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Mooresville's Treasure Trove (September 2020)

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Mooresville Newspapers

Since its founding in 1824, Mooresville, Indiana has had several local newspapers, including:

- The *Mooresville Chronicle* (1846-1849);
- The *Mooresville Enterprise* (originally named the *Vindicator*) (1869/1870-1874);
- The *Mooresville Herald* (1874-1880);
- The *Mooresville Monitor* (1880-1889; 1915-1917);
- The *Mooresville Guide* (1889-1905);
- The *Mooresville Times* (later, *Mooresville-Decatur Times*) (1905-present).

In 1846, Mooresville's first newspaper, *The Chronicle*, was founded by Thomas J. Worth. Four years later, Worth moved the paper to Martinsville, renaming it the *Morgan County Gazette*.

The *Mooresville Vindicator* was established in 1869 or 1870 by Lang & Weil. Three weeks after it began publishing, Lang & Weil sold the paper to E. H. Dorland and Benjamin Dakin, who retitled it *The Enterprise*. In 1871, *The Enterprise* was purchased by P. T. Macy and edited by James H. Burke and A. W. Macy. Charles S. McNichols bought the paper in 1873 or 1874, naming Riggs McNichols editor. Upon McNichols' failure to make payments, P. T. Macy repossessed the paper in 1874, reinstating Burke as editor, and renaming it *The Herald*. Macy sold *The Herald* to Burke, who resold it to E. F. Tennant in 1877. A stock company purchased it in 1880, retitling it *The Monitor*, and then reselling it promptly to A. W. Macy around 1881, who then almost immediately resold it to W. A. Hunt that same year. Levi E. Ballard served as editor during the 1880s. O. H. Mundy bought the business in 1889, changing its name to *The Guide*.

Ballard bought *The Guide* from Mundy around 1893, selling it to W. H. Sage in 1894. On January 16, 1905, *The Guide* became *The Times*, with that title being retained for most of the 20th century. Today, the paper is called *The Mooresville-Decatur Times*.

The second *Monitor* was published between 1915-1917 by J. H. Stephenson, competing with *The Times* for a brief period.

The Times changing ownership is best represented by bullet points:

- W. H. Sage (*The Guide*, 1894-1905; *The Times*, 1905-1929);
 - T. Jeff Wright (partner) (1905-1906);
 - Fay Jackson (shareholder) (1917);
- S. L. Walls (1929-1930);
- C. C. Davis & G. H. Davis (1930);
- R. B. Pickard (1930);
- Everett Moore & Margaret S. Moore (1933- 1937);
- James L. Richardson (1937-1946)
- Richard R. Dodd (1946-1948);
- Hahn-Bennett Company (Mr. & Mrs. Phil Bennett & Miss Marjorie Hahn) (1948-1953);
- S. M. Johnson & R. M. Johnson (1953-1954), with their daughter, Helen J. Lilly, as editor;
- Robert F. Adams & Margaret R. Adams (1954-1970);
- The Reporter Publishing Company (Martinsville), which became the Reporter-Times Corporation (1970-*fl.* 1980).

Top players for *The Times* during the 1970s included:

- Wilber Kendall, president (1970-1977);
- Robert S. Kendall, president (1977- *fl.* 1980);
- Mark C. Kendall, publisher (1977- *fl.* 1980);
- Robert Adams, shareholder & editor (1970-1971);
- Randy Haymaker, editor (1971- *fl.* 1980).

Forgotten among the published Mooresville histories was another newspaper, the *Mooresville Midget*, published during the early 1900s until 1917 by local photographer Jarvis P. Calvert.

SOURCES:

Miller, John W. (1982). *Indiana Newspaper Bibliography*. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, pp. 329-330.

Richardson, Clara S. (1974). *A Brief History of Mooresville, Indiana, 1824-1974*. Mooresville: Dickinson Printing Company, pp. 56-57.

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