4
Kenith Chambers	9	Helen Gellinger	3	Kody Hooten	<1	Jeffrey McKittrick	33	Jeffrey Reynolds	23	Terri Stirn	3	Samuel Wintz	33
Holly Cheek	28	Melanie Gibbs	29	Marvin Hountz	33	Rhonda Mckittrick	<1		14	Henry Stoll	23 F	elicia Wondergem	<1
Stephanie Christian	20	Mark Gibson	36	Derek Huneke	3	Theresa McQueen	33	Timothy Richardson	<1	Karren Streicher		David Workman	<1
Robert Clemons	27	Rebecca Gibson	27	Barry Jackson	3	Richard Meer	33	Travis Richardson	<1	Lacy Struckman		Robert Workman	27
inducer i cielliolia	21	nebecca Gibsoil	<u> </u>	Dally Jackson	5	menalu meel	34	navis nicilarusoff	~ 1	Lacy Struckmall	SI		