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*Mooreville's Treasure Trove #4 (August 2009)*

*Bill Buckley, Indiana Room Librarian*

*Then . . . and Now*

**Historic Mooreville, IN Scenes and Places**

**Taken from the Past and Brought into the Present**

**Then.... The Lindley Block**

**FRED J. LINDLEY**  
WILL DEDICATE HIS NEW BUSINESS BLOCK  
**SAT., OCT. 7, 1905.**  
The building will be occupied by  
MANKER'S CIGAR and TOBACCO STORE.  
WRIGHT'S BARGAIN STORE.  
PARR'S UP-TO-DATE BARBER SHOP.  
PLUMBER'S PHOTOGRAPH GALLERY.  
HAWLEY'S TAILORING ROOMS.  
GOOD MUSIC by LOBRICO, the HARPIST  
**EVERYBODY COME**



**Figure 1:** The Lindley Block (1905-1925) as it appeared *circa* 1910s. Ed Harvey operated the sandwich wagon, from which he served various delights, including fried brain sandwiches. *Courtesy of the Mooresville Public Library, Indiana Room Photograph Collection (Donated by Rebecca Romine Hardin from a print originally owned by Mrs. K. A. Paul).*

**Figure 1A:** Advertisement in the Friday, October 6, 1905 edition of the *Mooresville Times*, announcing the dedication of Fred J. Lindley's new business block. *Courtesy of the Mooresville Public Library, Indiana Room Historical File Collection.*

The Lindley Block was a white building on the southwest corner of the Main St.-Indiana St. intersection in downtown Mooresville. Fred J. Lindley dedicated the building on October 7, 1905. Like today's "mini-malls," it housed several businesses, including a tobacconist, bargain store, barber shop, photography studio, and tailor. The photo shows Ed Harvey's sandwich wagon parked along Indiana Street. Harvey served various concoctions, including ice cream, flavored sodas, hamburgers, hot dogs, ham sandwiches, and his specialty, deep-fried brain sandwiches. Harvey sold the wagon to Hal Kitchen and moved to Peoria, IL in 1920. [FN 1]

On Sunday, December 27, 1925, at approximately 3:00 A.M., the Lindley Block burned to the ground. Two Indianapolis fire units and all of Mooresville's fire fighters, who nearly froze in the minus-17 degree temperatures, battled the blaze for 16 hours. [FN 2]

At the time of the fire, the second floor was used for offices and apartments. The first floor housed various businesses, including Wadley Creamery Co., Milhon's Watch Shop, Mrs. Lyon's Millinery, Bill Woods' Barbershop, and Kroger Grocery. William Moore's Pool Room was located in the basement. [FN 3] Fred Cooper's Jewelry Store had operated on the corner before Mrs. Lyon's Millinery. Around 1918 the "House of Hadley," a cleaning, pressing, and laundry service, was situated along the Indiana Street side of the building, which is shown with awnings in the photo on page one. In about 1920 Hadley sold his business to Mr. Shaw, who renamed it The Toggery Shop. Shaw then resold it to C. K. "Crump" Marley, who ran the business during 1921-22 or so. [FN4] H.A. Culbertson is listed as proprietor of The Toggery Shop in the 1923 *White Lick Review*, the Mooresville High School Yearbook. [FN 5] Nick Banos owned a small candy store in the Block before the fire. He later moved to Franklin, Indiana where he opened the Franklin Candy Kitchen. [FN6]



Figure 2. South Indiana Street, looking across the intersection of Main and Indiana Streets, during the 1910s. The Lindley Block is on the right.



Figure 2A. Looking toward East Main Street (and the intersection of Main and Indiana Streets) from West Main Street. The arrow marks the Lindley Block.

# MOORESVILLE TIMES.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF MOORESVILLE AND COMMUNITY

MOORESVILLE, INDIANA, FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 1936.

NU

## LINDLEY BLOCK DESTROYED BY FIRE

The Lindley building a two story frame structure at the corner of Main and Indiana streets in the center of the business district of Mooresville was discovered on fire about three o'clock Sunday morning. The building was heated by steam and it is thought an overheated boiler in the basement started the fire.

The local fire department responded promptly to the alarm, but soon found that it would be unable to control the fire, which spread rapidly. A telephone call was sent to the Indianapolis fire department for assistance. Two fire trucks, fully manned, were sent and made the eighteen mile run in twenty-two minutes. The cold was intense and the city firemen facing a bitter west wind, suffered greatly on the trip. The two fire departments working together succeeded in confining the fire to the Lindley building and prevented the destruction of adjoining property. The Carlisle block on the west and the Hadley block on the South, both brick buildings, were damaged by water and broken windows.

The cold was so severe that Fire Chief O'Brien of Indianapolis sent a second crew of firemen to relieve those that had made the first trip.

Many here believe that only the work of the Indianapolis firemen kept the entire city from burning.

Mrs. Mary Waitz, a tenant in the Lindley building, was carried from the burning structure in an unconscious condition by her son William Waitz.

Dr. Charles L. Aker and F. J. Lindley, owner of the building, who were sleeping in the second story escaped hurriedly. Dr. Aker lost all of his office equipment and household furniture. Mr. Lindley lost the furniture of his apartment, in addition to the building. The ground floor business rooms were occupied by the Kroger grocery, W. C. Woods, barber shop and Schlosser Bros.' cream station. The basement was occupied by Wm. Moore's restaurant and pool room. The building and contents were all almost completely destroyed.

The total loss is estimated at \$20,000 which only partially covered by insurance.

An ample supply of water with high fire pressure was furnished by the Mooresville water works.

The business concerns that were burned out found new locations in town immediately and are now operating as usual. The Kroger grocery company obtained the room formerly occupied by Sam Wade on east Main and opened Wednesday for business with new fixtures and a new stock of goods. W. C. Woods bought the barber shop formerly owned by Owen Prescott and took possession Monday. He will be glad to see old and new patrons in his new location. Schlosser Bros. secured the room occupied by L. E. Ballard in the Alexander block on south Indiana street and have resumed business. Dr. Aker has his office with Dr. W. L. Thompson. Mr. Lindley has not decided yet but will probably rebuild.

### NOTES OF THE FIRE

John Wilson and son, Charles, who occupy rooms over Moore's restaurant in the Hadley building were driven out by the fire. Their goods were damaged by smoke and water.

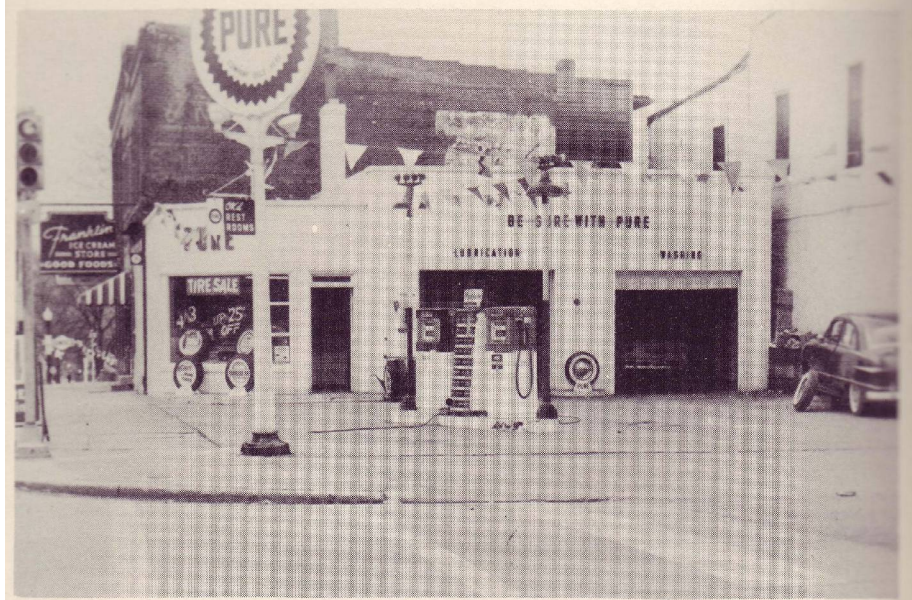
Figure 3. The Times reports the catastrophe.

## **Then.... The (Former) Lindley Block Becomes a Gasoline Service Station, Then Retail Shops**

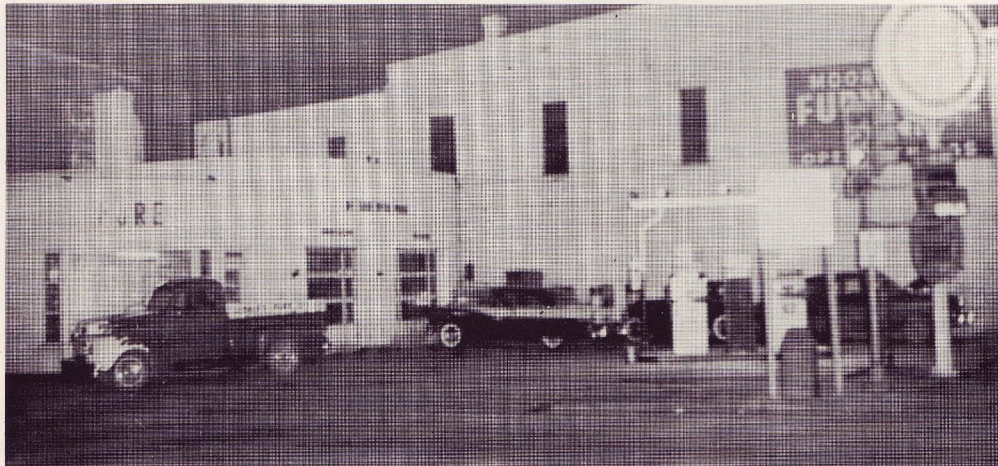
After the Lindley Block burned, the site remained vacant. A high wooden fence surrounded a hole where the building once stood. [FN 7] In 1937 or 1938, Harry Wilson constructed a Pure Oil Station for George Park, who operated a full-service gasoline station until spring 1940. [FN 8] “Brewer & Son” offered tires, batteries, lubrication, and gasoline at the station, according to their advertisement in the 1949 Mooresville High School Yearbook. [FN 9] In the early 1950s the station became Selke’s Pure Oil. In 1956 Selke sold the station to Dale Richardson, who operated Pure Oil until 1959, when Paul Mason bought it. Mason sold the station in March, 1960 to Russ Lightle, who owned the station through the 1960s. The station continued to function until 1974 or 1975 [FN 10] (when it was a Marathon Oil Station) [FN 11]. At that time the gasoline service was discontinued, although the building continued to sell and change tires, perform tune-ups, and sell used cars. In 1985, Gary and Karen Rogers purchased the building and operated a store called Coffee, Tea and Potpourri. In the 2000s, a jewelry store operated at the location (see photo at top of next page). Edward Jones now (2008-2009) operates an office there.



*Figure 4a. Paul Mason's Pure Oil Station (1959-1960)*



## DALE'S PURE OIL SERVICE



## DALE'S SERVICE STATION

Corner of Main and Indiana

Mooresville, Indiana

Phone 158

*Figures 4b & 4c: Dale Richardson owned the Pure Oil station between 1956-1959 (Advertisements from the 1956 & 1958 Mooresville High School Wagon Trails yearbook.*



*Figure 4d. Selke's Pure Oil station ran this advertisement in the 1955 Mooresville High School Wagon Trails yearbook.*

**Now....**



*Figure 5. Site of the Lindley Block (and, later, gasoline service station) on the southwest corner of the intersection of Main and Indiana Streets, Mooresville, IN (November, 2007), which subsequently housed various retail businesses, including the jewelry store above.*

## FOOTNOTES (REFERENCES):

Figure 3: "Lindley Block Destroyed by Fire," *The Mooresville Times*, Jan. 1, 1926, p. 1.

[FN 1] "Lindley Block Burned in December 1925," *The [Mooresville] Times*, Dec. 10, 1981, p. 10a.

[FN 2] *Id.*; Clara S. Richardson, *History of Mooresville, 1824-1974* p. 24.

[FN 3] Clara S. Richardson, *History of Mooresville, 1824-1974* p. 25.

[FN 4] Letter from Bonita C. Marley, Sept. 9, 1992. Ms. Marley was Librarian and Director of the Mooresville Public Library (1961-1984). The "House of Hadley" ran an advertisement as a "cleaning, pressing, and laundry service" in the 1920 Mooresville High School Yearbook, *The Cauldron*.

[FN 5] 1923 *White Lick Review*, Mooresville High School Yearbook, p. 94.

[FN 6] "Nick Banos, Widely Known Merchant, Owns Candy Kitchen in Franklin," *The Franklin (Indiana) Evening Star*, Thursday, Dec. 2, 1965, as annotated by Mildred Thompson.

[FN 7] Clara S. Richardson, *History of Mooresville, 1824-1974* p. 25.

[FN 8] "Russ Pure Oil Station Opened Here in 1937," *The Mooresville Times*, Thursday, March 21, 1968; Joanne Raetz Stuttgen, Morgan County Historic Preservation Society, Nomination of Mooresville Commercial Historic District, Morgan Co., IN, National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Section 8, p. 24 (Dec. 19, 2001) [hereinafter cited as *National Registry Nomination*]

[FN 9] 1949 *Wagon Trails*, Mooresville High School Yearbook, p. 61.

[FN 10] "Russ Pure Oil Station Opened Here in 1937," *The Mooresville Times*, Thursday, March 21, 1968; Joanne Raetz Stuttgen, Morgan County Historic Preservation Society, Nomination of Mooresville Commercial Historic District, Morgan Co., IN, National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Section 8, p. 24 (Dec. 19, 2001).

[FN 11] Clara S. Richardson, *History of Mooresville, 1824-1974* p. 25.