

1983 Sunday, May 16, 1993 - South Bend Tribune - INTERSECTION

FROM THE TRIBUNE FILES

1893 — Were tempers rising with the mercury when spring came to South Bend in 1893? On May 18 of that year, the South Bend mayor's court docket was certainly loaded with assault cases. Here are a few:

A police officer was severely beaten by a husband and wife accused of selling "diseased" meat. The officer had gone to the couple's home to arrest them, then they attacked him with clubs. The couple was subsequently arrested by a second officer. A charge of assault and battery was added to the charge of selling bad meat.

A saloon patron was stabbed in the leg during a barroom brawl but refused to press charges or even discuss the incident.

Two workers at the Blount Child Plow Works plant got into a fight, and one of them clubbed the other on the head. The worker suffered a severe cut that required stitches.

Two bakery workers got into a fight on the job. One of them was charged with assault.

1910 — Robert High School's class of 1910 had 80 graduates. Commencement exercises were scheduled for May 20 at the Hayden Theater downtown. Graduation-week activities included a baccalaureate service at the First Presbyterian Church, an alumni reception at the Elks Temple and a picnic at Kings Lake.

In Graham, 27 students received their diplomas May 14 at commencement exercises in Jefferson Theater. The Graham school's spring term ended Friday, May 17.

Also on May 16, 1910, St. Joseph County, Ind., residents were advised to buy coal for winter use because the price was cheaper than it was going to be during the cold weather months. The belief was that, unless people stocked up on the fuel early, there would be another winter-time shortage that would make 1910's coal deficit look like a Sunday school picnic.

1942 — Government officials involved in creating the sprawling \$15 million Kensington "victory city" were about to be a failure.

The 2,711 pre-fab, modular-type homes were built to accommodate workers at the Kensington airplane plant during World War II. However, the demand for the homes, built at public expense, was small.

The houses had been available for occupancy for two months, but by May 15, only 101 of them were occupied. The government had predicted a population of 12,000 by the end of 1942. But only 210 people were living there in May.

Officials believed that at that rate of growth, only one-half of the homes would be occupied by the end of the year. They hoped that the closing of large government trailer camps and dormitories in Kent and Valerius would bring in more families. After the war, families were able to buy the homes. Kensington Heights eventually became incorporated as a town in Lafayette County, and many of the homes remain.

On a lighter note, a South Bend audience was entertained by jazz pianist William "Count" Basie when he brought his big band to the stage of the Palace Theater near Morris Civic Auditorium on Monday, May 17.

Basie was billed as "Harlem's hottest musician." His "All Stars" band included some of the outstanding jazz musicians of the time, like drummer Joe Jones, singer Jimmy Rushing, Thomas Carpenter and Earle Warren, and dancer Bo Jangles Jenkins.

1968 — South Bend public school officials unveiled a massive educational reorganization program that contained four basic proposals:

- Creation of seven large junior-senior high complexes to which students would come from large elementary schools.
- Abandoning 10 older and smaller school buildings, including Central High School, and building more than \$10 million in new facilities to support the new educational structure.
- Redrawing of building attendance district lines to improve school balance in a point where no building had more than 60 percent black enrollment.
- Creation of a magnet elementary school at the Purley building, with a non-graded, extended school year open to children throughout the entire school system.

The program's objective was to achieve a more efficient and efficient educational program, to eliminate old buildings and plan new buildings to meet current and future needs, and to reduce racial imbalances throughout the corporation. School officials anticipated some modification and change.

'Traces' magazine takes look at Hoosier women in baseball

INDIANAPOLIS — The history of Hoosier women in baseball is highlighted in the spring issue of the Indiana Historical Society magazine, "Traces of Indiana and Midwestern History."

Written by Barbara Gregorich, "Women in Baseball: Indiana's Dynamic Heritage" examines the Hoosier state's rich tradition in women's baseball. The article covers everything from the South Bend team in the 1930s to the first women's baseball league in the 1920s.

For more information on how to see the exhibit, call 317-232-1802.

Gambia honors baseball movies

By KYLE KROHN

The Gambia, a republic on the west coast of Africa, has issued a series of stamps dedicated to Hollywood's baseball movie pictures.

The set consists of five different stamps, each depicting a different scene from a different movie. The stamps are:

- "The Natural" (1959)
- "The Hustler" (1961)
- "The Bad News Bears" (1976)
- "The Natural" (1981)
- "The Hustler" (1981)

The stamps are part of a series of 10 stamps issued by the Gambia Post Office to honor the country's love of baseball.

BACK IN TIME

NOT SO LONG AGO

Let's have a chat

In 1887, two men converse while standing in the middle of Washington Street in downtown South Bend. They must not have felt endangered by the street cars and horse-drawn buggies that traveled the streets in those days.

Railroad woven into family's history

The first of two parts, this article tells how early area railroad work is intertwined in the life of one local pioneer family. Read Sunday's article and see the impact of the railroad on that family's youngest member — 62-year-old.

By GILBERT CIPRIANO

SOUTH BEND — Local railroad work — cross-country and international — have had an impact on the lives of many area residents since the completion of the first South Bend-Chicago line in 1870.

The pioneer family of Frederick G. Miller, who arrived in Olive Township, Ind., recorded more than 30 years of experience with the railroad. There have been the gamut of experiences, from a harrowing escape from death, and joy and happiness to a life of hardship.

Whitehouse, Pa., a 115-year-old resident of Ridge Farm, Pa., Curran & Rehabilitation Center, is the last surviving child of Frederick and Emma Miller's eldest child, who still has recollections of the railroad's influence on this pioneer family.

Her father was a 19th-century German immigrant who became a sawmill entrepreneur. He etched his name in Olive Township history by being Polish immigrants to cut timber on his land and to work in his sawmills, located west of South Bend toward New Carlisle.

Though a farmer by trade, Miller invested in a 1,000-acre tract of land and heavy timber when he moved to Olive Township in 1870. The area was known as the "Sage Road and Grapevine Creek" tract, which was located on the east side of the town of South Bend.

Miller was experiencing the first fruits of property from his west-bound work with the railroad, his family also suffered its first great tragedy — a result of being very near the tracks. On a Saturday night in March 1871, one of Frederick and Emma's sons, 20-year-old Herman Otto Miller, was killed after being struck by a train while walking home from New Carlisle, some five miles away.

Less than four years later, in 1875, Frederick G. Miller suffered much the same fate. His grand grandson Doug Cadden explained that the tragic sequence of events evolved from Frederick John's offer to New York City to hire Polish immigrants. After they completed their immigration processing at Ellis Island, he paid their passage to New York City to hire Polish immigrants. After they completed their immigration processing at Ellis Island, he paid their passage to New York City to hire Polish immigrants.

This picture, circa 1900, shows some of the members of the Frederick G. Miller family of South Bend. They are, from left, front row, Matilda Miller, Frederick G. Miller, Emma Miller, Elizabeth Miller and 52-year-old Miller. In the back row, from left, they are Emil G. Miller, Sam A. Miller, Emma P. Miller, Wilhelm Miller and Frederick J. Miller.

THROUGH THE YEARS is a Midwest history column coordinated by the Midwest Historical Society, working with a group of affiliated agencies in northern Indiana and southwestern Michigan. For more information about the column, write the editor, 1010 N. Washington St., South Bend, Ind. 46601.

ing South Bend's worst train accident, near Springfield Park later played a role in the accident which occurred when a Chicago Express jumped a washed-out culvert and derailed right after midnight on June 28, 1893.

Approximately 10 people lost their lives. Miller, one of the surviving casualties, suffered facial injuries which scarred him for life.

Gilbert Cipriano of South Bend has been working as a research historian for Western New Carlisle, Inc., on the history of Olive Township. He is also the Tribune's correspondent for the New Carlisle area.

TIME OFF

Is it SLR or point-and-shoot?

By RICK SAMMON

ON CAMERA

When it comes to cameras, there are two main types: SLRs and point-and-shoot cameras. SLRs are more expensive, but they offer several benefits over point-and-shoot cameras. SLRs allow you to change lenses, which is useful if you want to take different types of pictures. SLRs also have a viewfinder that shows you exactly what the camera is seeing, which is helpful for framing and focusing. SLRs also have a mirror that flips up when you take a picture, which allows you to see the picture as it is being taken. SLRs also have a flash that can be used to illuminate subjects in low light.

Point-and-shoot cameras are smaller, cheaper, and easier to use. They have a fixed lens that cannot be changed, and they have a viewfinder that shows you a slightly different view than what the camera is seeing. Point-and-shoot cameras also have a mirror that stays down all the time, which allows you to see the picture as it is being taken. Point-and-shoot cameras also have a flash that is built into the camera body.

So, which type of camera is right for you? It depends on what you want to use the camera for. If you want to take professional-quality pictures, an SLR is the way to go. If you want a camera that is easy to use and doesn't cost too much, a point-and-shoot camera is a better choice.

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