

MOST FAMOUS RAILROAD IN ALL HISTORY

**STATIONS LOCATED ON RURAL
ROUTE 29, OUT OF WESTFIELD
—ONE INCIDENT TOLD.**

R. R. MADE ROUTE FAMOUS

**People Still Have Some of the Char-
acteristics of Fathers—Route 35's
Next Move Awaited.**

Editor Ledger:

Deming was the scene of the last line of defense presented for Route 29, in its contest with Route 35, and from Deming, let the judges now take their way, in thought, and follow the line of Jay Gunn's route, through gale, across streams, up high hills and down the other side, over territory bristling with history and covered now by happy homes.

Your correspondent regrets the mistake made last week in giving the ancestry of the Deming sage and philosopher. It was stated that the father of Arthur Beals was Jacob Beals, when, in fact, it was Richard Beals. Due apologies are made to both branches of the family, if required.

Leaving Deming, Carrier Gunn be-takes his way south-southwest, ang-ling down to the old Jonathan Willits farm, at the fork of the road. One branch of this road goes on straight south to Tile Factory Corner, but the rural route turns north, crosses a little stream and on to the West Grove neighborhood. Evert Willits lives in the angle of the triangle, and on north of him is the home, on the hill overlooking the surrounding valleys and smaller hills, including the seven hills upon which Deming has been seated for almost 100 years, of J. Mayo Griffin, the son of the late Jacob Griffin, and a brother of Rob-ert, Charles and John Griffin, one of the strong families of the community a generation ago. Charles W. Grif-fin is practicing law at Sheridan, but lives across the line in Boone coun-ty, and once and a while goes to the Legislature from Boone county. Rob-

ert, the famous school teacher, is gone, and John Griffin, the preacher, is in another part of the State. Mayo, as he was called in the years long ago, was an artist of merit, but he did not pursue that course in life. He might have made his mark as an artist, but he chose the surer course of acquiring wealth and an assured competency as a farmer, and he succeeds well along this line. The old home of Charles Hiatt adjoins the farm of Mr. Griffin on the north, and the widow and children occupy the home. The old Griffin homestead is now occupied by J. W. Southard and family. One of the sons is B. J. Southard, of Noblesville, the auto salesman, who is making good in his chosen line. N

The next farm is as well known perhaps as any farm in the community. It is occupied now by Mrs. Alfred Graham and family, but it was formerly the **Jesse Foulke** farm. The big barn on the Foulke farm was the scene in the early days of many exciting scenes. It was here that some big public meetings were held, including debates on religious topics, and the early debates as to spiritualism. William W. Conner, of Noblesville, formerly had the habit of coming out to pit his wits against the best brains of the community, and many exciting controversies took place in the big barn. Then, across the road, hidden away from sight now, is the old Mt Pleasant cemetery, and the site of the old church, where great religious occasions happened fifty and more years ago. Orators of that day did not mince words and they did not save their strength, talking by "main strength and awkwardness," as they expressed it, but they could make an audience rise to heights of exaltation.

The route reaches the Cicero-Sheridan road, soon after passing the Graham farm, which is one of the finest and best cared for farms in the community. The road passes the homes of Frank Wise, Theo. Karstedt, a new comer in the neighborhood, the home of Homer Cox, formerly of Westfield and Cicero, but

(Continued on page 7)

MOST FAMOUS

(Continued from page 1)

who recently married a young Colorado lady and is living very happily and is busily engaged in making Nature produce some of her products from the soil.

The small farm of Will Smith is on this same road, and Mr. Smith's brother-in-law, Benjamin Vestal, and family, make their home at same house, and with them is Mr. Vestal's father, Shubal Vestal, 87 years of age, who is tenderly cared for at the same house. Mr. Smith has had much hard luck in his life. He was the son of a veteran soldier who lost his life on the Sultana, and bad luck has followed the son pretty largely through life, but he keeps up his courage and his friendly spirits. Passing the homes of John Bolen, Clyde Sowers and H. M. Johnson, route 29 goes south for a short distance on the range line road and passes some very interesting homes. Here is the home of William Jackson, a brother of John Jackson, of Noblesville. Mr. Jackson has not had good health for some time, but this does not prevent his keeping busy on his farm of 15 acres. This farm was the scene of one of the most terrible calamities that ever happened in the county, years ago, when the saw-mill blew up and several men were

killed, including Thomas Jackson, a younger brother of William. Mrs. Jackson was a daughter of Harrison Jones, and is a sister of C. B. Jones. Mr. and Mrs. Jackson have six children, the only son living in Baltimore, two daughters are at home, and Mrs. Clyde Sowers, Mrs. Will Hiatt, both living in the community, and Mrs. Granville Trout, of Cicero, are the other three. Jasper Wise, well known in politics and lodge work in Hamilton county, lives across the road from Mr. Jackson, on the site of the old Jackson home, and he has a fine home, well improved. Raymond Carson, son of Joshua Carson, lives in the same neighborhood. Mrs. Carson was Miss Gause, of Westfield, and she and Mr. Carson have a neat home, well kept and comfortable.

The rural route takes its way back to the Cicero road, and then on to Bakers Corner, and now, before going further, there is a little story to tell, a story that marks Route 29 distinct from perhaps any other route in Hamilton county, and from most in the state.

Route 2^o is made up in part of the route of the most famous railroad in history, the Underground Railroad. This road led from the South to Westfield, and Westfield at that time was perhaps more widely known than any other town in Indiana, even including the capital. Westfield was a station, and the route then ran through the Tomlinson neighborhood, by Chester, on north, to Pakers Corner, to Boxley, then on through Tipton county to New London, then on, by way of the North Star to Canada, and freedom. About 1856, this Underground Railroad was

in full operation. The trains were smokeless and noiseless, but they ran day and especially at night. For example, the Rhoads family, a colored family, whose son, John Rhoads, later was a character well known in the county and especially at Deming, came up from the South and located just southeast of Bakers Corner, near what was later the Jone sawmill. The Southern planters located the colored family and came after them. The old man Rhoads' name was John, too, and his wife's name was Lou Ann. There were three girls, Jane Ann, Sallie Ann and Phoebe Ann. The slave driver located the house and he and his fellow slave hunters surrounded the house, but windows and doors in the old log house were barred. Lou Ann Rhoads was full of plans, and she used a straw tick, burning a little straw at a time, to keep the fugitive slave hunters from coming down the chimney. The old man Rhoads struck at one of the men who tried to get in the door, and the slave driver left some of his hair and blood on the door jam. The colored family kept the drivers at bay until morning, and then some of the Bakers and Hodsons and other neighbors heard the disturbance and rallied to save the negroes.

Then, it was agreed to go to Noblesville and have a trial of the case. They put the negroes all in a covered wagon, and started to Noblesville. They got down to old Tile Factory Corner and then some of the white men who were interested in the freedom of the negroes said the negroes should be tried at Westfield, instead of Noblesville. The slave owners said, no, they should go to Noblesville and one of them said he would shoot anybody who tried to change the course of the caravan, for it was a caravan by this time, for the community had been aroused Daniel Jones, who lived at Westfield, had arrived, and he jumped up on the wagon, took the lines and said, Let him shoot! Asa Beals was also present and he was an orator of some force, and he continued a speech to the people as they journeyed on toward Westfield. Westfield was finally reached, and everybody including the "Innocent" Jones and Beals, looked in the wagon for the colored family, but they had "all leaked out." Mr Moon, father of Anna Maria Beals, was one of the men who helped the negroes "leak" from the wagon:

Many other tragic incidents are told of the Underground Railroad days, but now they are merely laughable, showing kind of stuff of which the railroaders of that day were made and they give a distinct ~~hale~~ ^{hale} of honor to all who had a part in the organization, financing, building and management of the famous old Underground Railroad. N

It will be hard for Route 35 to take away this crown of glory from Route 29, for so far as Hamilton county was concerned this railroad hardly left this route. The sons and daughters of these famous railroaders are still living along the line of the road, and they have much the same ideas along moral and humanitarian lines that their fathers and mothers had, perhaps not so strong now, but they can easily be aroused to any required strength to accomplish any good purpose. These are the same folks that turned the whisky and beer into the streets of Westfield, when some ornery cuss tried to open a hell hole there. They take the same course on the liquor question that their fathers took on the slavery question, they are "agin" it and don't care who knows it, and they put their beliefs into actions now and then.

About two more laps of Route 29 and its defender will be back to Westfield. In the mean time, your correspondent and the readers who will judge this contest, will await the next move of Route 35.

Dakota Corner, June 7, 1916.

E. T. C.