

THE ARCH

Putnam County Museum Newsletter



PUTNAM COUNTY MUSEUM

Bridging Generations. Connecting Communities. Preserving Past.

THE ARCH

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GET READY FOR “LIVE & LOCAL!”

The Putnam County Museum will present the fourth edition of *Live & Local!* on Saturday, September 10 from 5:30 to 8 pm. The event is the Museum’s biggest fundraiser of the year.

Once again, the Museum parking lot will be transformed for the festivities, with a large tent for local dining delights, live and local music and a live auction. A delicious buffet will include culinary specialties and offerings from Putnam County restaurants, vendors, and growers. The live auction will feature appealing experiences and enticing adventures, well suited for families. Many more items such as dining and entertainment experiences, services and artisan goods will be available in a silent auction.

This year, your entire family is invited to *Live & Local!* Members of DePauw’s sororities will provide childcare, kids’ crafts and activities, and a special menu inside the Museum, while parents enjoy the local buffet and live auction outside under the tent. When you book your *Live & Local!* reservations (\$25 for an adult, non-member, \$20 for an adult, member) A Night at the Museum for the children is \$5 per family.

Watch for more details on items offered for auction on the Putnam County Museum Facebook page, our website at www.putnamcountymuseum.org, in the news and on the radio.

Seating is limited, so make your reservations now for *Live & Local!* by calling the Museum at 765 653-8419 today!

Putnam County Museum



The mission of the Putnam County Museum is to collect, preserve, and interpret the natural, historical and cultural heritage of the county and its people through education, exhibits, and special programs.



KEN TORR’S BARN MEMORIES

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KEN TORR'S BARN MEMORIES

BY DIANA LAVIOLETTE

"Barns make the farm or at least they did," lamented Ken Torr who has taken over 785 photographs of Putnam County barns since 2002. He says that there isn't a road in Putnam County that he hasn't traveled, some many times. Currently, museum visitors can view Torr's barn photographs from each of the county's townships.

Barns are disappearing fast. According to the Indiana Barn Foundation 30,000 dotted the Indiana landscape a decade ago and now only 20,000 stand. Ken has placed a red dot on his framed pictures of barns, which no longer exist. He adds another red dot frequently. One example, is the John Zeiner round barn. The museum houses a replica of that barn to preserve memories. It is not built to scale, but is a wonderful interpretation of that landmark.

Ken's interest in photography dates back to his seventh grade teacher, Gene Akers, who helped him print pictures in his fully equipped darkroom. Photography became a passion. His interest in photographing barns occurred when piqued by an old deteriorated barn with several goats roaming around. He shot from his car window and excluded all distractions: roadways, cattle, and tractors. He wondered if any of his friends, mostly farmers, could identify the barns he had shot. Few could. He knew the barns must be preserved if only by photographs. An employee of the fairgrounds wanted to display Torr's barn pictures during the agricultural breakfast in 2004. Fascinated viewers urged Torr to capture more of the historic barns in the area.

He has a vast collection of cameras, and crops and prints all his work himself. Torr also photographs covered bridges, churches, and other historic buildings. He travels the state shooting pictures of structures that may disappear unless preserved. His photographs may well be our only proof and memory that these buildings ever existed.

Ken enjoys talking about his collection and his love of timber-framed or stone barns of quality craftsmanship. His one regret is not collecting more background information for the barns he photographed. That, too, will be lost for future generations if not catalogued. He has hopes of publishing his book titled "Barns, Bridges, and Other Landmarks of Putnam County."

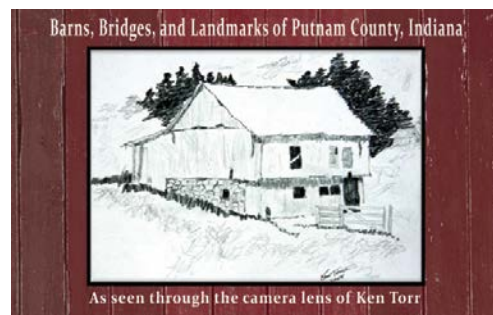
Artist Gwen Gutwein, from Fort Wayne, was commissioned by Heritage Barns of Indiana to paint two barns from every county in Indiana for the state bicentennial. She asked Mr. Torr for help in selection of Putnam County barns. Ken shared his photographs for her to study. Two were painted and are currently on exhibit at DePauw's Peeler Art Center until August 16. They include the Marvin Evans Family Trust Barn located near the Irwin Bridge on West Walnut. The other painting is the John and Grace Torr Family Barn, County Road 300 South which overlooks the Oakalla covered bridge over Big Walnut Creek.

Ken and his wife, Beverly, trace their Putnam County roots back to the 19th century. The Torr farm has been in the family for seven generations.

Mr. Torr is a member of the Indiana Barn Foundation and still actively works to preserve our heritage of barns and other historical structures. He will speak at the Museum on Saturday, October 29th at 11:00 am. In conjunction with his talk, Ken arranged for a showing of the Foundation's Bicentennial Barn Quilt. We urge you to attend and experience his vast knowledge of this county's landmarks. His photographs will be on exhibit until summer, 2017.

"The effort to save Indiana barns will need the support and dedication of many people, and we invite you toget involved in this exciting undertaking! We have the opportunity today to do more than despair at the disappearance of another Hoosier landmark. Indiana barns have stood as a silent testament to the hard work and resourcefulness of those who settled this grand land of ours. We have a responsibility to care for and preserve our heritage now, and for future generations."

Indiana Barn Foundation, www.Indianabarns.org



*Barns, Bridges, and Landmarks of Putnam County, Indiana by Ken Torr
This book is available to order by calling: 765-739-6231*

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If you have not renewed your membership or have not rejoined, please clip this form and send it with your dues to Putnam County Museum, 1105 North Jackson Street, Greencastle, IN 46135

Membership dues are an essential source of funding for the Museum's exhibits, programs, and conservation of our precious artifacts and stories. The membership year just started. Renew or rejoin now!

_____ HEIRLOOM MEMBERSHIP	\$1000
_____ TREASURE MEMBERSHIP	\$500
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Have more fun and help accomplish the Museum's work by volunteering. Check any areas of interest:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Docent | <input type="checkbox"/> Office help |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gift Shop | <input type="checkbox"/> Education |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Exhibits | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> I have a story for the oral history collection | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other tell us how you would like to help _____ | |



FARMING SINCE THE 1920'S

NOBLE AND EDITH FRY

BY DOTTIE LUKENBILL

Changes in farming since the childhoods of Edith and Noble Fry are astounding. Horses to self-propelled tractors, owning to renting, self-sufficiency from the garden and home butchering to using the local grocery, show some of the differences between now and the 1920's.

Noble, 96 years old, now semi-retired, still raises cattle. Shorthorns to be specific. They are visible from the back porch of their house if the cows meander to the side of the barn. Noble tells how they used to be aware of a cow's calving problem, if one occurred. "We heard the cow bawling." Today, he and his son have cameras installed in their barns. "We can watch on a computer, cell phone or television for any problems."

Noble farmed as a kid. He remembers the first time he sat on a horse-drawn two row corn planter. It dropped two grains and rows were 36 inches apart. Today planters drop seeds simultaneously in 24 or 34 rows, 15 inches apart. "Remember," he said, "there was no commercial fertilizer or purchased seed corn. We searched each crop for perfect ears, placed them on spikes to dry, and shelled out the middle for seed corn." Today, he believes farmers spend too much money for fertilizer and chemicals. "It takes about \$300 per acre."

His dad taught him how to handle a tough six head, six power team of horses. "I thought I had the world by the tail." Each horse weighed 2,000 pounds. Four horses lined up in front of the plow and two lead horses lead from the front of those horses. They pulled a two gang plow with 12 inch blades through each field three times, up and down and across.

Noble remembers shucking corn with a peg and throwing it onto a wagon. Sometimes farmers used corn ears lined vertically across the wagon to act as a barrier so the wagon could hold more corn. A bang board ran across one side to catch ears in the wagon if someone overthrew the corn. He also has a tool used to hold binder twine which he could throw around shocks of corn. "In the olden days farming was nothing but muscle, muscle, muscle." Corn was used to feed livestock when Fry was young. Now it goes to an elevator and some is sold locally to the Cloverdale ethanol plant.

Edith Fry also grew up on a farm. She didn't help farm much, she says, because her dad wouldn't let her

go to the field if her mother needed her in the house. She did, however, meet her dad returning with his work horses, ride them to the spring and then go to the barn to watch her dad milk by hand. The spring ran between their house and the barn. She often toted the milk to the house and stopped at the spring to twirl the bucket to cool the milk. She says the milk often soured and her mother made lots of cottage cheese. They fed soured milk and garbage to their hogs. She also gathered eggs, fed the chickens and gardened.

Once her brother caught scarlet fever and had to be quarantined. Her mother stayed with her sick brother and Edith had to do her mother's jobs. Since her other brothers had to wear dress shirts to school, she had to iron. An iron made from cast iron was always warming up in the back of the cook stove. That heavy thing was not easy for a child. She says in the winter she would wrap an iron in newspapers and take it to bed to warm her feet.

According to the Fry's a couple of traditions that brought farmers together have vanished, butchering and thrashing. Housewives use to fix meals for thrashers. "We put up saw horses and used white tablecloths. We took the food to the barn or outside under some trees." Butchering time was with neighbors and they butchered several hogs at a time. "Mom made cracklins and all that lard wasn't good for us. All the farmers worked together. Today people fail to recognize their neighbor."

-continued on next page



Noble and Edith Fry

member of the second group of scientist-astronauts. In all, he logged 314 hours in space.

That prompted a question from the audience about who has traveled the most, David, who has been to Nepal and various like places of interest around the globe, or Joe.

"When you travel 156 times around the world (as Joe did), that's hard to beat," David replied.

Joe's lengthy career with NASA included ground support for many missions, and was highlighted by his two trips into space. He was mission specialist on both the first fully operational flight of the Shuttle Transportation System (Columbia), and the second flight of Discovery, which completed 127 orbits of the Earth in 192 hours before landing.

Showing a photograph of the Discovery landing, Joe Allen got a bit choked up, saying the spacecraft was "built by the greatest intellectual people on Earth."

Applause ensued.

Another photograph just made astronaut Allen angry. It was a beautiful shot he captured of a fellow astronaut working outside the confines of the shuttle.

Time magazine thought enough of it to use the photo as a magazine cover, crediting the camera work, however, only to "NASA photographer."

"I canceled my subscription," Joe deadpanned. Laughter ensued.

Sharing what it's like to be launched into space, Allen characterized it "like being in a train wreck for eight minutes."

As an astronaut, Allen helped deployed the first-ever satellites from a space shuttle and then took part in a historic space mission to salvage a pair of communications satellites that had been stranded in useless orbits after a previous deployment.

Allen and Dale Gardner glided outside the shuttle, with Allen propelled by a jet pack ala Buck Rogers. After latching onto the satellite, he maneuvered it until it was grabbed by the shuttle's robot arm.

Amazingly, for one circuit of the globe over 90 minutes, Allen -- who said he weighed about 120 pounds at the time -- held the 1,200-pound satellite aloft while repairs were made before it was manually lowered into the cargo bay.



The shuttle mission provided vivid video memories for Allen to share. The Allen boys combined the space footage with brother David's video from Nepal and gave it to their mother as a Christmas present, appropriately titled, "A Typical Day in the Life of the Allen Brothers."

Meanwhile, back to the small world notion ... overall, the Allens have seen 31 blood relatives attend DePauw, David said.

Their father, Joseph Percival "Perc" Allen III, DPU Class of 1930, was a beloved member of DePauw's economics faculty from 1957 until his retirement in 1975.

"Our dad had a magical career at DePauw," David said, indicating his father was asked to fill in for an accounting course "and stayed 17 years."

Mother Harriett, meanwhile, was a 1928 DPU graduate who by all accounts was her husband's intellectual equal, with an intelligence exhibited even as a precocious 12-year-old in letters to her father (Rev. C. Howard Taylor). David shared some of those with the museum gathering.

Her dad helped unite two fighting factions of the Methodist church in Greencastle into what became Gobin Memorial United Methodist.

"So he was quite an important force here," David allowed.

In fact, if you know where to look, his initials (CHT) adorn the top of a decorative column of the outside of Gobin.

Small world indeed.

"So Greencastle and DePauw University have been part of our lives from Day One," David Allen concluded.

UNCOMMON VALOR: THE STORY OF CHARLES FRAZEE IN WORLD WAR II

BY RON PRICE

Nearly 40,000 Indiana sons and daughters answered their nation's call to military service during World War II. Nearly 12,000 made the ultimate sacrifice. Placing memories of horrors they experienced into the back recesses of their minds, the fortunate ones returned home to parades and celebrations and grateful families. Their successful transition to productive civilian careers is a testament to their character. Tom Brokaw has correctly dubbed them "The Greatest Generation".

Among these returning heroes was Charles Frazee of the 5th Marine Division. Now residing in Bainbridge, Frazee sat down recently to recall some of his experiences as a young man fighting in the South Pacific.

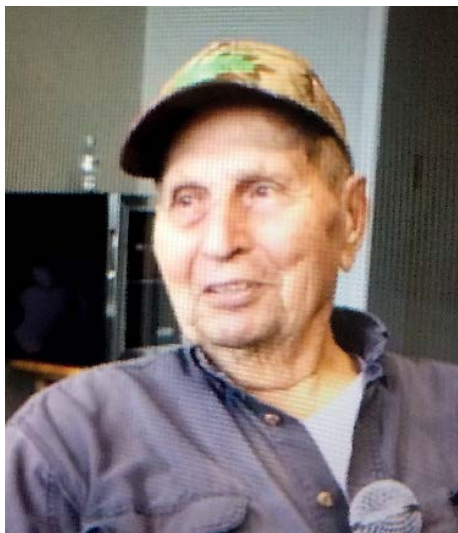
Some of those memories brought smiles (weekend liberty in Honolulu) and laughter as he recalled traveling on a coal-fired troop train through a mile long tunnel in the Colorado Rockies. He and his buddies emerged from the tunnel totally covered in soot. Much of being a Marine is traveling and waiting. He estimates he traveled 25,000 miles on board ships, often sleeping on the deck due to crowded conditions.

Frazee was involved in three operations during his time in the Corps. His first action came on a tiny atoll in the Marshall Islands. By the time his division and their supplies had off loaded, they nearly covered the entire island. They quickly set up their anti-aircraft "ack-ack" guns and large spot lights expecting enemy contact. The Japanese did not disappoint. American radar (in its infancy) revealed incoming planes. Orders came down to man the ack-ack guns and fire up the search lights. Plans back fired, however, as the lights gave away the American location and Japanese planes rained bombs down on their location, scoring direct hits on American supplies.

From here, they soon moved on to Saipan in the Marianas Islands. Following three weeks of battle, the Americans prevailed and gained a vital air strip which put our bombers within reach of Japan. Frazee paused

as the memories of 72 years ago became painfully vivid. He recalled witnessing his first burial at sea. He was humbled to be part of the honor guard for this ceremony.

One of the most memorable battles of American history came next, the battle for Iwo Jima.



Charlie Frazee

The time was February and March of 1945. The Japanese-held volcanic island was heavily fortified and defended by 23,000 battle-hardened troops dug in to caves and mountain crevices. Seven thousand Marines died in the amphibious assault on Iwo Jima. Admiral Chester Nimitz said of these men, "Of the men who fought on Iwo Jima, uncommon valor was a common virtue".

Frazee recalls that landing near the beach was nearly impossible due to wreckage from previous attempts. His landing craft finally got close enough to unload and Marines

scrambled ashore. Foxholes were quickly dug and they hunkered down under heavy enemy fire. He remembers how the warmth from the volcanic ash of his foxhole was comforting as it both dried him and warmed his cold body. They lay there several hours, but were able to see Marines advancing up Mount Siribachi. He witnessed the now famous flag raising on that mountain peak from his foxhole. A great roar of approval rose up from the foxholes on that beach.

Eventually, he was able to move off the beach and accomplish his assignment of setting up telephone communications among the three Marine divisions on the island and their support ships nearby. All told, Frazee spent 30 days on Iwo Jima before rotating back to Pearl Harbor to prepare for the invasion of Japan. A few weeks later, as they prepared to board ship for that invasion of Japan, word came down that the Japanese had surrendered. The war was over. They boarded anyway, but would now serve as an occupation force rather than invaders.

Arriving in their assigned city on the island of Kyushu, they found only two buildings had survived the American bombers. One was the Japanese Naval Academy, the other was a geisha house. Frazee was assigned to the naval academy where he again set up communications for American forces.

Frazee and most of his unit were back stateside by Christmas of 1945. He was thrilled to be home, yet saddened by the loss of friends and comrades. Like many returning G.I.'s, he chose to enroll in college; Purdue to be exact. The number of veterans enrolling at Purdue caused a housing shortage in the Lafayette area. Frazee declined an offer of a "sleeping space" in a closet under a staircase in a private home, instead graduating in 1949 from Indiana State Teachers College in Terre Haute.

He began his career in education as a math and science teacher in Carmel, but soon moved on to Putnam County. He would eventually serve as superintendent of schools for North Putnam during the 1960's and 1970's. With this interview, my life has come full circle. Charlie Frazee interviewed me in 1972 and gave me my first and only teaching job. Today, I was able to interview him. And today, I join with all of Putnam County in saying, "Thank you Charlie, for your service to your country and to your community!"



This is a copy of the original photograph by Joe Rosenthal

COMING EVENTS

- **Saturday, August 6th, 11:00 am. Marj Peeler** speaks
- **Saturday, August 20th, Kids Club** \$5/family
- **Wednesday, September 7th, 11:00 am. Bicentennial** speaker, Barry Fisher, Agronomist, USDA, *The State of Our Soil*. Free and open to the public.
- **Saturday, September 10th, 5:30 pm. Live and Local**, see back cover.
- **Saturday, September 17th, 9:00-3:00 pm. Antique Tractor and Machinery** exhibit on the parking lot. Free and open to the public.
- **Saturday, September 17th, 11:00 to 1:00 am. Kids Club** in conjunction with the antique tractor exhibit.
- **Saturday, September 24th, 11:00 am,** Opening of the Bicentennial Exhibit, *It's Always Been About the Land*. Speaker to be announced. Free and open to the public.
- **Saturday, October 1st, 11:00 am, Archaeology in Your Backyard!** Kady McKean and Emily Fox. Free and open to the public.
- **Saturday, October 29th, 11:00 Ken Torr** gallery talk on barn photography. Free and open to the public.
- **Saturday, October 29th, 11:00-1:00 pm. The Indiana Barn Foundation's Bicentennial Barn Quilt** will be on display. Free and open to the public.
- **Saturday, October 29th 6:30 pm. Putnam County Historian,** Larry Tippin speaks on *Putnam County Gravestones and Graveyard Oddities*. Free and open to the public.

ALLEN FAMILY MAKES BIG IMPACT IN SMALL WORLD

BY ERIC BERNSEE

The Allen brothers have been around the world (literally), down the street and up in space. Yet they remain as down-to-earth as you would think two products of Greencastle and Crawfordsville might be.

For it's indeed a small world, brothers David and Joe Allen -- sons of Harriett (Taylor) and Joseph Percival "Perk" Allen III -- agreed in taking some 50 visitors to the Putnam County Museum on a sentimental journey through Allen family history.

"Even though Joe and I are clearly products of the Greencastle environment, we had an air of Crawfordsville behind us," David Allen told a gathering that included family members, Crawfordsville classmates and DePauw University alums.

He detailed how the Allen family influence locally can be traced

back to 1888 when the Allen Brothers Store opened at the southwest corner of the square where the Re/Max real estate office currently occupies what most residents remember as the old J.C. Penney store.

One of those Allen brothers was Joseph Percival Allen I, the great-grandfather of David and Joe, who was also known for his surveying prowess.

In fact, David recalled, when his parents later purchased lake property at Monticello, one of its boundaries was along Airport Road, once known as the old Lafayette-Michigan City Road, which Joseph P. Allen I had originally surveyed.

"It's a small world," conceded David Allen, 75 -- whose career has covered practicing medicine, medical research and leadership positions in public health in both Tennessee and Kentucky -- in noting the coincidence of his family enjoying lake property that 100 years earlier was surveyed by his great-grandfather.

He also recalled how it was a small world when

brother Joe met his future wife, Bonnie Darling, in Greencastle. She went home and told her father, "I met a boy at DePauw, his name is Joe Allen."

Turns out when her father went to DePauw, he had worked part-time at the Allen Brothers Store and knew of the family and Joe Allen.

"It's a small world," David Allen reiterated, establishing a theme for remarks he and Joe would share.

But that small world would bring them to Greencastle often, even as youngsters growing up in Crawfordsville. One of their favorite spots was their grandparents' house at 636 E. Seminary where a large front-porch swing beckoned for family interaction and a gigantic backyard swingset fueled their adventuresome side.

With that, David flashed a photo of Joe at the wheel of a pedal-car fire truck with David riding in the rear.

"Joe always insisted on being in the driver's seat," the younger Allen noted.

"Joe was always reaching for new heights," he continued, talking about his astronaut brother. "He was climbing anything and everything."

That apparently included a flagpole at the Crawfordsville Country Club, a feat that scared every adult in the place but left little Joe unflustered.

And that attitude, aptitude and altitude has served him well in a NASA career that include two trips aboard the Space Shuttle (Columbia in 1982 and Discovery in 1984).

Joe Allen, who will be 79 at the end of June, can look back in wonder at a career that even spawned a "Jeopardy" question about his exploits in space.

A 1959 DePauw graduate, Allen was selected as a scientist-astronaut by NASA in August 1967 as a

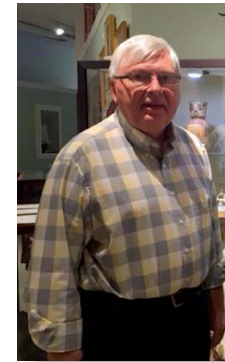


David (left) and Joe Allen

(Courtesy photo/GREG RICE)

PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

BY WARREN MACY



President, Warren Macy

The fun and excitement just keeps coming at your Putnam County Museum. Lisa has smoothly transitioned into the position and office of museum director. Also, Mr. Larry Tippin, our county historian, has been added to our board of directors further strengthening our leadership.

June 9th found the museum packed for the return of a couple of Putnam County native sons and brothers, Doctor David and Astronaut Joe Allen. The Allens joined the executive committee and guests for lunch where we had a chance to update them on happenings at the museum and around Putnam County.

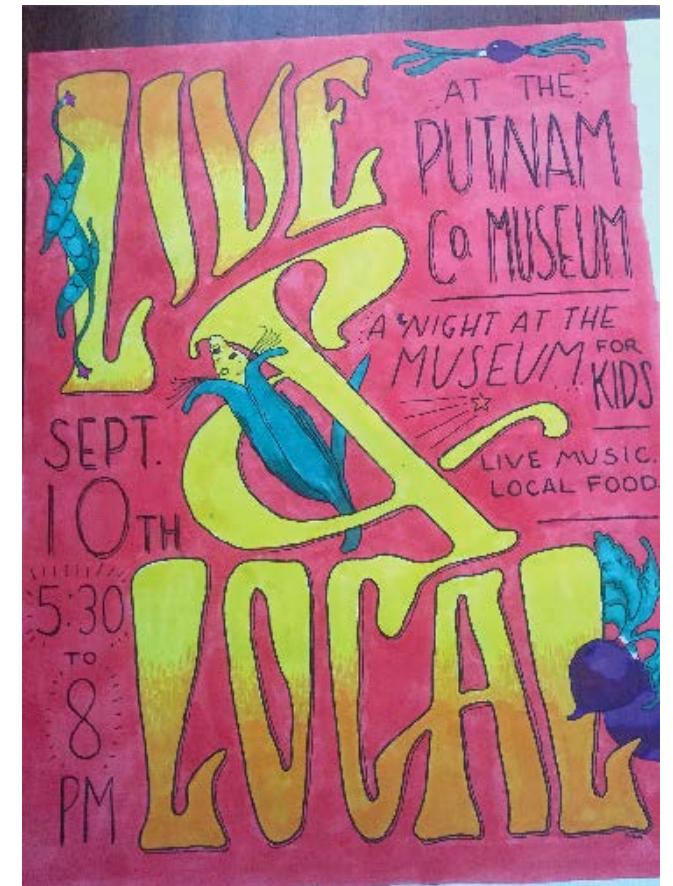
After lunch David presented a talk on the Allen family history in Putnam County followed by a most entertaining presentation by Joe telling of his journey from Greencastle to outer space. It was a wonderful day at the Museum

Our wonderful exhibit committee is hard at work planning an exhibit to honor Indiana's bicentennial titled *It's Always Been About the Land* featuring agriculture through the years in Putnam County. They have lined up many interesting artifacts that will be displayed on loan from a number of county farmers and historians.

Finally, a word about our search for a permanent home. Feasibility studies by Delv Design out of Indianapolis on the two properties we have been considering have been completed. The board and site selection committee now face some serious discussions. The \$2.2 million move in cost for purchase and renovation of the Masonic Temple seems rather daunting unless a major benefactor(s) steps forth (Are you out there?). The cost at the current location is about \$1 million less and new construction would be somewhere in between.

Not everyone will get what they want but, whatever the decision, it is imperative that we all get behind it and support it for the good of the museum. I will--will you?

Warren Macy
President



Poster by Alex C. Asbell

NOBLE & EDITH FRY

-continued

People canned vegetables from their gardens. "I canned over 100 quarts for winter. We all had cows and chickens. Edith says that when she heard about freezers, she just had to have one. She decided to raise turkeys, dress them and sell them to get the money. "I had dressed hundreds of chickens, but a twenty-pound turkey was something else."

The Fry's have lived on their 180-acre farm near Roachdale for 65 years. Besides farming they both have been active in 4-H and Edith in the Homemakers Club. They have been members of the Farm Bureau since 1949 and served in most of the offices.

To find out more about the Fry's and other Putnam County farmers and the changes in agriculture, plan to attend the Bicentennial Exhibit, *It's Always Been About the Land*, which opens September 24th.

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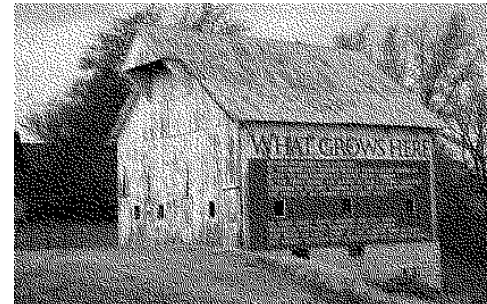
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 Barbara Steinson

BARN PHOTOS BY KEN TORR



275 W 100 S SEC 18 Built ca. 1900. Stone wall basement for cattle. Housed purebred Hampshire swine operation ca. 1950s for Elizabeth Ravidan, publisher of Greencastle Daily Banner. Barn featured in Gwen Gutwein "Barns of Indiana," project.



3921 W 300 S SEC 25 A Hoosier Heritage Farm. Featured in Gwen Gutwein "Barns of Indiana" project. Also on "2012 Barns of Indiana" calendar. Built in ca. 1904 for \$100. Addition to the right of the half closed door was added in 1950's.



400 E 640 N SEC 8, Floyd Twp.



50 W US HWY 40 Putnamville SEC 9, Warren Twp.

WISH LIST

- \$100 Sponsor the Bicentennial Barn Quilt Visit
- \$200 "Welcolme Banner" for building front
- \$70 each, Archival Textile Box, 5 needed
- \$14 each, "Kids Club" signs, 4 needed
- \$90 Box of Sheets Acid Free, Unbuffered Tissue
- \$130 Roll of Acid Free, Unbuffered Tissue

MAJOR DON WILSON FOLLOW-UP:



Major Don Wilson.

Fame found Major Don Wilson of Roachdale. First, the Ernie Pyle WWII Roundtable requested Wilson's appearance at its May meeting in Indianapolis. Ninety-nine-year-old Wilson became an instant celebrity after telling just a portion of his Army and Army Air Corps experiences.

From this experience, Allen Andrews of the Roundtable recruited, Colonel John Brill, a Korean Vet and former cameraman, to video an interview with Wilson. This three-hour interview will be edited and shown at the Roundtable with Wilson present to answer questions. The museum will also have a copy.

Wilson's experience will also appear in a book compiled by Kathryn Lerch, a teacher at Park Tudor. She and her students have compiled seven books of veterans' experiences. All are now in the Library of Congress.

Wilson also was an honored guest at the Mt. Comfort Air Show in June.

Major Don Wilson

