

Limestone, railroad keys to Stinesville

• Though the town of Stinesville is celebrating its 130th birthday, there were those who — earlier than 1855 — must have believed that the area had considerable promise.

THE FIRST recorded settlers were F.V. Hall, who bought a tract of land there in 1817 and Charles Devore in 1823. Oddly enough neither settler was around when the 1850 census taker came knocking on doors in that area.

It is likely that the earliest settlers in what is now Stinesville, thought themselves fortunate to be so close to Mt. Tabor. That town, which owed its promise to the water power of Bean Blossom Creek and proximity to

Looking back

By Rose H. McHuey

White River, was booming. In addition to the usual stores, there were saw and grist mills and several factories.

Actually, the histories of both the Mt. Tabor and Stinesville areas were changed by a couple of enterprising men living in New Albany. They were slowly building a railroad northward

— a line that would eventually reach all the way to Chicago, and they had the foresight to realize that railroads were the wave of the future. In short, the presence of that mode of transportation could make or break a town.

IT IS NOT known whether Eusebius Stine had a crystal ball or a tip from the New Albany & Salem Railroad builders, but just about the time that the line's labor gangs had reached Monroe County, he was platting town lots in the area that took his name. The railroad was being imaginatively financed by local subscription.

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