



Our Old Bookcase, April 27, 2017, Mercer County's 1963 Banner Fair

Photo caption: Mercer Count's 1963 111th Banner Fair Book listed historic businesses.

OUR OLD BOOK CASE

By Joyce L. Alig, President, Mercer County Historical Society

The 1963 book for the 111th Banner Fair at the Mercer County Fairgrounds was a gift to my husband Alvin from our friends Gary and Rita Rismiller of Darke County. They belong to the New Idea Historic Preservation Committee and appreciate local history.

Alvin would pick up this 1963 Fair book, in the evening, and look at all of the names of people he knew in the 1960's. I thought this book might bring back good memories to you, also.

The Mercer County Agricultural Society hosted the Banner Fair with a goal of promoting and encouraging agriculture, industry, science, art and other interests of Mercer County. In this 1963 book, the Society preserved the history of businesses and their owners by listing the names of the advertisers in their Fair Book. In 1963, many local businesses were family-owned. Have times changed?

I attended the Bicentennial Planning meeting of the Shanes Crossing Historical Society at Rockford, this month. One of the topics they discussed was the names of old businesses listed in the old Rockford Press Newspapers. Rockford Citizens do business in the Village, as well as people from the country, and the nearby villages of Mendon, Mercer, Neptune, Chattanooga, and Tama. Therefore, it may be of interest to local citizens of Rockford and nearby Villages, to see the businesses which advertised in the 1963 Mercer County Banner Fair book.

Rockford: Bigham's Cities Service, Carr and Shindeldecker Standard Oil Products, Dean Hellwarth Pioneer Corn, Dinner Bell, Farmers Grain & Supply Co., Fast Auction Sales, J. Dolan Purdy Insurance, Ken's Barber Shop, Ketcham's Funeral Service and Furniture, Lloyd Motor Sales, Lugbihl Feed Mill, Paul Dudgeon Seed Co., Paul E. Miller & Son Mil-Ket Farm, Ole Sites & George Jr. Schroyer & Glenn Hasis Bulk Lime & Fertilizer Spreading, Pierstorff Seed Farms, Polar Stores, Inc., Rockford Locker Service, Rockford Lumber Co., Sharp Canning, Inc., The Rockford National Bank, Rockford Stone Co., and The Rockford Press.

Chattanooga: Andrew's Garage & Saw Mill, Berne Equity Exchange Co., Bollenbacher's Cash Store, Carl Schroeder Beef & Dairy, Fisher & Sons Farm Implements, Inc., Kenneth Hoblet Auctioneer, and Wendel Bros. Motor Sales,

Mendon: A. and T. Sohio Service, Archer Pipe & Supply, Bud Hays Barber Shop, Carol's Beauty Shop, Claud Hansel's Recreation Hall, Dick & Sons, Don Nuding-Rockford Agri-Limestone, Drake & Shaffer Motor Sales, Ellis Insurance, Fisher's Market and Locker Service, Griggs Garage, Krogmans Garage, L.W. Diegel Sales, Maurer's Hardware, Mendon Farm Store, Mendon Live Stock Exchange, Mendon Service Co., and Ray's Pure Oil Station.

Mercer: Beougher's General Store, and Motor Inn Truck Stop.

Neptune: Roebuck's Elevator, and Schnarre's Garage and Implement Sales,

Tama: Berne Equity Exchange Co., and Canary Bros. Concrete,

For you local historians of these Villages, how many of these family businesses are still in the family? The Mercer County Fair Board is planning an historic celebration. Will businesses advertise in the Fair Book because they want their name to be remembered in Mercer County's History?

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