

Aftermath of Hoadley mill fire

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efforts of the Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, J. Hoadley & Sons decided to build their new stone mills in Bloomington east of the Monon yards and south of Grimes Lane. This will replace the Stinesville mill that burned down."

WITH THE exception of the Hoadley company and one or two others, the chief problem with the stone business in the Stinesville area had been absentee ownership, and all too often the owners couldn't tell a gang saw from planer. The investors were more interested in the rewards than in rolling up their sleeves and trying their hands at any of the jobs in the mills or quarries.

A case in point was the Bloomington and Stinesville Stone Company. The owners of record were J.H. Loudon, W.W. Wicks and Henry Henley, all of Bloomington. The single exception was J.H. Williams, a Stinesville merchant, lawyer and teacher.

The history of the stone business in Stinesville is, unfortunately, one of little companies being founded on a shoestring budget, floundering, going into receivership and being revived again under different ownership. The profits were sometimes great, but so was the risk.

THE LOSS of the Hoadley company and others from Stinesville crippled the town's economy. Workers drifted to Ellettsville and Bloomington and with them went the buying power of their paychecks. Small businesses couldn't survive, and one by one they closed their doors.

The town did receive a brief reprieve in the establishment of the Indianapolis Oolitic Stone Company on an 80-acre tract east of town. Again, it was an absentee owner operation. The investors were Indianapolis businessmen by the names of Ziegler, Webb and Milligan. According to Winston Churchill, whose father, Frank, was a manager for the company, it employed some 250 workers in the mill and quarry. Apart from supplying large blocks for buildings, one of the most impressive works it produced was an enormous depiction of the Last Supper for a church in Michigan.

UNFORTUNATELY, the 1929 crash was devastating to all of the limestone companies. The Indianapolis Oolitic Stone Company was no exception. It limped along financially for awhile, but in time, a salvage crew dismantled and carted away the mill's steel structure, derricks and even the railroad spur.

Last in the Series: Stinesville Celebrates Its Birthday

Corps places fourth

JEFFERSONVILLE — In competition at Jeffersonville Wednesday night, the Star of Indiana Drum and Bugle Corps placed fourth out of a field of seven corps.

The corps and their finishing order were: Madison Scouts, 90.8; Cavaliers, 88.2; Velvet Knights and Freelancers tied at 81 points even; Star, 78.2; Argonauts, 69.5; Knights, 69.2 and California Dons with a score of 62.9.

The corps will compete in Allentown, Pa., tonight.