

## Oral History of the Town of Bartersville by Joyce Core Jones

Old Bartersville was laid out in 1850 at the junction of 144 (originally called Old Plank Road) and 135 (called Three Notch Road.) It was named after Joshua Barters and consisted of a Blacksmith shop, general store, and dram shop (tavern).

In 1905 the Illinois Central Railroad expanded south through Johnson Co. and located a depot one half mile west of Old Bartersville. New Bartersville sprang up, almost overnight. In 1907 D. W. Rapp built a grain elevator at trackside. A general store, in 1908, a bank in 1909 and a livery stable in 1910. Dunns store, Kelso's barbershop and a United Brethren Church were built, and D.W. Rapp brought in crushed stone to pave the streets. The Monroe Hotel & the Masonic Lodge Hall and many houses were built during the years between 1907-1918. The first house was built by Burt Grose.

Bartersville is a self-sustaining town, we own our own water, electric, and sewage systems.

The first water tower, lines & pump house were installed in the late 1920's. Danieal Core managed the treatment of the water in the tower. He & his son Harold & Harold's nephew Joe Harrod managed the electric system into the 1950's. In the 1950's new water wells were dug in the White River Basin at Highway 37 and Smith Valley Rd. where a water treatment plant was built. Bartersville and other small towns in the area buy electric power from Duke Energy Company.

A new Sewage Plant was built in 2007 west of town. The first of many sewer lines was put in town in the 1960's. Now water lines & sewer lines run from Smith Valley Rd. in the northern part of White River Twp to Union grade school in Union Twp.

Old Bartersville straddled both Twps & one side of South Street in New Bartersville is in Union Twp, and the rest of the town & its many additions is in White River Twp.

Bartersville has always been a farm town and in the 1930's thru the 1950's was a cow town because of the railroad, it took cows to the packing plants in Indianapolis about 15 miles to the north. Today farmers still bring their crops into town to the grain elevator, but the cow pens are no more.

In the early days the town's people rode bicycle's (sic) in town & up to Old Bartersville. Today it is a golf cart town but they ride the same places as us in the early days. It just goes to show that the more things change the more they really stay the same.

Joyce Core Jones

Transcription by E. Greve, all spelling and structure intact.