

High school closing blow to Stinesville

The heart of any community the size of Stinesville was traditionally found in its high school. It was the social center of the town, and residents rallied around the basketball team — called the Quarry Lads — through good seasons and bad.

In 1963 the schools in Richland and

Looking back

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By Rose McIlveen

Last in a series

Bean Blossom townships joined to create the Richland-Bean Blossom School

Corporation as part of a statewide consolidation move that also led to the creation of the Monroe County Community School Corporation for the rest of the county.

The decision was made to have one high school in the new Richland-Bean Blossom district and it was to be located in Ellettsville. Stinesville High School was closed.

ANOTHER FACTOR IN addition to limestone companies moving away and the high school closing contributed to the economic decline of Stinesville. Boh Judah, a former resident of the community, recalls that with the coming of the automobile, people became a lot more mobile. Previously a shopping trip to Bloomington was an all-day affair in the family buggy or wagon. The automobile changed the shopping

habits of Stinesville residents.

In 1955, when the town celebrated its 100th birthday, the Ellettsville *Journal* published a special edition filled with stories of its sister community but only three advertisements in the section were from Stinesville businesses . . . N.P. Van Buskirk's grocery, the Stinesville Grocery and Churn Taylor's barber shop.

THE CENTENNIAL celebration, in addition to generating the usual fanfare of parade, pageant and the inevitable queen contest, also created a feeling of pride in what Stinesvillians had accomplished during their first 100 years and an optimism about its future. It was also a homecoming for former residents who owed their "getting on in the world" to the solid, my-word-is-my-bond upbringing of another time in history.

Among the dignitaries who attended the centennial were former Gover-

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