

History of Scott County, Missouri

By



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ROYAL E. FORD

Formerly Superintendent of Schools, Illmo, Missouri.

1939

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The cuts for the pictures in the book were supplied through the courtesy of the Scott County Democrat of Benton.

R. E. F.



Court House of Scott County, Benton, Missouri. Erected in 1912-13 at a cost of \$140,000.00. This is the fifth court house for Scott County.

—Courtesy of the Scott County Democrat.

MODEL GROCERY

M. F. Roth, Proprietor

PHONE 208

ILLMO, MISSOURI

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HISTORY OF SCOTT COUNTY, MISSOURI

Location

Scott county is located just south of Cape Girardeau County along the Mississippi River just west of Thebes, Ill. The county is bounded on the north by Cape Girardeau County, on the east and northeast by the Mississippi River, on the southeast by Mississippi County, on the south by New Madrid County, and on the west by Stoddard County. The county contains forty-four square miles in area.

Physical Features

One-half or more of the county is level. Four-fifths of this area is extremely fertile and grows the best corn, wheat, cotton, melons, peaches, and all the grasses. The soil is adapted also to the growing of leguminous crops. The principal streams include the east fork of White Water and Caney Creek in the northwest part of the county. In the south-central part is found the St. John Bayou. The county has a great variety of timber. In the northeast part is found fine quarries of white marble and limestone.

Early History and Organization of County

The territory now embraced in Scott County was, during the Spanish period, attached to the Post at Cape Girardeau. Governor Wilkinson by proclamation of June 7th, 1805, fixed the line between the Cape Girardeau and New Madrid Districts as follows: To start at an outlet to the Mississippi River called "Great Swamp" below Cape Girardeau and to extend through the center of the same to the San Francois River, then onward until it struck the northern boundary of the New Madrid District and then westward as far as New Madrid County now extends.

The above change proved very inconvenient to the people living in Tywappity Bottom who had previously transacted business in Cape Girardeau. A petition was circulated and signed and presented to the Governor. In response to this petition, the Governor on August 15th, 1806, issued a second proclamation fixing the boundary as follows: the southern

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boundary of the Cape Girardeau District and northern boundary of the New Madrid District to be due west line and to start on the west bank of the Mississippi River opposite the mouth of the Ohio River. This line remained the boundary line until the organization of the counties in 1813. The limits of the New Madrid County at that time were made to include what is now nearly all of Scott County.

The Act passed by the Legislature of December 28th, 1821, which provided for the organization of Scott County, is stated in full below:

An Act Dividing the County of New Madrid and Creating the Same into Two Separate Counties.

"The now county of New Madrid shall be and the same is hereby divided and created into two separate and distinct counties, by a line running as follows: Beginning in the main channel of the River Mississippi opposite a small creek or bayou called James Creek or Bayou; thence in a direct line to the mouth of said creek; thence in a northwesterly course to a point in the swamp due north of the line between townships numbered 25 and 26 east of the fifth principal meridian, parallel with the northern boundary line of a tract of land situated in the upper end of the Big Prairie originally granted and confirmed to Moses Hurley and where Mrs. Elizabeth Phillips now lives; thence running due west to the western boundary line of the said county of New Madrid; and that the said tract of country lying to the southward of said line shall be continued to be called and to be known by the name of New Madrid County; eastwardly of said line shall be called and be known by the name of Scott County."

The county was named after John Scott (Missouri's first Congressman.) Benton (the county seat) was named after Thomas Hart Benton, one of Missouri's first U. S. Senators. The county was invaded during the Civil War by Gen. Thompson, who was joined by Gen. Pillow in 1861. In 1861-62 Gen. Pope marched across the county with 40,000 men.

Organization of County Government

The County Court was organized at the home of Thomas Houts February or March, 1822. The judges of the county court were Andrew Ramsey, Richard Mathew, and Thomas

25 YEARS FAITHFUL SERVICE

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Vanduser, Mo.

W. B. Smith, Mgr.

Houts. At this time there were only two townships in Scott County—Moorland and Tywappity (which at that time embraced all of what now is Mississippi County). Mississippi County was organized by Legislative Act of 1845 entirely out of Scott County. The reason for the organization of Mississippi County was because it was not convenient for the citizens in that section to attend to legal business at Benton. Soon after Moorland and Tywappity townships were organized, four more new townships were organized: Richland, Kelso, Mississippi, and Wolfe Island. The latter two are now located in Mississippi County.

The circuit court of Scott County was organized by Judge Thomas, February 11th, 1822. The first sheriff was Joseph A. Hopkins, whose bond was fixed at \$5,000.00. John F. Rutler was the first circuit clerk. He was authorized by the county court to procure the county seal.

The first grand jury of Scott County was composed of the following men: L. R. Davis, John Ashley, Bartlett Congers, John Wather, Samuel Fowler, James H. Dudley, Thomas Moore, Thomas Whittaker, Wm. P. Stidger, James Cardwin, John Friend, James Purtle, Colburn Wiley, Silas Carpenter, Silas Risely, Wm. Alexander, George Anderson, Solomon Hays, and Bartholames I. Evans. The first indictments were filed against Samuel Glove and James Ramsey for assault and battery. The first indictment for a capital offense was filed against Pressley Morris in 1828. The first assessor of Scott County was Strong N. Hunter. The first county treasurer was Michael McLoughlin. The first probate judge was Abraham Hunter.

The first marriage performed and recorded in the recorder's office was by Rev. Uriel Haw, a Methodist minister. The marriage was that of John Alton and Sarah Swank, Nov. 27th, 1839. The first public road laid out in the county was in 1811. The first white settler to enter the county was in 1789. The first mortgage recorded in the county was on July 5, 1822, and was made by John Linkhorn to David Griffith. The first deed recorded was one made between Joshua Spear and wife and Samuel D. Strother on March 5th, 1822. The first slave transfer was made by Leonard

PHONE 80

SCOTT COUNTY LUMBER COMPANY

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BENTON, MISSOURI

Sharp to Joseph Hunter on December 17, 1822. The price received for the slave was \$375.00.

POPULATION

The population by decades from 1830-1930 for Scott County is shown below:

Year.	Population.	Year.	Population.
1830	2,136	1880	8,487
1840	5,974	1890	11,228
1850	3,182	1900	13,092
1860	5,247	1910	22,372
1870	7,317	1920	23,409
		1930	24,913

The population decrease in 1850 was due to the organization of Mississippi County out of Scott County in 1845.

Population is shown by townships and towns and cities by the following table for the decades 1910 to 1930. The figures were taken from the U. S. Bureau of Census for the years indicated.

	1930.	1920.	1910.
Commerce Township	1,108	1,388	1,479
Commerce Town	351	593	544
Kelso Township	7,675	8,540	5,327
Ancell town	221	198	—
Chaffee city	2,902	3,035	2,082
Fornfelt city	1,500	1,819	1,209
Illmo city	1,129	1,275	976
Kelso town	221	228	190
Moreland Township	1,657	1,858	2,129
Benton town	345	312	320
Lambert town	46	43	—
New Hamburg town.....	107	125	120
Morley Township	1,941	1,989	2,579
Morley town	478	599	494
Vanduser town	236	326	388
Richland Township	7,890	5,037	5,672
Crowder town	130	150	288
Sikeston city	5,676	3,613	3,327
Sandy Woods Township	1,212	1,080	1,396
Blodgett town	252	392	422

L. O. WILLIAMS

GENERAL MERCHANDISE

THE FRIENDLY STORES

VANDUSER — MORLEY — BENTON — MISSOURI

Sylvania Township	2,612	2,872	1,869
Oran city	940	1,141	1,023
Perkins town	141	—	—
Tywappity Township	8 18	645	921
Diehlstadt town	163	196	160

The History of the County Seat

The Legislative Act of 1821 which authorized the organization of Scott County also authorized the appointment of a committee to locate a county seat of justice. The committee appointed for this purpose was composed of Enoch Evans, Abraham Hunter, Thomas Roberts, Joseph Smith, and Newman Beckwith. This committee chose Benton as the county seat. The first court house was a small log building erected on the Public Square at Benton soon after the town was laid out in 1822. A county jail was erected in 1837 out of an appropriation of \$500.00 by the county court. Previous to this time prisoners were taken to Jackson for safe keeping. About 1844 the log court house was torn down and a brick structure erected in its place. This building was so poorly constructed that it was declared unsafe and condemned in a few years, and was razed and replaced by a frame building again. By Act of the Legislature of January 26th, 1864, the county seat was moved to Commerce, and the court house was sold.

A small appropriation was made by the county court which was supplemented by the citizens of Commerce and a good brick court house was erected there. In 1860 a contract for a jail at Commerce was let and completed the same year. The cost was \$3,000.00. In 1878 by a vote of the people the county seat was moved back to Benton. The reason for this removal back to Benton was that Benton was more nearly the center of the county. In 1883, a court house costing \$11,000.00 was erected at Benton.

The present court house of Scott County was authorized by the county court February 14th, 1912. This is the fifth court house for Scott County. The county court authorizing the erection was composed of Theo. F. Frazer (presiding judge), James W. Myers, James V. Bandy, W. C. Bowman, and Matt Thomas. It was erected at a cost of \$140,000.00. The court house square where the present court house now

August Vogelsang

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stands was donated by William and Nancy Myers, August 9th, 1837. The artesian well located back of the present court house was drilled in 1903.

Transportation

The following railroads pass through Scott County: The Cotton Belt or Southern Pacific, and Missouri Pacific pass through the northern end of the county; the Frisco passes through the western part, and also the St. Louis Iron Mountain. The following highways pass through the county: U. S. Highway 61 passes through the entire county from north to south and follows pretty closely the old Kingshighway. State Highway 55 passes through the county from northwest to southeast. U. S. Highway 60 through the southern end of the county from east to west. Also the county has farm-to-market roads connecting most of the cities and Mississippi River on the eastern part—this was an important means of transportation in the early history of the county. Grays Point and Commerce were the principal shipping points along the river. Grays Point is still served by the Thebes Ferry which crosses the river to Thebes, Ill. Sikeston has a landing field for aviation. With the completion of the highways most of them are provided with viaducts over the railroads.

Thebes Bridge

In 1901 the building of a railroad (Missouri Pacific) from St. Louis to Thebes, Illinois, was started and completed sometime afterwards. After the construction of this road it soon became rumored that a double tracked bridge would be erected across the Mississippi River from Graysboro, Missouri, to Thebes, Ill., to accommodate the traffic which was increasing rapidly on the Cotton Belt. Not long after this, surveyors were busy locating a site for the erection of the bridge. The bridge was completed in 1905 at a cost of \$4,000,000.00. At this time the present railroad yards at Illmo-Fornfelt was a little lake, and the thousands of cubic yards of dirt which had to be removed were used to fill in the lake. Nature favored the location of the bridge as the slope from both the Illinois and Missouri sides was ideal for the grade to the

W. C. ARNOLD'S GENERAL STORE

THE **RED & WHITE** STORES

GROCERIES, MEATS AND DRY GOODS
PHONE 58 ANCELL, MO.

bridge approach. The first review train crossed over the bridge on March 27th, 1905. The bridge was dedicated May 25th, 1905. On this occasion many notables from all over the United States attended the dedication ceremonies. The test of strength of the bridge was made by coupling together twenty-five of the largest locomotives obtainable, running these engines to the middle of the bridge and suddenly stopping them in the shortest distance possible under the pressure brakes. At the time the bridge was completed, it was considered the longest cantilever span in the world. It was designed and created by Mr. Ralph Modjeski, who supervised every detail. It was so perfectly constructed that even the effect of temperature on contraction and expansion of the structural steel had been calculated in the most minor detail, even to the hundredth of an inch.

Scott County in the World War

Scott County did her part in the World War. From the records sent to the County Recorder's office in Benton by the Adjutant General's office in Jefferson City we find that a total of 1,089 men from the county were enlisted in the war. Some of these were commissioned and non-commissioned officers in the army, navy, marines, and aviation corps. A few of the enlisted paid the supreme sacrifice for their country. From the records we find that the following men from Scott County were killed in action:

Curtis Howard Williams, Chaffee; John H. Wilson, Sikeston; Leonard W. Vaugh, Vanduser; Fred R. Robertson, Sikeston; Jack Strother Pride, Ilmo; Lester Reynolds, Sikeston; Loyd S. Miller, Commerce; Robert Augustus Cublery, Benton; Andrew Aubuchon, Chaffee; James Alexander Alsobrook, Chaffee; and Everett Raum Bean, Ilmo.

The following men from Scott County died in service during the World War:

Milton Sams, Sikeston; Everett L. Pate, Fornfelt; Henry A. Reeingel, Oran; Allen O'Sullivan, Sikeston; Orville E. Mason, Vanduser; Jesse McClellan, Oran; Nelson F. McDaniel, Sikeston; Henry Meldrum, Sikeston; Roy L. Keith, Chaffee; Gene G. Henson, Fornfelt; James Ligon Herring, Commerce; Major Howard, Sikeston; John R. Grantham,

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PHONE 3

ILLMO, MISSOURI

Benton; Alva Greenewell, Sikeston; Thomas Baldwin Harris, Oran; Charles Edwards Enderle, Chaffee; Harry E. Ethridge, Sikeston; Wm. E. Evans, Morley; Claude Cooper, Diehlstadt; Robert L. Daugherty, Oran; Fred Gaither Beardslee, Commerce; Charles Ganey Blackledge, Commerce; Opha Austill, Blodgett; and Peat McCormick, Sikeston.



STANDARD SERVICE

J. J. Washburn, Prop.

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TIRES, BATTERIES, ACCESSORIES

ILLMO, MO.

HISTORY OF CITIES AND TOWNS AND SETTLEMENTS IN SCOTT COUNTY

I. Benton

The town of Benton was laid out in 1822 on land owned by Col. Wm. Myers. Among the first residents were Edmund Rogers, who operated a tavern; John Houts, who owned and operated a tan yard; Michael Laughlin, who was a merchant; and John P. Ruttler, clerk of the circuit court.

The first building was erected by Joseph Hunter and was used as a store building. Mr. Hunter started in business about 1830 and continued in business until his death ten years later. Among the other merchants of the thirties were E. B. Louvalle, John Harbison, George Netherton, and Abraham Winchester. Mr. Hunter was succeeded by Crow and McCray. George and Thomas Williams were the leading merchants of the forties. The first doctors in Benton were John Goulding and Samuel Chapman. Dr. A. S. Henderson located in Benton in 1842.

The first schools were taught in a log house about one-half mile northeast of Benton by James Dye. James Douglas also taught the same school many years. The Community Building was erected by the Benton Lions Club and belongs to the Benton school district. It was at the time it was erected the largest gymnasium in Scott County. Most of the county basket ball tournaments have been held in this building. In July, 1935, a bond issue was voted by the voters in a special election for \$30,000.00 for the erection of a modern school building, \$13,500.00 being provided or secured through the P. W. A. funds of the Federal government. Benton now has a consolidated school system and provides transportation. In 1934-35 the Benton schools had a total enrollment of 266 pupils and 8 teachers. It has a four-year first-class high school.

Benton in 1930, had a population of 345. The town has become famous for the annual Neighbor Day celebration held in October, when thousands of neighbors gather together for the day. This institution is fostered by the Benton Lions Club and was started in 1924.

PHONE 211

C. P. Harris, Prop.

HARRIS CLEANERS

ILLMO, MO.

CLEANING, PRESSING and REPAIRING
SUITS MADE TO MEASURE

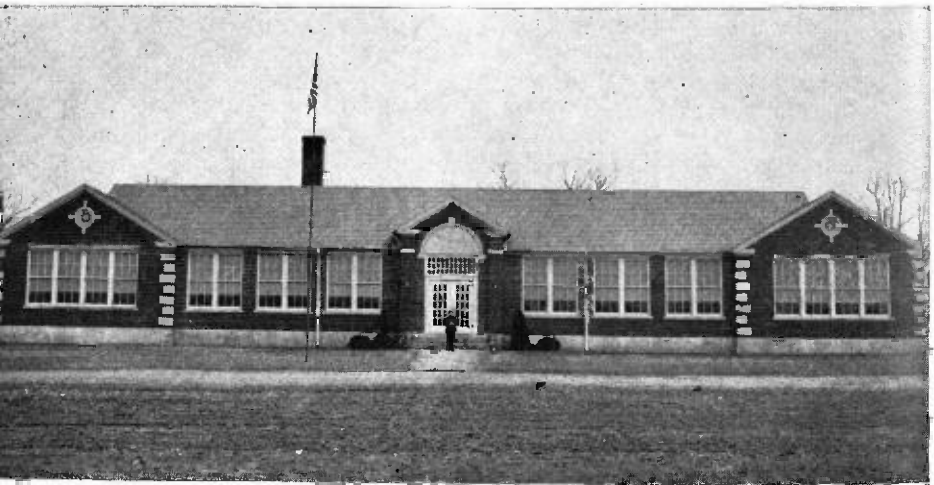
UNION MADE

ILLMO, MO.

The first newspaper established in Benton was the Benton Record, by George M. Moore, in July, 1879, with Louis Dehls as editor. Dehls was succeeded by Jeff Shelton and he by S. H. Smith, who purchased the Express, a paper which had been established two or three years before by T. S. Adams. Smith then consolidated the two papers under the name of the Express-Record. The next paper established in Benton was the Scott County Newsboy in February, 1888. The Scott County Democrat was established in 1908 and is now owned and edited by Mr. Alden Pinney, who has made a great success of it. The history of this paper can be traced back to the old Commerce Dispatch.

Benton has no railroad, but two highways pass through. State Highway 55 and U. S. Highway 61. Benton has at the present time three cafes and one hotel, all of which do a good business because of the tourist trade, which is no small item.

Some of the leading business interests in Benton at the present are Wade Miller (Red & White Store), P. E. Eldridge Garage, W. C. Porter Cafe, Frobese Cafe, Joe Burns



BENTON HIGH SCHOOL
Erected in 1937 at a cost of about \$40,000.00.

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PHONE 224

ILLMO, MISSOURI

Cafe, L. O. Williams General Store. Tirmenstein General Store, Frobase Cut Rate Drug Store, City Drug Store, Scott County Lumber Company, Scott County Abstract Company, and a number of oil stations. Stephen A. Barton and Ray B. Lucas have law offices in Benton. Mr. Ray B. Lucas is now State Superintendent of insurance. Dr. U. P. Haw is a practicing physician.



BOY SCOUT CABIN, BENTON, MISSOURI.

This cabin was erected in 1938 for the benefit of the Boy Scouts in and around Benton. It is perhaps one of the best in the state. The cabin was erected largely due to the efforts of the present Scout Master, Mr. Lyman Foulk. The cabin is 30x30 feet and was constructed from logs that came from the Ozarks. It has four rooms. The largest of these is 20x30 feet and is the assembly room. On the east side are three rooms 10x10 feet each which include the kitchen, workshop, and laboratory. It has a front and back porch. It will also be used as a community center for the smaller gatherings of the town. It is planned to lay out a picnic ground and park in the surrounding woods, to be equipped with oven, tables, seats, and swings.

SCOTT COUNTY DEMOCRAT

Alden Pinney, Publisher

BENTON, MISSOURI

IT'S THE COUNTY PAPER

New Hamburg

New Hamburg is a German town located six miles north of Morley. The town was laid out by Francis Heuring in 1866. In 1848 a log church was erected there and was superseded in 1857 by a handsome stone edifice. This church was destroyed by the fire during the Civil War and replaced by a more costly and beautiful one. In 1874 the town had a population of 100. It had then one hotel, three mills, five stores, and three shops. The town is a center of a farming community. In 1930 it had a population of 107.

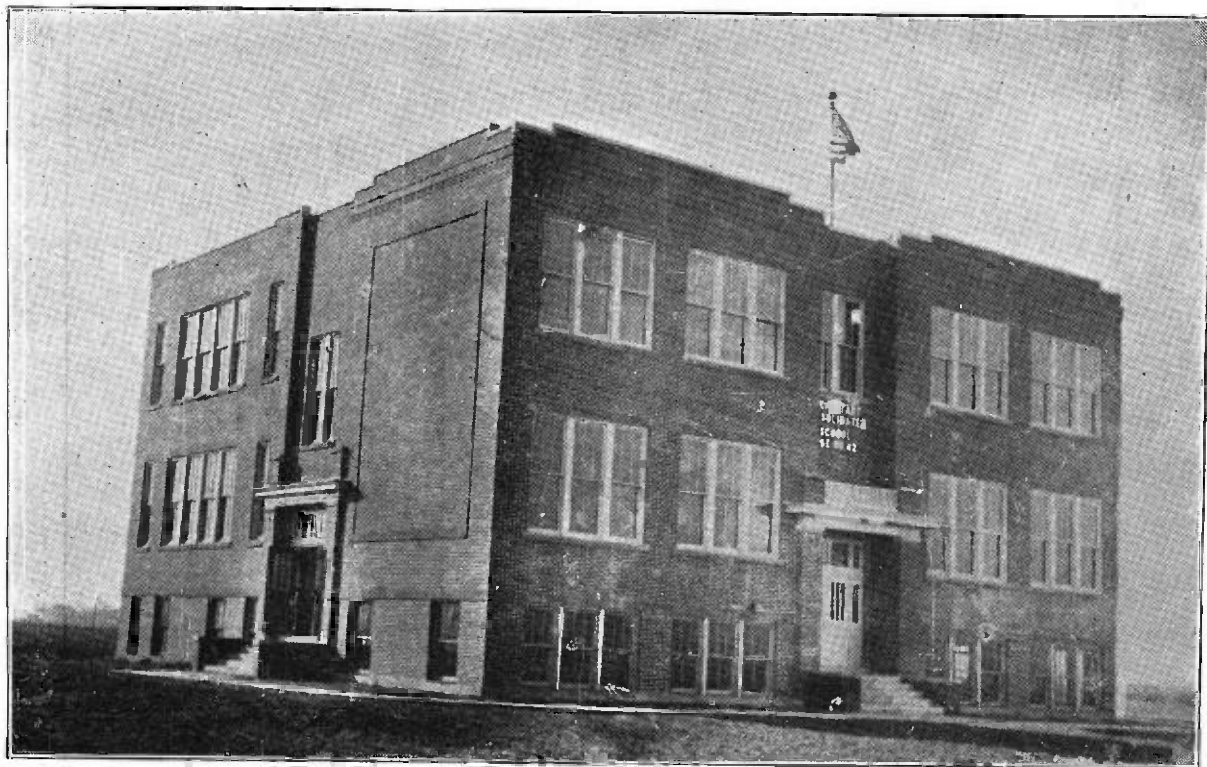
One of the leading business men at New Hamburg at the present is the Cyril Dirnberger (store).

Diehlstadt

Diehlstadt is a small town located on the Iron Mountain Railroad about ten miles east of Morley. The town was laid out in 1868 by John Kirkpatrick, who also conducted the first store in the town. The town was incorporated in 1894 and its first mayor was John Rushing. In 1912 Diehlstadt had five general stores besides minor establishments of various kinds. Rev. John T. Ford operated a restaurant in Diehlstadt for a time about 1875. The town has two churches, a Baptist and a Methodist. Highway 55 passes by Diehlstadt.

Diehlstadt has a consolidated school system and operates at the present time eight school busses. The enrollment of the Diehlstadt High School has increased since 1929 to 1939 from 42 to 232. The Diehlstadt High School has become famous in recent years for its championship girls basket ball teams. In five years this team won 149 games out of a total of 154 games. It won in three years 80 straight games. The school building has recently been redecorated at a cost of \$2500.00. (W. P. A. funds.)

Among the leading business interests at Diehlstadt in 1939 are listed the following: John Michael's Grocery and Oil Station, Phillip's General Store, and Sander's Grocery.



DIEHLSTADT HIGH SCHOOL AND GRADE BUILDING.

MARTIN'S BAKERY

BUTTER KIST BREAD — DAILY FRESH

Pies, Cookies, Coffee Cakes, and Rolls

ILLMO, MO.

Vanduser

Vanduser in Scott County is located on the St. Louis & Gulf branch of the Frisco Railroad and was until recently the terminus of the Bloomfield branch. The town was laid out about 1890. The Bank of Vanduser was organized in 1907 with a capital of \$10,000.00. The town has no bank at the present time. Vanduser has a consolidated school system and provides transportation. The Vanduser high school building was destroyed by fire in 1931 and replaced by a modern building at a cost of \$18,000.00 in 1932. The Price & Garet Elevator Company operated in Vanduser for a number of years, but has moved away.

Listed among Vanduser's business interests at the present time are: The Layton Company General Store, E. L. Cruse General Merchandise, City Cafe, Wallace's Cafe, L. O. Williams General Store, Black & Son General Store, Southeast Missouri Lumber Company, and four oil stations. Vanduser also has a cotton gin.



VANDUSER HIGH SCHOOL AND GRADE BUILDING.

Erected in 1932 at a cost of \$18,000.00.

KJER'S GROCERY

A HOME-OWNED STORE

QUALITY GROCERIES AND FRESH MEATS

PHONE 272

EAST END, ILLMO, MO.

Grays Point

One of the first mills in this part of the state was established at what is known as Grays Point about the year 1844. A small settlement had been started here some time before this. Grain was brought here for miles around to be milled. Capt. Gray was an early settler here. He owned steamboats and operated them on the Mississippi River. Capt. Gray built a beautiful mansion near the Mississippi River. It was known as one of the most beautiful mansions in the state at the time. Capt. Gray made acquaintances of men who traveled up and down the river. Members of the Gray family, including Mr. Chas. Gray, still live on the old Gray plantation.

During the year 1897, the Cotton Belt or St. Louis Southern Pacific Railroad extended its track from Delta (at first known as Deray, Mo.) to Grays Point and made Grays Point the northern terminus of the line. This marked the beginning of a town to be known as Graysboro, Missouri. The building of this terminal at Graysboro brought several hundred people to Graysboro and the population increased rapidly. All the work of building the terminus and track was done by men and teams. The business of the railroad increased steadily and so did the population of the little town until it attained a population of around one thousand people.

One of the merchants located at Graysboro was Axel Kjer, who died about six years ago. One of the early physicians at Graysboro was Dr. G. S. Cannon.

After the construction of the Thebes bridge (completed in 1904) it was found that the grade approach to the bridge was too much for the heavy trains to get a start for the grade. So it was decided to move the terminal back about two miles to where Illmo-Fornfelt is now located. A great part of the population of Graysboro now moved to Illmo-Fornfelt, which marked the decline of Graysboro and the beginning of the above mentioned towns. Most of the business houses in Graysboro also moved their wares to Illmo-Fornfelt. A special train (which was finally taken off) carried workers to and from Graysboro daily.

Some of the business houses once located in Graysboro were J. D. Vanneton General Merchandise, Pate Grocery,

RELIABLE SHOE STORE

Walter Temme, Prop.

SHOES, HOSIERY and SHOE REPAIRING

ILLMO, MO.

Bollinger's Meat Market, four saloons, and a rock quarry. Most of the dwellings in Graysboro were razed and moved to Illmo when the city of Illmo was started. Doctors once practicing in Graysboro were Dr. G. S. Cannon, later practicing in Fornselt; and Dr. D. S. Mayfield. Other business houses once located in Graysboro were Gray Bros. General Merchandise, D. I. Bloom Dry Goods, Pate Hotel, Curtus Hotel, O'Donnel Hotel, McDoom Second Hand Furniture, George Hawkins Grocery, and Jasper Belk Dry Goods. Bob Jones was postmaster at one time. The town of Graysboro was about 1900, a busy town, and there was plenty of money in circulation in the booming days. Graysboro had board sidewalks. Railroad cars were transported across the river before Thebes bridge was constructed on large transport boats to Thebes, Illinois.

Tanner

Tanner was settled by Sikeston business men several years ago and a store was located there. The place is located off of U. S. Highway 61 about five or six miles northwest of Sikeston. It is a center of a great farming community. At the present time it has a store or two but has no postoffice. It has a grade school but no high school.

Crowder

The first settlers in Crowder were James Marshall, J. H. Denbow, W. H. Page, Lee and W. C. Wellman, E. Virgin, W. J. Page, S. W. Wisdom, T. A. Cooksey, S. P. Marshall, T. A. McCutchen, William Utley, Dr. C. C. Harris, and Major McKinley. The first settlement in the town was made in 1897, and the town was incorporated in 1902. The first mayor was Sterling P. Marshall. The first stores in the town were conducted by James Marshall and Brother, Huddleson Store Co., and J. A. Rifner. In 1912 there were three general stores in the town. Besides these in 1912 there were a saw mill, a hoop mill, and a stave factory. The town is located in the midst of a farming community and draws its support from the surrounding farms. The population in 1910 was 288. In 1930 it was only 130. The principal store at the present is the Crowder Store Co.

Compliments and Best Wishes

MISSOURI UTILITIES COMPANY
SERVING SOUTHEAST MISSOURI

McMullin

McMullin is located just off of U. S. Highway 61 about six miles north of Sikeston. It was settled by the McMullin family sometime before 1900. It is a center of a great farming community and is located also on the main line of the Frisco railroad. There are two stores there now, the Cline Store and Kinder Brothers Store. Also the Scott County Milling Co., has a warehouse and also the Southeast Missouri Elevator Co. McMullin has a grade school and a Methodist church. Also a cotton gin is located there.

Miner's Switch

Miner's Switch, now known as Miner, was settled by the Minner family before 1900. It is located on U. S. Highway 60 about three miles east of Sikeston, and on the Missouri Pacific Railroad. At the present time Miner has a store and a warehouse. The community has in recent years erected a Community Building, which speaks well for the community spirit of its citizens. Miner has no post office.

Lambertville

Lambertville, now known as Lambert, was settled by a Mr. W. C. Lambert about 1905. Mr. Lambert had hopes of making Lambert a town. At one time there was located a warehouse, a saw mill, and two stores or more. Mr. Lambert owned several hundred acres of land in the vicinity. A depot was located, perhaps before the town was, on the Gulf branch of the Frisco, but has passed out of existence as well as the railroad being torn up since 1933. This depot served as a shipping point for the town of Benton. There was never any school in Lambertville, the pupils from Lambert attended school at Benton.

At present only one store is operating in Lambert and that is the store operated by Mr. L. A. Schott.

Rockview

Rockview is located on the Frisco and Cotton Belt railroads about two miles north of Chaffee. Formerly there were two stores located at Rockview, one operated by a Mrs. Batts

KELSO OIL CO.

An independent oil company, in business in
Scott County since 1923

and one operated by the late W. F. Foshme, who was killed in his place of business in an attempted robbery in December, 1933. This last named store is now operated and owned by Mr. E. B. Connerly. The first named is not open at the present time. Also at one time Essner Brothers, who now operate a store in Chaffee, ran a store in Rockview. At one time Rockview had a post office but does not at the present time.

Perkins

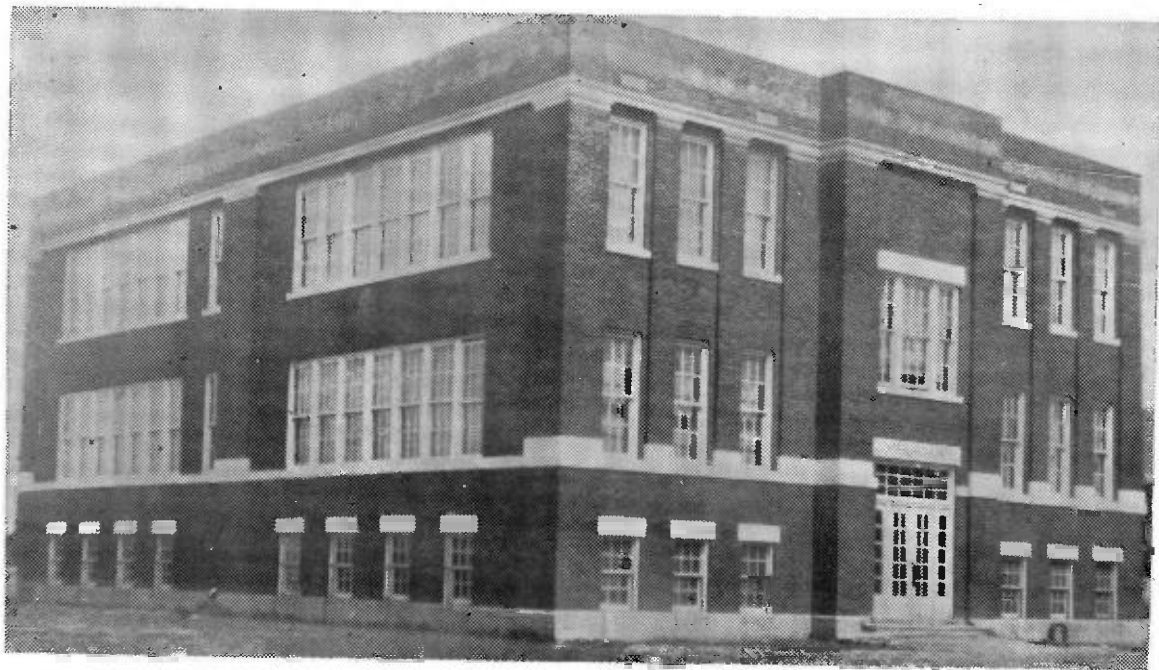
The village of Perkins in Scott County was founded by A. B. Perkins, father of D. B. Perkins of Illmo, in 1888, by the establishment of a saw mill there. The timber business being good in this section a thriving business was carried on there for several years. The chief industry around Perkins is the growing of wheat, corn, and other grain and hay crops. The Scott County Milling Co. has a warehouse located there for the buying of wheat and corn. One of the first consolidated school districts in the state was organized at Perkins, taking in a corner of Stoddard County into the consolidation. The village was never incorporated as a town. The population in 1930 was 141. The town has no state highway running into it. The store now operating at Perkins is the Hazel Store.

Froemsdorf

Another settlement near Illmo was Froemsdorf, settled a few years before Illmo, but completely abandoned now, it was named after a woman named Froemsdorf. Here the Frisco depot was once located and a planing mill was operated by A. D. and D. B. Perkins, and a box factory known as the J. P. Mesler Co. This factory was moved to Froemsdorf from Cobden, Illinois, in 1907. This factory was moved to Fornselt, Missouri.

Chaffee

The city of Chaffee was laid out in August, 1905. The land on which the city is situated was purchased by officials of the Frisco Railroad and laid off into town lots. Shortly after the establishment of the town, it was made the division



CHAFFEE HIGH SCHOOL

W. H. CASTLEMAN STORE

DEALER IN GENERAL MERCHANDISE
FORNFELT, MO.

point of the Frisco Railroad and the repair shops were removed to this point from Cape Girardeau.

The first mayor of the city was R. J. Wright. The first five merchants were Alley Wright, hardware; John Lentz, grocery and bakery; George Mayers, grocery; John Ravenstein, hardware; and R. W. Finley, drug store. The Chaffee State Bank was organized in 1906. Another bank was organized later. Neither of these banks are in operation now. In 1937 another bank was organized and is in operation at present.

The city is modern in every way, having electricity, water plant, a modern fire department, and many blocks of paved streets. Chaffee has two parks, Circle Park, located in the center of the city, and the Harmon Athletic Field. The city has a consolidated school system of several hundred students and over 20 teachers. The city has several good churches as well.

The principal industries of Chaffee include: The Frisco Shops and Division Offices, National Garment Company (manufactures ladies' clothing). The Collins-Morris Shoe Company recently purchased by another company and operating in Chaffee; the Chaffee Manufacturing Company, Chaffee Ice and Cold Storage Company, and the Elrod-Lankford Manufacturing Co. Chaffee formerly had Federal Transient Bureau, which cared for about 200 transients; a pants factory, and Automobile Bumper factory.

Chaffee also has the following organizations operating there: American Legion, Eastern Star, Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, Brotherhood of Railroad Firemen, Sons of the Legion, Boy Scouts, Chamber of Commerce, and Rotary Club, Armory and headquarters for the 140th Infantry Band.

The present mayor is Mr. O. T. Honey, and Fred Lewallyn is the Superintendent of Schools. The following doctors practice in Chaffee at the present time: Dr. G. A. Sample, Dr. W. O. Finney, and Dr. H. L. Cordrey. Three dentists are now located in Chaffee: Dr. E. D. Kimes, Dr. W. A. Walling, and Dr. Russel Farmer. Dr. Mable Delezene, osteopath.

Two recent W. P. A. projects for Chaffee have been the erection of a modern gymnasium and a municipal swimming pool.

When in Ilmo visit the newly remodeled

PLAZA THEATRE

First Run Pictures — First Quality Equipment

Among the principal business establishments in Chaffee in 1939 are listed: Lankford's Drug Store, Finley's Drug Store, Cordrey's Drug Store, Essner Bros., general merchandise, Chaffee Ice and Coal Co., Chaffee Lumber Co., Chaffee Feed Market, Harmon Radio and Furniture Co., Grisham's Clothing Store, Byrd Hotel, Paramount Theater, E. & G. Bakery, Lankford Grocery and Baking Co., A. & P. Store, Chaffee Mill & Grain Co., the Chaffee Signal, edited by Mrs. Mary Mattock; Buckley's Grocery, Stubbs Funeral Service, Bisplinghoff & Hubbard Undertaking Co., B. & H. Food Market, Bank of Chaffee, Chaffee Building & Loan Association, Hahs Motor Co., Model Grocery, Slaughter's Confectionery, Bucher Grocery, and several oil and service stations and beauty parlors.

Commerce

The town of Commerce was laid out in February, 1823, but had been the site of a trading post on the Mississippi River since 1803, the date of the Louisiana Purchase. The land upon which the town was located was originally granted to Thomas W. Waters. Among the early residents of Commerce were Archibald Price, James Weaver, J. W. Echols, Shaw & Petit and Ignatius Wathen, merchants; John Brown, hotel keeper; Lyon & Applegate, cabinet makers; and William and Samuel Gracy, stone manufacturers. In 1844 a tan yard was opened by Benjamin Gaither. In 1856, a large steam mill was erected by Ignatius Wathen of Cape Girardeau.

The first newspapers published in Commerce was the Dispatch, started in 1867 by Ballentine and H. P. Lynch. The town was incorporated in July, 1834. The following men were the first town trustees: William Gracy, Jacob Spear, J. S. Smith, John Brown, and James Echols. In January, 1857, a charter was obtained from the Legislature and a municipal government was organized. This government was suspended during the Civil War and revived in June, 1867, with the following Board of Trustees: William Ballentine, H. P. Lynch, Carroll Maye, A. J. Youngman, George Fricke, and J. Dewint. The charter was amended in 1875 and became a city of the fourth class.

A. & D. SCHRIEFER
SINCE 1904
GENERAL MERCHANDISE
Fresh Meats, Vegetables and Fruits,
FORNFELT, MO.

Commerce being located on the Mississippi River had a seemingly promising future but since the removal of the county seat back to Benton, failed to grow. It has no railroad at the present time. The Gulf line of the Frisco formerly passed through Commerce, but the road was abandoned in 1933, and the track torn up. Commerce has a two-year high school at the present time, those pupils above the second year of high school being transported to Benton.

Among the present business establishments located at Commerce are Ward Smith, general merchandise; H. L. Smith Grocery, Joe Hawkins, general merchandise. Dr. H. H. Blackledge is a practicing physician and postmaster; A. T. Bom Cafe, Lawrence Glaus Pool Room, Frank Glaus barber shop and oil station; G. W. Marshall, blacksmith. Recently the streets have been graveled and five blocks have been black-topped with W. P. A. funds. H. H. Pate operates a shoe repair shop in Commerce.

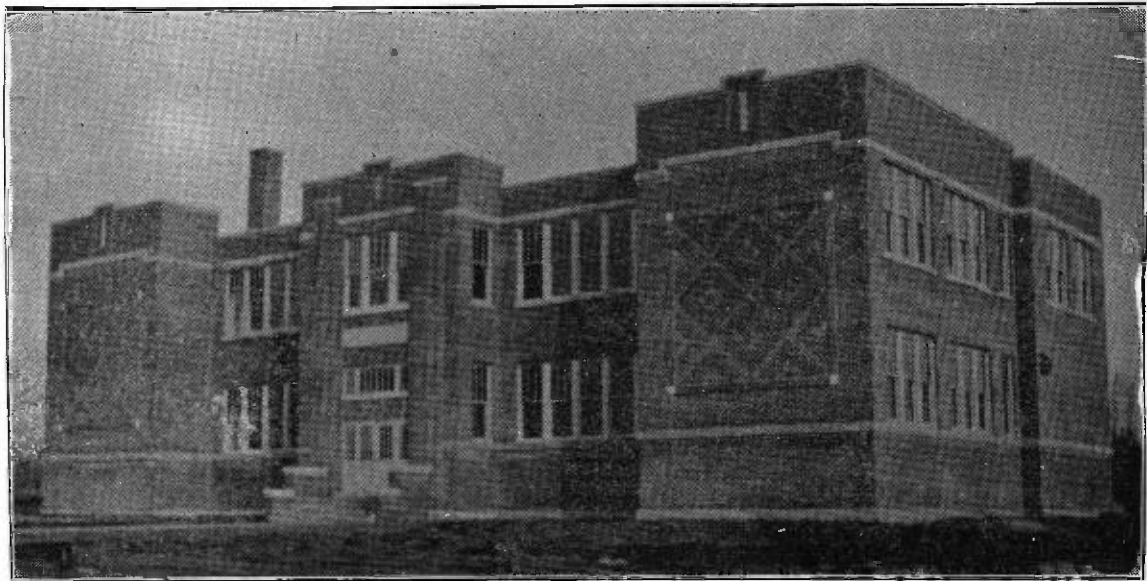
Oran

Oran is located on the Iron Mountain and Frisco railroads about five miles north of Morley. The town was laid out in 1869 and was first called St. Cloud. The first settlement here was called Sylvania. The name of the town was later changed to Oran. It is on the level sandy ridge just east of the Scott County hills.

Among the first settlers were James Friend, John Friend, Ben McLane, and John S. Harrison. Some of the first merchants were the Brice & Basset store, Ross & Howell. Mr. J. W. Clemson began as station agent at Oran about 1892 and continued until about eleven years ago, when he was retired on a pension.

Oran had a population in 1930 of 940. It has a first-class consolidated high school. The present high school building cost about \$50,000.00. State Highway 55 passes by Oran.

In 1912 Oran had five general stores and several minor business establishments and Bank of Oran. Due to large



ORAN HIGH SCHOOL—Cost of erection \$50,000.00.

BANK OF ILLMO

ILLMO, MO.

CAPITAL \$25,000.00

The Bank of Progress



deposits of yellow ochre at one time a paint factory was operated at Oran.

The city of Oran is modern in every way. It has concrete sidewalks, electricity, a modern fire department, and good gravel streets. In 1935 the city voted a bond issue for the purpose of constructing a modern water system. This plant is now in operation.

Oran has no newspaper at the present, but has the distinction of having had two newspapers organized there in the past. These were the Scott County Citizen (organized in 1905, and moved to Morley in 1908), and the Oran Leader, which was established April 15, 1910, and moved to Chaffee in August of the same year and changed to the name of The Chaffee Signal. The paper at Chaffee is now edited by Mrs. Mary Mattock.

Oran has two practicing physicians at the present time: Dr. Cline and Dr. Loest. The late Dr. H. S. Winters served Oran for many years as a physician and president of the Board of Education, and as Mayor. Dr. E. D. Kimes, dentist of Chaffee, maintains an office three days per week in Oran.

Among the present business establishments located at Oran in 1939 are listed: The Scott County Milling Company, T. S. Heisserer & Company, large department store; Womack Drug Store, Sturgeon's Garage, Kroger Grocery, Metz Cafe, Harper's Grocery and Meat Market, Oran State Bank (bank moved to Oran from Blodgett in 1937), Vogel's Garage, Mad-dox Grocery, Majestic Theater, Oran Ice & Cold Storage Co., Oran Lumber Company, Scott County Oil Company, Black Bros. Gin Co., and several oil stations, barber shops, beauty parlors, etc.

Fornfelt

Fornfelt owes its beginning to the building of the Thebes bridge and the consequent construction of the St. Louis South-western Railway to the bridge. The city dates its settlement from September, 1904, and was incorporated the following May, 1905. The first mayor was Charles Hamm. The first persons who made their home in what is now Fornfelt were

C. V. Halliday Ins. Agency

GENERAL INSURANCE

ILLMO, MO.

Dr. G. S. Cannon and A. Baudendistel, who opened a general store stocked with hardware. The Baudendistel-Schoen firm was formed in 1922. Another of the earliest merchants in Fornfelt was Henry Schuette. In 1905 Anna and Dana Schrieffer moved from Indiana with their mother and brother, Ed, to Fornfelt. After coming there Ed worked for Henry Schuette for about two months and then in 1905 the firm of A. & D. Schrieffer was formed by purchasing the Schuette stock. In 1918 the store burned, but a new stock was purchased and the firm is still continuing in business.

The city of Fornfelt was first known as Edna, being named after the daughter of Henry Schuette. There being a town in Missouri known as Edna caused considerable confusion in mail delivery, therefore the name was changed to Fornfelt in 1912. This was for Mrs. Wilhelmina Fornfelt, a pioneer of this section.

The First State Bank of Fornfelt (at first known as First State Bank of Edna) was organized in the spring of 1905. The first quarters of the bank were in the Sharp building, formerly occupied by the A. & D. Shrieffer store. The present bank building was erected in 1908. The first president of the bank was Henry Schuette, and the cashier was Emil Steck, Sr. The capital stock now is \$25,000.00 (at first \$15,000.00). The bank is now a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. At one time a branch of the Ford "Groves" Motor Co. of Cape Girardeau, and the Wielpuetz Bakery were located in Fornfelt.

Fornfelt has a consolidated school system and four or five churches. The population in 1930 was 1500. In Fornfelt is also located the repair shops and car sheds of the St. Louis Southwestern Railway, the Claussner Hosiery Mill of Paducah, Kentucky, the Ely-Walker hosiery mill and garment factory was located in the building occupied by the Claussner hosiery mill. The late Dr. G. S. Cannon served the city for over 30 years as a physician and as president of the Board of Education. At the time of his death in 1938, he was post-master.

Emil Steek, President
Stephen Barton, Vice President

W. A. Georger, Cashier
Paul Bray, Ass't. Cashier

FIRST STATE BANK OF FORNFELT

Established 1905

FORNFELT, MISSOURI

Directors: Emil Steek, Stephen Barton, Wm. C. Arnold, W. L. Tomlinson and
A. Baudendistel

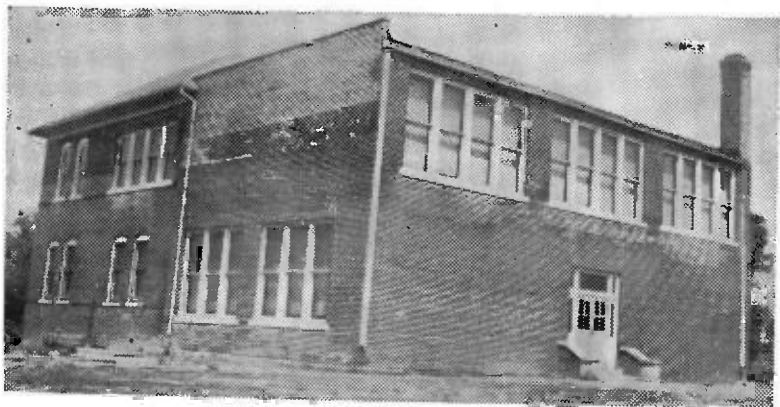
For over a THIRD of a century this Bank has maintained service with safety.

WE SOLICIT YOUR ACCOUNT

Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

The Fornfelt Community Building was erected in 1932 at a cost of about \$10,000.00, which is the center of community life at the present time. The J. P. Mesler box factory was formerly located in Fornfelt and employed several hundred men, but has been disbanded now because of the growing scarcity of timber. Farm-to-market Road K passes through Fornfelt. The city has electricity, concrete sidewalks, modern fire department. In 1937 the city voted a bond issue for a modern water plant and is now in operation.

Among the Fornfelt business interests at the present time are listed the A. & D. Schrieffer Mercantile firm, Peoples Ice Co., Missouri Utilities Co., Southeast Missouri Telephone office, Shipman Grocery and Meat Market, Bollinger's Market, Midway Garage, a number of cafes, barber shops, shoe shops, oil stations, W. H. Castleman's Store, Tom's Grocery, Brown's Grocery and Meat Market, First State Bank of Fornfelt, the Champion Store, Hartner's Cut Rate Drug Store, Andy's Shoe Repair Shop, G. C. Swinney Store, Taylor's Grocery. George Coy operated a drug store in Fornfelt for several years. Also the Crowell Undertaking Co.



FORNFELT HIGH SCHOOL

Morley

Morley is a town on the Belmont Branch of the Iron Mountain Railroad, and was for a number of years a shipping point for the county seat of Benton. The town was laid out in 1869 and incorporated in 1872, the first mayor being James Bardwell. The first trustees were James Boutwell, Henry Wadsworth, George R. Wilson, B. V. Youndell, and L. O'Brien. Among the early merchants were B. D. Gaither, W. A. Cade, Hughes & Watkins, and J. T. Anderson & Brother. In 1912 there were three general stores and two cotton gins. The first mill was built by F. C. Martin & Brother. The soil around Morley is well adapted to the growing of melons, and like Blodgett, ships many cars of the fruit every year. The Scott County Bank was organized at Morley in 1891 with a capital of \$15,000.00, but has ceased to exist now in 1939. Morley at one time was perhaps the most important town in Scott County, but has declined in population in recent years. In 1930 the population was 478. Morley now has a consolidated high school and provides transportation. Missouri State Highway 55 and U. S. Highway 61 pass near Morley.

At one time Morley had a newspaper called the Scott County Banner. The editors of this paper were R. L. Buck and R. L. Reed. This paper was first established at Oran under the name of the Scott County Citizen in 1905. It was moved from Oran to Morley in 1908 and continued under that name till 1911, when it was changed to the Scott County Banner. Morley has no newspaper at the present time.

In April, 1939, the Morley School District voted a \$20,000.00 bond issue (to be supplemented with a W. P. A. grant) for the purpose of erecting a new high school building. The contract cost of this new building will be about \$63,000.00. One of the oldest living residents of Morley at the present time is Grandma Leslie, who has lived in Morley for many years.

The present business interests of Morley include: McDonough Drug Store, Irwin Blacksmith Shop, Emmerson-Smith Gin Co., Black Bros. Gin, Coleman Gin Company, Young's Cafe, Sullivan's Cafe, Bryant's Grocery, Daugherty's Grocery, Black Bros., general merchandise; L. O. Williams, general merchandise; Dodson Garage, Porter's Barber Shop, Hunter's Cafe and Oil Station, and a few oil stations, etc. The Boyce Department Store operated for many years at Morley until it burned some two or three years ago.

Blodgett

Blodgett is a station on the railroad below Morley. The settlement of Blodgett was made in 1869. The town was surveyed in 1870. Among the first residents of the town were W. B.

Congleton, B. F. Marshall, Charles L. Stubbs. The merchants of the early period were Marshall and Stubbs and W. R. Sherer. Blodgett was incorporated in 1900 and E. T. Wright was the first mayor. In 1912 there were two general stores and some drug stores and other business establishments. The Blodgett Bank was established in 1901 with a capital of \$15,000.00. The population in 1912 was 422. It is now, according to the 1930 census, 252. Blodgett is situated in the midst of a great farming community and had the distinction in 1912 of shipping more watermelons than any other station in the world. During the season of 1911 there were shipped 600 cars of melons. Blodgett now has a first-class high school. The district is consolidated and provides transportation.

Blodgett had a big fire in 1928 which caused a loss of several thousands of dollars. Seven business buildings burned in this fire, most of which were never replaced. The new high school gymnasium (A. W. P. A. project) was constructed in 1936 at a cost of \$18,000.00. Four blocks of the town's streets have been hard surfaced with asphalt recently (another W. P. A. project). One of the oldest residents of Blodgett at present is Aunt Jane Peel, who has been a resident of the Blodgett community for many years.

Among the present business interests in Blodgett we find listed: The Blodgett Mercantile Co., R. H. Macley Mercantile Co., T. M. Withrow & Sons, Blodgett Grain Company, and four or five cafes, barber shops, and oil stations. Dr. E. J. Nienstedt practiced medicine in Blodgett for a number of years and also served as president of the Board of Education. Until recently Blodgett had a bank. This bank in 1937 was moved to Oran, Mo. Mr. Pearman was and is cashier. Blodgett has a Baptist and a Methodist church.

Illmo

Illmo had its beginning about the year 1904 as a result of the removal of the railroad yards, roundhouse, and offices of the Cotton Belt Railroad from Graysboro. About this time a few gentlemen saw the possibility of the beginning of a new town at what now is Illmo. A company was formed composed of J. S. Norman, J. P. Lightner, R. A. Pellet, H. O. Murphy, and Mr. Wall, and with a few others purchased the land from Casper Roth on which the city of Illmo is now located.

Among the first buildings erected in Illmo were the old Ark building (recently razed), the stucco building owned by Joe Pelly, and others near the present residence of Wm. Kirkindall. These buildings were known as company buildings and were built as an investment. The old Hubble building, which was erected across the street from the present residence of Dr. G. T. Dorris.

The first school in Illmo was a subscription school and was conducted in the Hubble building by Prof. E. T. Joyce. Previous to this time pupils from Illmo attended the old Washburn school across the railroad tracks. The Illmo school district was organized out of a part of the Washburn district and a part of the head district in 1905. The first part of the present grade school building in Illmo was constructed in 1905 at a cost of \$5,000.00. The present high school building was erected in 1923 at a cost of \$38,000.00.

The city of Illmo was incorporated as a four-class city March 23rd, 1906. Phillip Ruebel was the first mayor under the organization as a village and H. O. Murphy was the first mayor under the organization as a city. The city council was composed of H. O. Murphy mayor; J. P. Lightner, L. S. Mayfield, J. C. Drake, A. J. Roth, aldermen; Percy Smith, city clerk. The first school board was composed of S. R. Fitts, D. T. Dotty, J. C. Drake, J. R. Young, Joe Miller, and Axel Kjer, secretary.

Illmo was first known as "Whipperwill's Hollow," but came to be known as Illmo. The name of the city was derived from the abbreviations of Illinois and Missouri. One of the first stores in Illmo was the Illmo Mercantile Co., operated with S. R. Fitts, manager. Others were a grocery operated by J. W. Jacobs and a mercantile operated by a Mr. Thomas. The First State Bank of Illmo was organized in 1905. This bank was liquidated some years later and the present Bank of Illmo was organized. The president of this bank is Mr. Theodore Horn, and it is a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. The first newspaper in Illmo was the Illmo Headlight. The present newspaper called the Jimplicute was organized in 1914 by the late E. L. Purcell and edited by him until his death in 1933. It is now edited by his daughter, Miss Helen Purcell.

Illmo is an industrial city of railroads and factories. Formerly three railroads operated through Illmo. The Cotton Belt (St. Louis & Southwestern), Missouri Pacific, and Frisco. Illmo is the northern terminus of the first named road. The Cotton Belt terminal was used also by the Missouri Pacific until 1927. The Cotton Belt dispatchers offices were formerly located here also. They were moved back to Illmo in 1937 from Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

The first factory built in Illmo was the building occupied at first by the Menzie Shoe Company, but now occupied by the Ely-Walker Dry Goods Co. The Ely-Walker garment factory employs several hundred employees, largely girls. An addition was added to this factory in 1933 which practically doubled the floor space of the factory and this is the pants factory at the present time. A brick manufacturing company operated in Illmo for several years. The Tri-City baseball



ILLMO HIGH SCHOOL
(Erected in 1923 at a cost of \$38,000.00.)

park is located in Illmo and is one of the best in Southeast Missouri.

The following doctors practice in Illmo: Dr. G. T. Dorris, Dr. A. E. Lee, and Dr. F. W. Martin, osteopath. Dr. R. G. Williams, dentist. Dr. G. T. Dorris is now mayor.

Illmo has such organizations as the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, Eastern Star, Masonic Lodge, P. T. A., American Legion, and formerly a Boy Scout Troop.

Among the business interests located at Illmo at the present time are: Bank of Illmo, Horn's Department Store, Carver's Dry Goods, Harris Cleaners, Kjer's Grocery and Meat Market, Model Grocery, Sauer's Meat Market, Peck's Cafe, Domino Cafe, J. R. Feriell Electric Company, Reliable Shoe Store and Repair Shop, Bishop's Jewelry Store, Bisplinghoff & Hubbard Undertaking, Kroger Grocery, Scott County Building & Loan Association, Hartner's Drug Store, Holliday Insurance Agency, Martin's Bakery, Plaza Theater, McSwain's Garage, Cruse Barber Shop, Shipley Bros. Barber Shop, the Jimplicute, Standard Service Station, Southeast Missouri Lumber Co., a tin shop, two beauty shops, two pool rooms, Wadley Tailor Shop, etc. J. A. Gearing operated a grocery store in Illmo for a number of years (now agent for Coleman Stoves). Illmo has four churches, namely, Baptist, Methodist, Christian, and Lutheran.

Kelso

Kelso is located two miles south of Ancell on U. S. Highway 61. Kelso was settled in 1862 and incorporated as a town in 1904. The first mayor was A. L. Drury. Among the early settlers were John Blattle and Charles Roberts. The first merchants were George G. Wright and A. Baudendistel. The Farmers and Merchants Bank was organized in Kelso in 1903 but has ceased to exist for some time. The Kelso Milling Company was organized in December, 1896, with a capital stock of \$8,700.00. The first board of directors were George G. Wright, Charles Logel, Mike Welter, and Henry Hilleman. The mill formerly operated a warehouse at Ancell. The Peter Compass Hardware Store was started in 1907. The firm now enjoys a good business. Kelso has only one church, the St. Augustine Catholic Church. This church was founded 60 years ago and now has a membership of 1100. The present town board is composed of J. H. Schumacher, Ben Drury, Fred Heeb, T. Seyer, and John Glasser.

The business interests of Kelso consist of the Peter Compass Hardware Store, Kelso Milling Co., J. H. Schumacker General Merchandise, Ressel Grocery, Ben Drury Garage and five oil stations.

Ancell

Before Ancell was surveyed and the town laid out, a small depot was located there for public accommodations. This station at first was known as Glenn. The town of Ancell was laid out about 1906. The name of Glenn was later changed by the railroad company to that of Ancell. Ancell is located one mile west of Fornfelt on U. S. Highway 61. It serves as a shipping point for the flour mill located at Kelso and the mill formerly had a warehouse located there. The town was incorporated as a town in 1911. The first Board of Trustees was George Kenner, Chairman; L. J. Drury, Clerk; Phillip Georger, C. J. Welter and George W. Welter, members. The first meeting of the board was held Feb. 23, 1911. The first town election was held April 4, 1911. At this election George Thomas, Wm. C. Arnold, Wm. Blattel, George Kenner, and L. J. Drury were elected to the town board. Bonds were issued in 1922 in the amount of \$2500.00 for street improvements. Main street became a part of Route S-K, and is paved with amesite. James street was paved with amesite as a W. P. A. project in 1937. The present town board consists of A. J. Blattel, A. O. Kern, Virgil Hopkins, Al. Sanoyos, H. H. Belk, and Wm. Welter, clerk.

The Ancell School District was organized April 17, 1916, by the division of School District No. 3 (Fornfelt), as District No. 58, by a Board of Arbitration. The first meeting of the Board of Directors was May 2, 1916. The first board consisted of L. J. Dumey, G. W. Walter, Jesse Dopp, J. E. Mirgeau, Wm. C. Arnold, and P. E. Daugherty. Wm. C. Arnold was first district clerk. A bond issue for \$2,000.00 was issued June 17, 1919, for the purpose of erecting a school building and purchase of grounds. The first teacher was Miss Amber Sage. A bond issue for \$2200.00 was voted in 1922 for the purpose of building an additional room to the building. The Ancell school was placed on the approved list of rural schools in 1935 by the state.

The business interests of Ancell consist of the Wm. C. Arnold General Merchandise (Red and White Store), Wm. L. Blattel Store, H. H. Belk Garage, Arnold's Service Station, D-X Tavern, Aero Sandwich Shop, Geo. Blattel Service Station and Skating Rink, Meolo Cream Dough Nut Shop, Success Oil Station, and the elevator of the Cape County Milling Company of Jackson, Mo.

Sikeston

The city of Sikeston was laid out in 1860 by John Sikes about one-half mile north of the old town of Winchester on Kingshighway and what was then the Cairo & Fulton Rail-

road. The town of Winchester, which might be said to be the ancestor of the city of Sikeston, was laid out in 1814, and lots were sold to the following men: Daniel Sparks, Edward N. Mathew, Samuel Phillips, Stephen Boss, Thomas Phillips, John Shields, Sr., and Moses Shelby. A store was opened by Thomas Bartlett and a tavern by Hartwell Baldwin. Later David Hunter, Mark H. Stallings and Christopher Houts were in business at Winchester. Winchester at one time was the seat of justice for New Madrid County, but after Scott County was organized out of New Madrid County in 1821 it ceased to be a seat of justice for New Madrid County and the town began to rapidly decline. Winchester was named in honor of Col. Henderson Winchester, who lived in the vicinity.

John Sikes might be considered the Father of Sikeston. The town was named in his honor. He operated the first store in Sikeston, and was in business here until his death in 1867. Two other early merchants of Sikeston were James E. Vaughn and Samuel Kieth. Kieth later erected the first dwelling in Sikeston.

The Cairo and Fulton Railroad was completed to Sikeston in 1860, and was the terminus of the road until about 1872. Sikeston being located in what is called the "Garden spot of Southeast Missouri" grew steadily from the beginning. In 1930 Sikeston had a population of 5,676. At one time Sikeston shipped more livestock than any town its size in the state.

A grist mill was erected at Sikeston about 1880 by Schaefer and West. Today Sikeston has become one of the greatest flour milling centers in the state. The Scott County Milling Co. (W. C. Bowman, president) does an enormous milling business and employs salesmen who sell Sikeston flour in many states of the Union.

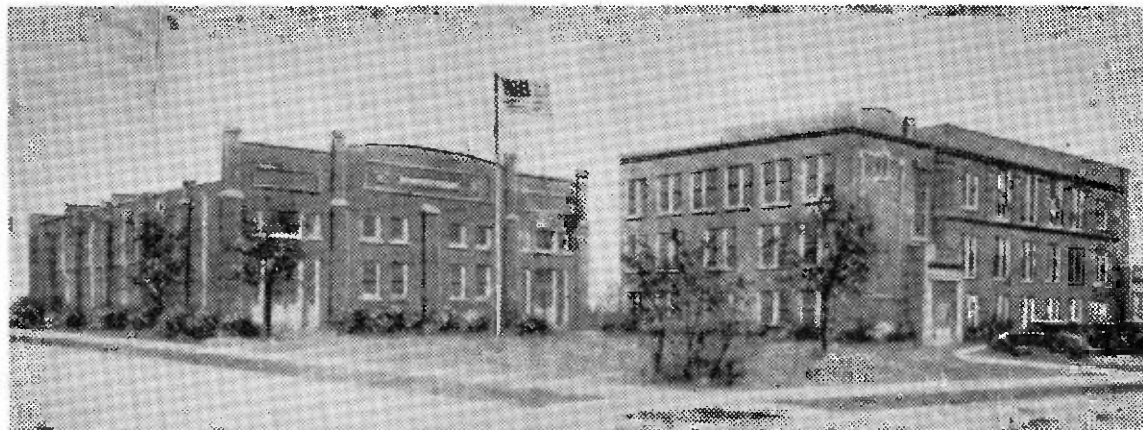
The Bank of Sikeston was established about 1880 by C. D. Matthews and A. J. Matthews. The first newspaper established in Sikeston was the Star of Sikeston, established by J. P. Mitchin in January, 1884. The Sikeston Enterprise was established in 1906, and was discontinued in 1909. The present newspapers in Sikeston are the Sikeston Herald, established in 1919, and edited by C. H. Dennin. The Sikeston Standard was established in 1914 and is now edited by Charles L. Blanton, Sr.

Sikeston has an Armory and National Guard organization. The city also has a landing field for aviation. The Sikeston High School building was erected in 1915 and the Sikeston schools have an enrollment of over 1200 students and over 45 teachers. The high school has a band of over 70 pieces. Roy V. Ellise was superintendent of the Sikeston schools for many years. He still resides in Sikeston. R. A. Harper is the present superintendent of schools.

Sikeston possesses some of the greatest industries in Southeast Missouri. Among them we find listed an immense shoe manufacturing plant, employing between 500 and 600 people; the largest cotton oil mill in Missouri; two flour and feed mills, wholesale grocery houses, modern laundry, five lumber yards, a number of auto sales and service firms, one of the strongest banks in this section of the Mississippi Valley, farm machinery houses, beer distributors, a division of the Missouri State Highway Department, six hotels, including some of the finest in this section, a number of first-class cafes, many modern retail stores, trucking concerns, sheet metal works, plumbing concerns, dry cleaning plants, immense sales pavilion, two cotton oil mills (the only ones in Missouri), several cotton gins, wholesale oil concerns, wholesale auto supply houses, modern service stations, two weekly newspapers and three job printing plants, fender and body works, auto paint shops, two electric light and power systems, an un-failing supply of pure healthful water, modern fire department, seed and feed houses, rural electrification system, dairy, bakery, the largest chick hatchery in this section, machine and welding shops, marble works, home appliance firms, a modern photo engraving plant and studio, auto salvage firms, and other lines too numerous to mention.

Sikeston has a population of over 6,000. It has churches of all representative denominations, including Baptist, Methodist, Christian, Nazarene, Presbyterian, Church of Christ, Catholic, Pentecostal, and Lutheran. The city has a first-class sanitary sewage system and more mileage of paved streets than any other city its size in Southeast Missouri.

Two of the largest industries of Sikeston are the International Shoe Company and the Scott County Milling Company. A few of the larger business concerns include the Lair Furniture Co., the Dempster Furniture Co., McKnight-Keaton Grocery Co., Bank of Sikeston, Sikeston Auction Co., Inc., Buckner-Ragsdale Co., Woolworth Co., J. C. Penny Co., Sikeston Hatchery, Sikeston Cut Rate Drug Store, Sikeston Cotton Oil Mill, and many others too numerous to mention.



SIKESTON HIGH SCHOOL AND GYMNASIUM.

Other Settlements

Other settlements in Scott County have been Caney Creek, Lusk, Salcedo, San Biding, New York and Philadelphia.

Scott County Fifty Years Ago and Now

Many changes have taken place in Scott County in the last fifty years. Fifty years ago the towns and cities of Illmo, Fornfelt, Ancell, Crowder, Chaffee, and Perkins were not in existence. The north end of the county had no railroads. Most of the county was little drained and was more or less a great swamp. The once town of Graysboro was organized and has ceased to be. There is but very little swamp land found in the county today due to the construction of the great network of drainage ditches. The county had only one main thoroughfare and that was the old Kingshighway. Today the county has a complete network of highways and Farm-to-market roads. The railroads have reached their highest point of development and have declined somewhat. Only two towns had failed to decline in population as shown by the 1930 census. These were Sikeston and Benton. There were no consolidated high schools fifty years ago. Today the county has ten consolidated high schools with modern school buildings. There was not a single gymnasium in the county fifty years ago. Today every town school has a modern gymnasium. Not a school in the county fifty years ago owned or operated a school bus. Today many of the high school districts maintain school busses. Today nearly every town in the county has electricity and telephone service which was not true fifty years ago. Fifty years ago there was not a single automobile in the county. Fifty years ago there were no rural delivery routes in the county.

THE DEPRESSION IN SCOTT COUNTY 1932-36

The nation-wide depression of 1932-36 will always be remembered in Scott County, Missouri, as the greatest one of the past history of the county. The depression in Scott County as well as in other sections of the country, really started not long after the stock market crash of 1929, but government aid did not begin until after the presidential election in 1932.

A total of \$563,846.66 has been spent in meeting the relief needs of Scott County since the inception of federal relief 1932. While most of this vast sum was provided by the federal government, the state, county, and municipalities have contrib-

uted also large amounts. The distribution of this vast sum is shown below:

Relief Expenditures in Scott County September, 1932, Through November, 1935.

General Relief	\$ 71,191.13
Direct Relief	63,130.95
Work Relief	118,751.77
CWS	2,419.97
CWA	89,317.65
Transient	56,545.83
Emergency Education	2,248.34
Garden	4,136.64
Relief Commodities	10,100.91
Drouth Relief	140,677.54
Rural Rehabilitation	5,325.93
Total	\$563,846.65

Does not include value of commodities.

Relief has been of many kinds. Food, clothing, and shelter were provided the destitute. Needy students were aided in continuing school. Teachers were supplied with salaries which could not be paid by the local districts. Other unemployed teachers were given employment by the Federal Government as teachers of vocational courses, adult education, nursery classes, etc.

Canneries and sewing rooms were established and wage earners were given employment on work projects. Roads have been constructed with Federal money employing the unemployed. Towns and cities in the county were given Federal money to make almost all kinds of improvement needed. Hot lunches and milk were provided school children who were undernourished. Money was given by the government for the building of school buildings and repairing and improving old ones and landscaping of the school grounds. Relief gardens were established. Farmers were given seeds for planting. Money was allowed for flood control projects. Drouth stricken farmers were aided in various ways.

Relief expenditures in Scott County from December, 1935, to October, 1939.

Direct relief, including all available funds—Federal, State, and local	\$ 71,659.22
Aid to dependent children	12,072.24
Value of commodities distributed	139,502.70
Old-age assistance	242,265.00
Total	\$465,499.16

The above figures were secured through the courtesy of the State Social Security Commission of Missouri. Figures for the following items during the above period were not available: Emergency education, Garden, Work Relief, Rural Rehabilitation, and Flood Control.

Since the inception of Federal relief, over \$1,000,000.00 has been distributed in Scott County.

Under the Agricultural Adjustment Administration Act, the farmers of Scott County signed contracts with the Federal Government to help control crop production. The farmers were paid to leave out part of the anticipated crop acreages by the government. During the year 1935, Scott County farmers were paid the following amounts for crop control under the AAA.

Cotton benefit payments	\$ 63,937.96
Corn-hog reduction contracts	53,685.00
Wheat acreage reduction	46,376.80
 Total	 \$163,999.76

The farmers of the county were given thousands of dollars for like reductions during the year 1934. The figures for like reductions for the years 1936 to October 16, 1939, are shown below:

1936 payments for corn, wheat, cotton	\$145,483.47
1937 payments for corn, wheat	77,896.56
1937 cotton price adjustments	66,745.68
1938 payments for corn, cotton, wheat	159,065.60
1939 corn price adjustments	47,550.54
1939 cotton price adjustments	67,196.39
1939 wheat price adjustments	32,878.10
 Total	 \$596,816.34

Farmers of Scott County have been paid close to \$1,000,000.00 in benefit payments for crop reductions since the beginning of federal aid in 1934.

Classified Business Directory of Advertisers

The following business firms of Scott County have made possible the publication and distribution of this history. Although not nearly all business firms in the county were canvassed—these are the county boosters who have supported this book's publication. We wish to extend to them our utmost appreciation for their support.

W C ARNOLD STORE Anzell Mo
CITY DRUG STORE Benton Mo

W. A. MILLER

GENERAL MERCHANDISE

Benton, Mo.

W C PORTER CAFE Benton Mo
SCOTT COUNTY
DEMOCRAT Benton Mo
SCOTT COUNTY
LUMBER CO Benton Mo
L O WILLIAMS STORE .. Benton Mo
F W WITHROW STORE . Blodgett Mo

Chaffee Food Market

Fresh Meats and Groceries

Arthur Free, Prop.

Phone 141 Chaffee, Mo.

Harmon Radio & Furn Co .. Chaffee Mo

The CHAFFEE LUMBER CO.

Headquarters for all kinds of
BUILDING MATERIAL
Chaffee, Mo. Tel. 72

G H Pate Shoe Repair
Shop Commerce Mo

WARD SMITH
STORE Commerce Mo

H L SMITH
STORE Commerce Mo

SANDERS GROCERY
STORE Diehlstadt Mo

JOHN MICHAELS GROCERY
STORE Diehlstadt Mo

PEOPLE'S ICE CO Fornfelt Mo

A & D SCHREIFER
STORE Fornfelt Mo

W H CASTLEMAN
GROCERY STORE .. Fornfelt Mo

Shoes for the Entire Family
MEN'S WORK CLOTHING
LADIES' WEAR
CHAMPION STORE
Fornfelt, Mo.

A C SHIPMAN
GROCERY STORE .. Fornfelt Mo

DODES MARKET Fornfelt Mo

FRIST STATE BANK OF
FORN FELT Fornfelt Mo

TOM'S GROCERY

If It's Good We Have It

Free Delivery Service

Fornfelt, Mo.

MODEL GROCERY Illmo Mo

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MARTINS BAKERY Illmo Mo

J R FERRIELL
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HARRIS CLEANERS Illmo Mo

RELIABLE SHOE SHOP Illmo Mo

PLAZA THEATRE Illmo Mo

C V HOLLIDAY
INSURANCE AGENCY .. Illmo Mo

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI
LUMBER CO Illmo Mo

KJERS GROCERY Illmo Mo

BANK OF ILLMO Illmo Mo

HARTNERS DRUG
STORES Illmo - Fornfelt Mo

S BISHOP JEWELRY
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Why suffer the tortures of
Rheumatism, Lame Back, Stiff
Aching Joints, when Jap-O-Oil
gives quick soothing relief.

Price \$1.00 a Bottle Postpaid
SHIPLEY BROS., ILLMO, MO.

DOMINO CAFE Illmo Mo

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J H SCHUMACKER
STORE Kelso Mo

BRYANTS GROCERY Morley Mo

DAUGHERTYS
GROCERY Morley Mo

L O WILLIAMS STORE .. Morley Mo

ORAN STATE BANK Oran Mo

**HARPER'S GROCERY
and MEAT MARKET**

Oran, Mo.

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI
LUMBER CO Vanduser Mo

L O WILLIAMS
STORE Vanduser Mo

J. L. CRUSE

GENERAL MERCHANDISE

A Home-Owned Store

Vanduser, Mo.

A. G. Layton, President
M. L. Layton, Sec'y.-Treas.

**The A. G. LAYTON
COMPANY**

Incorporated
GENERAL MERCHANDISE
Vanduser, Missouri

MISSOURI UTILITIES
CO Scott County

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SIMPSON OIL CO Scott County