

# Early transportation unique

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Special to the H-T

Transportation—1830's style—in and out of Monroe County was due to the enterprise of two brothers, J.O. and S.M. Orchard.

Natives of Washington County, Indiana, in their working years they provided an interesting variety of business services and products for Monroe countians, including linseed oil, carded wool, fresh-slaughtered meat and produce, hotel rooms, and transportation.

IT WAS IN THE LATE 1830's that the Orchards managed to get a U.S. mail con-

tract. The natural result of that contract gave rise to the establishment of stage lines which the brothers set up from Indianapolis to Levenworth, Kansas and from Louisville to New Orleans.

We are indebted to Thomas Perring for his account of the Orchard stage lines and a glimpse of traveling in the 1830's and 40's. His father, fresh from Axminster, England, drove one route and Robert McPheeters took the other. Paid the handsome sum of \$16<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> per month, the men were affectionately called the "Little Englishman" and "Windy Bob." The

latter got his name for his ability to tell an endless string of tall tales.

DOUBLING AS CARRIER, baggage master, engineer, conductor, collector, and occasionally active artilleryman, the drivers had to be versatile and resourceful enough to handle any kind of emergency on the road. Their coach, the latest Concord model, was swung on great thongs of heavy leather to cushion the jolts and bumps of primitive roads full of holes and ruts. In rainy seasons many a passenger was obliged to get down

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