

Podunk Pioneer Papers

News of the Pioneer Memorial Association of Fenton and Mundy Townships
Issue 45 Fall 2007

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John Judson 810-629-8669

Jeanette Butts 810-62-1724

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Phyllis Judson Heusted

810-631-4763 or 810-955-3336

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Frances Warner (2008)

Victor Moore (2008)

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Irene Judson (2010)

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LOG ON TO

<http://www.addorio.com/podunk>

for the latest news about Podunk and the Pioneer Association. Our thanks to Webmaster Betsy Davidson of Addorio Global Innovations for creating and maintaining our Web Site.



SPECIAL NOTE

**Saturday, Sept. 8
is Pioneer Day !**

NEW TIME: 8:30 A.M.

**“EARLY BIRD
PANCAKE
BREAKFAST”.**

Pancakes, sausage, juice & coffee will be served from **8:30-11:0 A.M.** Cost is **only \$5.00 per person** and those who purchase a Pancake Breakfast ticket will receive **free admission to the rest of the day's events.**

ALL WELCOME !

FOR PIONEER DAY 2007

STILL NEEDED:

- **Baked goods** (especially fruit pies), cookies, breads, pickles, jams, and fresh produce
- **Volunteers:** in the kitchen, at the rummage sale; with the parking lot, house tours, advertising and admissions.
- **Rummage sale items** (no clothes) that are clearly marked with prices. Items can be dropped off at the home of Joyce Simmons prior to Pioneer Day. Questions? call Jeanette Butts (629-1724)
- **Vendors & crafters, hobby displays.**

Call Ramona or Joyce to reserve a space.

CLEANING DAY
Wed., Sept. 5 (10 A.M.)
SET UP Friday,
Sept. 7 at 3:00 P.M.
Volunteers will begin setting up tents & tables. PLEASE HELP!



2007 Pioneer Day Work Schedule – Times posted on Sat.

Names have been assigned ~ if you are unable to help, please call Phyllis H. (810-955-3336). We do need more volunteers. (Work times will be posted on side of the Kitchen file cabinet on Pioneer Day.)

***** denotes more help needed ~ also more entertainment & vendors are requested**

CHAIRPERSONS

Phyllis Heusted/Joyce Simmons
Bill & Mary Jane Pinkston

ADMISSIONS

Russ Haddon/Ramona Green/
Bill Pinkston/Chris Phillips

GROUND LAY-OUT Bill Pinkston

MEMBERSHIPS/CASH BOXES

Ramona Green/Brenda Rumschlag

CASHIERS

LaVerne Heusted/Chris Phillips
Wayne Butts/Jen Wright

ROAD SIGNS ***

Bruce & Annie Grove

PUBLICITY

Alice Bristle/Jeanette Butts
John Judson/Wayne Butts

ENTERTAINMENT-P.A.***

Brad Wright/Ed Whalen
P.A. Alice Bristle/Southern Lakes

HOUSE TOURS DOCENTS

HELP! More needed

Phyllis Yancy/Julie Phillips?
Brenda Rumschlag, Irene Judson

MUSEUM DOCENTS**

? Russ & Bill Pinkston, W. Butts family

CHILDREN'S BOOTH ***

Julie Phillips/Jailen Judson
Lauren Grove/Rachel/Michele Weston

GIFT TABLE***

Joyce Simmons/Audrey Laue

BALLOONS-Chris Phillips

BAKED GOODS ***

Joyce/Frances Warner/Marnie
Hartley/Elaine Hulet/Jan McArthur
(Callers:Joyce /Peggy Judson)

PARKING LOT /BANNERS

Bill Pinkston Victor Moore/Wayne Butts
Andrew Weston/Scouts/Rumschlags

HELPERS/ERRANDS

Andrew Weston,Scouts, Scott & Eric R.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST ~

Preparations: 8:00A.M. Serve:
8:30 AM-11:00AM Dennis Weston,
Bill Pinkston, Dick Halka,Chris Phillips

NECESSARY ROOM –set up Phyllis

DOOR PRIZE AWARDS

Ramona Green/Joanne Weston

RUMMAGE SALE/BOOKS ***

Jeanette & Roxy Butts,Florence Allen

GIFT BAGS

Jeanette & Roxanne Butts/Victor/Dennis

JEWELRY/PIONEER LOGO

ITEMS ~ Alice Bristle

ORDER MEAT -Deliver

Barbara Loafman/Phyllis Heusted

FOOD PERMIT

Phyllis Heusted

STOCK KITCHEN

Phyllis Heusted/Barbara Loafman

Peggy Judson-VGs

FOOD STAND ***

Phyllis Heusted/Mary Jane Pinkston
Peggy Judson/Barbara Loafman,Peggy
Halka,Joanne Weston ,Betty Pinkston?

HOME-MADE ICE CREAM

Victor Moore

FARM ANIMALS (4-H? Dennis)

COTTON CANDY/POPCORN Alice/Dennis

PLEASE HELP

WEDNESDAY Sept. 5 ~ 10:00 A.M.

CLEANING/REPAIRS

FRIDAY Sept. 7 ~ 3-5P.M.

SET UP Tents,tables,chairs

Special Note: More help is needed to put
up the tents and canopies.



**YOU ARE
APPRECIATED**

**NEWS FROM THE
PRESIDENT ~
JOYCE SIMMONS**

**THANKS TO OUR
MANY VOLUNTEERS**

The money raised on Pioneer Day is used to preserve our museum as a way to provide educational opportunities to teach local history to children and adults alike. We really appreciate all the support we receive.

Thanks to Vince Paris and his crew from Southern Lakes for helping set up for the Lake Fenton School Volunteer Picnic organized by Wilma Betts. It was held at the Pioneer Pavilion in the spring.

Their help was greatly appreciated.

Thanks to Bill Pinkston for accepting the position as Vice President. Thanks to Bill and Mary Jane for making repairs to items in the Podunk House.

Thanks to our other Trustees and Board Members for the time they devote to our organization.

Thanks to Wayne Butts who worked on our behalf with the attorneys and Township.

Congratulations to Ms. Karen O'Neal, 4th grade teacher, who recently retired from the Lake Fenton School District. She has been very helpful in bringing school children to the museum every fall. We wish her well.

Thanks to Tina Bennet, a visitor to Pioneer Day, who took home an old box of puzzle pieces from our collection. She put the puzzle dated 1912 together and had it mounted. It is on display in the museum.

Two new Memorial Benches have been purchased. The first was bought by Esther Warzynski who inscribed it: "To honor Bill & Lydia Watkins". The second bench was purchased with money donated to the Pioneers in memory of Assoc. member, **Mike Rumschlag**, who died in April 2007 at the age of 56. Mike worked quietly behind

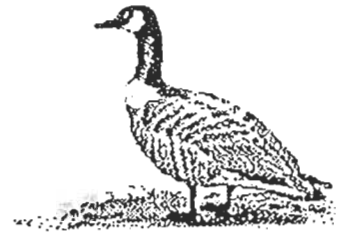
the scenes doing whatever needed to be done.

Working with his wife, Brenda, and their two sons, Scott and Eric, he did what he could to make the Pioneer museum a better facility. We appreciate how he and Dennis Weston cleaned and sorted out our storage room – moving, sorting, and stacking heavy tables, chairs, tools, posters and signs. All this was done without fanfare after last Pioneer Day. How nice it is to go into that neat, organized storage area now. We will miss Mike. In light of all this, we are especially grateful to Brenda, Scott and Eric for entering a float for the Pioneers in Fenton's 4th of July Parade. Thanks to all who helped Brenda and her boys do such a fine job on the float.



*Our Sympathy
to the Families of:*

*Mike Rumschlag
Dorothy Garteer
& Bob Smith*



**Save your VG's
Grocery Receipts**

VG's Food Centers have been very generous to our Association over the years. As a non-profit organization, we earn money for each grocery receipt we turn in to them as part of their Community Support Program. What we earn with our VG's receipts helps to defray the cost of mailing and publishing our newsletters. We earn \$50 for every \$1500 in receipts So save,save,save!

**MUSEUM TOURS &
PAVILION RENTAL ARE
AVAILABLE BY
APPOINTMENT.**

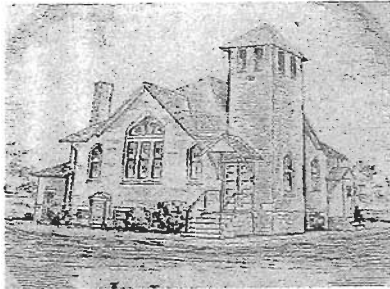
Free Museum Tours

Visit our Pioneer Museum and Podunk House to learn more about the history of Fenton and Mundy Townships.

Pavilion Rental

**(Members: \$25,
Non-members: \$50)**

**PLEASE CALL Phyllis Yancy
(810-629-8747)**



Above: artist's rendering of the old Long Lake Methodist Church – on the corner of Torrey & N. Long Lake Roads (Now the Lake Fenton United Methodist Church)

SPECIAL SALE

For Sale: silverware from the old Lake Fenton Methodist Church.

NEW ITEMS for sale:
Pioneer Memorial
Association
t-shirts-hats-
plates-note card

Meeting Schedule

MEETINGS

(at Fenton Township Hall)

2007

2007-Mon., Sept. 10 at 7 PM

2007-Mon., Oct. 8 at 7 PM

2008

New: Meet on 2nd Tues.

2008-Tues., May 13 at 7 PM

(Election of Officers)

2008-Tues., June 10 at 7 PM

2008-Tues., July 8 at 7 PM

2008-Tues., Aug. 12 at 7 PM

2008-Tues., Sept. 9 at 7 PM

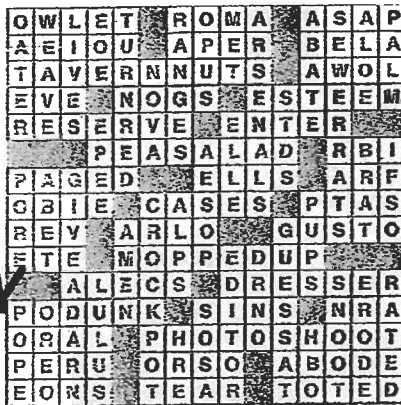
2008-Sat., Pioneer Day is Sept. 13

2008-Tues., Oct. 14 at 7 PM

All Welcome to Attend

The Meaning of Podunk?

The following crossword puzzle from the *Los Angeles Times* was submitted by Pioneer Life Member, Mike Warzynski, of Grand Rapids. (He is the grandson of William and Lydia Watkins.) He wanted to share the answer to an entry in the puzzle that he found humorous: "one horse town? PODUNK!"



www.rditnr@aol.com

10/4/06

More Tales about "Podunk"

J. C. Peck wrote in his "*Lies, Legends, and Lore – Ginsegagen – The Long Lake – The Fenton I Never Knew*" (dated August 14, 1971)

"Several other Podunks in other states have laid claim to being the original but the Podunk at Lake Fenton was founded before 1834. None have a history of the selection of the word "Podunk" as denoting a small provincial settlement. The vaudeville comedians and newspapers were responsible for its wide use by all English speaking people. When a comedian used the word "Podunk", it was what was known as "evergreen" – good for a laugh over the years.

Indians used the word "Podunk", saying it was like the sound of the mill – Podunk, Podunk."

Transfer of Property: Update

The transfer of the land portion of the holdings of the Pioneer Memorial Association of Fenton & Mundy Townships to Fenton Township is now complete. The Township will take over responsibility for maintenance and improvements to the grounds and building structures. The members of the Pioneer Association will maintain control over the contents of the museum and will continue to manage the business of the Museum. The Township's involvement will help defray expenses and will give greater exposure to more people as we continue with our mission to preserve local history into perpetuity. Wayne Butts and Dennis Weston have been appointed as liaisons to the Township Board on behalf of the Pioneer Association. Phyllis Yancy has been appointed "Tour Manager" by the Association to maintain a mutual calendar with the Township in regards to scheduling events and/or the rental of the property. The Pioneer Association is pleased to be working in partnership with Fenton Township. With their help, we hope to find ways to ensure that local history will be preserved.

MEMERSHIPS

Membership fees were due May 1, 2007.

If you have not paid your dues, please send them now. New members are always welcome.

Send dues to:

Ramona Green

14133 Torrey Rd.

Fenton, MI 48430-1391

EXCITING NEW ADDITION TO THE PODUNK HOUSE & MUSEUM

Pioneer Day 2006



Donna and Russell Pinkston of Swartz Creek hold charcoal drawings of original Mundy Township settler, George Judson and his second wife, Emily. Russell is the great-great-great grandson of George.

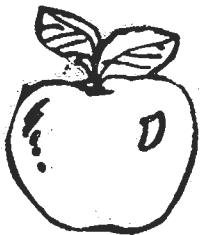
Russell remembers seeing these sketches hanging in the home of his grandmother, Mary E. Judson Mitchell, on Shiawassee St. in Fenton. The sketches were passed on to Russell's parents, John & Helen (Mitchell) Pinkston who lived on Main Rd. in Fenton and then on Beers Rd. in Swartz Creek. After moving to a new home of his own, Russell remembered his mother putting both sketches in a frame behind a painting of a bull when he was about eight years old.

A few years ago, Russ asked his mother for the sketches. She had forgotten they were hidden behind the bull! Russ and Donna bought some antique frames and had the sketches framed using matting that would be in keeping with the aged look of the pictures. The sketches hung in their home until Pioneer Day 2006 when the Pinkstons donated them to the Pioneer Memorial Association.

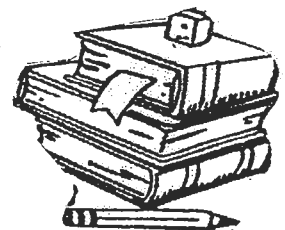
The pictures now hang in the dining room of the Podunk House -the house that George built in 1834.

School Field Trips

Learn About Local Pioneer History
Available for all grade levels.



Contact Phyllis Yancy for details:
810-629-8747



GEORGE JUDSON'S "PODUNK"

According to newspaper clippings found in the Pioneer Association archives, George Judson, coming from New York State along with Morgan Baldwin, and Thomas Glover, (newly arrived from England), came to Michigan seeking land for farm homes. Judson cleared land on Section 35, settling there several months later. These three pioneers, hewed homes from the great forests of Lake Fenton, made friends with the Indians and founded the town of "Podunk," located 100 rods down the Judson lane, located a quarter mile north of Ray Road at the east end of the Judson centennial farm at 10323 Torrey Road. A metal monument was erected in front of the home on Torrey Road in 1963.

1834 - ORIGINAL PODUNK - 1834 ~
¼ MILE EAST
~SITE OF GEORGE JUDSON'S
MILL AND THE SETTLEMENT OF
PODUNK ~
SO NAMED BY INDIANS AWED
BY THE MILL'S
WEARISOME OLD SONG
"PODUNK, PODUNK, PODUNK"
~ ERECTED BY FENTON HISTORICAL
SOCIETY ~
MICHIGAN WEEK 1963



Settlers and Indians came from far and near to trade in the thriving community of about six homes, two stores, a small foundry, a blacksmith shop and a flax mill. Water power was furnished from Long Lake (now called Lake Fenton) to drive the mill wheels at Podunk and another nearby settlement, Cooksockie. The frame house of George Judson was near the mill he owned and operated. He became an Indian interpreter and trader. A mail office was established north of the lake in 1845 known as the "Long Lake Post Office". [In the foyer of the Podunk House museum is an original wooden "post office" sorting cabinet.]

The mail office was later moved to the Judson home when George became one of Mundy Township's first Postmasters. In 1851, Judson was appointed the first Postmaster in Genesee County, and was said to have skated across Long Lake for mail in the wintertime. With Judson at the settlement was his wife Susannah, son, David, and their daughter, Elizabeth, who was born there. Susan died on Elizabeth's first birthday, Aug. 12, 1836. In December 1937, George Judson married Emily Skinner-Ray of Argentine Township, a widow with two sons. George and Emily had seven children.

After only 25 years, the fate of Podunk and Cooksockie were doomed because the railroad went through Fenton (not these settlements) and a "law" was enforced to keep the two settlements from diverting Long Lake waters for power to run their mills. Around 1860-70, the Judson family moved closer to the Torrey Road, building a new home. The settlement called Podunk vanished, becoming a memory and three-acre pasture in the

center of the 85 acre Judson farm. The original frame home of George's was later moved and preserved [This home is the "Podunk House" located on the museum grounds]. Time marched on and deeds were passed on through the years to the next generations. George Judson, who came first, clearing the land, making the way for the others, passed his farm on to son Benjamin in 1892. The land was deeded over to John Reuben Judson in 1896. He worked and tilled the soil for 52 years before handing down the farm in 1948 to his son, Robert R. Judson. Following his death, Robert's son, John Robert, was deeded the property in 1964 – John being the fifth generation. This land is still owned by John and is being farmed today (2007).

RESEARCHING FAMILY HISTORY & GENEALOGY RESOURCES

To create a time-line of sorts in order to understand how Russell Pinkston is related to the "original" George Judson, information was gleaned from:

1. The Family Bible belonging to Hewitt C. and Maude Elizabeth (Buell) Judson (grandparents of the author of this article- Phyllis Elizabeth Judson Heusted),
2. Photo albums belonging to Russell Pinkston's mother, Helen Marie Pinkston,
3. Cemetery records from the O'Dell Cemetery (located on W. Baldwin Road, east of Torrey Road) and from
4. Written records compiled by the late Russell V. Judson of Linden.
5. Conversations with Russell and his living relatives.

ACCURACY

Entries have been made through the years in this family Bible by various family members and sometimes dates and names are not entered in exactly the same way. Cemetery records also have variations of spelling of first names but the dates match the records in the Bible. Cross references were made among all the above mentioned resources and the names and dates below have been compiled as accurately as possible. There was also a question about whether or not the sketch was of George's first or second wife. Since his first wife Susannah died at age 24, and the sketch is of a much older woman, it can be concluded that the lady in the sketch is Emily.

RECORDING FAMILY HISTORY

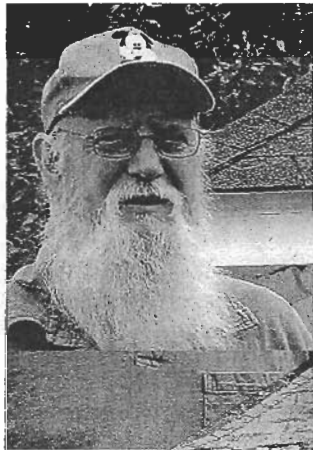
In the 1800s the family Bible became a journal of sorts for recording family genealogy- births, deaths, and marriages. This Judson family Bible belonged to the "original" George Judson at the time he was married to Emily – it was published the same year their daughter Julia was born. It could have been a gift, bought from a traveling salesman (it was published and sold by H. & E. Phinney and I. Tiffany, Utica, N.Y. in 1840) or it may have been ordered from a catalog.

TRACING ANCESTORS

The "Judson line" is traced back to the 1600s. They came from England to America and settled in Connecticut and then New York before coming to Michigan in the 1830s. Some common threads seem to run through history: families tended to be large, family names carried on from generation to generation, families suffered deaths of children at young ages, mother's who died young were soon replaced by second wives in order to help raise children and keep the homestead running smoothly. The line tracing Russell's family connection to the original George Judson is highlighted in the following information.

RUSSELL PINKSTON'S "JUDSON FAMILY TREE"

- 1634 **William Judson** (arrived in America from Stratford-on-Avon, England - locating in Stratford, Connecticut)
 **** **
- 1769 **Silas Burton Judson** born
 1795 Silas married Deantha Ferris from Newtown, CT. Five children including George
- 1810 **Son, George** born in Butternut, NY (died Sept. 21, 1886-Mundy)
 1832 (Mar.) George came to Bloomfield Hills, MI.
 1832 (Sept. 19) George married Susannah Miller of Athens, Penn.); two children
- 1836 (Sept. 16) Susannah Judson died
 1837 (Dec. 15) **George married Emily Skinner Ray** of Wayne Co.; seven children including Benjamin Franklin
- 1845 (Apr. 2) **Son, Benjamin Franklin Judson** born, Mundy (Podunk), Mich.-died May 2, 1892
- 1869 (Jan. 23) **Benjamin Franklin married Mary E. Hewitt** (Mundy, Genesee Co., Mich.); four children including Burton Silas
- 1869 (Sept. 26) **Son, Burton Silas Judson** born (died Aug. 8, 1923)
 1891 (Sept. 29) **Burton Silas married Lottie F. Charters** in Flint, three children including Mary E.
- 1893 (Apr. 6) **Daughter, Mary E Judson** born
 1919 (Apr. 26) **Mary married John (Jack) Mitchell**, two children including Helen Marie
- 1920 (Apr. 2) **Daughter, Helen** born (Lake Fenton)
 1940 (July 16) **Helen married John W. Pinkston**, three sons including Russell
 1945 (Mar.8) **Russell Robert Pinkston** born



The Pioneer Memorial Association
 of Fenton & Mundy Townships
 would like to recognize

Russell Pinkston

for restoring the cupola from the old
 Mundy School which was located on the
 corner of Baldwin and Linden Roads.

Russell has generously helped to
 preserve local history for future
 generations.

September 9, 2006



"before" photo



Emily Judson

Emily Skinner Ray married George Judson on Dec. 15, 1837. Two of their sons are pictured below: Silas Burton (born Oct. 2, 1843) and Benjamin Franklin (born Apr. 2, 1845).

Burt (below left): Emily wrote: Photo of Bert Judson on trip from N. Mex. to sell sheep in N. Orleans. Burt Judson, born at Podunk, Post Office, Mundy Twp. Torrey Rd. Buried Linden. (Front of photo booklet marked: "A Anderson, Canal Street, New Orleans")

These photos are from the Collection of the late Russell V. Judson now belonging to his grandson, Jud Lind and his wife Marty of Linden.

The photo below was labeled to be a Sarah Judson, daughter of George Judson. [I can't find a record of her as one of her children. More research is needed. ph]



Burt Judson



Benjamin Franklin Judson

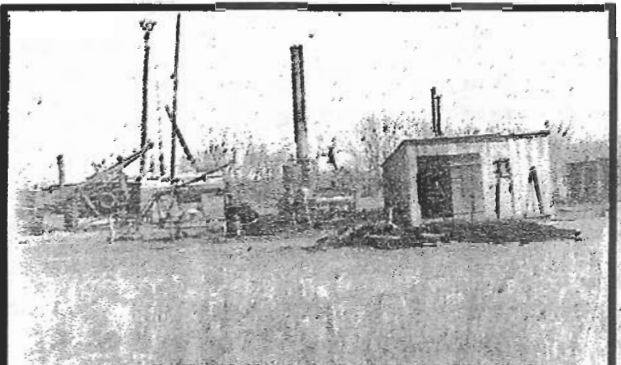


Sarah, daughter of George Judson?



Emily Judson

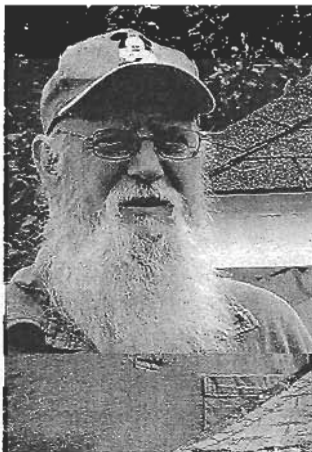
Left: Written on back of photo: Emily Judson, Rantoul, Kansas: Taken on farm of George Judson. It was lived on by Lou Judson, Rhoda Judson & Burt Judson. They received royalties until their deaths from oil discovered on this farm. This oil well was the first discovered in Kansas. Truly a historical spot to the Judson family. George Judson started from Michigan driving 1200 sheep-he lost 900 en route. He obtained the land while on wagon train or prairie schooner trips to Ft. Sutter, California in 1852.



Emily Judson wrote on the back of this photo: George Judson then settled in 1834 in Mundy Twp. In 1854 after his return from the Cal. discovery of 49 [California Gold Rush of 1849]. There after he took up the Kansas land shown on reverse side. He drove 1200 sheep there. (Signed by Mrs. E Judson)

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Burt Judson



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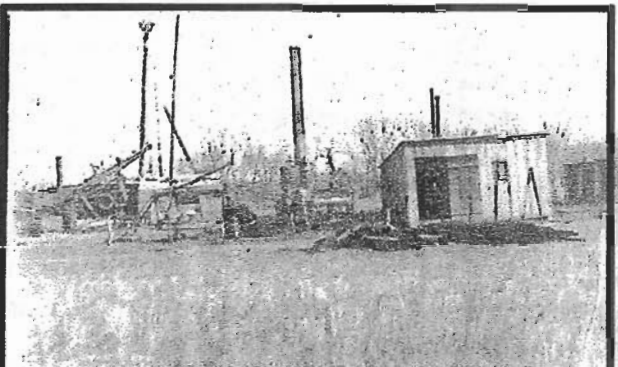


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