

# *Salt attracted settlers*

When pioneer families began pouring into the part of the Indiana Territory that was destined to become Monroe County, they settled near streams and creeks, since water was a very necessary commodity for their day to day life.

**HARDER TO COME BY** was another necessity, salt. Without it the settlers' food was relatively bland. Salt had another practical place in their lives. It was used, along with the smoking pro-

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## Looking back

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*By Rose McIlveen*

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cess, in the preservation of meats in the warm months of the year.

Bear in mind that trading posts were

far and far between in those days. Salt was expensive, since it was produced in the east, and transportation was a real consideration. R. Dee Rarick of the Geological Survey at Indiana University says in his pamphlet, "Halite - Salty Mystery of Life," explains that salt imported from the east between 1788 and 1800 sold for \$4 to \$8 for an 80-pound bushel. It was even used as a means of barter at the times when money was scarce.

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