

# Versailles, Missouri

*Morgan County*



Its First  
One Hundred Twenty-five  
Years

261

Morgan County

acc. No. 261

Presented by:

Elene Sims Yarnell  
Versailles, Mo.  
Mar. 1963.

## Foreword

This booklet, the printing of which was authorized by the committee in charge of the celebration in observance of Versailles' 125th Anniversary, contains much information which we hope will prove to be interesting reading for present and former residents of this city.

Some of the information was supplied by local residents and other material was gleaned from old manuscripts and from early editions of local newspapers. We are grateful, indeed, to those individuals who contributed in any way to the publication of this information booklet.

We feel we would be guilty of a grave injustice if we did not recognize the tremendous amount of work done by Mrs. Dorothy Bartram. She prepared much of the material for publication and edited all of the manuscripts contributed by others. Without her able assistance, this booklet would not have been possible.

We trust you will enjoy the historical aspects of the booklet and that you will find it a valuable addition to your home library.

—THE PUBLISHERS.

FOR ALL YOUR PLUMBING and  
HEATING NEEDS

## Jack's Plumbing Company

Located in rear of Curtis Building

Phone DR 8-4435

Compliments of

## Versailles Machine Shop

24-Hour Wrecker Service

"In Business Here 38 Years"

"TINY" and JESS NOBLES

Phone DR 8-4280

Compliments of

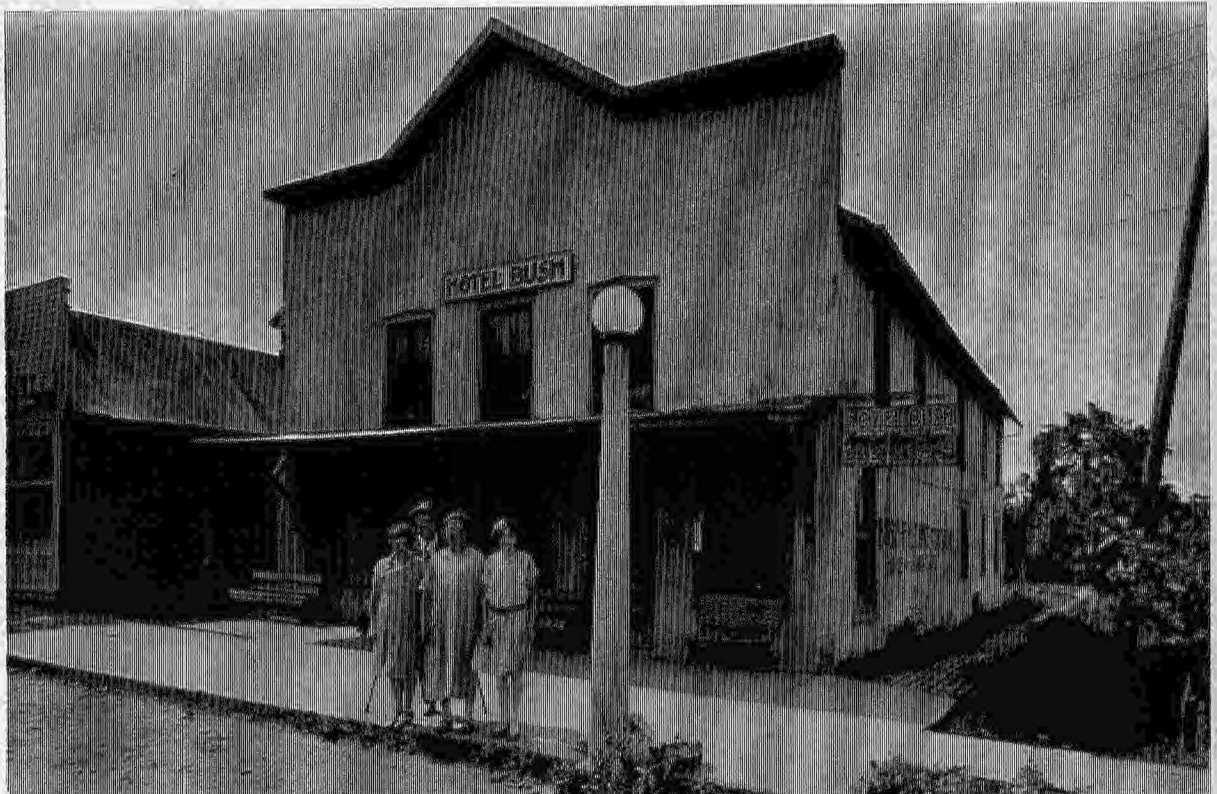
## Versailles UREGAS CO.

For Modern Living  
Beyond the Gas Mains.

## GERBES Super Market

"Your Complete Shopping Center"

GROCERIES — MEATS — FRESH FRUITS  
and VEGETABLES — HARDWARE — DRY  
GOODS — TOYS — SPORTING GOODS.



The Bush Hotel, many years ago, located on the corner of South Monroe and Jasper Streets. The Jeffries Building, occupied by R. P. Hall, Realtor, now occupies this business corner.



# A History of Versailles, Missouri

By Dorothy Bartram

Morgan county was organized by act of the Legislature in 1833. The temporary county seat was located on the farm of Josiah Walton, six miles southeast of Versailles, near what is now the John Stringer farm, in the vicinity of the Y.M.C.A. camp. This place was called Millville, because of the big saw mill and grist mill located there on the Little Gravois creek, operated by Mr. Walton. The county seat remained there for about two years.

In 1835 Wyman and Galbraith pioneers of Morgan county, donated 36 blocks of land, each 170 feet square, and platted the town of Versailles. At this time the remnants of the Osage tribe of Indians still lived in the county.

In 1836 the county purchased a log house on the northeast corner of the public square from Phillip Barger, to be used as a courthouse. This building was located on the site where the Shryack-Givens wholesale house now stands.

In its infancy, the young village of Versailles was long and narrow, having only two streets running north and south, namely Monroe and Fisher streets, and ten streets running east and west. Hugh Brown, county surveyor, surveyed the land, assisted by William Monroe.

The highest point of the tract was selected for the public square and, although this is not the highest elevation in the county, the panoramic view of the rolling hills and valleys to the east and south

and the vast expanse of prairie to the north and west must have influenced those who selected this as the site of the county seat. Street Thruston, an ancestor of Dr. Jack Gunn, was the commissioner who selected the site of the town, which is located in Section 6, Township 42, Range 17, and named it after the French city of Versailles. The lots were sold at public vendue.

Hugh Galbraith erected the first building in town, a small brick structure, which for many years stood on the site of the B-K Cleaners on North Monroe street, one block north of the square. Galbraith was also the first postmaster in Versailles.

In 1836, also, William Hicks opened a 3-room tavern or inn and livery stable, where Clark's service station now stands. This tavern was the stage coach stop for passengers on the Jefferson City to Springfield line. Zebulon Moore and Joseph Steele were among the first builders here. Other early day merchants were Daniel Williams and Lindley, who had blacksmith shops; a man named Freeman, who opened the first saloon; Milton O'Brian, carpenter; John T. Harmon, boarding house; T. & P. Miller, general store. All the buildings clustered about the public square. By 1840 there were 25 buildings here and seventy people. About that time Dr. J. B. Thruston, great-grandfather of Dr. Jack Gunn, came here and began the practice of medicine and in 1838 Dr. McClelland

joined him.

Lumber for the buildings in Versailles was brought here by ox cart from Walton's lumber mill on the Little Gravois Creek.

Grist mills were established by Steinbrink, Gladhill and Banks. The miller received a fractional part of the ground grain for his services. People came for miles to the grist mill by horseback carrying sacks of grain over the saddles. On busy days people sometimes had to wait all day for their turn to have the grain ground into flour or corn meal.

L. E. Williamson, Versailles capitalist, owned a saw mill on Gravois Creek one mile below the old Zwanzig mill, where lumber was sawed and brought to town for the buildings in Williamson's addition to the town of Versailles. The Williamsons lived in the large residence at the east end of Williamson street, later owned by George and Tom Brown, but now owned by J. L. Walton.

James Livingston, Hugh Miller, Major W. W. Cook and W. P. Tooley opened business places here around 1840. Cook and Tooley brought merchandise here for their store by ox cart from Fayette.

In 1844 a modest 2-story brick courthouse was built in the center of the public square. Wm. Burch and Col. Young of Jefferson City were the builders. The bricks used in this structure were molded and baked in kilns on the lot where the water tower stands. This brick yard was

\* \* \* \* \*

This building, razed a number of years ago to make way for the new building housing the B-K Cleaners, is believed to be one of the oldest, if not the oldest, in Versailles. It was situated on the southwest corner of Versailles and North Monroe streets.

\* \* \* \* \*





owned by Mitch Duff. The clay was ground in a horse-drawn grinder and molded by hand, three bricks to a mold. In the early days clay was very close to the surface of the ground in many spots in Versailles.

The first courthouse, surrounded by a corral fence with hitch posts placed at convenient intervals, adequately served all the county officers and was used as a community meeting place for about 43 years. A hand dug public well, on the southwest corner of the courthouse square, furnished water for people and animals. This well and many other strategically located cisterns and wells around the square provided water for the bucket brigade in fighting fires.

It was during the year 1844 that Wm. Kidwell, Sr. established the Kidwell Funeral Home on north Monroe street. Here coffins and furniture were made by hand and sold for miles around. This business was later owned by David Kidwell and finally by his son, Wm. F. (Bill) Kidwell, who dropped the furniture business and devoted his full time to the funeral business.

In 1846 a stagecoach line operated from Jefferson City to Springfield by way of Versailles, Cole Camp and Warsaw. At first there were only three stages a week but later daily service was provided. Coaches were drawn by four to eight horses and this was considered the highest type of travel. The main traveled roads were called "state roads." All other roads were mere cow paths. The streets of Versailles were narrow and dirty and became boggy in wet weather. The few sidewalks around the square were made of wood.

In 1853 Samuel and Elizabeth Martin and their four children came here from Virginia. The second day they were here they met a woman who operated a small rooming house and who proposed that the Martins lease her place, which they did for \$100.00 per year. The only stipulation was that they retain the services of a negro servant, who had been in the employ of the woman for several years. The servant remained for his room and board. The Martin Hotel, first known as the Martin Inn, was located approximately where Dr. Otten's dentist office now stands. After a year, the Martins bought the property for \$300.00 and moved it to the present location of the Martin Hotel. The old building was moved to the east, several years later and the present structure built. After the death of Mr. and Mrs. Martin, the place was operated by their daughters, Misses Sally and Lucy Martin and their friend, Miss Jessie Cole. The hotel fed both Union and Confederate factions during the Civil War, with promises of pay later. Early day rates at the hotel were \$1.00 per day. Guests paid 25c each for three meals and 25c for a bed.

In 1859 John Freebairn, of Scotch descent, opened a market here and later opened a saloon, which he operated for six months. In 1862 he established a general merchandise store which he sold two years later. In 1876 he established a general merchandise store which he sold two years later. In 1876 he established the large general merchandise store later widely known as the Freebairn and Joachimi store and afterwards as the M. L. Joachimi

store.

Several years before the outbreak of the Civil War, Capt. John McClanahan, great-grandfather of Mrs. P. J. McDonough, established an inn on the grounds to the west of the home of W. B. Todd on east Jasper street. This was a stagecoach stop for coaches en route from Boonville and Jefferson City to Springfield. It was not an uncommon sight to see dozens of freighting wagons stopped in front of the inn for the night. Frank Minor, a negro servant, was the head waiter at the inn. The inn purchased the first piano in Versailles and Mrs. Susan A. Robinson, an aunt of Mrs. McDonough would play the instrument for the entertainment of the Civil War soldiers for hours at a time. Later this property was purchased by Judge Bev Richardson, who built a rail fence around the grounds in which he kept a few deer. Around the edge of the property were several small cabins, used as slave quarters.

One of the old buildings here in the early days was Wassung's hall established by John Wassung, father of Mrs. Ben F. Goodman, and located on West Newton street on the present site of the former Gerbes store. This hall was used as a community meeting place and was used for entertainments including shows put on by traveling stock companies which would run for several weeks and attracted large crowds. Among some of the plays presented in Wassung's hall were, "Ten Nights in a Barroom," "Uncle Tom's Cabin" (in which Mrs. Goodman took a child's part), "Two Orphans" and others. One show presented in this hall was composed of sixteen train-

*Odd fellows Bldg., Versailles, Mo.*



This is the Odd Fellows building as it appeared years ago before fire claimed the two top floors. Since that time the building has been one story. It is occupied by the Shryack-Givens Wholesale Grocery Co.

The building is located on the southeast corner of Fisher and Newton streets.

ed horses. Each troupe had a band, which would perform in the afternoon around the square to advertise the show for the evening. Revival meetings, public dinners, school commencements, home talent programs and other community functions were held in this hall. It was also used as a meeting place for the county court after the courthouse was destroyed by fire. Mr. Wassung originally owned and operated a harness shop in Versailles, located approximately where the Gollihar Shoe Store is now located.

A brick jail stood on the southeast corner of the square in 1865 but was condemned in 1877 because the prisoners had cut and dug out the walls in trying to escape so it became unsafe. At one time the prisoners were kept in one room of the basement of the courthouse in a dungeon-like room without a floor. Later it was decreed unlawful for prisoners to be kept underground so this practice was discontinued, and they were then confined in a room on the second floor of the courthouse. A ring in the floor of one room of the courthouse marks the spot where the incorrigible prisoners were chained to the floor to prevent escape.

In February 1877 the county bought a farm three miles southeast of Versailles from G. J. Harvey for \$1500.00 on which was built the county farm or "poor farm" as it was then called. The present brick structure was erected there in 1916.

A house, which stood on the present site of the Spurlock Hotel, was the home of an early settler in Versailles, Col. John H. Stover. To the west of this building on the present site of the Kansas City Bifocal Co. stood the home of Maj. G. H. Stover. A restaurant and bakery stood where the office of Russell P. Hall now stands and was operated by a daughter of Col. Stover, Mrs. George Decker, who sold homemade yeast to the housewives of Versailles. This building later became the Bush Hotel, which was operated for a number of years before it was destroyed by fire in the 1940's. Another imposing building which stood around the square in the early days was the home of Capt. Nielson, which stood where the Shryack-Givens Wholesale Grocery Co. now stands. The brick building presently housing the post office, was built by George Bohling, who operated a jewelry shop there for many years.

The Curtis building, at the southeast corner of the square, now owned by Gene Bartram and Earle Beckner, was the location of the old Curtis store, which was a familiar landmark there for many years. Mrs. Rosina (Curtis) Allen and her sister, Miss Sarah Curtis are the surviving

members of the old Curtis family still residing in Versailles. This building and many other brick buildings around the square were built by John Lumpee Sr., who also built the home now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Norman Boeschen on East Jasper street, for his family. Mr. Lumpee and his son operated a general merchandise store on the corner where the B-K Cleaner's building is now located.

A well remembered business place of early day Versailles was the photograph gallery of A. E. Clodfelter, father of George and Paul Clodfelter, whose studio was located on the second floor of the Curtis building at the southeast corner of the square and was reached by means of a long iron stairway on the west side of the building. Many people of Versailles and community ascended those stairs to have their pictures made.

Among other well-known landmarks around town are the Spurlock Hotel, established by the Spurlock family and now owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Haywood Spurlock, and the 2-story frame residence property belonging to Weighstill Woods, located on East Newton street, one block northeast of the square, the early home of Dr. and Mrs. Peter George Woods; the small frame building between Gerald Yarnell's Skelly station and the Methodist church, one of the oldest buildings in town, a part of which was constructed in 1836 as a part of an inn which stood on the present location of Clark's Service station. A part of the home of Dr. and Mrs. F. A. Crowson formerly stood on the corner where Shryack-Givens Wholesale Co., is now located and was the home of Capt. and Mrs. Nielson.

## Major Fires In Versailles

The first major fire to occur in Versailles was on October 23, 1886. It started in Fairley and Freebairn's livery stable, located at the present site of Bill Gabriel's Skelly Service Station, and traveled eastward, burning an implement store, a 2-story building, and a 3-story frame building located where the White Corner Store now is. This corner building was used as office rooms and the I.O.O.F. and G.A.R. halls. The City Hotel, a 2-story frame building, located between the Heineman and Thorpe buildings, operated by "Grandma" Long, was also destroyed.

The second major fire occurred just five months later on March 13, 1887. Headlines in the local paper regarding the fire, read as follows: "The Second Visitation of the Fiery Fiend Drops Down Upon Our City at the Dead Hour of Midnight and in a Few Short Minutes Strews Wreck and Ruin On Every Hand. The Courthouse Burned and Half the Heart of the City at One Fiery Stroke."

This fire occurred at midnight on Sunday night, originating in the frame building on the northwest corner of the square, occupied by Banks Bros. drygoods and grocery store and Wm. Czarlinsky's drygoods and clothing store. A high wind fanned the flames across the street to the courthouse, which was destroyed by the fire. Most of the records in the courthouse, however, were saved. The new brick building of John Lumpee, Fred Bauer's restaurant and confectionary and the Morgan County Leader were greatly damaged but not destroyed. The fire swept across the street south of the courthouse to the frame building of James A. Spurlock, destroying it, and the brick building of G. W. Petty, occupied by J. F. Stephens' drugstore and the office and press rooms of the Messenger-Gazette. The M. F. Jones hardware store and tin shop were saved. The origination of the fire was unknown, although it was said there was a can of coal oil and keg of powder in the rear of the Banks store. In summing up the fire the editor said, "Noble work saved the Leader office. Water buckets and good working men were in demand at the fire. Sam Livingston did noble work, notwithstanding he had his pants on hind part before. J. F. Stephens will leave in a few days for St. Louis and buy a new stock of merchandise. A great deal of credit is due Flem Harrison and W. S. Bray that the Leader outfit is not in ashes. George W. Petty called for water but no water came. Young Emerson, J. D. Bohling and A. W. Villmoare distinguished themselves as firefighters."

These two major fires occurring only five months apart left the citizens of Versailles stunned at the loss. However, they quickly rallied and business men like John Lumpee soon erected brick buildings around the square. The bricks left from the destruction of the old courthouse were salvaged and some of them used in the construction of the City Hotel.

Other destructive fires in Versailles through the years include the fire which destroyed the top story of the old Oddfellows Hall, located in the Shryack-Givens Wholesale Co. building; the fire in 1922, which destroyed the Versailles school, fire that destroyed the drugstore on the corner where Slagle Sundries now stands and the two buildings adjoin-



ing it on the west and north. The Westlawn grocery store belonging to Roy D. Rains was destroyed by fire on Christmas Eve in 1918. Fire destroyed the building which stood on the spot now occupied by Jay's Tobacco Store and the old Bush Hotel building which stood on the present site of Russell P. Hall, realtor.

The Versailles grade and high school building, located at the present site of the Lower Elementary school, burned in October, 1921, completely destroying the building and contents.

## Newspapers

Morgan county has creditably represented the press business since 1868 when the Morgan County Forum was started in the county by John Henderson. The paper was published until the Civil War broke out, when the editor and his brother, who was his assistant, marched off to war and the paper was never revived.

The Morgan County Banner, a Republican newspaper, was the

second weekly publication in the county. Its first issue was in 1866. It was started by William J. Jackson, who, after one year, sold it to B. S. Walker, W. A. Mills and J. H. Stover, a publishing company. In this manner it was published about one year. In the spring of 1867, W. A. Mills purchased the paper and became the sole proprietor. In the fall of the same year, Mills sold to W. H. H. McCarty, who published the paper until 1870, when it again became the possession of Mr. Mills, who sold it a year later in January, 1871 to John A. Hannay. The name of the paper was changed to the Morgan County Gazette, which was a six-column Democratic paper. In 1874 the name was again changed to the Versailles Gazette, under which name it was published until 1885, when the newspaper was sold to J. K. Gwynn.

Mr. Gwynn changed the name of the paper to the Morgan County Messenger, which was an eight-column Democratic publication. He published the paper successfully until 1886 when the major fire, which destroyed a great part of the business district of Versailles, destroyed the newspaper office. Mr. Gwynn

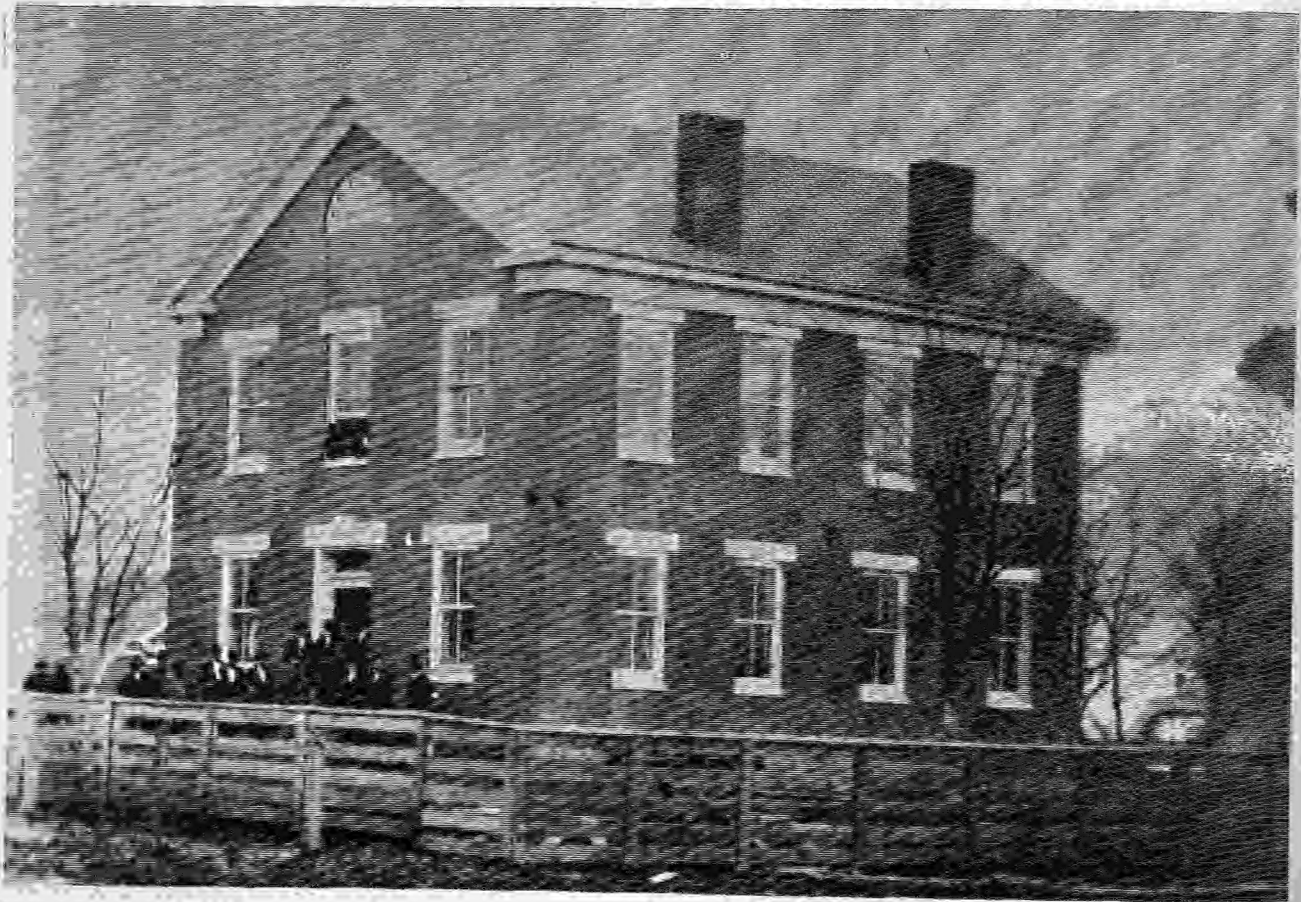
then purchased the Gazette from Mr. Hannay and started publishing the Messenger-Gazette, first issued in 1884. This Democratic paper flourished until it was destroyed by the major fire of 1887. The paper was never revived.

The Versailles Vindicator, a seven-column paper, was started by P. R. Crisp in 1868. After operating for one year the paper was moved to Kansas.

The Versailles Statesman, a Republican newspaper, founded in 1887 by John F. Mounts, was edited by him until his death in 1894. The paper was then published by his widow until 1897 when it was bought by A. G. Baker, who published it until his death in 1930, when it was taken over by his son, Louis Ingalls Baker. Other editors of this paper included Mr. and Mrs. H. Fleming, Jane Kneeland, Dick Jones and Sarah K. Halliburton.

The Morgan County Democrat was published here by Tillman and Duff for several years, passed through several ownerships and finally was discontinued.

The Versailles Leader was begun in the late 1800's by John A. Hannay and Samuel Daniels. Mr. Daniels



Pictured above is Morgan County's first brick courthouse. Located on the same land where the present courthouse stands, this structure burned March 13, 1887.



bought out Mr. Hannay's interest and upon Mr. Daniels' death in 1923, the paper passed on to Mr. and Mrs. John Earp, son-in-law and daughter of Mr. Daniels. Roy E. Otten purchased the Leader in 1945 and in 1948 he purchased the Versailles Statesman and started publishing the Leader-Statesman. Mr. Earp died in 1950.

For many years Versailles was the only place in the county where newspapers were published.

## The Ministerial Alliance

The Versailles Ministerial Alliance was organized in March, 1949. The first officers were Rev. Val B. Strader, president; Rev. Nelson Sachs, vice president; Rev. R. L. Watring, secretary-treasurer.

Present officers are Rev. Jimmy Kruse, president; Rev. Charles Sexton, vice president; Rev. Charles Register, secretary-treasurer. Monthly meetings are held.

## Hawthorne Literary Society

The Hawthorne Literary Society was organized in June 1949. First officers were Mrs. B. L. Medicus, president; Mrs. Frank Pyle, 1st vice president; Mrs. Paul Clodfelter, 2nd vice president; Miss Hazel Ratcliff,

secretary-treasurer; Mrs. George Petty, historian; Miss Lavera Lehman, reporter.

Present officers are Mrs. Paul Lange, president; Mrs. W. E. Nelson, 1st vice president; Mrs. Royce Moser, 2nd vice president; Mrs. Sam Taulbee, secretary; Mrs. Raymond King, treasurer; Mrs. Gene Bartram, reporter; Mrs. K. A. Goodman, parliamentarian; Mrs. Birtle Huff, historian.

The Hawthorne Literary Society was organized for the purpose of studying and promoting the fine arts. For several years the club sponsored an Art Exhibit and Tea in the W.C.C. hall and has sent several students to music contests and the Egyptian music camp. The club made a generous contribution to Girls' Town and helps to sponsor the annual Sophomore Pilgrimage.

## First Methodist Church Organized in 1836

by Mrs. F. A. Crowson

The First Methodist church, the first of any denomination in Versailles, was organized in 1836. The

first meetings were held in the circuit court room of the old courthouse and Rev. Abram Millice was the first pastor. He was Morgan county's first circuit rider. Monthly meetings were held.

In 1842 the Methodists built a large frame building on the site of the church, which faced the east and had many windows on the north and south sides. The church bell, suspended from an outside wooden tower, was rung each Sunday by Uncle Tom Williamson, a negro janitor. According to the deed records of Morgan county, the land on which the church was built was conveyed by quit claim deed from Littlebury E. Williamson and Rebecca E. Williamson, his wife, to Samuel H. Woods, Weightstill A. Parkes, Wm. R. Litsinger, John M. Thruston and Peter G. Woods, as trustees for the Methodist Church South, on April 17, 1873 after the church had been built for several years. The lot for the parsonage, immediately south of the church was given by Wm. Pennebaker and Sarah Pennebaker, his wife, "for the use and purpose of a parsonage." In 1877 the building was enlarged and a basement was dug.

The present brick structure was completed in 1908. The bell in the tower was given by C. H. Mason, former business man and member of the church. The present parsonage on Williamson street was purchased

# Morgan County Gas Co., Inc.

## Bulk -- PROPANE -- Bottles

## Morgan County's Oldest LP Gas Distributor

27 YEARS OF RELIABLE SERVICE

## Complete Line of Gas Appliances

1/2 BLOCK S. W. OF SQUARE ON JASPER ST.

ALVIN H. BAUER

PHONE DRexel 8-4621

in 1950. The old parsonage was removed from the lot south of the church in 1959 to make room for the new educational building which was completed this year.

The membership of the church is now approximately 500. Rev. Raymond Rumbo is serving his second year as pastor. Officers of the official board are Charley Gunn, president; Raymond Garber, secretary; John Nelson, treasurer and Mrs. John Nelson, financial secretary. Mrs. Arthur Eickhoff is church organist, Mrs. Gene Bartram choir director and Roger Meyer Sunday school superintendent.

## History of American Legion and Auxiliary

The Morgan County Post 104 of the American Legion was chartered January 15, 1920. The first meetings were held in the circuit court room and later members of the post rented a large room above the present Knoop's Store, which was known as the American Legion hall for several years. In later years they purchased a small house, which was moved to the lot west of the present site of the Kraft Foods plant, which was used by both the post and auxiliary for several years.

Charter members of the American Legion post were Thos. W. Singer, J. H. Waddell, Irwin E. Young, E. W. Guenther, E. L. Marriott, M. S. Otten, E. C. Parsons, Tressie Foy, T. J. Bomar, J. B. Tuggle, A. W.

Spurlock, Dorris Kays, O. C. Hunter, Robt. C. Toler, H. N. Lutman, W. E. Jones, H. E. Moore, John R. Gunn, Jr., W. J. Bailey, Ulen Forrest, Lloyd Allen, W. A. Kelsay, Charley Daniels, Norman Talbott, A. S. Davis, E. F. Moon, I. M. Wahlers, V. B. Caldwell, Chas. W. Hart, Kirtley J. Morris, Wesley W. Moore, Foster Y. Brown, A. H. Borchardt, Harry Moss, M. L. Cooper, Charles Smoyer, Earl Goddard, Roy Richardson, L. E. Warneke, Ernest R. Johnson, Wm. E. Eckhoff, Henry J. Phillips, J. F. Johnson, Herbert Webster, Wm. Otten, D. W. White, R. L. Hubbard, J. F. Ripperger, B. L. Coit, Thos. Bailey, Leslie Zook, Wm. L. Bradshaw, A. K. Reed, K. A. Goodman, Ivor E. Bradshaw, Curtis F. Madole, Howard C. Poehlman, Ernest Vogt, David K. Driver, Ralph R. Kindel, Charley Spears, Earl Daniels, Carley Bowers, Theo. Bohling, Henry S. Baker, Ellis Berkley, Wm. H. Elliott, W. P. Millner, Ralph Brown, Henry Vail, Lum L. Barber, Douglas Hubbard, Leslie Morrow and C. H. Hayes.

The post purchased the Curtis building on the southeast corner of the courthouse square in 1945, which they sold to Gene Bartram and Earle Beckner in 1956. In 1958 they completed the construction of a new stucco building on Route MM southwest of town. The ground for the building was donated by T. N. Ayres and Carol Ayres.

Present officers of the post are Lewis Jenkins, commander; Raymond Garber, 1st vice commander; Paul Gunn, 2nd vice commander; Walter Heisterberg, adjutant; Don Harrison, finance officer; Russell P.

Hall, service officer; John Nelson, chaplain; Dan Daulton, sergeant-at-arms; Sam Morris, Dave Hutchison and Gene Bartram, trustees.

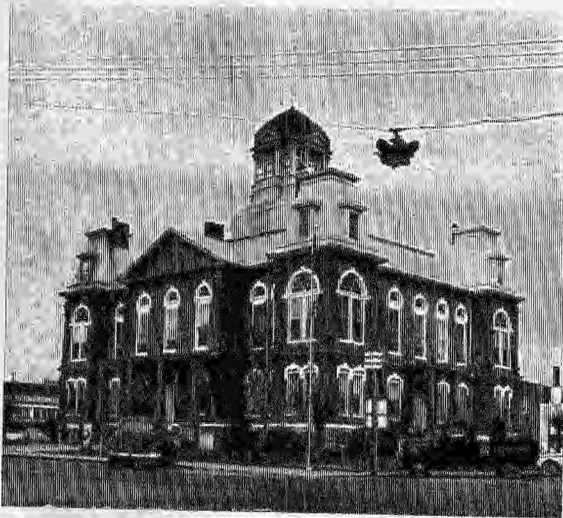
The American Legion Auxiliary was chartered January 12, 1934 with 15 members. Mrs. Bert Erlewine was largely responsible for its organization. Mrs. Asa Gunn of Eldon installed the first officers, with Mrs. Erlewine as president.

Charter members were Mrs. Erlewine, Minnie Evertson, Mildred Otten, Dora Archer, Lillian Arnold, Sarah Cooper, Maurine Earp, Mildred Guenther, Mae Harrison, Grace L. Hart, Mary N. Hubbard, Gladys Keevil, Frances Otten, Lois Robinson and Velma Smoyer.

The first meeting was held in the small American Legion house, later in the homes and for a time in the auxiliary rooms in the Curtis building, which was purchased after World War II by the American Legion.

Present officers of the auxiliary are Mrs. Earl Goddard, president; Mrs. Ralph Hall, 1st vice president; Mrs. Dan Daulton, 2nd vice president; Mrs. Don Harrison, treasurer; Mrs. Gene Bartram, secretary; Mrs. Fleetwood Hargett, chaplain; Mrs. Lewis Jenkins, sergeant-at-arms; Mrs. E. E. Archer, historian; Mrs. Clarence Cable, custodian.

The meetings are held each month on the first Monday night.



Above is the Morgan County Court House as it appears today. At right it is shown as it appeared many years ago before the top was "bobtailed" for safety reasons.

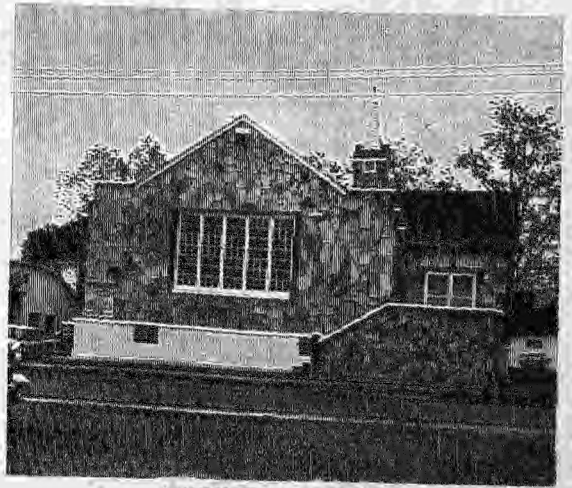




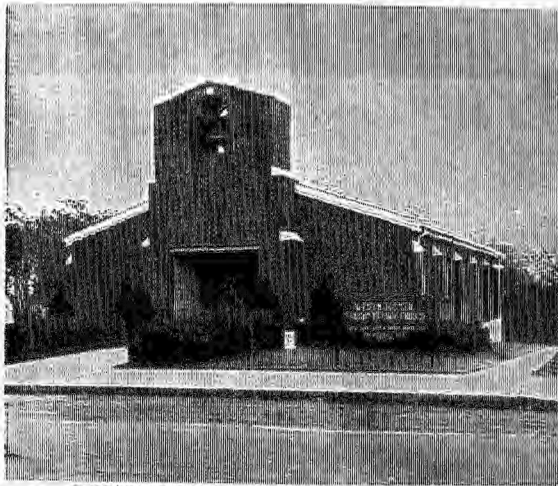
## Some of Versailles' Churches



FIRST BAPTIST



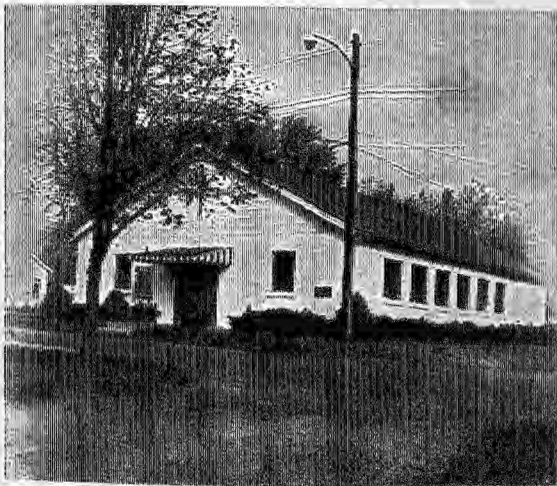
ASSEMBLY OF GOD



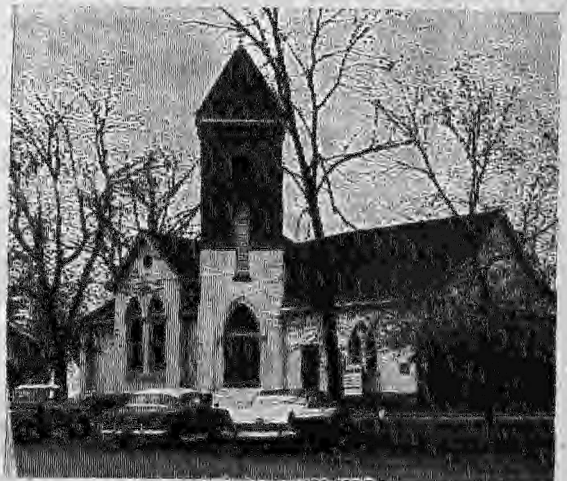
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN



METHODIST



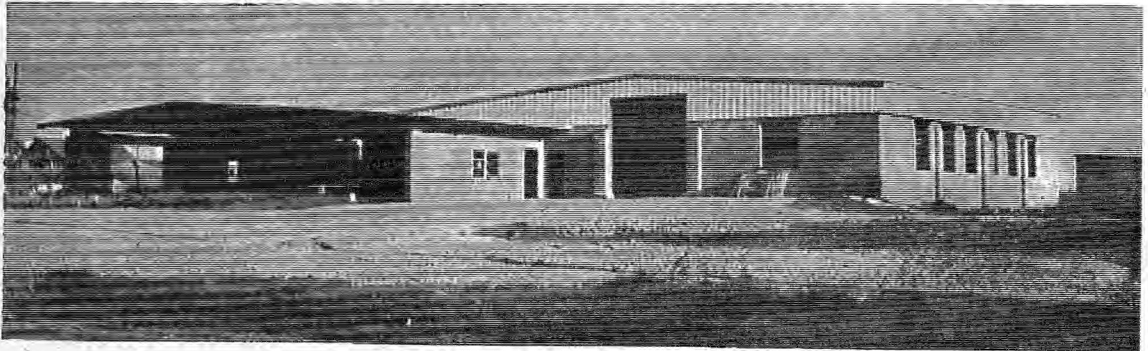
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD



CHRISTIAN



# NEW HOME OF VERSAILLES MOTOR CO.



J. A. (Arthur) Petty started the Ford business here in 1912, in partnership with E. A. Crewson, on the grounds where the Gunn Clinic now stands. They sold the old Model "T" Fords, which had no speedometers, no heaters, dim magneto lights, collapsible tops and storm curtains. The first Fords sold for \$365.05. Mr. Crewson died in 1920 and Mr. Petty operated the business alone until he sold it to Wm. S. Washburn, who moved the business to the present location of the Morgan County Gas Co., and buildings adjoining on the west. After Mr. Washburn's death, the Ford business was purchased by a corporation composed of J. A. Petty, Bill Todd, Rufus Harms, Mr. and Mrs. John Caine and Miss Irene Petty. Later, Mr. Petty and Rufus Harms purchased the interest of the others and continued in the Ford business as partners until Mr. Petty's death in 1960.

The new home of the Versailles Motor Company is located on Highway 52, just west of the Morgan County R-2 high school.

# VERSAILLES MOTOR CO.

## HISTORY FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

by Clyde Henderson

The First Christian church of Versailles was established in 1886 and organized by G. A. Hoffman.

The charter members were John and Sarah Witten, Samuel and Mary Woods, Mrs. Tabitha French, Susan Anthony, Betty Robinson, Isaac and Mary Dodson and Mrs. Ella Jackson. The Elders were John Witten and Isaac Dodson.

The first services were held in a hall above what is now Cooper's store and Bros. Hendrick, Dorsey Phillips and G. A. Hoffman conducted the services for a time, and in 1888 Rev. Anderson and Rev. Melvis held a protracted meeting in the Baptist church building resulting in several additions to the church. The Rev. Edmund Wilkes held a 6-weeks revival meeting in 1889 at which time he used an evangelistic singer in the services, something new at that time in the field of religion. Rev. Wilkes remained as pastor of the church for several years, holding monthly services. It was during his pastorate that Dr. Sam Woods gave a building site on North Monroe street on which a beautiful brick church was erected.

The Rev. D. C. Peters was minister of the church for several years and for some time after that the church was without a pastor. Through the influence of a church member, A. L. Ross, the church called the Rev. E. B. Woods to pastor the church. At this time the membership numbered 23. The membership had been larger but due to deaths and changes of residence the number dropped. A few years later the membership grew to 103. In 1906 the Rev. Sam Creel was called as pastor and he was followed through the years by Rev. Wilkes, Rev. E. B. Woods, Rev. Bickle, Rev. Mills, Rev. Duncan, Rev. S. A. Anderson, Rev. J. L. Freeman, Rev. H. J. Rains, Rev. W. L. Gibbony, Rev. Carpenter and Rev. S. Allen Watson. Rev. Woods and Rev. Freeman each served as pastor of the church for many years. The present pastor is the Rev. Jimmy Kruse.

In November, 1936 the church held a basket dinner and special program in observance of its 50th anniversary.

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

by Mrs. A. J. Lefever

The following notes appeared from the minutes record of the First Baptist Church, dated June 13, 1891: "On motion the church agreed to let the Presbyterians have the use of the church house in which to conduct a meeting."

On July 9, 1891 a group of Presbyterians met in the Baptist church and organized the First Presbyterian church of Versailles. The late Mrs. J. A. Petty, who was a small girl at that time, played the organ. A church building was begun, completed and dedicated in the early part of 1892.

Charter members of the church were Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Crewson, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Hubbard, Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Wells, Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Fairley, Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Davidson, Mr. and Mrs. Maynard, Mr. and Mrs. Woodbury, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Price, Quilliam Davidson, Miss Harriett Davidson, Miss Carrie Smith, Mrs. Sarah A. Smith, Mrs. Grace T. Mills, Mrs. Laura Wray, Mrs. B. F. Dunn, Mrs. J. D. Hubbard, Mrs. Ida May Ducey, Mrs. T. J. Pullium.

The church was reorganized in 1902 under the name of Westminster Presbyterian Church. Charter members of this church were Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Crewson, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Hubbard, Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Davidson, Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Simon, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Kirk, Mrs. J. D. Hubbard, Mrs. T. J. Pullium, Mrs. J. P. Lumpee, Mrs. Ella Well, Mrs. M. D. Osborne, Mrs. Anna Knoop, Miss Harriett Davidson, Miss Harriett Bailey, Mary Glasgow, Minnie Glasgow, S. P. Bailey, Bennett Bailey and H. F. Tillman.

The frame building was razed in the summer of 1954 and the present brick structure was completed and dedicated in March, 1955.

The present pastor is Rev. Richard V. Beesley. Church organist is Mrs. Bill Bauer. Mrs. Ralph Six is Sunday School superintendent. Members of the church Session (board) are Wm. W. Williams, Frank Ramirez, Paul Arnold, Harold Knoop, A. J. Lefever, Sr., A. J. Lefever, Jr., Carl A. Guenther, Blake Cable, Jr. and J. C. Garrison.

## HISTORY OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

by Mrs. Royce Moser

The First Baptist Church of Versailles was organized January 13, 1868 in the Methodist Church building, an old structure that stood about where the present Methodist Church now stands.

The church was organized with the following charter members: Col. A. W. Anthony, a lawyer of Versailles and a representative of Morgan County in the General Assembly of the State. He was clerk from the day of the organization in 1868 until 1890. He was one of the first deacons and a trustee. He was a relative of Mrs. P. J. McDonough and Miss Fae Long; Norman Gray and his wife, Mary L. Gray. Mrs. Catherine Hubbard, grandmother of Douglas Hubbard and Gladys Keevil. Dr. Joseph Yates and his wife, Elizabeth Yates. Carrie P. Coleman (Mrs. George P. Clark), who died in 1908, the last of the charter members; Miss V. Josephine Coleman (Withers). Mrs. Lucy E. Jobe, mother of Warren Todd, Alice Loller (Mrs. John E. Sims), grandmother of Dr. Barry Holloway, N. Y., Miss Lois Holloway, St. Joseph, Warren Cooper, Stover and Herbert Cooper, Warsaw; Mary Neff and her mother, Elizabeth Tipton, Mrs. Catherine Bradbury and D. P. Taylor and wife.

The first pastor was the Reverend J. B. Box.

For a number of years the organization did not have a church building and during the first year the Methodist people invited the group to hold services in their church on Sunday afternoons and nights. Then the Misses Coleman, who conducted a private school in a little log school-room which they owned, provided the meeting place in this log room until the County Court granted permission to hold the services in the Court House (built in 1844), where services were held until 1879.

The first auditorium was started in 1877 and the first services were held July 19, 1879. The building was not completed—it was lathed but not plastered, had no flues, no pulpit nor seats. The people sat on boards. The cost of the structure was between \$1800 and \$2000. The building was dedicated in 1881.

A history of the First Baptist Church of Versailles would not be complete without some remarks about the service given by Judge Samuel Daniels, who served as a deacon from 1896 until his death in 1923. He was church clerk for 23 years and served as Sunday School superintendent from 1895 until 1923, when he was succeeded by Royce Moser, who served from 1923 until 1954.

A. G. Baker gave long years of service as a trustee in the church and a teacher of young men.

In 1929, when Rev. B. F. Kennedy was pastor, a brick educational building was erected. But this building, along with the old auditorium, was torn down in 1948 and the present auditorium and Sunday School building was erected in 1948-50. The first services were held April 2, 1950, Dr. Alexander Best being the pastor at that time.



The present membership of the church is 562; the present budget is \$24,776; the present pastor is the Rev. Charles Sexton; the deacons are: Benton Ball, A. F. Moon, L. E. DeVinna, Lee T. Sims, Royce Moser, Shelton Ball, Roy Berkstresser, Marvin Welpman, Norman Akin and Jack Wood; the church organist is Maurice J. LaRue, Jr.; the church clerk is Miss Kathryn Rumans; the treasurer is Mrs. Maurice J. LaRue, Jr.; and the trustees are: Clarence Davis, Sam Morris, Everett White. The Sunday School Superintendent is Norman Akin.

## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

The first Lutheran services held here were begun June 5, 1949 in a rented house on highway 52 west of town, where the small congregation continued to meet for about three years.

On Sunday, July 29, 1951 the congregation was organized and incorporated under the name of Grace Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod), with twelve communicant members who were Rufus Harms, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Langkop, Earl Meyer, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rabe, Willett Rabe, Mr. and Mrs. Marion Silvey, Mrs. Vincent Staudenraus and Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Wittrock.

In the spring of 1953 a basement chapel on the site of the present edifice, was completed and dedicated. In December, 1957 the new parsonage to the south of the church was completed and dedicated and became the new residence of the parish pastor.

Work was begun on the new church building in March, 1960 and the building was completed and dedicated Sunday, November 27, 1960.

Present officers of the congregation are Rufus Harms, president;

J. C. Beach, vice-president; L. Warrington, secretary; A. H. Meyer, treasurer; G. F. Wittrock, S. S. superintendent; J. C. Beach, H. Benne, L. Gehrs, elders; H. Albers, V. Staudenraus, R. Vogt, trustees; L. Tucker, E. McCullough, L. Warrington, education; R. Harms, L. Warrington, E. Reil, missions; M. Fromm, V. Staudenraus, R. Vogt, finance; D. H. Mohling, pastor.

## SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH

by Mrs. Nannie Hunter

The Second Baptist church, located on Highway 5 in the south part of town was built in 1881. The land, Lot 43, Block 12 of the original town of Versailles, was given by Judge James P. Ross for the site of the Second Baptist church and the Negro school to the north. This land was conveyed by general warranty deed December 31, 1878 to the trustees of the church, Pompey Davis, Hamilton King, Lawyer Burris, Sr., Thomas Williamson and Ferdinand Shavers.

Among the ordained ministers who have gone out from the church are Lawyer Burris, Sr., Shelby Burris, Walter Williamson, Alex Ross, Johnny Pullom, Clarence Hester, Dorne Holder and Richard Snorgrass.

The present minister is the Rev. Alexander Ross. Present board of deacons are Shelby Burris, Bev Martin, Walter Ross, Bob Burris, Nathaniel Thurston, Jap Holder and Garfield Webb. Mrs. Carrie Chism is Sunday School superintendent and Mrs. Alberta Burris is pianist. Mrs. Ed Redmond is president of the missionary society.

At the time the present church was built Rev. L. D. Hardiman was

pastor, Beverly Hunter was church clerk and Mrs. Mae Pullom Daniels was treasurer. Deacons at that time were Beverly Hunter, Garfield Webb, Moses Webb, Jap Holder, Bert Martin, Selby Burris and Walter Ross.

Miss Norma Jean Thurston is the present choir leader. James Allen Burris is pianist for the junior choir.

## ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH

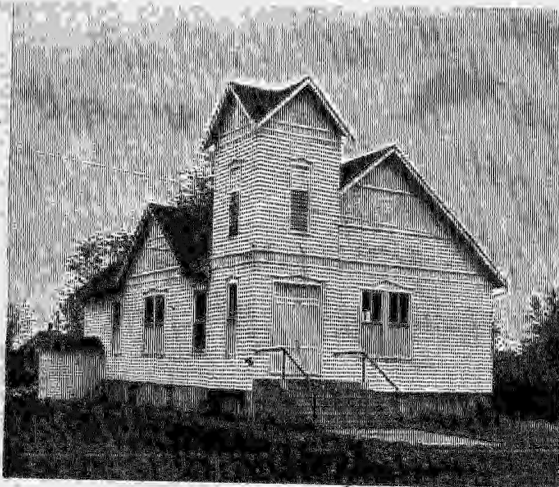
by Mrs. Archie Garrison

The Assembly of God church was first begun in 1934 by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Edmondson, now of Corona, Calif. Services were held on the second floor of the former Gerbes store, now the Thomas T.V. and Appliance Co. on West Newton Street, for a number of years. Itinerate ministers filled the pulpit until 1936 when Rev. L. C. Ramsey, then pastor of the Excelsior Assembly of God church, resigned that pastorate to accept the pastorate of the Versailles church. The first deacons were Ledru Dilse, Delbert Bucher and C. E. Bennett. Charter members were Mr. and Mrs. Richard Edmondson, Mr. and Mrs. Ledru Dilse, Mr. and Mrs. Archie Garrison, Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Randall, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Bennett, Mrs. Tom Dilse, Mrs. Nellie Hays, Mrs. Mary Cooper, Mrs. Donna Hess, Mrs. Jesse Allee, Mrs. J. L. Bake, Everett Bake, Bill Noyes, Elbert Bucher, Mrs. Bertha Woods, Edith Woods Hess, Emma Woods Silvey, Laverne McGinnis Wood, Mrs. Nellie Hess and Sylvia Bybee Morrison. Charter members yet in the church are Mr. and Mrs. Archie Garrison and Bill Noyes.

Other pastors of the church include Rev. Fred Morris, Rev. Rose Monigan, Rev. Lillian Steffens, Rev. Harry Jenkins, Rev. A. L. Burnett, Rev. Nelson Sachs, Rev. T. D. Jennings. The present pastor is Rev. W. C. Hamilton.

The present church building on North Monroe street was completed in 1947. A new parsonage on Hunter street was completed this year.

Members of the church board are Archie Garrison, Jesse Hays, Chas. Davenport, Byron Lutman and Lon Dell Campbell. Present membership is 77.



The Second Baptist church has served a large segment of the colored population of Versailles since 1881. It is located in the south part of town on Highway No. 5.



## Gerald Yarnell Skelly Station

Since 1951

On Highway 5, One Block North of Square

GERALD YARNELL, Operator

Robert G. Silvey Calvin Waisner  
Attendants

Phone DRexel 8-5312

## Town and Country

"Apparel of Distinction"

—Established in 1949—

EDNA BALL

JANET FLEISHMAN  
Proprietors

## The Beauty Box

FOR ALL YOUR BEAUTY NEEDS

First owners were Margaret Kimsey,  
Edna Lee Bridges and Lily Mae Hunter

WM. W. WILLIAMS, Owner and Operator  
Phone DR 8 - 4469

## Niangua Chapter D.A.R.

Headquarters Camdenton, Mo.

Organized February 1957 with old family names  
of Camden, Miller and Morgan counties on  
charter.

The Daughters of the American Revolution  
are patriotically endeavoring to perpetuate the  
spirit of the men and women who achieved  
American independence.

The D.A.R. annually awards a Good Citizen-  
ship pin to a deserving Senior girl of the Mor-  
gan County R-2 School.

Compliments of

## Shryack-Givens Wholesale Grocery Co.

East Side of Square

DON HARRISON, Manager

## Fain's Drug Store

Drugs and Sundries

Fountain Service

LEONARD H. FAIN, Proprietor

## Akin & Roll Hardware Co.

Maytag Washers and Dryers

General Hardware

NORMAN AKIN and FINIS ROLL, Proprietors

Compliments of

## Western Auto Associate Store

JIM and DOTTIE BARRON, Proprietors

## PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD

by Mrs. Lawson Silvey

The Pentecostal Church of God, located off Highway 52 on Hunter street, was organized February 3, 1953. Services were first held in the American Legion hall and the first pastor was Rev. Donnie Schmidt, when services were held in a tent.

The present church building was completed and dedicated April 14, 1954. Charter members of the church are Mrs. Sarah Cooper, Mrs. Louis Lepley, Mrs. Fred Moritz, Mrs. Lawson Silvey and Mrs. Vince Gabriel.

Other pastors of the church were Rev. C. H. Thompson, who helped to design and build the church and was the first pastor in the new building; Rev. J. R. Robertson, Rev. W. O. Singleterry, Rev. W. E. Linebarger, Rev. Yates and the present pastor, Rev. Cleola Braden. The Sunday school superintendent is Charley Phillips. Mrs. Braden is organist.

Present board members are Charley Phillips, Lawson Silvey, Clarence Griffith, Conrad Braden and William Westing.

## KIWANIS CLUB WAS ORGANIZED IN 1947

The Versailles Kiwanis Club was organized at a dinner at the City Hotel Cafe in July, 1947, with 30 charter members as follows: Paul Barnes, Hugh A. Meyer, Rev. W. L. Bright, Roger Meyer, T. A. Courtney, Jack Dunkin, Claude Nichols, P. F. Eckhoff, Arthur Norman, Richard B. Fenimore, L. R. Robinson, Kenneth Greene, Garver Searcy, E. W. Guenther, M. E. Slyman, Mitchell Dornan, Charles Smoyer, Talmage Henderson, Robert Stockton, Sidney Hodges, Rev. Val B. Strader,

Bill King, J. L. Walton, Irvin Laughlin, R. V. Williams, Virgil Lujin, Jr., Hunter Jolly, Dr. Otho Washburn, Joe L. Wood. Officers were Roger Meyer, president; Arthur Norman, vice president; L. R. Robinson, Sec'y-Treas.

The club meetings were first held at the City Hotel then later for many years in the W.C.C. hall. Since the hall was destroyed by fire last year the club has held its meetings in the basement of the Methodist church. Mr. and Mrs. Lacey Ware have served the club luncheons for many years.

Present officers of the club are C. L. Dunnaway, president; Jack Wood, vice president; Clyde J. Kidwell, Sec'y-Treas.

## LIONS CLUB ORGANIZED IN 1937

The Versailles Lions Club was organized here in October, 1937 with John Yoest as president; Moss McDonald, 1st vice president; Dr. M. S. Otten, 2nd vice president; Carl West, 3rd vice president; Harry Clark, secretary; Jimmy Carpenter, treasurer; John Williams, Lion Tamer; Hugh Hart, tail twister.

Charter members were Gene Bartram, Alvin Bauer, Warren Bond, Edgar Carpenter, Harry Clark, George Clodfelter, Arlen Deppeler, Leonard Fain, Hugh Hart, Harold Knoop, Moss McDonald, V. C. Mobley, Dr. M. S. Otten, Wm. Otten, Roy E. Otten, Roy Robinson, Dr. J. Loren Washburn, Carl West, John Williams and John Yoest.

The first luncheon meetings were held in the City Hotel cafe. The club received its charter, November 16, 1937.

The biggest project of the Lions Club has been the building of the Morgan County Fair Grounds and sponsoring the fair each year. For many years the luncheon meetings

of the club have been held in the Lions building at the fairgrounds, served by Mr. and Mrs. Lacey Ware.

Present officers of the club are Roland Dennis, president; W. E. Nelson, secretary; Bill Bolinger, vice president; Darrell Goodman, tail twister.

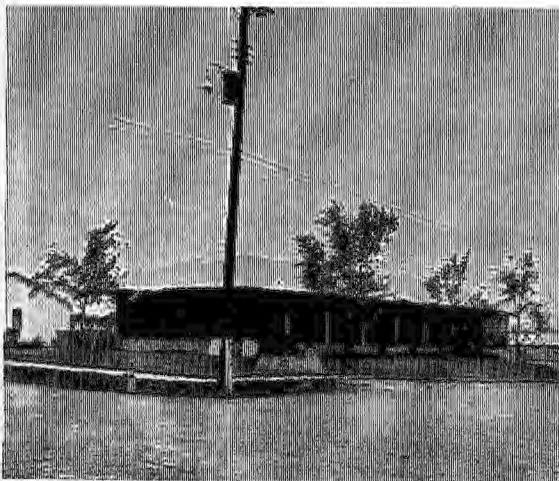
## THE RAILROADS

In the days just preceding the Civil War, the railroad between Boonville and Versailles was chartered, the survey made and the road-bed graded and ties hauled in readiness for the construction of the railroad. The war, however, stopped this operation which was resumed in 1872. This time flood conditions in the area washed away much of the materials and again work lay idle until 1879.

This was known as the Boonville-Versailles branch of the Missouri Pacific from Tipton to Versailles. This railroad was completed in 1880 and the first run was made June 2 of that year. This very important event called for a big celebration and a banquet was held with appropriate speeches, which was attended by a throng of people of the community. Morgan county donated \$135,000.00 toward this project, historical records say. This railroad line ceased operations May 1, 1936 and the old Missouri Pacific depot with its turntable, located directly west of residence property of Mrs. Bertha B. Lehman on North Monroe street, was removed.

The Rock Island railroad was completed from St. Louis to Kansas City in 1903. This trunkline was quite a boon to Versailles, giving the town and entire county a great and much needed stimulus business-wise. Railroad workers poured into town earning what was considered big wages and spending their money freely until practically every business in town profited from these wages. Businessmen expanded their businesses and promoted the sale of items heretofore uncalled for. The construction of this railroad resulted in the construction of the old clay plant, which stood on the grounds in the extreme southwestern part of town, west of the T. N. Ayers property. The coming of the railroads to Versailles caused an increase of one-fourth in the population and brought about the establishment of many new businesses here, as a result of the new transportation.

The Rock Island passenger train service was discontinued here in April, 1959. The old depot which had stood for so many years in the Cloverhurst addition in the north part of town, was razed in 1957 and replaced by a new, smaller building.



The new Grace Lutheran church was completed and dedicated in 1961. It is located in the southwest part of Versailles.

## **Gollihar's Shoe Store**

The Home of Velvet Step — Weatherbird  
and City Club Shoes

This location has been a shoe store since 1900

FLOYD and THELMA GOLLIHAR, Props.

## **The Fashion Shop**

Ladies' and Children's Ready-to-Wear

BERTHA JOHNS, Prop.

(Since 1929)

Phone DR 8-4431

Greetings from

## **Slagles Sundries**

(Formerly Rexall Drug Store)

JOAN and DEXTER SLAGLE, Props.

Compliments of

## **Russell P. Hall, Realtor**

Over 30 years of reliable real estate service  
in Versailles.

## **Bond's Dairy Queen**

1/2 block southwest of square.

Home-packed Ice Cream — Sundaes — Shakes  
Malts — Sandwiches — Soft Drinks

(Established in 1950 by Mrs. Joe Rumans)

CECIL and DOROTHY BOND, Props.

## **American Sales Company**

Clothing and Drygoods Store

Everyday Bargains

HAZEL RATCLIFF, Manager

## **Gateway Jewelry Store**

Diamonds — Jewelry — Watches

China — Silverware — Gifts

PAUL and HAZEL BARNES, Props.

Compliments of

## **Kansas City Bifocal Co.**

Established Here in January, 1945



## Chevrolet Business Started in 1926

By D. K. Hunter

The first Chevrolet Agency in Versailles was established in January, 1926, by Don K. Hunter, and operated in the Heineman Garage Building. In May of 1926, P. J. McDonough bought a half interest in the business and formed the partnership of Hunter-McDonough Motor Company.

The last of July, 1926, Don K. Hunter, went back into The Bank of Versailles where he had worked for a few years up to July, 1924. Upon his return to the bank, he retained his interest in the Hunter-McDonough Motor Company, keeping the books and managing the business details of the establishment, while Mr. McDonough took over the selling. They operated as a partnership in this manner until December, 1929, when the business was incorporated with P. J. McDonough, President, and Don K. Hunter, as Secretary-Treasurer.

By this time the business had grown so much that Mr. McDonough and Mr. Hunter could not take care of it, so they hired their first salesman and bookkeeper-partsman. The first salesman hired was Cecil Hunter, and the first bookkeeper and partsman was John James Spurlock. Other salesmen who have sold for the company in the past years are Arch Kidwell, Dorsey Meyer, Elwood Barbour, and John Yoest. Other bookkeepers have been Mrs. Lois Herfurth and L. M. (Cotton) Earnest.

The business got too big for the Heineman Garage Building so it was expanded into the building next door, now occupied by the Morgan County Gas Co., and for several years occupied both buildings.

Dave White started with Hunter-McDonough as salesman in October, 1939; Joe Wood as a mechanic-body man in 1939; Roy Shore as a mechanic in 1940. When the war clouds of the second world war were gathering, auto production was halted temporarily so the company took on the sale of John Deere Farm machinery. Joe Wood, Roy Shore, Dave White all left to serve our county in World War II. As the war had cut the business it was necessary to move to smaller quarters so the concrete garage building on North Fisher Street was purchased and the business moved into it. J. E. Herndon and his son, Jim, were the service mechanics during these troubled times.

Hunter-McDonough built the new building on North Fisher street in 1946 and moved into it, keeping the concrete garage building for storage.

Roy Wood joined the firm in 1950 as a mechanic. Lloyd Morris, also a former service man, was hired in the service department in November 1951. James Lake took over the parts department in January, 1950, but left to serve in the Army. Jim Hunter, who had completed his service in the Navy and had finished his college education, was added to the staff in February, 1952. Harold Mortenson joined the firm as machinery salesman in the fall of 1952. James Lake came back from service and is now employed in the service department.

The Hunter-McDonough Motor Company, through the years, has been one of the better sales and service organizations selling cars in Central Missouri.

P. J. McDonough, President;  
Don K. Hunter, Secretary & Treasurer;

J. M. Dornan, General Manager (since 1945);

Dave White and Jim Hunter, Sales Department;

Joe Wood, Roy Shore, Lloyd Morris, Roy Wood and James Lake, Service Department;

Harold Mortenson, Machinery Department;

Bob Earnest, Parts Department;  
Mrs. Dulcie Burk, Bookkeeper, (since 1943).

## Bank of Versailles Has Interesting History

By D. K. Hunter

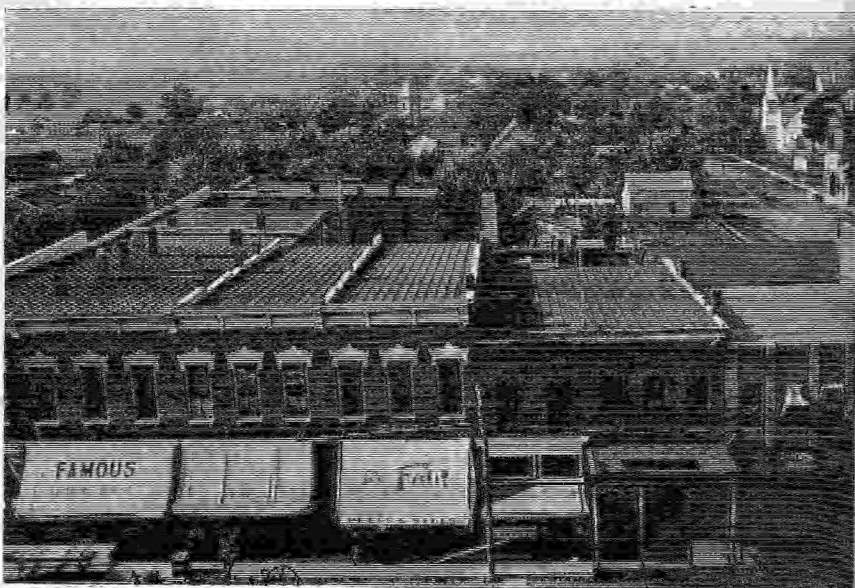
The Bank of Versailles was started November 21, 1882 as a private

bank. It was chartered as a state banking institution December 21, 1882, with the late P. G. Woods as president and the late Will L. Stephens as cashier. Other directors at that time were R. Q. Roache, Wm. T. Jackson, Elwyn Price and W. A. Parkes. At that time the bank had a capital stock of \$5,000. Deposits on the first day of operation amounted to \$5,626.53.

In 1891 the bank's capital was increased to \$30,000 and some additional stock sold. Some of the new stockholders at that time were P. H. Kidwell, Abe Wenger, August Zwanzig, B. R. Richardson, B. G. Bowlen, P. E. Davis, D. C. Dale, R. E. Dornan, Mike Schubert, D. P. Taylor, D. B. Ivy, J. T. Washburn, C. H. Knoop, T. L. Callison and M. F. Jones.

Only five presidents have served the bank during its 78 years. They were P. G. Woods, A. L. Ross, W. K. Hunter, W. W. Moore and D. K. Hunter. After W. K. Hunter's death in February, 1937, his son, Don K. Hunter was elected president, the office he has continued to hold to this date. Three men have served as cashiers as follows: Will L. Stephens, M. F. Jones and E. W. Guenther, the latter becoming cashier and vice president in 1924. Among the other old-timers who served as directors during the early days of the bank were James McNair, Bennett Ivy, G. B. Frish, Richard H. Woods, Porter E. Davis, P. H. DeVinna, David C. Dale, S. P. James, J. T. Washburn, G. G. Guenther, J. J. Vogt, John F. Gerber, Wm. S. Washburn, S. B. Talbott, S. N. Newton and George C. Vogt.

The Bank of Versailles was started in the present location in a smaller



This is the way the north side of the square looked many years ago.

building. In 1918 the building adjoining it to the east was purchased and the building was remodeled and enlarged, new fixtures were put in, a new vault was added and a new front put on the building. The building was modernized in 1958 with an entirely new interior, a new vault installed, working space and offices expanded and a new glass front installed. Present assets of the bank now amount to more than three and one-half million dollars.

Present directors are Roy C. Gerber, El. W. Guenther, D. K. Hunter, P. J. McDonough, Royce Moser, J. L. Washburn, Clark Marker. Officers are D. K. Hunter, president; E. W. Guenther, vice-president and cashier; Wm. R. Hunter, Sam M. Guenther, Dortha Mae Wood, assistant cashiers; Lorene Hughes, Dorothy Ball, Ruth Morrison and Ruth Comer, bookkeepers.

## VERSAILLES CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

The Versailles Cemetery Association was organized April 10, 1906, with D. C. Hardy, Jr. as president. H. K. Enloe was secretary and directors were Paul Spurlock, J. A. Petty, J. B. Lumpee, Chas. Willson, Mr. Hardy and Mr. Enloe.

During the early years the record of cemetery lot owners was kept by the city offices and the cemetery board could not provide perpetual care for the cemetery due to lack of funds. The association was rather inactive until May, 1927, when it was reorganized and the officers were Mrs. Lucy Brown, president; Mrs. B. F. Goodman, secretary; Mrs. J. A. Petty, treasurer.

Through the efforts of the cemetery board, the city cemetery has perpetual care and is beautifully kept the year around.

Charter members of the cemetery association, still living, are Mrs. Etta Bohling, Mrs. Eva Goodman and B. L. Rickard.

In 1959 the old brick tool house was razed and two beautiful memorial buildings, bearing tablets of marble inscribed with the names of the men of Morgan county who gave their lives in the service of their country during the great wars, were erected in the south part of the cemetery. One building was erected through the efforts of the association and the other given by friends in memory of the late Wm. F. Kidwell, who was a member of the association for many years.

The hedge fence enclosing the cemetery was made possible by the cemetery association. The Women's Civic Club has contributed many trees toward the beautification of the cemetery.

Present officers of the cemetery board are Mrs. C. E. Willson, president; Mrs. W. M. Boles, 1st vice president; Mrs. Roy Otten, 2nd vice president; Mrs. Earle Beckner, treasurer; Mrs. August Heineman, secretary.

## The Women's Civic Club

by Mrs. F. A. Crowson

The Women's Civic Club was organized in 1921 and the first meeting was held February 23 of that year. Mrs. W. H. Hargrove presided at this meeting and officers were elected as follows: Mrs. Mary Lawrence, president; Mrs. Hargrove, 1st vice president; Mrs. J. A. Petty, 2nd vice president; Mrs. W. A. Buell, secretary; Mrs. Lum Barber, treasurer; Mrs. Fred Monseess, corresponding secretary. There were 95 members the first year and the dues was \$2.00 per member.

This club was first known as the Women's Auxiliary and was an auxiliary to the men's Community Club, later the Chamber of Commerce. The Civic Improvement Club was the predecessor to the Women's Auxiliary.

The first meetings were held in the basement of the courthouse where the club kept a library for several years. The library was started by the Progress Club and later given to the Women's Auxiliary. In later years the auxiliary became the Women's Civic Club, which celebrated its 35th anniversary in 1956. This club built the present library building, purchased the books and paid the librarian until the county took over the library.

One of the biggest projects of the Women's Civic Club was the maintenance of the second floor of the second floor of the city hall as a community meeting center, which they furnished, maintained and rented to organizations and individuals until the hall was destroyed by fire in February 1960. The club has also sponsored city beautification projects, including home decorations at Christmastime, and the lawn of the month awards. It also sponsored spring clean-up for many years.

Presidents of the club were Mrs. Mary Lawrence, Mrs. W. H. Hargrove, Mrs. Carl Egendorf, Mrs. Chas. Willson, Mrs. Birdie Ephland, Mrs. Frank Bremer, Mrs. W. A. Buell, Mrs. W. A. Dromgold, Mrs. A. J. Gunn, Mrs. E. B. Woods, Mrs. George Hubbard, Miss Irene Petty, Mrs. Wm. Todd, Mrs. Minnie Evertson, Mrs. J. E. Gehrean, Mrs. J. G. Witten, Mrs. P. J. McDonough, Mrs. Wm. Otten, Mrs. Roy E. Otten, Mrs. John Earp, Mrs. Met Hughes, Mrs. F. A. Crowson, Mrs. K. A. Goodman, Mrs. Warren Boles, Mrs. C. E. Richardson, Mrs. Royce Moser, Mrs.

Gene Bartram, Mrs. Hugh Meyer, Mrs. Mitch Dornan, Mrs. Orlyn White and the present president, Mrs. Mitch Dornan.

In November of 1960 a bond issue for the construction of a new city hall and Women's Civic Club rooms carried by an overwhelming majority and plans are now under way for the construction of the building.

(Historical data was found in the files of the Leader.

## The Ice Plant

by Mrs. Royce Moser

In 1909 an artificial ice plant was erected in Versailles on the same site of the present ice plant on highway 52 in the west part of town. This 10-ton capacity plant was the first ice plant here. Previous to that time several business men, including Charley Price, C. H. Mason and M. Spidel, built ice houses with double walls insulated with sawdust, in which they stored large blocks of ice which they sawed out of the frozen ponds here during the winter months.

The Moser Ice Plant has been in continuous operation for 51 years. It was remodeled in 1947 when the original equipment was replaced with new machinery. The plant was enlarged to 25-ton capacity at that time. Royce Moser, the present owner, has operated the plant since it was established in 1909.

## Moser Hatchery

The Moser Hatchery was established here in 1920 by Mr. and Mrs. Royce Moser, who operated under the national plan as a U.S. approved hatchery. Baby chicks have gone out from the Moser hatchery to all the 48 states and eggs from pedigreed flocks have been shipped to foreign countries. The business was started with a few hand-turned incubators and by 1940 it had built up to a capacity of over 250,000 eggs.

During the depression years, poultry raising was one of the chief businesses of the farmers and many of them received egg checks from the Moser hatchery which, in turn benefitted the business and professional people of the town, since most of the checks were cashed in Versailles.

In the beginning the Moser hatchery chicks were sold as baby chicks. Now they are brooded and sold as started chicks.

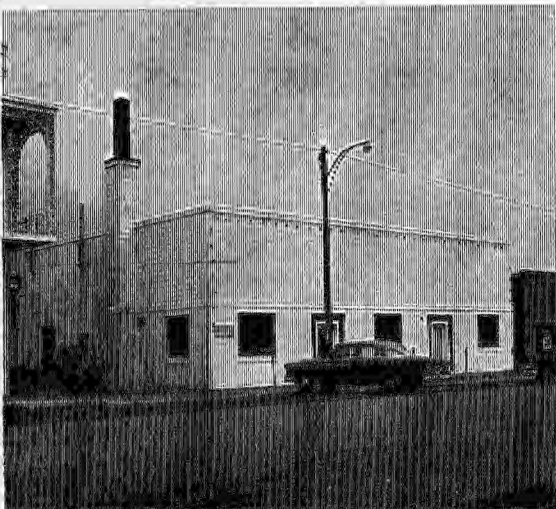




THE BANK OF VERSAILLES



THE MARTIN HOTEL



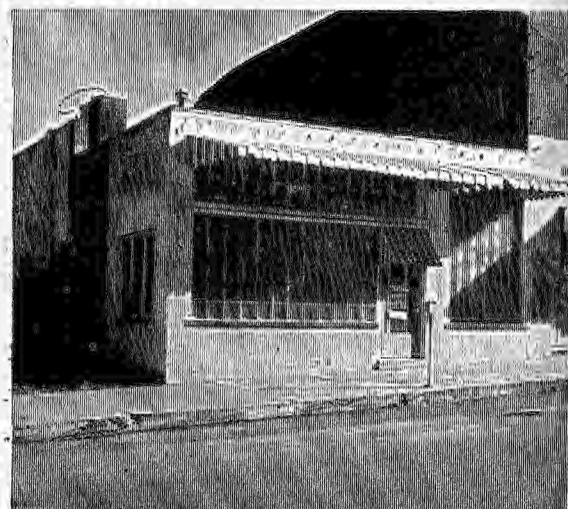
K. C. BIFOCAL PLANT



KRAFT FOODS PLANT



THE CURTIS BUILDING



MORGAN COUNTY LIBRARY

# The Schools

by Mrs. Royce Moser

The first school in Versailles, a little one-room log house, stood on East Newton street on the spot where the home of Mrs. Lillian Arnold now stands. After the new courthouse was finished here in 1844, the log building formerly used as a courthouse was used as a school for several years. It stood on the spot where the Shryack-Givens Wholesale Co. now stands.

In February, 1868 a teacher, Prof. Rhodes, sold a log house in which he had held private school, to Miss Carrie P. Coleman (later Mrs. Geo. P. Clark) and her sister, who conducted a private school here and permitted the Baptist church services to be held in the building. Dr. J. W. Comp taught school here in 1867.

In later years a 2-story frame house with two large rooms was erected on the present site of the W.T.S. Agee property on South Fisher street west of the present lower elementary school at a cost of \$6,000. Two rooms were added in 1899. In 1907 Morgan county had 75 public district free school houses. In about 1884 J. K. Gwynn and his brother, Frank Gwynn opened an institution of higher learning. A joint stock company chartered under the name of the "Versailles Male and Female Institute" was opened at the east end of Williamson street, which more recently was known as the George and Tom Brown property. Prof. J. K. Gwynn and his brother, Frank, conducted the school until it was sold to Prof. G. W. Innes of Pennsylvania, who started an academy. He was about 75 years old and considered a fine teacher.

In the old days the school children used the old blue back speller, McGuffey's reader and Ray's arithmetic books. They wrote with quill pens dipped in pokeberry ink. Children carried their lunches in sacks and pails. The old Curtis store which stood on the corner of Jasper and Fisher streets (now the Bartram-Beckner building) got most of the children's pennies for the attractive novelty candies they kept displayed in the store.

Among the early days teachers were Rose Hamilton, Betty Robinson, Mrs. Jas. Wray, Mrs. Ella Wheeler, Prof. Lonsdale, Prof. Will Buck, Prof. L. E. Green, Fannie and Grace Litsinger, Prof. J. S. Carlisle, Prof. Frank Walker, Prof. Gibbs, Georgia Gibbs, Prof. Dawson, Dollie Walker, Jennie Rutherford, Prof. Arthur Briscoe, Sue Joplin and Lucy Williams.

A high school was organized here in 1893 by Prof. J. S. Carlisle with ten pupils. The board of education for this school was composed of W. H. Kavanaugh, John E. Price,

Henry Moser and C. H. Mason. Of the four receiving diplomas, Mrs. Wray Witten and Ed Curtis are the only living. The graduating class of 1900 included the late Dr. A. J. Gunn, Robert McClanahan and Arthur Bier-sach.

In June, 1921, the voters of district 48 voted bonds in the amount of \$31,000 to build a new high school.

The reorganization and consolidation plan was started here in the 1950's and the last graduating class in the old Versailles high school was in 1956. The new Morgan County R-II high school building was completed in 1957 and the senior class of 1957 was the first to have commencement exercises in the new building.

Versailles now has three schools, Morgan County R-II high school, Upper Elementary School and Lower Elementary School.

There are now 944 students and 45 teachers in the three city schools.

Present members of the board of education are Roy Berkstresser, president; Miss Janet Fleishman, vice president; Charles Van Landuyt, Don Belcher, Billy Williams, and Roy Gerber; Harold Knoop, secretary and E. W. Guenther, treasurer.

## Jr. Sorosis

by Georgia Clark

The Junior Sorosis was organized by the members of the Evening Sorosis in 1953 and the club became federated in 1954. Charter members were Mrs. Ed Brunner, Mrs. Bill Caine, Mrs. John Caine, Mrs. Jim Cunningham, Mrs. Kenneth Erickson, Mrs. Bob Francis, Miss Mary Lee Frisbie, Mrs. Carl A. Guenther, Mrs. Langston Henderson, Mrs. Dean Hodges, Miss Erma Hodges, Mrs. Jim Hutchison, Mrs. Wm. R. Hunter, Mrs. Nelson Milburn, Mrs. Ray Lyle, Mrs. Norman McCain, Mrs. Jack Clark and Mrs. Jack Robinson. The first president of the club was Mrs. Carl A. Guenther.

Present officers of the club are Mrs. Jack Clark, president; Mrs. Georgia Wilson, 1st vice president; Mrs. Bob Hall, 2nd vice president; Mrs. Darlene Lee, secretary; Mrs. Chas. Chamberlain, treasurer; Mrs. Sam Guenther, historian; Mrs. Eddie Williams, reporter.

## Girl Scouts

The Girl Scouts were organized here in about 1928. Mrs. Chas. Smoyer and Mrs. Don Harrison were instrumental in starting this organization here. The Girl Scouts were sponsored by various local organiza-

tions including the Parent-Teacher's Association, American Legion Auxiliary and presently the Women's Civic Club. Preceding the organization of the Girl Scouts a group of Camp Fire Girls were quite active here for several years.

Among the former Girl Scout leaders here were Mrs. Don Harrison, who also had the only Senior Service troop here, Mrs. Gene Bartram was Girl Scout leader here for seven years and Mrs. Garver Searcy led a Girl Scout troop for four years.

The present Girl Scout leaders are Mrs. Dale Mills and Mrs. J. L. Walton. Brownie Scout leaders are Mrs. George Peek, Mrs. Jack Clark, Mrs. Harold Hall, Mrs. Lu Alice Crowson and Mrs. Glen Housworth.

## St. Paul's Methodist Church

by Lois Burris

\*\*\*\*

The land on which the first St. Paul Methodist church was constructed in 1863 was given by William W. Salmon of Henry county, Samuel Letchworth, Samuel Thomas, Ky Letchworth, trustees of the Methodist Episcopal church of Versailles. The deed was not delivered until January 26, 1884, when it was received by Samuel Letchworth.

The first church, which stood on the present site of the old St. Paul's Methodist church building, was destroyed by fire and the present large frame structure was built in 1891. Dedication services for this building were held early in August, 1891.

In 1912 Isaac Clay Legere presented a large Bible to the church to show his interest in the church and its work. The name of the first church was the Methodist Episcopal Church South and was later changed to St. Paul Methodist church. At one time the church had a large membership and two of its members went into the ministry. They were Rev. Samuel W. Meadows, and Rev. Lawrence S. Webb.

In May, 1960, the church was declared abandoned by the conference. At that time Rev. J. Otis Erwin of Jefferson City was the pastor. There were six members remaining in the church, namely, Effie Redmon, Cora Taylor, Leatha Newman, Alma Webb, Jennie Sublett and Lois Burris.

The abandoned building still stands at the south end of Fisher street, half a block south of the Lower Elementary school.



COMPLIMENTS OF

## MARTIN HOTEL

(Since 1853)

MR. and MRS. FOSTER Y. BROWN  
Proprietors

---

## KNOOP'S

LADIES' and MEN'S READY-TO-WEAR  
DRY GOODS, SHOES and ACCESSORIES

John W. Knoop started in the dry goods business in October, 1882, in a small tin building on the present site of Willard's Store. He moved to the site of the Versailles Hardware Company and later to the present location in 1934. Mr. Knoop died in 1929.

HAROLD and HATTIE KNOOP, Proprietors

---

## B-K CLEANERS

EXPERT DRY CLEANING — ALTERATIONS  
PROMPT SERVICE

Free Pick-up and Delivery in Versailles  
BILL and THELMA KREILING

---

## Ben Franklin Store

ON THE SQUARE

Notions, Dry Goods, Toys, Dishes, Novelties

MR. and MRS. J. L. WALTON, Proprietors

## Washburn Insurance Agency

in

THE CURTIS BUILDING

PAUL and MARTHA MAE WASHBURN

Phone DR 8-4411

---

## Hubbard Abstract Co.

in the Curtis Building

Started here in 1894 by George H. Hubbard,  
father of the present owner.

DOUGLAS HUBBARD

Phone DR 8-4411

---

GREETINGS

## KAY'S BEAUTY SHOP

KAY TRUITT DANIELS, Operator

---

## THE OZARK CAFE

GRAVOIS MILLS, MO.

SHORT ORDERS — PLATE LUNCHES

HOME-MADE PIES — CHILI

"We Cater to the Tourist and Fisherman"

EARL and LOLA WEBSTER, Proprietors

## Dr. Jack Gunn a Fourth Generation Physician



Dr. Jack Gunn, who inherited the Gunn Clinic from his late father, Dr. Aubrey Jackson Gunn, represents the fourth generation of doctors in his family.

His great-grandfather, Dr. John Beverly Thruston, born in South Carolina in March, 1815, came to Morgan county with his father in 1833, the year Morgan county became a county. Dr. Thruston began the practice of medicine in Versailles in 1837, after graduating from the Transylvania University Medical school in Kentucky. He was one of the first physicians in this part of Missouri who was graduated from a school of medicine. Most of the doctors in that day "read medicine" from the books of older doctors or learned through working with the medical doctors. Dr. Thruston's father died in 1859. In 1887 he was married to Nancy R. Walton and they had five children. One daughter, Ella Douglas Walton, married Dr. Gabriel M. Gunn. Dr. Thruston died in 1891 at the age of 76.

Dr. Gabriel Gunn was born near Versailles, March 25, 1854. In 1876 he graduated from St. Louis Missouri Medical College and started the practice of medicine here the same year. At one time his office was located in the rooms over the present Cooper store on the corner of East Newton and North Fisher streets, at the northeast corner of the square. Dr. "Gabe" Gunn died of pneumonia at the age of 49, which he contracted from a patient whom he visited west of Versailles near the Rock Island railroad bridge, which was then under construction.

Jewel Williams, farmer residing east of Versailles, recalls saddling Dr. Gunn's horse for his last professional call. The use of drugs being limited and the mode of travel very poor in winter for the doctors, the dreaded pneumonia was fatal to a large percentage of its victims in the early days.

Dr. and Mrs. Gabriel Gunn were the parents of four children, Wm. Gregory, Aubrey Jackson, Anna and Walta Gunn. Anna Gunn died in early adulthood. Walta Gunn Franse now resides in Jefferson City with her daughter, Mrs. Archie (Mary Ella) Roark.

Aubrey Jackson Gunn, father of Dr. Jack Gunn, was born October 7, 1880, in Versailles. He attended the public schools here and graduated from Barnes Medical College of St. Louis in 1904. Dr. W. G. Gunn was graduated from Barnes Medical College in 1908. He practiced medicine in Florence, Mo. for two years during which time he was stricken with tuberculosis. He went to Uvalde, Texas for the benefit of his health and later to Colorado Springs, Colo. where, in addition to being a patient, he was also a staff member of the tuberculosis hospital there, which was maintained by the Modern Woodmen of America. He returned to Versailles in 1916 and resumed his practice in partnership with his brother.

Drs. Greg and Jack Gunn, who were well known all over Morgan county and throughout the state, had offices in the old I.O.O.F. building, now the location of Shryack-Givens Wholesale House, in the Heineman building, upstairs over the present White's Corner store and later in the Mason building, upstairs over the present Slagle's Sundries store.

In 1936 the Gunn brothers built the present Gunn clinic, a brick structure on North Monroe street, and Dr. and Mrs. Greg Gunn resided on the second floor for several years. Dr. Greg Gunn died January 2, 1948. After that the second floor of the clinic was converted into an obstetric clinic.

Dr. A. J. (Jack) Gunn was honored at "Dr. Gunn Day" held at the Morgan county fair in 1949, having then practiced medicine here for 45 years. He was also honored, after practicing medicine for 50 years, at a banquet held at the annual state meeting of the Missouri Medical Association in St. Louis.

Dr. A. J. Gunn died May 8, 1959. His son, Jack Gunn, finished a pre-med course at Westminster college in Fulton in 1943 and graduated from Washington University school of medicine in 1949. He served internship at General hospital in Kansas City and joined the staff of the Gunn clinic in July, 1950.

Dr. Gunn married Marjorie

Lumpee in 1948. They have five children, Stephen, Vicky, Martha, Andrew Jackson and Gregory.

## THE LODGES and Other Associations

The A.O.U.W. Lodge No. 150 was organized here August 16, 1879 by Dr. P. G. Woods, Dr. J. T. Beale, Elwyn Price, P. T. Walker, John Wassung and F. H. A. Fuegner.

Versailles Lodge No. 231 I.O.O.F. was organized in 1883. Some of the charter members were Louis Lumpee, W. M. Duff, H. Spurlock, W. L. Stephens and John Wassung.

The Y.M.C.A. was formed in 1877 with thirteen members. The Versailles Building and Loan Ass'n. was organized in 1887. The Improved Order of Red Men was organized in 1907. In 1900 the M.W.A. lodge was organized. The Woodmen of the World was organized in 1903 and the Knights of Pythias Lodge was organized in 1892 with 75 members. The Royal Neighbors were organized later.

The Euclid Lodge No. 421 A. F. & A. M. was organized in the early 1800's. Charter members were John H. Stover, W. Y. Pemberton, James H. Painter, P. R. Burrus, A. W. Anthony, O. A. Williams, Jas. M. Clifton, George H. Stover, John B. Thurston and G. Poppelwell. This lodge held its first meetings in or near Hopewell church.

Versailles Lodge No. 117 A. F. & A. M. was organized May 10, 1850. Among the charter members were W. B. Tooley, Thomas Monroe, S. P. Hunter, J. B. Thruston and Andrew Livingston.

The Royal Arch, Chapter No. 72 was organized in 1871 and the Versailles G.A.R. post was organized in 1881 with the following as first officers: Maj. W. A. Mills, Maj. George Stover, Samuel Tillett and M. Joachimi.

Several years after the organization of Lodge No. 117 A. F. & A. M., due to some dissention among the members, a new charter was granted under the name of Morgan Masonic Lodge, No. 320 A. F. & A. M., which later became the Versailles Lodge No. 320 A. F. & A. M.

Present officers of the Masonic Lodge No. 320 are Gaithel Blankenship, W. M.; G. I. Rector, Sr. W.; Wm. D. Hodges, Jr. W.; Floyd Gollhar, Sr. D.; Norman Vaught, Jr. D.; Paul A. Barnes, treas.; W. B. Todd, Sec'y.; E. L. Moon, tiler; Lewis Howe, marshal; Uel Chasteen, chaplain; C. H. Hall, Sr. S.; Lyles Woolery, Jr. S.; J. M. Shultz, S. J. Moore and Raymond Garber, trustees.



## Oldest Businesses in Versailles

The oldest businesses in town which have operated continuously under the same name or by the same family through the years are the Kidwell Funeral Home, established in 1844, the Martin Hotel, established in 1853 and Moser's Mill.

The Kidwell Funeral Home was established in Versailles in 1844 by Wm. Kidwell, Sr., grandfather of the late Wm. F. Kidwell, who died in October, 1958. Wm. Kidwell, Sr. came to Morgan county in 1836 and settled on the Gravois creek, 5 miles southeast of Versailles near the first county seat, called Millville where he engaged in the furniture and coffin-making business, using the large walnut trees in that area, which grew in abundance. He used wooden hinges and pegs in making furniture and coffins which he sold.

In 1844 he moved to Versailles and entered the furniture and coffin business on a spot located north of the present Kidwell Funeral Home. When fire destroyed the Kidwell establishment in 1873, Wm. Kidwell, Sr. built a structure on North Monroe street, a part of which is the present Kidwell Funeral Home. Mr. Kidwell's lathe was oxen-powered and he turn-

ed out Jenny Lind beds, dressers and other pieces of furniture, some of which are still in use to this day. He started the use of metal hinges and bolts in this area and inaugurated the use of veneer and hot sealing wax to bring out the lustre of the fine grain in the wood.

Dave Kidwell, the father of the late Wm. F. Kidwell, did most of the undertaking work and his brother, Josh, did the coffin-making. People came from as far as Tipton for coffins, as Versailles was the coffin-making center of this territory for many years. Dave Kidwell was a charter member of the Missouri Funeral Director's Association and received his embalmer's license in 1896.

The late Wm. F. Kidwell took over the funeral business here in 1915 after graduating from Williams Institute of Mortuary Science in Kansas City. After a few years he dropped the furniture business and devoted his entire time to the funeral business. Horse-drawn hearses with high driver's seats resembling stage coaches were used in conveying the dead. The horses wore black nets and plumes as a token of mourning. Many people didn't believe in embalming so very little of it was done in the early days. The dead were buried as soon as the coffins could be made for them, usually the day

after their demise.

In 1919 Wm. "Bill" Kidwell put into use the first auto-hearse but for a long time people preferred the horse-drawn hearse for their funerals. The horse-drawn hearses were driven by contract drivers George Elley and Jess Crow, who kept teams of fine horses for that purpose.

"Bill" Kidwell's funeral home was well known in this area for miles around and "Bill" had many friends far and near. He knew the genealogy of most of the families in Morgan county and called everyone by their first name.

In recent years the Kidwell Funeral Home was enlarged and remodeled and the Wilbert Burial Vault manufacturing plant and Kidwell Monument Works were added to the business. The burial vaults and monuments and markers are sold over a wide area of the state.

Upon the death of Mr. Kidwell the business passed on by his will to the employees of Kidwell's Inc., with controlling interest going to Gene N. Bartram, Marion Silvey and Raymond Garber, who have continued to operate the businesses in the same manner as Mr. Kidwell did for so many years.

In 1853 Samuel and Elizabeth Martin and their four children came here from Virginia. The second day they

# GABRIEL'S



## Service

BE WISE — BUY WISE — ECONOMIZE

One Block West of Square on Highway 52

BILL GABRIEL, Operator. Phone DR 8-4330

# MARKER'S

## Insurance Agency



INSURANCE OF ALL KINDS

1/2 Block West of Square on Highway 52

GUY MARKER

Phone DR 8-4260

were here they met a woman who was operating a small rooming house here, who asked them to lease her place, which they did for \$100.00 per year. The only stipulation was that they retain the services of a negro servant, whom the woman had had for several years. The servant was kept for several years for his room and board.

The Martin Hotel, first known as the Martin Inn, was located approximately where Dr. M. S. Otten's dentist office now stands. After a year the Martins bought the property for \$300.00 and moved it to the present location of the Martin Hotel on North Monroe street. This building was later moved away, with the exception of the small building back of the hotel, which now fronts on North Fisher street. The new hotel building was constructed several years before the death of Samuel Martin, who died in 1906. His wife, Elizabeth Martin died in 1930 at the age of 104.

After the death of Samuel and Elizabeth Martin the hotel was operated by their daughters, Misses Lucy and Sally Martin and their friend, Miss Jessie Cole. The hotel fed both Union and Confederate soldiers during the Civil War with promises of pay later. Early day rates at the hotel was \$1.00 per day, including 25c for a room and 25c each for three meals a day.

In 1954, upon the death of Miss Lucy Martin, her nephew, Foster Y. Brown, and Mrs. Brown became the owners and managers of the Martin Hotel, which is now a modern, attractive hotel, a far cry from the Martin Inn of the old days with its wood stoves, kerosene lamps and outdoor plumbing.

## Evening Sorosis

The Evening Sorosis was organized in 1934 and federated in 1935. The first president was Mrs. Robert Baker.

Present officers are Mrs. Tom Woolsey, president; Mrs. I. A. Wenger, 1st vice-pres.; Mrs. Moss McDonald, 2nd vice-pres.; Mrs. Dave White, secretary; Mrs. Roger Meyer, treasurer; Mrs. Max Richesin, historian; Mrs. Wm. W. Williams reporter; Mrs. Chas. Eppright, corresponding sec'y.; Mrs. Ralph Six, chaplain.

## KIDWELL REST HOME

The Kidwell Rest Home, located on West Williamson street in Edge-dale Addition to the city of Versailles, was constructed in 1954. It was built by the late Wm. F. Kidwell as a non-profit contribution to the

people of Morgan county as a nursing home for the aged and infirm.

The stuccoed concrete block building contains 44 rooms, divided into male and female departments by a large recreational room in the center. It also contains completely equipped kitchen, large laundry room and storage room. The veranda across the front of the building and grassy lawn with shade trees furnish pleasant relaxing areas for the patients.

Open house was held October 17, 1954 when Mr. and Mrs. Frank Crawford of Warsaw assumed the management of the home. It was Mr. Kidwell's desire that Morgan county patients be given preference of occupancy of the home.

After Mr. Kidwell's death in October, 1958, the deed to the real estate property was delivered to the city of Versailles.

The business was sold in 1959 to Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Young of Council Bluffs, Ia. Rev. and Mrs. Fred Freeland are the present managers. There are now 16 people employed as nurses and housekeepers at the home.

## Garden Club

by Mrs. Chas. Smoyer

The Versailles Garden Club was organized in November, 1958. The first officers were Mrs. Chas. Smoyer, president; Mrs. Royce Moser, vice president; Mrs. Will F. Berry, Jr., secretary; Mrs. Maurice LaRue, Jr., treasurer; Mrs. Helen Erlewine, chaplain; Mrs. C. H. Humphrey, reporter; Mrs. Benton Ball, historian.

Present membership of the club is 26. Mrs. E. W. Guenther is president.

## The Moser Mill

by Mrs. Royce Moser

The first steam flour mill in Versailles was known as the Empire Steam Flour Mill, located on three acres of land west of the original town of Versailles on the present location of Versailles Ice and Coal Company, Frigid Food Locker Plant and Moser Hatchery. It was started in about 1875. Later the land became a part of the town and the mill became known as the Versailles Steam Flour Mill.

In 1886 Henry Moser of near High Point purchased a half interest in the mill and in 1892 he became the sole owner, increasing the capacity from 10 barrels to 140 barrels of flour daily, using 700 bushels of wheat per day. The Moser Mills sup-

plied Moser's Best (Fancy Patent) and Home Product flours to the stores of Versailles and the Osage River trade territory. The mill operated on a 24-hour schedule during World War I when the government contracted for all flour and meal beyond the local demand. During the harvest season in the old days it was a common sight to see wagons (and later trucks) loaded with wheat from Morgan county farms, lined up from the mill eastward beyond the Rock Island railroad crossing.

The Moser Mill continued in business until 1931 when the 3-story building was destroyed by fire. (This fire was discovered in the early morning hours by the late Wm. F. Kidwell as he was returning from a death call to Kansas City.)

## Order of Eastern Star

by Laura Tising Gabriel

The Order of the Eastern Star was chartered here December 18, 1918 with the following charter members: Mesdames Laura Abell, Lottie Antweiler, Sally Baker, Maude Barham, Rose Bolton, Ida Bowline, Reva Bremer, George Brown, Ollie Brown, Lulu Buell, Nora Cox, Bertha Dromgold, Mary Etling, Ross Hardy, Lena Hulett, Elsie Parks, Nina Sparks, Bertie Stigall, Dora Stockton, Laura Thorpe, Maude Todd, Nora Witten, Sallie Witten, Ella Well and Hattie Young.

The membership of Versailles Chapter 410 OES now numbers 150. Present officers are Hazel Chasteen, Worthy Matron; Uel Chasteen, Worthy Patron; Thelma Rector, Asso. Matron; G. I. Rector, Asso. Patron; Laura Tising Gabriel, sec'y.; Georgia Clark, treas.; Josefene Hargett, conductress; Thelma Gollihar, asso. conductress; Gwendolyn Blankenship, marshal; Virginia Hodges, organist; Lucille Rand, chaplain; Neva Paul, Ruth; Ruby Davis, Esther; Marguerite Conlin, Martha; Mayme Sorensen, Electa; Sylvia Mitchell, warden; Walter Rand, sentinel.

## COUNTY HEALTH NURSE

A county health program was started here this year with Mrs. Roy Bolton as public health nurse and Miss Oleta Flottman, secretary to the nurse. After an 18-months period the voters of Morgan county will decide whether the program will be continued. The county health nurses office is located in the east basement of the courthouse.



## **TIGER INN**

Fountain Service — Short Orders

Noon Plate Special

Teen-age Dancing Nightly

**BOB and DORIS LADING, Proprietors**

## **PIN-UP BEAUTY SHOP**

Permanents — Shampoos — Cutting

Styling — Shaping — Manicures

1/2 Block North of Square

**MARY COOPER and FRANCES WILLIAMS**  
Operators

PHONE DR 8-5348

## **Thomas TV & Furniture**

Philco—Zenith—R.C.A.—Speed Queen—G. E.

Complete Line of Furniture

Sporting Goods — McCulloch Chain Saws

"We Service Everything We Sell"

**JOE THOMAS, Prop.**

## **CLARK'S**

RETREADING SERVICE

FIRESTONE TIRES — DX PRODUCTS

12 Years in Business in Versailles on the Square

**JACK CLARK, Owner**

## **Castle Cafe**

Serving Regular Meals and Short Orders

Sandwiches — Homemade Pies — Good Coffee

1/2 Block North of Square on 5 and 52

**MRS. HERB FERGUSON & MRS. GENE CABLE**  
Proprietors

## **Bellamy's**

**PLUMBING — TINNING — HEATING**

18 Years in Business Here

**HERB and GLADYS BELLAMY, Props.**

PHONE DR 8-4223

## **Dunkin Sign & Adv. Co.**

—SCOTCHLITE—

**RENTALS — SALES**

25 Years Service

Located at Bremond Street and Highways 5 & 52

Versailles, Missouri

**JACK DUNKIN, Proprietor**

## **VISIT THE HOME OF Hutchison's Homemade Ice Cream**

For Best Quality Homemade Ice Cream in a  
large variety of flavors.

On West Newton Street, 1 Block from Square

"Serving the Best in Ice Cream Since 1954"

**THE HUTCHISONS**

## Power and Light In Versailles

As early as 1891 Versailles had gas lights, furnished by the Chicago Globe, Light and Heat Company. The cost of these lights, which were considered quite a luxury and worth twice their cost, were available to everyone in Versailles at \$18.00 per lamp per year.

In 1904 the first light plant was established in Versailles as a municipal plant, supplying electricity to the residents of the town from 7:00 p. m. until daylight. There were no electrical appliances in those days and the sole use of the electricity was for lights in the homes and business houses. The service was not very efficient nor dependable and people kept their kerosene lamps trimmed and filled for use in case the current was turned off.

In 1919 the population of Versailles voted to grant Henry Moser and company the permission to erect and maintain an electric light plant for lighting the streets of the city and furnishing electricity for the homes. Permission was granted to erect lamp posts, electric light poles or any other apparatus or appliance necessary for lighting the streets, alleys and other public places and private homes for a term of 20 years. According to the contract, the Henry Moser Company was to "furnish an ample and uninterrupted supply of current to properly illuminate both town and private homes."

After a few years Stover was also supplied with electricity by a transmission line from the Moser plant. A modern power and light plant, equipped with Diesel De La Vern engines was erected in the fall of 1919 on the present site of the Versailles Concrete Block Factory on West Newton street.

In 1921 the business was known as the Versailles Flour Mill, Light and Power Company. In 1923 Henry Moser sold the light plant to Geo. E. Silver, E. T. Curtis and Guy E. Weaver of Eldon, who operated the place for a year and sold it in 1924 to the Public Service Company of Missouri, with headquarters in St. Louis. Versailles and Eldon were connected with the plant at Tipton, Bunceton and California.

In 1925, without actual sale of the light company, it became known as the Missouri Utilities Company. At one time this office was located in the north half of the present Fashion Shop building and later in a building now occupied by the north end of the Ben Franklin store, later used as Kroeschen's barber shop. It was then moved to a building on the corner of South Fisher and East Jasper streets, now used as the

### Versailles Motor Company.

Some of the employees of the light companies of Versailles in the early days were John Bolton and Sherman Fredricks, linemen, and Paul Clodfelter, manager. Mrs. Norman Boesch (Clara Bixler), Mrs. George Catron (Hazel Goddard) and Mrs. Bill Kreiling (Thelma Don Carlos), the latter having worked for the light company for 19 years, were bookkeepers. John Alltop worked in the plant from 6:00 a. m. to 6:00 p. m. just before a power line was built from Sedalia in December, 1924.

## The Boy Scouts

The oldest records available on the history of the Boy Scout organization in Versailles date back to about 1917 when among the members of an active Boy Scout troop here were Lloyd (Boots) Bond, Herschel Lard, Raymond Chase, and Dick Kelsay. At that time the Scouts wore olive drab uniforms with leggings, similar to military uniforms. Their training was military drilling and exploring.

After a few years the Boy Scouts here became inactive. The organization was reactivated from time to time but always for only a short period. Finally in 1931 the Boy Scouts were rechartered with the following members of the troop: Eugene Agee, Gene Bartram, Karl Dreier, Earl Drumm, Jim Frank Hughes, Vaughn Jolly, Alvin Koch, Billy Krog, Robert Otten, Kenneth Ratcliff, Billy Taylor and Paul Washburn. Rev. A. S. Anderson was the Scoutmaster with Sherrill Hays as assistant Scoutmaster. On the troop committee were Moss McDonald, Rev. E. F. Kennedy and J. B. Todd.

Boy Scout Troop No. 30 is now a part of the Lake of the Ozarks Council. The troop is quite active, with Leon Marriott as Scoutmaster and Donald Slevin as assistant Scoutmaster. On the troop committee at this time are Roger Meyer, Bill Johnson, Lloyd White, Dale Mills and Donald Slevin.

The Cub Scouts number about 37 at this time with Glen Watts as Cubmaster. On the committee are Dan Daulton, Clyde Wilborn, Sidney Comer and Wayne Forth.

Albert Bellamy was Scoutmaster of a Sea Scout Troop here for a long number of years. This was the only Sea Scout Troop ever organized in Versailles.

## Boeschen Home One of the Oldest

The spacious old home of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Boeschen, which stands on Jasper street just east of the old Curtis building, was built in 1877 by John Lumpee, Sr. Mr. and Mrs. Lumpee had lived in a 4-room frame house to the east of the Boeschen home since 1868.

This 10-room home with its antique walnut staircase, ornate woodwork and bright pine floors was one of the show places in Versailles in its day. The balcony extending across the front of the house was used in the old days by the members of the Lumpee family as a gathering place on hot summer afternoons. The Lumpee's third son, Thornleigh, was born in this house.

Mrs. Neva Lumpee Taylor lived in the house for many years after the death of her parents. She sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Norman Boeschen in 1951.

The spacious grounds surrounding the beautiful old home are landscaped with some of the trees and shrubs planted by the original owners. Mr. and Mrs. Boeschen have tastefully furnished the home in rare and beautiful antique furniture and restored the property to its original state.

## KNOOP'S STORE

John W. Knoop established Knoop's Store in October 1882 in a small tin building that stood on the present site of Willard's store on West Newton street. He handled drygoods and groceries at this location for several years. Later he moved into the new 2-story brick building now housing the Versailles Hardware store. This building was built by John Lumpee, Sr., who also constructed the other brick buildings on that street to the north. Knoop's store was the first to occupy this building. Here he continued to handle groceries and drygoods for several years, finally closing out the grocery end of the business and converting his store to a drygoods store, which was known far and wide. Among those on the personnel in the early days were Dick Townley, Jess Hardy, Warren Todd, Bob Toler and Miss Elsie Kistenmacher (who was a niece of George Ide, the well-known drayman.)

When Mr. Knoop died in 1929 his wife, Anna, continued to operate the store with the help of her son, Harold, who bought her interest in the business in 1943. The store was moved to its present location on the north side of the square in 1934.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Knoop are the present proprietors.





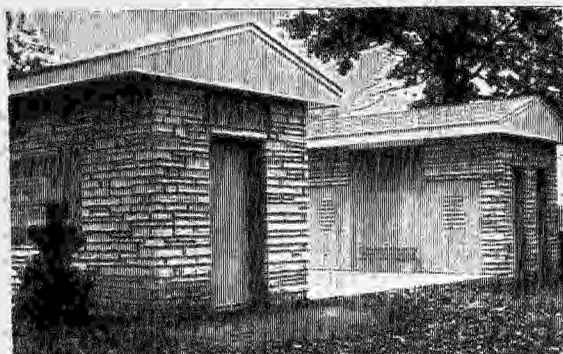
Shown above is the late E. M. Duff, driving, and his son, S. T. Duff, ready to deliver a load of soda pop to their customers. In addition to operating the bottling works, they also had a paint and wallpaper store here. S. T. Duff now lives in Kansas City.



VERSAILLES GRADE SCHOOL



UPPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



These two Memorial Buildings were constructed at the Versailles Cemetery in recent years. One was built with contributions from friends of the late W. F. (Bill) Kidwell and the other was financed by the Versailles Cemetery Association. Plaques on the buildings contain the names of all of Morgan County's war dead.

## Anniversary Activities

Ham Breakfast, Saturday, April 23, served by the "beards and belles" in costume, in the cafeteria of the Upper Elementary School from 6 a. m. to 10 a. m. Mrs. Royce Moser and Everett White were co-chairmen.

Old-fashioned pie supper and cake walk, Friday evening, May 6, in the gym of the Upper Elementary school, sponsored by the Junior Sorosis. Mrs. Dean Hodges, president.

Big Anniversary Parade of old vehicles and people in old-fashioned costume, held Saturday, May 28. This was one of the highlights of the anniversary observances, sponsored by the Anniversary Committee.

Open House, held Sunday and Monday, May 29 and 30, at the beautiful old home of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Boesch, sponsored by the Hawthorne Literary Society. Mrs. D. K. Hunter, president.

Memorial Day observance in honor of graves of oldest departed residents of Versailles, conducted by Mrs. C. E. Willson, in conjunction with the annual Memorial Day parade and program held at the city cemetery.

Talent Show, held on the north porch of the courthouse, Thursday evening, June 2, in which many local people took part. This was preceded by a turtle race, sponsored by the Boy Scouts.

Contest for the selection of the Anniversary King and Queen, held Friday evening, June 3, in which Mr. and Mrs. Jim Barron, were selected as winners. Other couples in costume who participated in this event were Mr. and Mrs. Glen Housworth, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Morris, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Barnes, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Guenther and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hess. Sponsored by Anniversary Committee.

Exhibition Square Dance, sponsored by the 9th grade pupils of Mrs. Eunice Blacksten, at 8:30 p. m. Friday evening, June 3, with John Whittle as caller and Charley and Dan Daulton as musicians. At 9 o'clock a street dance, sponsored by Morgan County Post 104 of the American Legion, was held on the north side of the courthouse square.

Antique Show, sponsored by the Women's Civic Club, was held in the Gerbes building Friday and Saturday, June 3 and 4.

Old Fiddler's Contest, held on the north porch of the courthouse at 2:30 p. m. Saturday, June 4, sponsored by the Anniversary Committee. Winners were Andy Muslin, Jack Croy, Claude Croy and Gladys Chamberlain.

Square Dance Festival, sponsored by the Two by Four Square Dance Club, held in the street on the east

side of the courthouse, Saturday evening, June 4, in which twenty-two square dance sets participated. This event climaxed the events of Anniversary Week.

An Old-fashioned Ice Cream Social and Band Concert was held on the courthouse square Tuesday evening, July 19, sponsored by the Evening Sorosis.

The grand climax of the anniversary activities was the historical pageant, "Forty-five Thousand and One Nights," written and produced by Dr. Peter Hilty, a native son, now head of the English department at Park College. Starring Miss Sally Washburn and Roger Meyer, the pageant depicted many episodes in the history of Versailles. Assisting Dr. Hilty in this production were Miss Johanna McDonald and Mrs. Gene Bartram.

Those who served on the Anniversary Committee were Mrs. Gene Bartram, chairman; Sam Guenther, treasurer; Mrs. Paul Clodfelter, secretary; Mrs. Royce Moser, Mrs. Roy E. Otten, Mrs. F. A. Crowson, Dave White, Miss Johanna McDonald, Dr. Otho Washburn, Everett White, Mrs. C. E. Willson, Mrs. Robert Hall, Jim Barron, Bill Hess, Mrs. Clarence Cable, Mrs. Warren Boles, Dan Daulton, Mrs. P. J. McDonough, Lee Warrington, Glenn Housworth, Jesse Allee, Mrs. Rufus Harms and Mrs. W. E. Nelson.

### Belle and Beard Contest

Mrs. Jesse Allee, wearing an antique black dress and bonnet, was selected as the most authentic centennial belle in a special ceremony at the Morgan county fair. Winners of the beard contest were Judge Herman Nolting, A. W. Powell, Don Harrison and Nelson Milburn.

### PAGEANT PROGRAM

"Forty-five Thousand and One Nights"

by Dr. Peter Hilty

\*\*\*\*\*

- Scene 1. Sally Washburn, in the role of Carole, a girl of today, meets Roger Meyer, who plays the role of Street Thruston, who laid out the original town of Versailles.
- Scene 2. Diane Berry, as an early-

day school teacher, conducts classes. Folk dance, "Skip to My Lou."

- Scene 3. Pre-Civil War Party, starring Miss Washburn, Paul Zelsman and Ronnie White as Union and Confederate soldiers; Paul Barnes as the Senator; Georgia Uptergrove as the Old Woman; dancers and guests at the party. Jack Croy, fiddler for the dance. "When I First Came to This Land," sung by Mr. Meyer.

- Scene 4. Spiritual songs of the Civil War period, featuring Norma Jean Thurston, Lois Burris, Carrie Shinault, Bob Woods and James Burris.

- Scene 5. The old Joachimi Store, starring John Nelson as Mr. Joachimi; Bill Williams as clerk; J. C. Bishop, Paul White, David Archer, Dorothy Bartram and others as shoppers. "If You Want a Bargain," written by Dr. Hilty, sung by David Archer, Dorothy Bartram and John Nelson.

- Scene 6. Bicycle Ballet of the Gay Nineties with songs by James D. Finley, Deon Barnes and mens' chorus. "Grandfather's Clock," Dr. Hilty with zither accompaniment. Sister of the Swish and Brother of the Brush, of Sedalia, on tandem bicycle.

- Scene 7. The Roaring Twenties featuring the Charleston dancers.

- Scene 8. The Depression. Wm. W. Williams as bank teller. Frances Lange, customer.

- Scene 9. Bob Lutman, Steve Gunn and Randy Cox, as Tom, Dick and Harry, discuss the formation of the Lake of the Ozarks.

- Scene 10. World War II. "God Bless America," sung by Ruth Norvell.

- Scene 11. Finale: "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

Readers: Rev. Raymond Rumbo, Rev. Jimmy Kruse, Mrs. Orlyn White, Mrs. Wm. W. Williams, and Miss Janet Gerber.

COMPLIMENTS OF

# TAYSTEE BREAD FRIENDS

Keep Versailles FIRST

IN GROWTH, PROSPERITY and HEALTH!



## History of the County Library

The first library in Versailles was started in 1920 by the Progress Club. Members of this club included Miss Faye Long, Mrs. Frank Bremer, Mrs. Ed Nelson, Mrs. H. N. Lutman, Mrs. H. A. Young, Miss Baxter Mann, Mrs. E. W. Crewson, Miss Edna Abell, Mrs. J. F. Thornton, Miss Mildred Moore, Mrs. Norfleet, Miss Pearl Tipton and others. The library was located in the northeast room of the basement of the courthouse. Books and chairs were donated and several efforts were made to secure funds from the county court with which to operate. Failing in this effort, the members of the Progress club turned the library sponsorship over to the Women's Auxiliary, later known as the Women's Civic Club. Those appointed to the library board were M. Wray Witten, Mrs. George Hubbard and Mrs. H. F. Abell.

In the early days of the library there was no paid personnel and members of the Women's Auxiliary and helpers alternately sat in the library, at first keeping it open only on Saturday afternoons.

In about 1930 the library was moved to the basement of the city hall (which was destroyed by fire in 1960). Miss Gladys Hagan served as librarian from 1931 to 1933. The library was then kept open daily in the afternoons. Not many books were available and there was little demand for them.

When Mrs. Ed Gehrean became president of the Women's Civic Club in January, 1937, she secured the services of Mrs. B. L. Medicus and Mrs. George Petty, then director of the N.Y.A., to reorganize the library. In April of that year the books were moved to the second floor of the city hall, which was then the Women's Civic Club rooms, and the library was called the Women's Civic Club library, open daily from 9 to 5. Mrs. Petty and members of the N.Y.A. served as clerks.

At the April election in 1939, when Douglas Hubbard was mayor of Versailles, a proposition for a one mill levy was approved in the city election for library support and Mayor Hubbard appointed Mrs. Hettie Agee, Mrs. Ed Gehrean, Miss Irene Petty, Mrs. J. A. Petty, Mrs. A. J. Gunn, Mrs. John Earp, Mrs. P. J. McDonough, Miss Hattie Hughes and Mrs. John G. Witten to the library board. The city council donated \$100 for a set of World Encyclopedias and other books. Through the efforts of Mrs. Medicus and M. Wray Witten library service was provided for rural schools and a charge of \$5.00 per calendar year

was made to the schools, the proceeds from which was used to purchase juvenile books.

A measure to provide a one-mill tax levy for the support of the county library carried and the county court appointed a county library board to govern the new library in November, 1946. The members of this board, in collaboration with the Versailles Library board, decided to operate jointly.

The present library building was completed in 1942 and became officially known as the Morgan County Library July 1, 1947.

The first library board appointed by the county court was composed of Kenneth Kirchner, Stover, Ray Burns, Syracuse, Florence Routon, Barnett, and Moss McDonald, who as county school superintendent, served under the state library law.

Mrs. Thelma McLain was the first librarian. She resigned in 1950 and

Mrs. Medicus was then employed as librarian, which position she has continued to hold for ten years.

The bookmobile was presented in a ceremony at the Morgan county fair in the fall of 1947. Bookmobile drivers have been Arthur Sattler, J. L. Dunnaway and Glen Housworth, the latter having served as driver, record keeper and projectionist for eleven years. Other members of the library personnel are Mrs. Norman Thompson, assistant librarian, and Mrs. Ulen Forrest, assistant on the bookmobile. Before the reorganization and consolidation of the Morgan county schools, the library served 50 schools. It now serves seven schools.

The library has added films and records to its shelves, which are available to everyone in the county. In 1958 the book circulation amounted to 36,017. In 1959 the books borrowed numbered 86,881.



Located on the south side of the square, is the remodeled Spurlock Hotel, owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Haywood Spurlock. For many years this landmark was known as the City Hotel.

## Centennial Belles

On the opposite page is a group of Versailles women who added spice to Versailles' 125th Anniversary by wearing costumes reminiscent of earlier days. In the front row, left to right, are: Mrs. Sam M. Guenther, Mrs. Fleetwood Hargett, Mrs. Gene Bartram, Mrs. K. A. Goodman, Mrs. Jim Barron and Mrs. Dan Daulton. Standing in the rear, left to right, are: Mrs. Roy E. Otten, Mrs. Jess Nobles, Mrs. Dexter Slagle, Mrs. Don Harrison, Mrs. John Nelson, Mrs. Paul Clodfelter, Mrs. Mary Mable Eickhoff, Mrs. Melvin Colvin and Mrs. Don Smith.







## The Medicine Man

Pictured here is L. P. Hart, who for many years manufactured and sold "Hart's Medicine" throughout this section of the state. Made of extracts from roots and herbs, the medicine became almost a household necessity in the old days. Mr. Hart died in 1943 at the age of 82. His wife died in 1960. Mr. Hart has five living sons and one daughter. They are: Mark, H. B., Joe, Willard & Jack Hart and Mrs. Grace Nagel.



Above is the former Lumpee home, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Norman Boeschen. It is one of the oldest residence properties in Versailles.



## The Library Staff

Seated is Mrs. Myra Medicus, librarian. Standing, left to right, Mrs. Ulen Forrest, bookmobile assistant; Glenn Housworth, projectionist and driver of the bookmobile, and Mrs. Marie Thompson, assistant to the librarian.

## VERSAILLES FURNITURE CO.



FURNITURE — CARPET — LINOLEUM  
PAINT — WALLPAPER

—Established in 1936—

WILLIAM A. CAINE and JOHN CAINE  
Proprietors

## VERSAILLES AUCTION COMPANY



General Live Stock Auction Sale Every Saturday.  
A National Certified Live Stock Auction Market.

Registered and Bonded Under Packers and  
Stock Yards Act

ROBERT VAUGHAN & SONS  
Phone DR 8-9963



Street scene in early-day Versailles. At far left is Dr. S. R. Woods. The second man is unidentified. Next is W. L. Stephens, then Harmon Kroeschen and Josiah Lehman.



# GOOD WISHES!

SINCE 1886 THE MOSER FAMILY HAS BEEN  
SERVING THE CITY OF VERSAILLES. FROM THE  
DAYS OF THE OLD MOSER STEAM FLOUR MILL  
TO THE PRESENT DAY WE HAVE GIVEN OUR  
BEST IN THE INTEREST OF OUR HOME TOWN.

*May the next 125 years be years of  
continued progress for the  
generations to come*

**Moser Hatchery**  
and  
**Versailles Ice & Coal Company**

# The Great Wars

Leroy (Pete) Sullens and E. A. Williams are the only surviving members of the Spanish-American war in Versailles, as far as it is known.

There were no battles in Morgan county during the Civil War but there were numerous skirmishes in and around Versailles and the people were terrorized by marauding parties, who stole property, burned buildings and killed people. George H. Dancer and James M. Drummonds were killed by bushwhackers when they were sent on a military mission a short distance from here.

Henderson Marple was wounded but Aaron Ware and Newton Brown escaped. Joe Jolly and a man named Humphrey were executed at Mt. Carmel church, according to history. John Rutherford and Hugh Peter Barger were also killed. Henry Chaney, who lived ten miles north of here, was killed and his home burned. It is not definitely known how many men from Morgan County were in the Civil War. The adjutant general's report showed only between 200 and 300 in the volunteer service with some 600 enrolled in the militia. The rebel army numbered about 100. There were two full companies of State Guards in Morgan county in 1861, commanded by Capt. Samuel Livingston and Capt. George Butler. Butler's lieutenants were James B. Salmon and J. S. Thruston. Livingston's first lieutenant was W. H. Goddard.

Company K attached to the 43rd Enrolled Militia, a Morgan county company, was commanded by Capt. William A. Mills, whose lieutenants were John Gills and John H. Fisher. Company M attached to the same militia, was commanded by Capt. C. H. Brace, whose lieutenants were William H. Hartman and August Oehrke. Battalion Company A, attached to this militia, was commanded by Capt. John Sims, whose lieutenants were William D. Morris and James H. Reed. Gen. Lyons called out the Home Guard of Morgan county in May 1867 to resist Price's State Guard.

The Morgan County Mounted Volunteer militia, commanded by Capt. A. J. Hart, was organized to look after the returning rebels. After the war the soldiers returned to their homes and resumed their places quietly.

It is not definitely known how many hundreds of Morgan county boys were inducted into World War I. More than a thousand men registered for the draft. Seventeen Morgan county men lost their lives in this war. Most of the men were drafted in 1917. Many Versailles

people recall the days in 1918 when the soldiers returned home to resume their places in civilian life. Old-timers recall the basket dinner the citizens of Versailles provided for the boys. According to the records 150 gallons of coffee was prepared for the occasion under the direction of J. A. Dudley and was served by the Boy Scouts. A program consisting of band music, choral music from the high school, a solo by Miss Helen Elter, invocation by Rev. G. E. Barham and brief patriotic addresses by A. L. Ross, R. A. Norfleet, H. K. Welpman, W. W. Gillum, E. A. Crewson, Capt. T. M. Hunter and Rev. A. E. Burch was presented, preceding the dinner. The food tables reached half way around the courthouse square. Among those from Versailles who were in the first draft were Clarence Merriott, Harry Moss, Orva Rumans, Beverly DeVinna, Raymond Head, Herschel Moore, Bert Morrison, Homer A. Taylor, Wade Foxworthy, Nathan E. Stringer, Willie Hilderbrand, Joseph Snorgrass, Homer L. Merriott, Roy F. Milburn, and others.

When World War II broke out December 7, 1941 the people who had believed the first war, called "the war to end all wars," was the last war were sadly disillusioned. Again many Morgan county boys marched off to war much different than that in which their fathers had fought. Forty-seven Morgan county boys gave their lives in defense of their country in this war, which ended in August, 1945.

Three Morgan county boys lost their lives in the Korean conflict.

## The Telephone Service

(Data by C. M. Carter of Salisbury)

According to old records the first telephone exchange was organized here in the late 1890's. The company was incorporated July 18, 1901 for \$5,000. The original stockholders were Wm. H. O'Neil, J. W. Mills, A. Popper, Louis Straus and Rosa Straus, all of Versailles and Wm. C. Straus and Ed Weidenback of New York. Louis and Rosa Straus were the principal stockholders.

This group sold the stock September 15, 1902 to G. M. Hargett, W. L. Stephens, John and Stella Brockmeyer, of Versailles, and Charles E. Yates of Sedalia, the Brockmeyers the principal stockholders.

At one time the only long distance phone in town was located at M. Spidel's confectionery, which stood on the present site of the Fashion Shop. Long distance calls were for

the most part emergency calls in those days which were made to the Spidel store and relayed on to the person to whom it was sent.

Fred G. and George B. Dressie purchased the exchange November 5, 1906 and operated the plant in the back room of the Martin Hotel. He later moved the plant to a room over what is now the Versailles Appliance store and again upstairs over the former Cooper store at the northeast corner of the square, then known as the Hubbard and Mills building.

On July 12, 1912 the company was purchased by E. M. Carter and sons, C. M. Carter and P. H. Carter of Keytesville, Mo. Mr. Carter erected the brick building on North Fisher street northeast of the square in 1918 and it has been occupied since that time by the telephone company. The Carters sold the plant to P. K. Higgins of St. Louis in 1922, who later sold it to T. L. Leonard. The company was known as the Scotia telephone company in the 1920's and later as the Ozark Central company. Southwestern Bell Telephone company have been the owners for several years.

Mr. Carter recalls that among the early day telephone operators here were Anna Kavanaugh, Julia and Kate Smoyer, Miss Ella Slocum, and Mrs. Bill Arnold. Among those employed from 1916 until 1922 were Myrtle Taylor, Mrs. C. M. Carter, Grace Naylor, Gertrude Hunter, Winnie Hardy, Marie Jacobs, Mrs. Ethel Don Carlos, Hortense Brooks, Jennie Brooks, Lela Frisby, Miss Lula Shively, Miss Harrison, Miss Dicie Shofner, Miss Jones, Miss Merriott, Miss Boline, Miss Maude Bond, Mrs. Etta Gorham, Mrs. P. H. Carter, Mrs. Van Denkurk, Mrs. Birtle Huff, Miss Ruth Callison, Mrs. Joe Loganbill and Mrs. Grace Metcalf. Mrs. Don Carlos worked at the telephone office for 28 years before retiring.

The Farmer's Telephone Company was located at the present home of Mr. and Mrs. Loan Kauffman. Rev. W. W. Holsopple, and J. W. Colvin were active in this project.

The telephone, like all the other things of the old days, has made a great change since its beginning. Pretty French phones in choice of colors to match the room decor now replace the big, cumbersome wooden box-type battery phones which hung on the wall and were rung with a crank on the side. Long distance calls, in the early days, were hard to put through and the reception was extremely bad. Now long distance calls are made in a matter of seconds and the reception is perfect. The dial system was installed here a few years ago, eliminating the telephone operators, who did a good job with the equipment in their day.



# Oldtimers Remember

According to old-timers here, Judge James P. Ross gave the land in the original town of Versailles for the site of the large frame school building for the Negro students. The school which was located directly north of the Second Baptist church, was moved a few years ago to the east end of South Fisher street, where it is now used as a residence. In its place the small brick building was erected and used a few years as the Booker T. Washington school. With the integration program of the schools here the Negro students were admitted to the grade and high schools and the building is now used for storage.

Frank McCollister, lifelong citizen of Versailles, recalls the days when Versailles had three saloons on the north side of the courthouse square, one on each corner and the other about the center of the block. In reminiscing over the old days, Mr. McCollister said, "I remember when Charles W. Biersach worked in Mendel's store, which was located about where Knoop's store now is. Philip Damph and D. C. Hardy had a blacksmith shop where the Conoco oil station now is located. The store of John and Lewis Lumpee and their father was located in the little brick building where the B-K cleaners now stands and they had a warehouse just back of the store from which they restocked the store as needed. (This was one of the first buildings erected in Versailles.) They sold calico for 4c and 5c per yard and the ladies in those days could buy enough material including thread and buttons to make a Sunday dress for 50c.

Farmers would bring their wheat to the mill and take home the flour in the same sack. And there was an old wooden windmill that stood on the north side of the courthouse. A lot of the older citizens will recall the "city milk cows" that roamed the streets, eating what they could reach out of the wagons hitched around the square, stomping great holes in the ground trying to shake the flies off.

I remember a Fourth of July celebration held in the days of the old courthouse that was destroyed by fire in 1887, when George P. Clark, as marshal of the day, on his chestnut sorrel horse, with a long red sash draped over his shoulder, led a long parade of horseback riders, among whom were the only two kids in the country who had ponies. They were Bob Silvey and Betty Duff Gunn.

Warren B. (Toddy) Todd recalls that his mother, Lucy Ellen Alverson Jobe Todd, who was an excellent seamstress and tailor, made suits and coats for many business men of Versailles. At first she cut the garments by charts and sewed them entirely by hand. Later she used a machine which was operated by a foot pedal to turn out the garments, which were in great demand, since ready-to-wear clothes were scarce. He remembers that he and his brother L. L. Jobe, clerked in the J. T. Washburn store, which stood at the corner of North Fisher and East Newton streets, the present site of the Cooper store. He later clerked in the Biersach store, which stood where the Bank of Versailles now is, and again at the big, famous department store of A. Popper, which stood on the present location of Shryack-Givens wholesale house. "Toddy" was in business with Frank Bremer in the early days when they operated a drygoods store on West Newton street and, after selling this store, purchased the variety store from Mrs. Laura Tising Gabriel, eventually selling his stock to Roy D. Rains.

Mrs. George (Etta) Bohling remembers that her husband constructed the brick building, now housing the post office, to which he moved his jewelry store and watch repair shop from a small frame building on the east side of the square. They also built the residence property just north of the lower elementary school, now the property of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Meyer, where they lived for many years. She attended the old Male and Female Institute operated by Joseph K. Gwynn.

E. P. (Pete) Otten remembers when a large livery stable stood on the site where Carpenter-Guenther Lumber yard now stands. It had a brick office on the street and lumber sheds extended back to the railroad track. He and his mother lived in a two story frame house that stood on the north corner of that block and he worked at the livery stable, which was owned by a man named Nesbitt and leased and managed by Clay Sparks. Mr. Otten took turns with August Otten, John Snorgrass and others in keeping the office open all night for the convenience of latecomers, who wished to put up their horses and rigs for the night or get fresh horses to continue on their way. They slept in the office, he said, Perry Rogers, the old colored man, curried and groomed the horses. Mr. Otten drove rigs for doctors and for others who wanted a driver. He recalls one night the livery stable burned and most of the horses with it.

Myron McCollister recalls how the old courthouse (built in 1844 and destroyed by fire in 1887) looked when he was a small boy. "The

building was surrounded by hitch racks," he said, "and it had a spacious lawn with grass and shade trees and a number of small office buildings setting around the courthouse. It was here that the old Fourth of July picnics were held, which were just a get-together where everybody brought baskets of food and spent the day visiting and having a good time. Music was furnished by the local band and someone would read the Declaration of Independence. The only commercial aspect of these affairs was the sale of lemonade, served from a big wash tub in which a big chunk of ice was placed, and soda pop sealed with a cork to which was attached a wire loop extending up through the mouth of the bottle. When you pressed down on the loop the cork popped out. Later these picnics were held at the alum well park southwest of the city cemetery. Uncle Jack Naylor's swing merry-go-round and square dancing furnished the entertainment for these picnics. The picnics often ended in a free-for-all fist fight and that rugged old city marshal, Ki Bond, grandfather of Boots and Warren Bond would have to be called to the scene. He was a regular giant of a man in the eyes of small eyes and commanded their respect and admiration. In the old days we bought heavy cowhide boots at Mendel's store, operated by Mr. Mendel, a large jolly German man. These shoes had heavy soles fastened on with wooden pegs - lots of leather but not much comfort.

Mrs. H. D. (Aunt Daisy) Gunn remembers that she and her late husband used to load their children into the spring wagon, in which they had put some hay for the horses and she had spread some quilts and pillows for the children's naps. They would pack a big basket of lunch and leave their farm home between Versailles and Barnett arriving here at about 11 o'clock, going straight to the alum well park for the big picnic. In the evening, Mrs. Gunn said, they would drive to the Freebairn pasture located approximately where the M.F.A. now stands, where the fireworks were displayed. Horses and vehicles would line both sides of West Newton street and at a late hour the families would load up and head for home, carrying lighted lanterns on the wagon so the passing vehicles would be seen.

Mrs. F. A. Crowson, nee Bea Kinlock, remembers that the social life in the early days in Versailles was quite different from that of today. Social gatherings were frequent and each host and hostess tried to outdo the other by putting on the most elaborate parties and social functions. The guys and gals dressed in the highest fashion of the day, rode in carriages or walked to the parties. Due to the absence of sidewalks and paved streets the ladies often

# Oldtimers Remember

Continued from Preceding Page

wore their old shoes, carrying their dress shoes in a bag and changing after they arrived at the party. String bands often furnished music for parties and at the dinners the long banquet boards were loaded with "meats, sweets and delicacies." Young parents took their children to the parties and dances, (there were no baby-sitters) and bedded them down on pallets on the floor, chairs or tables, and then danced and made merry until the wee hours of the morning. A "Christmas Hop" was held in the old days at Lumpee's hall (now the Masonic hall) described in the local paper as a "recherche affair." The item named the ladies present and described the costume of each. Many dances were held in the old courthouse in the old days. One of the popular dance bands of the day was composed of Ed Blanchard, George Bohling and Jim Glenn. Many gala parties were held in the homes with sumptuous refreshments and dancing until the wee hours of the morning.

## City Officials

Versailles became an incorporated village February 13, 1866. The city officials at that time were V. S. Walker, A. J. Hart, W. C. Reed, E. Lindley and R. Boyd Williams, trustees, with Mr. Reed as chairman and J. Tyler Campbell as city clerk. The first mayor, B. R. Richardson, was elected July, 1881. Aldermen were James McNair, James L. Townley, George W. Petty and John D. Nielsen.

Other early day mayors include Max Joachimi, Sr., L. S. Wright, Samuel Livingston, W. L. Stephens, John Lumpee, George P. Clark, E. A. Crewson, Dave Kidwell, Lewis Lumpee, Samuel Daniels, S. R. Woods, B. R. Richardson and William Forman. Among the other mayors of the town have been F. A. White, Dr. Wm. Well, O. L. Leatherman, Douglas Hubbard, Wm. F. Kidwell, Roy E. Otten, C. P. Jamison, and Chas. Bennett. Jesse Allee is the present mayor.

Other city officials at this time are Dr. Otho Washburn, Jesse Nobles, Lloyd Turpin and Dr. P. F. Eckhoff, aldermen; Mitchell Dornan, city clerk, W. E. Nelson, city collector, Roy Dilcom, City Marshal, Jess Weaver, deputy city marshal, Glen

Stokes, night marshal, Wm. R. Hunter, city treasurer, G. Logan Marr, city attorney and Dexter Slagle, city engineer.

## Fire Department

Versailles had many destructive fires in the early days when the only fire-fighting equipment was the bucket brigade, composed of local firefighters, several strategically located cisterns and hand-dug wells and a few water buckets. Several wells were dug around the business district for firefighting purposes in the old days. One such well is located in the street in front of the present Clodfelter Jewelry Store.

The first fire truck the city purchased was a model T Ford chemical truck, which carried a tank of water with a glass cylinder of chemical which, when broken and dumped into the water, produced pressure sufficient to furnish fairly effective results. This cylinder was broken as the fire truck started on its run and, by the time it reached the scene of the fire, the pressure was strong enough to produce quite a stream of water.

In 1923, when the Versailles municipal waterworks went in, during the mayorship of Wm. F. Kidwell, the city purchased a Model T Ford hose truck. These fire trucks were kept in a small building on the south side of the courthouse square, belonging to Mrs. Flem Harrison. A 2-wheel cart with hose reel was pulled behind the hose truck to supplement the hose.

Frank Thorpe, owner of the Thorpe Hardware store, was the first fire chief, with Ben L. Rickard as assistant chief. Among the others on the original fire department were Irvin Young, Carl Egdorf, Maxie Marriott, Dutch Knoop, Bill Washburn, Dorsey Roe, Gus Heineman, Charley Crow, Jess Garrison, Tom Curtis and John Ephland.

The wives of the members of the fire department held an ice cream social on the courthouse lawn and used the proceeds to purchase coats and helmets for their firemen husbands.

Ben Rickard served as fire chief here for 25 years, from 1925 until 1950.

Present fire department members are Chief Alvin Bauer, Ass't. Chief Gene N. Bartram, Driver Jess Nobles, Floyd Nelson, Joe Thomas, Dave Hutchison, Dutch Knoop, Lee Warrington, Herb Bellamy, J. T. Hull, Gerald Yarnell and Wayne Forth.

The Versailles Rural Fire Department was organized in 1952 to provide fire protection for members of the department within a 10-mile

radius of Versailles. There are now 210 members.

Officers of the rural fire department are Roy Gerber, president; Oliver Terhune, vice president; Monte Thoss, sec'y-treas.; Gene Bartram, fire chief; Jess Nobles, driver; firemen are Gaithel Blankenship, Gerald Yarnell, Mitchell Dornan and Lee Warrington. Those on the board are Oliver Terhune, Harry Nolting, Claude Roberts and Clyde Wilborn.

The rural fire truck, purchased in 1952, was destroyed in the fire which burned the city hall in February 8, 1960. A new truck was purchased in the spring soon afterward.

The voters of Versailles voted a bond in the April election, 1960, to purchase a new city fire truck, and in November the people voted a bond to construct a new fire station, which has been completed.

## Present Day Versailles

The city of Versailles, which was surveyed and laid out in 1835, now has a population of 2,200. The main occupation of the area is dairy farming, with the resort business, brought on by the formation of the Lake of the Ozarks, running a close second. Business has steadily increased since the lake was formed in 1930, until the business people of the town have come to depend largely on the tourist trade during the season from May until October. Many retired people have chosen Versailles for their home because of the nearness of the lake.

Within the past fifteen years the Glendale Addition and Edgedale Addition to the town have been built up with many new, modern homes setting on the grounds which not many years ago were pastureland.

Versailles has one of the lowest commercial water rates in the state, with two deep wells and pumps which can be channeled directly into the water mains or into the storage tower. A new fire truck, with modern equipment, has recently been purchased, and work has begun on a new fire station to house the city truck and the Versailles Rural Fire truck.

The town is now serviced with electrical power by the Missouri Utilities Company. The country neighbors are now enjoying the convenience of electricity made possible through the Rural Electrification Administration, a far cry from the inconvenience of getting along with kerosene lanterns and lamps



and no ice boxes or deep freezers, as the residents of the town and county did in the not too-distant past. L.P. gas is used principally as fuel here. Electric and gas cooking stoves now replace the old wood-burning ranges with their attached hot water reservoirs. Fuel oil and gas furnaces with thermostats have ended the old jobs of cutting and stocking stove wood and shoveling coal and carrying out cinders and ashes. Many of the older houses here have been remodeled and modernized.

The main business district is still located around the courthouse square as it has been since the beginning of the town. Many of the business places have been remodeled and expanded. The Bank of Versailles was remodeled and a new front put in a few years ago, and the building now owned by Joe Thomas of the Thomas T.V. and Appliance store on West Newton street, was recently remodeled and a new front put in. This was the location of many stores here through the years and the second floor of the building was the old Wassung opera house where many entertainments were put on by local thespians and traveling show troupes. After that era it was used as the motion picture theater.

The Frigid Food Locker now occupies a building adjacent to the Versailles Ice Plant, which has also been remodeled. A new building now houses the Coffman garage, and the new building adjoining it on the east is the Dutch Maid laundry. Both these locations were formerly the site of the old Dromgold Lumber yard in earlier days. The Royal Theater was built in the early 1930's and is located on the site of the old Grandma Long hotel, which was one of the first buildings in Versailles. On the lot where the old D. C. Hardy store and later Carl's store formerly stood, now stands Clark's Retreading and Service station. The buildings west of the Clark station have been built within the past few years and the location was formerly used for a feed store and hitching yard. The corner drug store, now Slagle's Sundries, was constructed after the old Rexall Drug store, with Joe Thruston as owner, burned in the 1920's. The Ben Franklin store on the north side of the square was formerly the First National Bank building. It has been remodeled several times. The building which formerly housed The Versailles Motor Company was constructed here in the early 1900's and stands on the old site of Crewson and Harrison real estate office, Tuckley shoe shop and Mrs. Mounts' millinery store. The old Curtis building, purchased by Gene Bartram and Earle Beckner three years ago, has been remodel-

ed, and the City Hotel across the street west of the Curtis building has been completely remodeled and made strictly modern by the proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. Haywood Spurlock. The Kansas City Bifocal Co. now occupies the space where once sat the old fire station and a jewelry store of George Bohling and later George Clodfelter. The old Bush Hotel, which was in earlier days the Decker Bakery and restaurant, is now replaced by the Jeffries buildings, a part of which is occupied by Russell P. Hall, realtor. The buildings on the corner west of the real estate office were built a few years ago following a fire which destroyed the old hardware store of Grant Winget and Henry Kidwell, later owned by R. L. Thomasson and then by C. W. Brown. Roy Rains, one of the oldest merchants in town, constructed several new buildings west of the old city bakery building, now occupied by the Hess Second Hand Store. These brick buildings house Roy's Playhouse, Roy's Store, the Teletavern and Rand's Plumbing store. Gabriel's Skelly station is a comparatively new building, the site of which was at one time the Fairley livery stable and Joel Sumner's blacksmith shop. The M.F.A. building on the north side of highway 52, west, near the old Missouri Pacific Railroad track, is the comparatively new home of this association, which was formerly located in the tall building across the highway to the south and in earlier days known as the Farmer's Exchange. The Hutchison ice cream place was built only a few years ago. W. J. Schaper erected the buildings now housing Gamble's and the Western Auto store on West Newton street which was the former location of the Versailles Statesman. The Kroger store, formerly the site of the old Joachimi store, Willard's store, former site of Frank McCollister's harness shop, and the building now occupied by the Versailles Cafe all have been remodeled. The new B-K Cleaners building replaces the small brick building built by John Lumpee, which once was the location of Lumpee's Store, Nichols Produce house and Dunn's restaurant. Other new buildings on North Monroe street are the Caine buildings, including the residence where the old George Petty home stood in the early days, the Town and Country Shop, former site of the home of the parents of Mrs. Etta Bohling and of the Jake Schmitter family, later Peterson's tailor shop and the Versailles Furniture Store, which formerly was an empty lot. The Martin Hotel building, the original Martin Hotel site, was erected by the late Samuel Martin, and has been remodeled and made modern. The Gunn clinic was constructed in more recent years.

The new brick buildings on North Fisher street from the Versailles Appliance store to the end of the block were constructed by Roy D. Rains. Gerald Yarnell's service station, north of these buildings is comparatively new. The Hunter-McDonough Motor Co. is located on the site of the old Padgett feed and hitching yard. The Leader-Statesman office was constructed in 1920. The telephone building was constructed in 1918.

The concrete building housing the Morgan county library was constructed in 1942. The Morgan county jail on East Newton street was built in 1943 and Sheriff K. A. Goodman was the first to occupy the living quarters of the building.

Versailles is justly proud of the new high school building located west of the city limits on Highway 52. The old high school building is used as the upper elementary school. Enrollment of the high school is approximately 325 with about 700 enrolled in the upper and lower elementary schools. A new cafeteria was added to the upper elementary building in 1959.

The new home of the Versailles Motor Company is located just west of the new high school building.

There are seven churches within the city limits of Versailles.

The Rolling Hills Country Club, located three miles north of the city limits on Highway 5, was completed three years ago. It has one of the best 9-hole golf courses in this part of the state, a swimming pool with bath houses and a clubhouse in which dinners and parties are enjoyed by the members. The annual invitational golf tournaments attract golfers from all over the state.

Versailles has many civic and social organizations. The Chamber of Commerce and Industrial Trust organizations are very active.

There are several industrial plants in Versailles. The Primo Pants Manufacturing Company employs approximately 100 people. The Tweedie factory operates on a part time basis on government contracts. The Kansas City Bifocal Company at one time employed 100 people but that number has decreased somewhat in the past few years, since the plant no longer operates on a full 24-hour-day schedule. The Kraft Foods Plant is a major economic asset to this area, since it is a pick-up point for milk produced in this territory. The Kidwell Monument Works and Kidwell-Wilbert Manufacturing Plant employs approximately 15 men. The Versailles Concrete Block Plant, owned by Harry Hardin, operates with full force daily. The B-Bar-B Packing Company and Dunham Dog Food manufacturing plant at the west edge of town operates daily.

Dr. F. A. Crowson, veterinarian, has a small animal clinic at his home on North Campbell street near the Rock Island depot. Dr. Chas. Eppright has a new small animal hospital on highway 52 west about one mile from town.

The most serious detrimental influence on our town is the lack of transportation facilities. Since the passenger train service has been discontinued here, and there is no bus service, travelers are obliged to use their cars or take the Missouri Pacific trains in Tipton, California or Jefferson City. Bus connections can be had at Eldon and Cole Camp junction. Versailles is serviced by several independent truckers.

Versailles anticipates a building program which will begin within the next few months. A new city hall will be constructed on the site of the old city hall on North Monroe street and a fire station will be constructed at the rear of the new hall. The new educational building of the Methodist church nears completion.

Many of the old-timers, who left Versailles years ago to seek their fortune in another location, have returned to spend their retirement years in their old home town.

From this location on North Monroe St., the Kidwell Granite Wks. serves dealers and individuals in a wide area with high grade granite grave markers and monuments. The business was established 31 years ago by the late W. F. Kidwell.



Rolling Hills Country Club, located a short distance north of Versailles, boasts a commodious clubhouse and one of the finest sand greens golf courses in Central Missouri.

1844

1961

# 117 Years of Progress

*Serving every family as we would be served  
has been our policy for more than a century*

## Kidwell Funeral Home

Since 1844

Best Ambulance Service

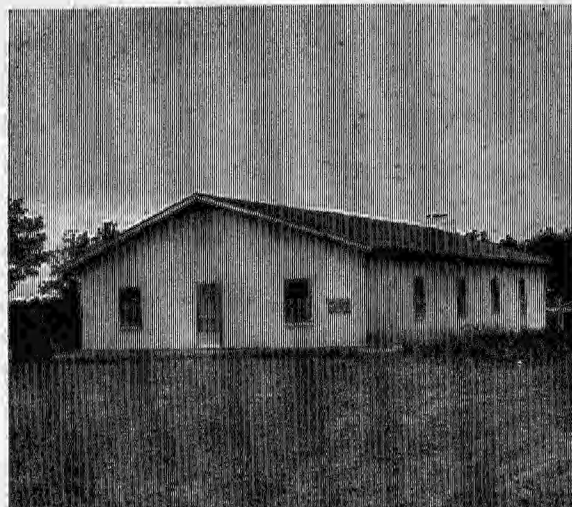
Finest Memorials

**"Your confidence is our greatest asset"**



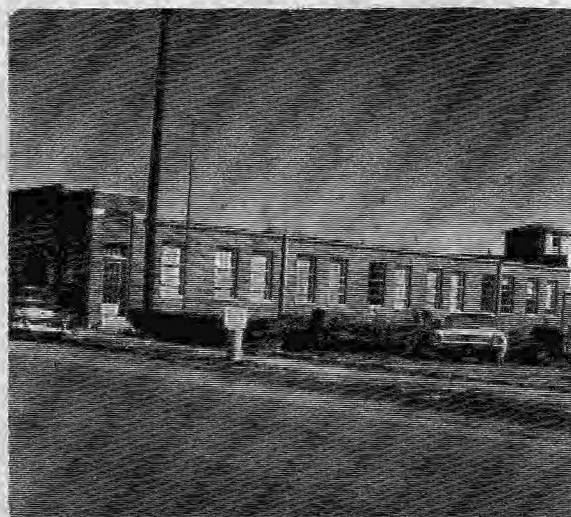


THE MORGAN COUNTY JAIL



THE AMERICAN LEGION BUILDING

This Booklet Printed by  
**The Leader-Statesman**  
Printers and Publishers



TWEEDIE FOOTWEAR CORP. PLANT



THE GUNN CLINIC

# The Bank of Versailles

The Bank of Versailles and Morgan County have progressed together since 1882. The Bank of Versailles was chartered as a state banking institution December 21, 1882, with Dr. P. G. Woods as president and Will L. Stephens as cashier. Total assets at the end of the first day's operation amounted to \$10,627.18. Today, the bank's total assets amount to more than three and one-half million dollars.

D. K. HUNTER, President      E. W. GUENTHER, vice-Pres. & Cashier

ASSISTANT CASHIERS:

Wm. R. Hunter  
Sam M. Guenther  
Dorthea I

BOOKKEEPERS:

Lorene Hughes  
Dorothy Ball  
Ruth Morrison  
Ruth Come

---

## Cooper's Market

CANNED GOODS — FRESH VEGETABLES — QUALITY MEATS

FROZEN FOODS — WORK CLOTHING — DRUG DEPARTMENT.

We'll be pleased to serve you.



ARTHUR OTTE, Manager