

More Memories of East Enterprise

The memories of East Enterprise continue to come our way. Following Renny Rieman's sharing remembrances written by Raleigh Whitham and Judy Kappes' photo of her father at the East Enterprise Fair, we received two further accountings.

Wilma Lohide corrected the "Junior House" mentioned to actually be Jordan Rudolph Houze, which is her grandfather's brother, born October 17, 1859 in Cotton Township, died January 9, 1921. He was a banker and merchant in East Enterprise for thirty years. According to the Rising Sun Recorder, February 7, 1909, "The bank bought the corner lot of J. R. Houze for \$277 upon which they will build a building two stories high. Woodmen expect to occupy the upper room."

Wilbur "Jack" Houze (1894-1984) was the son of Jordan Houze. Jack operated a garage in East Enterprise for many years. He was also president of the East Enterprise State Bank from 1945-76. He was the first fire chief at East Enterprise and housed the first fire engine in his garage. Later he was a rural mail carrier for many years.

Jack was active in the New Liberty Baptist Church until he moved to Vevay and his wife Ethel was the pianist at the church. He told the story that when he was a small boy he would ride his horse to church every Sunday. Some days, if the weather was bad, no one came to church. His parents always cautioned him not to get off his horse until someone else came to church because he was so small he could not get back on the horse without help.

Fred Gullion sent us his remembrances via the Vevay Newspapers.

"I was a youngster in the 1940's and early 1950's, but I do remember a few things about the little crossroads town.

The town was situated at the crossroads of Highways 256 and 56.

Howard Torrance's Hardware store was on one corner. Across the road towards Patriot were the bank, wall-paper store and post office. Located on the next corner was Harry Brunner's chicken hatchery and later a grocery store ran by Fred Lockwood. On the other corner was Britt's general store, feed store and a little of everything else rolled into one. Knappy Thorp had a barber shop behind the bank and also behind Brett's grocery. He moved a couple times...

Behind the Hardware store was a Cream Station, while beside the Hardware store facing Highway 56 was Denver Markland's garage with the gas pumps in front. You would have to crank the gas up into a glass top that had markers inside. If you wanted five gallons, you would watch the gas run down to the five gallon marker. Someone always waited on you if you wanted gas, but if they knew you they would let you do it yourself. As a young driver in the mid fifties, I can remember telling Dan to give me a dollars worth. Of course that was about five gallons back then.

Mr. Markland had several men working for him and a lot of men just hanging around when the weather was bad or on Saturdays. You could always find Dan and Mike Peelman there; I believed they worked as milk truck drivers and at the garage too. Mr. Markland had several milk trucks too. On the inside of the garage was a big old round furnace that heated the garage. Men would gather there to loaf and talk for hours. Harold Slack could usually be found there when he wasn't working for a local farmer.

Next door to the garage was Conner's poolroom and sometimes a restaurant was located there. Later it would become a full time restaurant.

Across the road was another building that over the years had been used as a general store, pool room, plus a hardware store at one time.

Next to that building was the telephone exchange, which was located in the Ricketts residence and was run by that family for many years. I can remember calling my grandmother and having to use the exchange. I would ring up the exchange and tell Wilma I wanted to call grandma. She knew who I was by the sound of my voice.

On towards Vevay on the right was another garage. I can't remember who ran it during that time, but across the highway was the East Enterprise Volunteer Fire Station and next to the fire house was Mr. Green's farm.

On the west side and up from the garage was Floyd Bowman's butcher shop.

The one room school house was located up Highway 56 towards Aberdeen in Ohio County about a half mile and on the right. To have water for the school, the older kids would have to walk to Howard Torrance's home and pump a bucket, then carry it back.

The East Enterprise Park sat next to Conner's pool room with a couple houses in between.

A doctor's office was located next to the park in what would later become the McAlister home and sawmill.

Several interesting things happened in our neighborhood that wouldn't even get in the papers now, but back in those days were really exciting.

The East Enterprise Volunteer Fire Department wrecked their truck when they attempted to make a turn too fast.

My Uncle Raymond Dickerson saw someone in his garage one night and went to investigate. As the guy came out of the door, Raymond was standing there and was shot. He didn't die and could identify his shooter.

Back in the 30's, a fairly new auto was found beside the bank full of bullet holes. The owner was never found.

Mr. Patterson ran a drive-in movie at the park for many years. Once a week he would back his station wagon into a certain spot and hang a huge white cloth between two trees where he would show movies. His price was ten cents per person, but during the war he raised his price to eighteen cents. My Grandfather Fred Dickerson informed all of us that would be the end of the movies, but the next week he took all of us again."

Thank you to Wilma Lohide and Fred Gullion for sharing your information and remembrances, giving us a clearer image of East Enterprise through the years. The historical society would love to hear about the many communities throughout Switzerland County. Contact us at swcomuseums@embarqmail.com or P.O. Box 201, Vevay, IN 47043.