

# BOXSCORE

A publication of the Indiana High School Basketball Historical Society

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## 2007 Issue 2

### IHSBHS Officers

President	John Ockomon	Pendleton	1960
Vice-Pres.	Harley Sheets	Lebanon	1954
Secretary	Gary McGrady	Fountain Central	1982
Treasurer	Rocky Kenworthy	Cascade	1974
Co-Editor	Harley Sheets	Lebanon	1954
Co-Editor	Rocky Kenworthy	Cascade	1974

IHSBHS was founded in 1994 by A.J. Quigley Jr. (1943-1997) and Harley Sheets for the purpose of documenting and preserving the history of Indiana High School Basketball

### Obituary



*Donald Dayton Stuart 64, Danville, passed away April 11, 2007 at the Avon Healthcare Center. He was born on June 16, 1942 in Indianapolis to Wendell Dayton and Fleurange Pratt Stuart. Don retired from the Danville Post Office in 1995 after 35 years of*

*service. As a rural letter carrier, he drove a million miles with no accidents. Mr. Stuart was also a self-employed farmer. An U.S. Army veteran, serving in Vietnam from 1964-65, was Don's first travel experience which he continued throughout his lifetime. He visited several counties and experienced many exotic foods. Don was a member of the Danville American Legion, Rural Carriers Association and the Antique Tractor Club. Don also loved sports especially basketball. He recently donated the old Stilesville High School basketball score board To the Indiana High School Basketball Hall of Fame. Attending auctions and collecting antique tractors were favorite hobbies of his. Don also enjoyed meeting famous people and shook hands with five U.S. Presidents. He be will missed by his many friends.*

Editor's note: Don Stuart had been a lifetime member of IHSBHS for several years. I first met "Stewy" as my rural carrier when he came driving down my driveway one day. I had assumed he had something for me to sign. This wasn't the case. He asked if I was the author of the "Where In The World" book and if I was he wanted to buy one. I answered in the affirmative, knowing darn well he already knew, having viewed the corre-

spondence I had been receiving and sending. I got him one and when he started to pay me, I told him it was a gift, but he had better take good care of my mail and deliver it promptly. As days passed we became good friends.

Don's parents owned a general store in New Winchester where he went to school until the family purchased a farm near the little Hendricks County hamlet of Hadley, a short distance west of Danville. Whenever I introduced him to someone it was as the mayor of Hadley. He finished his schooling at Amo High School. Shortly after IHSBHS had been founded, I was talking to him about it, and he promptly forked over the \$50 lifetime membership fee.

As I got to know "Stewy", I soon learned about his forays to exotic places and his passion for attending funerals of interesting people - Bailey Robertson, Ray Crowe, Larry Bird's mother among others. He knew that I had always wanted to go to Hall, Indiana, John Wooden's birthplace. One day he called and asked if I wanted to go to this hallowed place. Branch McCracken's son Dave had died and was being buried there. It was in the winter and very, very cold but I couldn't resist. When we arrived, I soon realized that it was going to be a tough day. The graveyard set on the east side of Hall on a high bluff. It wasn't only freezing but the wind was blowing at quite a burrurrisk rate. We paid our respects to the McCracken family and I thought we were going to get out of there, post-haste. Not so with "Stewy"! We continued on through the entire proceedings and remained on as he conversed with the twin daughters and everyone else. As the obituary noted, I can see why Don shook the hands of five presidents.

### Message from the President

*Fellow Hoosier High School Basketball fans:*

We need to get back together somewhere in this state and talk Indiana High School Basketball History.

I was disappointed in our turnout in New Castle last December when we offered free tickets to the Hall of Fame Tournament. I hope the only reason was that we didn't give people enough notice. Hopefully we can do it again this year. Plan on it.

Who will host a meeting in the future? Give me a call or email and I will help you set it up.

John Ockomon  
[jonindiana33@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jonindiana33@sbcglobal.net)

### Next Issue

Member Cliff Johnson has submitted a list of proposed basketball rule changes. Cliff played a role in the NCAA's elimination of calling a timeout while falling out-of-bounds this past year, so we look forward to hearing his suggestions.

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Send dues, address changes and stories to IHSBHS, c/o Rocky Kenworthy, 710 E. 800 S, Clayton, IN 46118. E-mail: [volts@indy.net](mailto:volts@indy.net)

All inquiries or notification of error should be directed to co-editor Harley Sheets, 635 S. State Road 39, Danville, IN 46122. E-mail: [harleysheets@yahoo.com](mailto:harleysheets@yahoo.com)

## Great Train Robberies

by Rocky Kenworthy

On a cool Saturday eve early in November, the Knights of the Roundtable had convened court. After further review, court was being held, at a round table, but in actuality those Knights looked suspiciously like Bulldogs. Ex-Monrovia Bulldogs, now farmers, who had descended upon Pongie's Cafe in beautiful downtown Monrovia, moments after their beloved Bulldogs had dropped the 1969-70 basketball season home opener to Patricksburg, 60-58. First item of new business: whether to prod the Monrovia coach (Gary Butcher) and athletic director into protesting the loss. Seems the Monrovia faithful were certain that P'burg coach Lew Scholl had used a player in the waning seconds of the varsity contest, who had exhausted his four-quarters-a-night eligibility in the B-team game. And while the Monrovia scorebook showed P'burg's Mike Salyers playing four JV quarters, Scholl swore up and down that Salyers' brother played one of those quarters instead, saving Mike a varsity quarter. (I asked Scholl about this many years later when I refereed for him at Owen Valley. He maintained his innocence, and I believe him, but let it be said that Scholl's smile would make a Cheshire cat envious, so there's still a sliver of doubt). At any rate, the roundtable couldn't reach a consensus. Some thought since fortunes weren't looking too favorable for this

year's Bulldog quintet, a protest might be the only way to win a game all season. Others thought if this team couldn't beat someone like Patricksburg, they didn't deserve any help anyway. (note: Monrovia administration opted not to protest, the Bulldogs finished 1-19). Even though new business was at a standstill, it spurred the meeting into old business:

*What's the worst shafting you've ever seen on the basketball floor?*

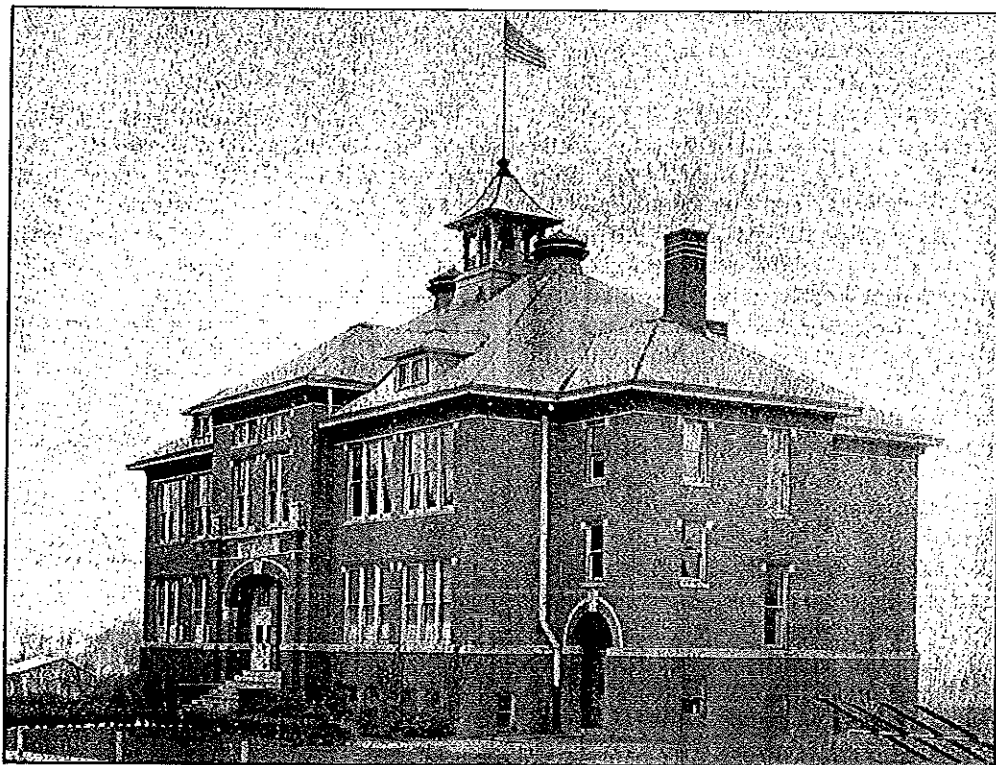
George Watson...."1947 sectional. We had Martinsville on the ropes. We were down 1 in the last minute, had five or six shots that wouldn't go down, and finally Chub Call for us got fouled with just a few seconds left. He missed the free throw, but I got inside and grabbed the rebound right underneath, no one in front of me, just me and the hoop. I went up for the game winner-never been so sure of anything in all my life. Roger Adkins from Martinsville cross-body blocked me, I went flying, and the ball slammed off the rim. No whistle, ref just stares at me and grins, and we lose 35-34."

Marshall Hurt...."1927 sectional. We'd lost Branch [McCracken], but Bob McCloud and Roy Annadell were back from the '26 team, and we were pretty tough again. We played Bloomington on their floor in the sectional. Those two officials never gave us a chance. They made calls against us I ain't never saw again to this day. One of the refs

was B.E. Bayh, Birch's pappy. I never scratched a democrat in my life, until Birch ran for senate-that's what I thought of it. Bill, what about you, you played on that team, wasn't that the worst you've ever seen?"

"Bullet Bill" McCracken (younger brother of Branch)....."Nope. Worst screwin' ever perpetrated occurred in '36. Paragon had that big team that no one could come within 20 points of. They beat our boys really bad in the Mooresville four-way, and then lipped off about it. They didn't know I was refereeing their last game of the year at Gosport. They went into Gosport unbeaten, and they'd beaten Gosport something like 50-5 earlier in the year at Paragon. I put Hubert Bastin and Fred Eudaley [Paragon's stars] on the bench so fast with fouls, their foot powder never got damp. Gosport beat 'em by 1. Eudaley's dad said he'd shoot me if I ever set foot in Paragon. By crackie, Martinsville may have finally stopped them in the sectional, but ol' Bullet Bill cost them an unbeaten season."

Most often, trying to convey how badly your favorite team takes one in the shorts loses most of its steam in translation (save Bullet Bill's prideful account). Do officials actually cheat purposely? Virtually never (save Bullet Bill's wrecking ball, and apparently the recent works of Tim Donaghy). Often it may not even be a shafting (save Bullet Bill again). Although no player, coach, or fan likes to admit, officials study the rule book and case book, and are much savvier rule-wise than John Q. Public. Officiating philosophies, such as advantage-disadvantage, leave a lot to interpretive discretion, which probably causes consternation to people in the stands. Sometimes scorekeepers and clock operators can rile up the waters, and make the officials look bad. It's amazing when you don't have a rooting interest in a game's outcome, the officiating generally appears to be acceptable. One's perceptions seem to get an itsy-bitsy bit more jaded, when it involves your team. Even though Mooresville's George Kopetsky's shot that beat us (Cascade) in 1974 still came two seconds after the horn. Forget what I just said about myopic views of officiating! We were robbed! Following are just a few of the thousands of other perceived "great train robberies" of their day- hopefully they don't lose that much in translation.



Monrovia High School

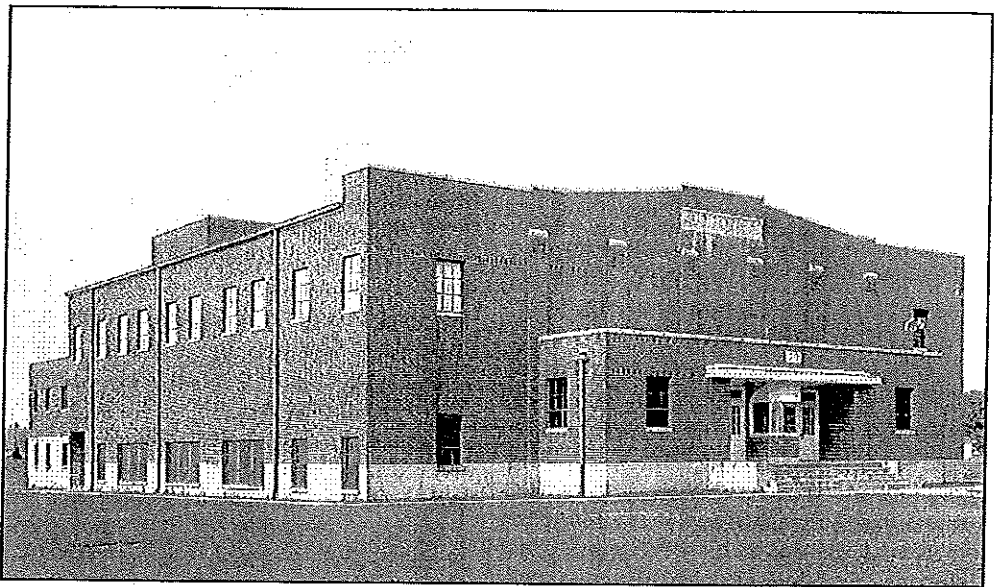
Continued on page 3

### Attica vs. Lafayette Jeff 1980 Lafayette Regional

Even though the IHSAA would now try to convince you otherwise, smaller schools in the greater Lafayette area used to delight in taking their shot at the hated Jeff Bronchos. Such was the case of Attica's Red Ramblers in 1980, which hadn't beaten Lafayette since the regular season opener of 1969. This Rambler edition wasn't a great team (14-11), but did have a terrific competitor in sturdy senior guard Richie Stoll, who later pitched at the University of Michigan, and was the Montreal Expos' first round draft choice in '83. The Ramblers reversed regular-season losses to Fountain Central and Covington to win the sectional, and beat a sub .500 Twin Lakes club in the regional matinee, but the regional final battle with Jeff would stick in Attica fans' craw's for years. An error-free and hot-shooting first half saw Attica take a 39-33 lead at the break, only to have the home-standing Bronchos knot things at 49 after three periods. But Stoll's 13 fourth quarter points put the Ramblers up 69-66, before Jeff's Steve Dixon cut the lead to one with six seconds remaining. During the ensuing timeout, Jeff coach Don Lostutter told the officials his squad was going to try to draw a push-off on Stoll on the inbound. Whether planting the seed had any influence or not, Stoll indeed was charged with a foul when attempting to get open. Scott Swain's resulting two free throws gave the Bronchos a 70-69 regional championship. Attica people were incensed over the perceived phantom call, and any influence Lostutter may have had. TV-18 replays seemed to support their position. Realizing contesting one call had no merit, Attica principal Roy Jones instead submitted a formal protest to the IHSAA, denouncing Lafayette fans' behavior in a thinly veiled attempt to get future regionals moved off of Jeff's floor.

### Monrovia vs. Smithville, 1950 Bloomington Sectional

Apparently the Roundtable Boys didn't have tickets to the Bloomington Sectional in 1950. The Bulldogs caught the short straw again, even gaining sympathy from a Martinsville Reporter headline, "Monrovia Justifiably Says, 'We Wuz Robbed!'" It seems Monrovia's freshman star Tom Fisher (1262 career points + 2) knocked down the opening hoop of the fourth period, to push the Bulldog lead out to 38-33 on the scoreboard. But for some never-



Worthington High School

to-be known reason, the scorekeepers (maybe Eudaley and Bastin?) failed to record the goal in the official book. Midway through the fourth period, a check of the scorebook and scoreboard revealed the discrepancy, and despite coach Bob Moore's vehement protests, Fisher's hoop was taken off the board. Bulldog faithful felt some comfort in the fact that Monrovia still led at this point 42-36, but the Milk of Magnesia moment was coming. Smithville rallied to within one, 43-42. With five seconds remaining, Skibo guard Don Mitchell took an inbound pass, dribbled to mid-court, and underhanded one from the shoestrings that banked in at the gun, giving him his only bucket of the night, and Smithville a 44-43 sectional win. Monrovia fans immediately descended upon the scorer's table, while the Bloomington constabulary descended upon Monrovia fans. No shots were fired (probably because each faction thought the other was better armed), and semi-calm was restored. An official protest registered by Monrovia, fell on deaf ears at the IHSAA. Right or wrong, the official scorebook has always been law.

### Worthington vs. Bloomfield 1971 Switz City Sectional

*Prelude: I made the acquaintances of two nice young ladies, one from Worthington, one from Bloomfield, during my short stay at Oakland City College. These two girls were the best of friends, and big basketball fans. Don't think they ever had a cross word for each other. Except when the subject of this contest came up.*

Bloomfield has stood the test of time as one of the finest small school

programs in Indiana. Although the late Guy Glover's troops won regionals in '61 and '65, and won 20 or more games eight times in his 23 seasons at Bloomfield, he called the '71 crew his best ever. Four starters returned from the 1970 regional finalists, including high-scoring Rick Long (22.6), and a stout front line. But the combination of a well-executed control game by a 17-4 Worthington club, combined with ice-cold shooting from the Cardinals put this sectional semi-final into overtime. Big Jerrill Vandeventer's hoop put Bloomfield up, 43-42, with only 17 ticks left in overtime. After a timeout, Worthington's Dave Buckley canned an 18-footer, and a few seconds later the gun fired, as Worthington fans stormed the court in premature joy. However Bloomfield had called timeout, and three seconds were put back on the clock. At least, kind of. On the inbounds, Rick Hudson heaved a long baseball pass to the forecourt, where 6-5 Jeff Farmer caught, turned and fired, and hit nothing but net, as Bloomfield fans went bananas. But an itchy trigger finger shot Bloomfield right out of the state tournament. The Switz City timer got a bit antsy, and fired the starter's pistol too quickly, and a bit ahead of Farmer's release. Some neutral observers said one second was on the clock when the pistol fired, a few thought he got confused and fired it as soon as Farmer caught the pass-but even as such, the officials back then had no choice but to go by the gun, and disallow the basket. To add insult to injury, a Linton team who was 3-19 going into the tournament, took the sectional trophy, beating Worthington, 56-52 in the final.

*Continued on page 4*

### Morton Memorial vs. Milan 1953 Rushville Regional

Part of the Mighty Men of Milan's success in 1954 had to be attributable to their final four run in 1953. Oh, but for a kind twist of fate, things could have been different, and maybe Bobby Plump really would be back in Pierceville pumping gas today. The '53 regional matchup between the 20-4 Indians vs. the 23-2 Morton Memorial Tigers created what was called the "biggest rhubarb in the 28 years of regional tournaments here", by the Rushville Republican. After a close three periods of play, Morton, behind the firing of 6-2 Roy Wheeler, finally got some separation, leading 45-36 with two minutes to play. At the 1:17 mark, the Rushville timekeeper fell asleep at the switch. A tape recording of the broadcast showed 27 seconds of playing time elapsed, before the clock moved off of 1:17. As Morton was cracking (8 errors in the final stanza) against the Milan press, the additional near half-minute gave the Indians even more opportunity. Milan scored four points in the final 16 seconds of regulation, including Ray Craft's fielder at the gun, to forge a 49-all tie. After matching hoops in the first overtime, Bobby Plump's two free throws in the sudden-death second overtime sent Milan on an eventual path to immortality, with a 53-51 win. Although they had no hand in the snafu, a "Milan Cheats Orphans" flick probably would have had a similar fate as "Lassie Kills Chickens" at the box office. "Hoosiers" was probably a better idea.

### Cascade vs. North Putnam, 1980

This was a surprisingly heated rivalry that started from scratch, because Cascade's early teams never scheduled any of the schools Bainbridge, Roachdale, or Russellville, who consolidated to form North Putnam. But for a little over a decade, for some reason there was about as much bad blood as you could get between two schools. I'm a '74 Cascade grad, and could never explain the mutual hatred, but it was sure present. Fights, ejections, even shoe-throwing (you had to be there), and general mayhem was pretty much a guarantee at any of these games. Former NP coach Jim Sharp taking the reins at Cascade in '78, added a little Sterno to the fire. Everything came to a head in the 1980 game. North Putnam marched into Cascade with a big, talented 8-0 club that had yet to be tested, and had some visions of an unbeaten

season. 6-1 Cascade had a squad that was short on size, but long on quickness and heart. The first half went fairly innocuously. Two technical fouls, and 26 personal fouls, both hefty numbers, but pretty typical for these fiascos, and the Cadets had a 32-31 halftime lead. But the Cougars began using their size advantage, and began to pull away in the third canto. A Recco Rooker steal and breakaway looked like it might put the Cadets further on the ropes. Instead it lit a long-burn fireworks fuse. Rooker was a terrific leaper, and opted to go way above the rim, and just drop it through. The officials wiped off the hoop, saying that Rooker carried the ball into the imaginary cylinder of the rim, thus creating basket-interference on his own shot. A few moments later, the Cougars David McGaughey grabbed a defensive board, feinted, and got kicked in the face by a faked-out Cadet defender. Whistle-offensive foul, McGaughey. Even as the Cougar faithful felt the fix was taking shape, Cascade couldn't take advantage, as NP led by 12 with two minutes left. A Cascade kamikaze press forced some NP turnovers, and more than a handful of questionable calls put the Cadets back in the hunt. With 22 seconds left, and the game tied, the Cadets took one out of the football playbook. With McGaughey dribbling against pressure, one Cadet hit him high, the other hit him low, and sent McGaughey to the hardwood. Traveling on McGaughey. It was at this point, that the North Putnam radio announcers (one of which was a high school referee) were so incensed that the studio opted to pull the plug before encountering a hefty FCC fine. With six seconds left, Rick Daugherty's 10-footer gave Cascade a 55-53 lead. With no timeouts left, NP hurriedly inbounded to McGaughey, who lofted up a 55 footer, which appeared to have a chance, as the trail official was windmilling his arm to count the final shot if it went. But was it the final shot? Though the ball hit off the glass, wide right, the leaping Rooker raced in and jammed the ball down before?...at?...after? the horn, depending on your point of view. All North Putnam fans could see was an unsuspecting trail official still signaling McGaughey's good-if-it-goes attempt even as Rooker released. When the officials congregated at the scorer's table and after a minute of deliberation, disallowed the basket, Cougar fans knew they'd been had. Fights broke out in the stands, and school officials and law officers had their hands full. In recalling

this game a few years back with a former North Putnam player (I gave him 20 years to cool off), he had this to say. "For all intents and purposes, that game ended the rivalry. Before that we used to lay awake at night thinking of ways to mess with you guys. But hell, there was no way we were ever going to top that screwing."

### Bainbridge vs. Cloverdale, 1967

Arguably this may well have been the biggest regular season game, between two of the best teams, to ever be played in Putnam County. Cloverdale, fresh off their '66 Final Four team, reloaded with future Indiana All-Star Rick Ford, John Truax and 6-6 Reelsville transfer Joe Williams up front, and quick guards Dave Nees and Jim Coon. Bainbridge returned most of their '66 Regional champ crew including future NBA stalwart 6-5 Larry Steele and 6-4 scoring ace Ronnie Rossok. To get better focus of how stacked these two 1967 teams were, Cloverdale won their other regular season contests by an average of 25 points, Bainbridge by 32. The game was moved to Greencastle's uptown gym, which was no palace, but seated 2400 fans, about 1800 more than Bainbridge's homey facility. As it was, hundreds were turned away. Those fortunate enough to get a seat still aren't certain who truly won. The controversy began with 4:14 remaining, and Cloverdale leading 64-58. Bainbridge's Rossok dropped in two foul shots, to cut the lead to four. At least that's what four sportswriters, including the *Indianapolis Star's* Max Stultz, and most Pointer fans saw. Only one point was tallied on the scoreboard. As it stood, Bainbridge got within one on five separate occasions after the alleged gaffe, but Pointer Gary Judy's long bomb in the waning seconds still left Bainbridge one short at the buzzer, 72-71. The two scorebooks somehow jibed with the scoreboard, but you can still find many disbelievers in Bainbridge today. Cloverdale went on to fashion an unbeaten regular season, beating Bainbridge a second time in the county tournament, 85-76. Bainbridge was never tested aside from the two Cloverdale losses. Both teams met bitter post season fate. Cloverdale lost in a sectional upset to Brazil, while Bainbridge suffered a narrow semi-state defeat to Lafayette Jeff's eventual state runner-up. Fans of both Putnam County schools will tell you those two contests were great train robberies in their own right.



## The Buccaneers of Mt. Comfort

by Harley Sheets

As a teenager I spent a lot of time in Hancock County. My mother's younger sister (Katherine) had married William Woods, uncle to James Woods, the actor, presently starring in "Shark" on CBS. Uncle Bill and Aunt Kay obtained jobs at Chrysler and Western Electric, located on the west side of Indianapolis, and moved to Mt. Comfort to be nearer to their work. My remembrance of the tiny community was one of commonality. What I didn't know until years later was that Mt. Comfort High School (MCHS) had produced some pretty darn good basketball teams in the 20s and 30s.

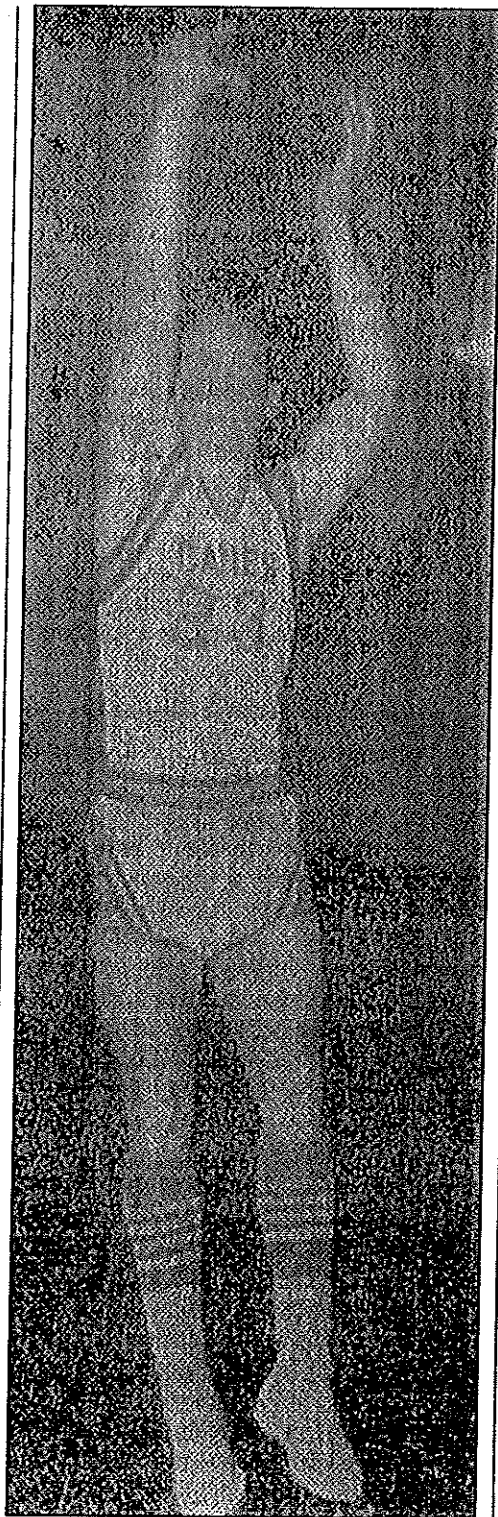
I remember the school, a grocery store and a few houses. The school's gym was not impressive. As I recall, it had four rows of bleachers on each side with a stage at one end. I saw one game (MCHS vs. McCordsville). The quality of play, in my opinion, left something to be desired. Henceforth, I never considered Mt. Comfort as anything other than a small school also-ran.

Because my maternal grandparents were somewhat nomadic, my mother's youngest brother lived with Uncle Bill and Aunt Kay and graduated from MCHS in 1955. Bill and Kay's oldest son, Mickey, was a varsity starter as a freshman in 1956. The next year, my connection with Mt. Comfort ended. The Woodses pulled up stakes and moved to Florida, where cousin Mickey became a three-year starter for the Gainesville Purple Hurricanes and as a senior was a Florida All-Star selection. Thus, the fond memories of Mt. Comfort faded into the recesses of my mind.

### Getting Reconnected

In 1980, after a 12-year absence, I returned to Indiana. It wasn't long before I started hearing about the Mt. Comfort Air Show. Also, when traveling east on I-70, out of Indianapolis, I would see the Mt. Comfort exit. These occasions certainly jogged my memory. One time, I took the exit but saw no details that I could recall. Recently, I had to go to Wilkinson, another small Hancock County community, to purchase a radiator for my Ford tractor.

On my way home, I took the back roads and guess what? I saw a sign pointing toward Mt. Comfort. I went in the direction it pointed. I asked a resident about the school. The lady pointed me toward the elementary school, now part of the Mt. Vernon School Corp., along with



Mickey Woods

Mt. Comfort's loss was Gainesville's gain

McCordsville and Fortville. The principal informed me that the old high school had stood at the same location, then directed me to the end of the hall, where some MCHS memorabilia had been preserved in 3x4 swinging frames - senior class collages along with some great pictures of outstanding Buccaneer basketball teams. I was elated to see some community history preserved. Many small schools were

not shown the same consideration when consolidations took place.

### A "Good" Beginning For The Buccaneers

In May of 1918, as World War I was drawing to a close, the students of Buck Creek Township were presented with a new school house. Shortly thereafter, the Volstead Act initiated the 18th Amendment, which ushered in Prohibition (1920-33). This era in U.S. history, to a great extent, was somewhat auspicious. The war termed to be "the War to end all wars" was thought at the time to be a harbinger of world peace for all time. The Industrial Revolution had brought about great prosperity. The advent of motorized vehicles and other modes of transportation, such as the great ships, the railroads and airplanes had made it possible to travel to new and exotic vistas. Wall Street was as bullish as it had ever been. But as the 30s neared, the Stock Market Crash sent the country into a tailspin from which it never fully recovered until the advent of World War II. It was during these tumultuous times that the Mt. Comfort Buccaneers stood tall.

The initiator of MCHS's basketball program was James B. Good and, as you will see, JAMES B. succeeded in being better than GOOD. His first sectional trophies were obtained in 1923 and '24. The '23 team registered a 21-3 regular season record. Their three losses were to Carmel by 12, Cumberland by one and to Eden (15-26) in the county tourney. With two starters out with the flu, the Carmel loss was still avenged in the last game of the season. With influenza still a problem, the team managed to claim sectional honors and, in the process, avenged another loss by topping Eden, 28-18.

In the regional at Purdue, with the flu a continuing problem, the Bucs were able to dispose of Covington 30-21, but were no match for Perrysville in the championship game, losing by 20. Starters were Emerson Dillman, Kenneth Evans, John Hurley, Armin Kleiman and Ward Stoner. The overall slate was not too shabby at 25-4.

The 1924 Bucs repeated as sectional champs and, in the process, avenged one of their three regular season losses by beating Wilkinson. The other two losses were to Center Grove by seven and Warren Central by one. In the regional at Earlham College in Richmond they were no match for Anderson, losing by 16. Their final tab, an outstanding 23-5.

*Continued on page 6*

### Late 20s, Early 30s

This period saw the demise of silent films in which many Hoosiers had excelled - Monte Blue (Indianapolis) raised in the Soldiers and Sailors Orphanage near Knightstown (currently Morton Memorial); Louise Dresser (Evansville), who married Jack Norworth, who collaborated with Hoosier Harry VonTilzer in publishing "Take Me Out To The Ballgame"; Louise Frazenda who married Hal B. Wallis, producer of "Casablanca", rated the top movie of all time; Valeska Suratt (Owensville), the original "Gibson Girl," who was billed as "The Dynamic Force of Vaudeville" and who Variety Magazine labled "One of the Two Wonders of Vaudeville"; Buck Jones (Vincennes), termed by many as "The Greatest Cowboy Of All", who lost his life in Boston's Coconut Grove conflagration in 1942 at the peak of his career. Other cowboys were Ken and Kermit Maynard (Vevay) and the first two Tarzans, Elmo Lincoln (Rochester) and "Babe" Pierce (Freedom). All but Suratt and Lincoln bridged the gap between the silent and talking genres.

Even though the country was unknowingly headed for a fall, things in 1928 still looked mighty GOOD in Mt. Comfort. Prohibition may have been the law, but Al Capone and his contemporaries were distributing their illegal potions throughout the nation and vacationing at the French Lick-West Baden Resort, the flappers were doing the Charleston, money was flowing, and the "Roaring 20s" were in vogue. In Hancock County, Ind., so were the MCHS Buccaneers!

### Three Consecutive Sectionals

For a school whose graduating classes numbered in the eight to ten range through out the tenure of the school, one may have thought that the '23 team would have been the best it would ever produce. Not so when we take a look at MCHS's 1928 edition. This team's starters consisted of four seniors - Cecil Barnard, Paul Cly, Paul Maynard, Robert Hall and junior Jason Steele. These Bucs were in junior high in '23 and '24 when MCHS won its first two sectionals and had more than likely been interested witnesses. Then in their initial days of varsity competition, they had taken their lumps as Greenfield dominated the Hancock sectional in '25, '26 and '27, but this year (1928), as upper classmen, they were not to be denied.

There were a couple of glitches in the regular season. Major among them was a 19 point loss to a big and talented Wilkinson squad on Feb. 12. That was corrected two weeks later in the sectional, 36-31. In the title game, the Bucs easily disposed of Greenfield, 33-22. The other two wins came at the expense of Eden (54-17) and Fortville (31-21), the team that had eliminated them in 1927.

This team could have been marquee'd as the Paul and Paul Show. Paul Cly at center and Paul Maynard at forward scored 55 and 49 points respectively in the four sectional wins - a lot of points for this period. Cly, Maynard and back-guard Cecil Barnard were tabbed all-sectional first five. Now standing at 19-3 they prepared for the regional. The question now. Are these Buccaneers the real McCoy or did they win a weak sectional? Let's see.

### The 1928 Muncie Regional

The Pauls scored 20 of MCHS's 28 points in an 11-point victory over Winchester, pitting them against Muncie, a 23-17 winner over New Castle. This Muncie team featured Charles Secrist, a future Hall of Famer. Although they had dominated a very weak sectional, their regular season schedule was a different story. Only three teams (Brazil, Frankfort and Lebanon) would be below today's 4A classification. Their only two losses were to Logansport by 2 and Vincennes by 6. Mt. Comfort's regular season schedule was not to be sneezed at, and they had played in what seemed to be a much tougher sectional. However, the regional was in Muncie, and most didn't give the Buccaneers a chance. It's doubtful that anyone who witnessed this game is alive today so let's let the Greenfield Reporter in the "Phoul Line Philosophy" column of March 12, 1928, describe this game played between the small but mighty Buccaneers and the eventual 1928 state champions.

*Three times in three years the Bearcats have had what was generally conceded to be a state championship ball team and twice in that time they have seen their hopes hanging in the balance at the hands of comparatively little known aggregations from the Greenfield sectional. Greenfield defeated Muncie in 1926, and in 1928 Mt. Comfort gives them the run of their lives and had the fans sitting with their hearts in their mouths. This final game should eliminate any remaining doubt as to the quality of*

*this Mt. Comfort Buccaneer team. Any bunch of boys who can accept the handicap of working against a center of the height and calibre of Secrist of Muncie, who played and out-fought the tall boys and led them for more than half the game is a real credit to themselves, their coach and their school.*

*The saddest part is they didn't win. Just one little break, just one little bit of good fortune and the team would have tucked a ticket to the brand new Butler Fieldhouse into their vest pockets, tied Winchester and Muncie scalps to their belts and have been long gone to glory.*

*Coach J. B. Good and his boys won themselves everlasting credit. There is no question but that this 1928 edition of Buccaneers take their place among the two or three outstanding quintettes this county has produced.*

### 1929 and 1930

Before leaving for Hartford City in 1931, James B. Good continued his sectional success with two more titles in '29 and '30. Although only one starter remained from '28, the '29 team defeated New Palestine for the 1929 sectional championship, 22-18. They were then demolished in the regional by Middletown, 34-19. However, 1930 was a different story. After another stellar regular season the team was a close replica of the 1928 Bucs. After winning the sectional championship game from Greenfield and their afternoon regional game versus Union City (25-19), they again had to play the Muncie Bearcats in Muncie losing, 22-28.

The Mt. Comfort Buccaneer teams of this era are some examples of many small school programs that produced solid teams but played on many, many occasions under adverse and unadvantageous conditions, such as having to play in the towns/gyms of the much larger schools. This is why Phil Hoose in his book, "Hoosiers— The Fabulous Basketball Life of Indiana", was able to pen these astute and profound words:

*Sectionals were intense mythic events where martyrs fell and heros emerged. Losses were seeping wounds that festered in coffee shops all summer long. These sectionals were organized basically at the county level, and in Indiana counties typically amounted to several hamlets connected by pure rancor to the local Kremlin, the county seat. The litany of complaints against the county*

*Continued on page 7*

seat became a part of Indiana's special script. It was common knowledge in the provinces that the school in the county seat, almost continually, had the following advantages: (1) the homecourt in the sectional, (2) a roster full of players who should have been going to other schools and (3) a network of grade school teams that would shame the New York Yankees farm system.

But before this story ends, the Bucs took one more stab at immortality.

### 1934

Success breeds opportunity. Hartford City came-a-callin' and JAMES B. bid GOODbye to Mt. Comfort. His replacement in 1931 is unknown, but in 1932, after winning the Montgomery County sectional in '31 with Wingate, Harry "Penny" Ray took the reigns at MCHS. He was a 1917 Newtown and 1921 Purdue grad. He had previously coached at Hillsboro and Covington before his stint at Wingate. He had entered Purdue as a student the same year "Piggy" Lambert had gone there as a coach, so he no doubt knew something about basketball. His first two years yielded nothing, but evidently lessons were learned, because this '34 group had developed into another strong contender.

Although I was not able to completely verify the team's record, this much I do know. They got off to a good start but in the middle of the season Maxwell pummeled them 36-18. Shortly thereafter, Fortville who ended their regular season at 18-2, squeezed out two wins by 1 and 2 point margins. But the Bucs turned things around by becoming Hancock County tourney champs, with victories over Maxwell (36-24), Fortville (15-12) and New Palestine (23-11). They then concluded the regular season with five more wins and one loss coming at the hands of St. Anne, an Illinois community located equidistant between Kankakee, Illinois and Morocco, Indiana. In 1933 St. Anne had won 25 of 27 games and came to Mt. Comfort with 15 straight wins, but they next went to Summitville and the Goblins got'em 22-18. My best guess is that these Buccaneers entered the sectional at 19-4 or 18-4. Maxwell's star player was a lad named Grinstead who had been injured after they had badly beaten MCHS early in the season. He evidently never fully recuperated and Mt. Comfort won the sectional by beating Maxwell in the final game 17-11. Their other two wins were 40-25 over

McCordsville and 42-15 over Charlottesville.

Here again we can see the Phil Hoose scenario portrayed. The Bucs must now go to the regional and play big city Anderson on their home floor. In the first half MCHS's best player Roudebush, their big center took 11 shots and hit none. Anderson led 12-5 at the half and 17-5 at the end of three quarters. Game over, right? Not hardly! The Buccaneers evidently got over their jitters and started to play their game, and with shades of 1928, had the spectators sitting on the edge of their seats. But the big deficit was too much to overcome, as the Bucs succumbed 21-17, thus bringing to an end their small town dynasty that had a GOOD beginning when JAMES B. came to MCHS in the 1919-20 school year.

As irony would have it, Mr. Good had won a sectional every year in his tenure at Hartford City since leaving Mt. Comfort. But this year his Airdales went all the way to the final 8 (one of only three times that H.C. went this far in the history of the school), bowing to Logansport the eventual state champs. The same thing had happened to J.B. against Muncie in 1928. Mr. Good must have been something else as he had handled, not only the coaching chores, but had been principal at both schools.

Maybe we'll have more on James B. Good and Harry "Penny" Ray, later.

Names that adorned the roster of this exceptional MCHS team were starter seniors Gerald Roudebush, Dale Brock, Wayne Sparks, Dale Scott and junior Dennis Kingen. Others were Paul Sparks, Leroy Brown, John Kingen, Ken Ostermeyer, Fred Neimann and Woodrow Merchant.

In conclusion, after talking with several people from Mt. Comfort, besides the school, there were two groceries, a fire station, a canning factory and an elevator, in this community that's now the air show capitol of Indiana, but at one time in a Indiana, a small school basketball phenomenon.



Mt. Comfort High School  
1918-1963

### School Namesakes

The last issue of the *Boxscore* had a call to members to submit information on the namesakes of Indiana schools.

Here are the results:

From member Tim Puet:

**Roncalli:** Named for the late Pope John XXII, whose given name was Angelo Roncalli.

**Ind. Ritter:** Named for Cardinal Ritter, archbishop of Indianapolis from 1934 to 1946.

**Marion Bennett:** Named for bishop John G. Bennett, first bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Lafayette, who served from 1944 to his death in 1957.

**Andrean:** Named for Bishop Andrew Grutka, the first bishop of the Diocese of Gary, who served from 1957 until his retirement in 1984.

**Madison Shawe:** Named for Father Michael Shawe, who came to Madison in 1839. The school website describes him as Indiana's first Catholic priest.

**Vincennes Rivet:** Named for father Jean Francis Rivet, a pioneer missionary from France who served at Vincennes.

**Evansville Bosse:** Named for long-time Evansville Mayor Benjamin Bosse.

**Muncie Burris:** Named for Dr. Benjamin Burris, dean of the teachers college at Ball State at the time the high school was founded as a laboratory school for BSU.

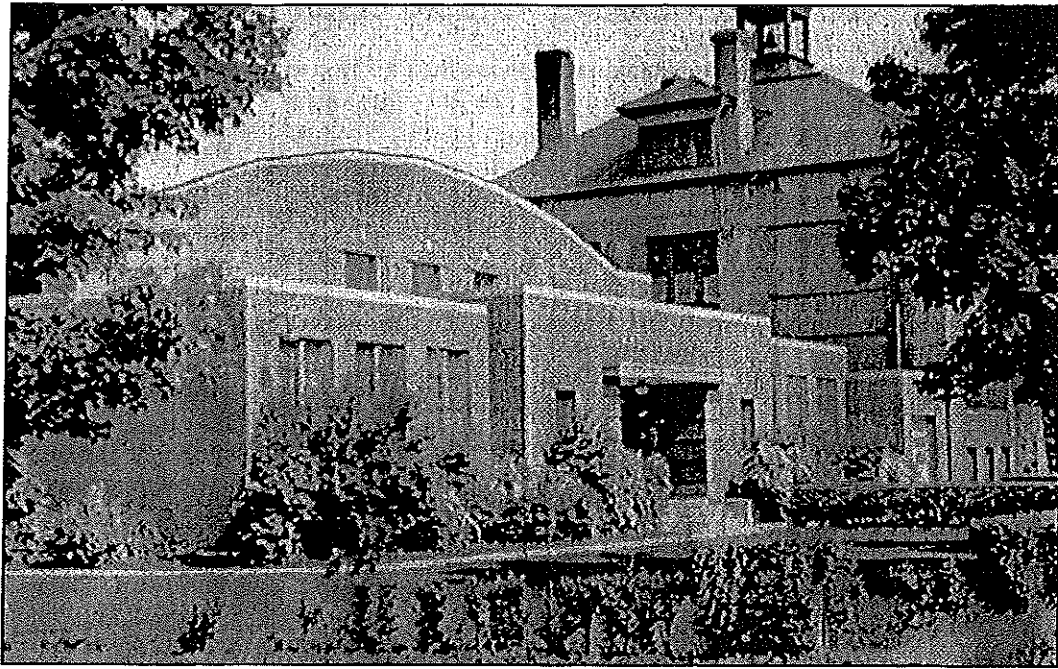
**Terre Haute Gerstmeier:** Named for Dr. Charles Gerstmeier, described in a Terre Haute Tribune-Star ad series on Indiana history, sponsored by the Terre Haute First National Bank, as "Indiana's pioneer promoter of vocational education."

From member Dean Monroe:

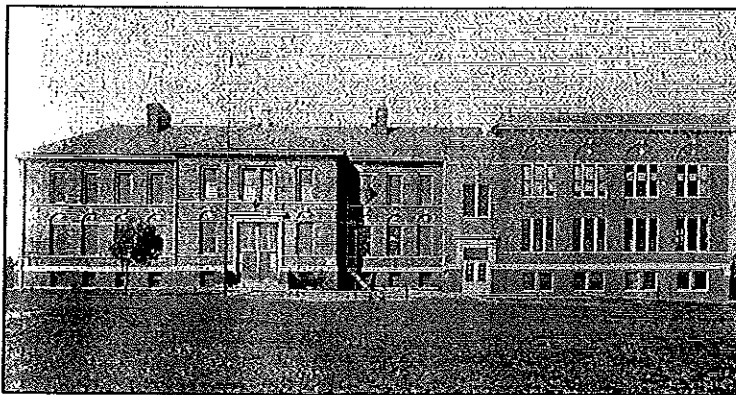
**I.P. Gray:** The alumni of the school published a book which states: "The new school was to be named in honor of Isaac Pusey Gray, the 19th governor of Indiana. There seems to be no record as to why Gray was chosen, however, in view of his achievements during his lifetime it seems to be fitting that his name be given to an institution of learning."

Please continue to submit any namesake information.





IHSBHS Mystery Photo



Previous Issue Mystery Photo

No one guessed last issue's Mystery Photo which was Colfax High School in Clinton County.

Each issue of the *Boxscore* features a school photo (usually from the postcard collection of Harley Sheets) for members to attempt to identify. Any person who correctly names the gym or school pictured will win a copy of Harley's "Where in the World" book, which lists all consolidations as of 1983.

Send guesses and/or information to:  
 vols@indy.net

or  
 IHSBHS Mystery Photo  
 710 E. 800 S  
 Clayton, IN 46118

**Old School Database**

IHSBHS has decided to undertake the task of compiling a list of the current status of our old schools/gyms.

Please send any info to Rocky at vols@indy.net

Here is an example of the information we're looking for:

School	Approx. Year Built	Status
Perry Central (gym only)	1932	business
Van Buren Twp. (Clay)	1954	school
Richland Twp. (gym only)	1942	falling
Pinnell	1928	vacant
Stilesville (gym only)	1931	vacant
Michigantown (gym only)	1928	civic center
Veedersburg (gym only)	1924	civic center
Kingman	1937	rec center
Dover	1933	vacant
Lebanon (gym)	1931	rec center
Crawfordsville (gym)	1942	rec center
Brownsburg (Varsity Gym)	1958	rec center
Moral Twp.	1923	gone (burnt)
Tangier	1918	gone
Bridgeton	1920	business
Chill	1925	residence
Kitchel (gym only)	1935	civic center
Quincy (gym only)	1936	storage

**IHSBHS Challenge**

Teams with the most consecutive winning seasons:

Lafayette Jeff	1943-1982	40*
Jeffersonville	1966-2004	39
Marion	1965-2002	38
Loogootee	1959-1991	33
Barr-Reeve	1976-2003	28
Bedford North Lawrence	1976-2003	28
Richmond	1966-1993	28
Ben Davis	1977-2003	27
Terre Haute South	1972-1998	27
Anderson	1973-1998	26
Whitko	1972-1996	25
Seymour	1952-1976	25
Manchester	1976-1999	24
Gary Roosevelt	1950-1973	24
Lafayette Central Catholic	1985-current	23

\* Incomplete records before 1943

Send any corrections / additions to: vols@indy.net