

OPEN DRIVE FOR \$50,000 TO AID RILEY SHRINE

Campaign to Restore Home
Begins With Exercises
at Greenfield.

BY ARCH STEINEL
Times Staff Writer.

The spider webs that hung on buildings at the old home of James Whitcomb Riley are to be restored. The wide board fence that "Jim" Riley used to walk on his hands in acrobatic stunts may encircle his residence on W. Main-st in Greenfield.

Today, on his birthday, as school children of Greenfield decorated his monument on the Courthouse lawn with flowers, the drive to raise \$50,000 for the rehabilitation of the home gained momentum throughout the nation.

Classes of school children, according to plans of the Riley Old Home Society of Hancock County, will donate the money to make it possible for the home, closed for four months to visitors, to be reopened.

COUNTY GRANTED OPTION

As Greenfield celebrated Mr. Riley's birthday with school recitations and programs, its citizenry, headed by Z. M. Smith, school superintendent and president of the Riley Society, and Mrs. Helen Gennell, treasurer, planned even to restore the home's old well, to take modern furnishings off the place, and bring back the days when Mr. Riley actually lived in it.

Heirs of the Riley estate have given Hancock County residents and the Riley society the option to buy the property.

It is the desire of the Riley heirs to keep the home from being commercialized and the 10-cent admission fee to be charged will be used merely for hiring of caretakers and the home's upkeep.

Up to the spring of this year the home was under the care of Mrs. Julia Wilson Riley, widow of John Riley, the poet's brother. She left to make her home in Long Beach, Calif., and the residence remained closed to tourists and passersby.

WEEDS HIGH IN YARD

Weather-worn advertisements, circulars dried yellow after summer rains, cover the home's porch and give it a lonesome lassitude. Weeds are high in the back yard.

But Hancock County citizens say all that will pass as soon as the home comes under their control. They plan to open it tentatively, pending the results of the nation-wide drive this fall.

Saturday night, William A. Huff, Greenfield, reader of Riley poems, and the Kiwanis Club quartet, gave a program over WLW in honor of the poet's birthday, beginning the drive for funds.

The National Parent-Teachers Association is aiding in the campaign. Senior memberships will be sold at \$1 and junior memberships at 50 cents. The funds raised will be placed in a foundation fund.

A book, written by native Hoosier authors who have gained fame, may be published and sold as another means of raising the funds.

ENROLLMENT IN TECH HIGH SCHOOL OPEN

Classes to Be Accepted for Two
Weeks, Official Says.

Enrollments in Technical High School night school classes will be accepted for the next two weeks. Edward E. Greene, vice principal in charge of evening classes, announced today.

Mr. Greene stated that the purpose of the night school is to serve those persons who wish to continue their education and are unable to do so in day school.

Approximately 200 students have already enrolled and classes will be formed in all subjects for which the registration is sufficient.

250 VACANCIES AT FORT

Places Open in More Than Four
Branches, Army Announces.

There are vacancies for 250 men in the enlisted army at Ft. Benjamin Harrison in accordance with an act passed by the last session of Congress, the enlisting officer announced today.

The act allowed an increase in Ft. Harrison's enrollment of 930 men. The recruiting office is at 408 Federal Building. There are vacancies in more than four branches.

Job's Daughters to Hold Ritual
Ritualistic work of Bethel No. 9, Order of Job's Daughters, will be exemplified at 8 tonight in the Brightwood Masonic Temple. Bethel No. 18 will meet at 8 tonight in the Irvington Masonic Temple.

GAS, GAS ALL THE TIME, CAN'T EAT OR SLEEP

Riley Composed Verses 'On the Spot' to Express His Appreciation to Cook for Preparation of Favorite Dishes

Aged Servants Unable to
Recall Lines Composed
as Tips for Them.

James Whitcomb Riley sometimes showed his appreciation of preparation of favorite foods by a "little piece of money."

More often, however, he paid for them with bit of his homespun verse, composed extemporaneously, and recited as the poet stood framed in the kitchen door of the Lockerbie-st house.

If Mrs. Nannie Ewing, aged Negro cook of the Holstein family, with whom Riley made his home, could recall those verses, she might add a delightful volume to the other well-known Riley collections. But all she recalls, as she reminiscences at her home, 1236 N. West-st, is the laughter which the verses brought.

"Mr. Riley always came to the kitchen door and thanked me when he had enjoyed a meal," she says. "Sometimes it was for the entire meal, but he always thanked me when I had baked a sweet potato or a pumpkin pie. Those were his favorites."

RECITED VERSES AT KITCHEN DOOR

"Sometimes he would slip a little piece of money in my hand. Most times, he would make up verses about the food and recite them to me as he stood in the doorway. They were funny ones, and he knew it. When I laughed at them he was satisfied, and would go up to his room, chuckling as he went."

The Holstein household meals always were elaborate ones. Often they were centered around a main dish of wild game, the gift of Mr. Riley's sportsmen friends.

"In the hunting season, there would be partridges and wild turkeys to cook," Mrs. Ewing recalls. "Mr. Riley was fond of them, and I took particular pains to prepare them in the way he liked them. He always was appreciative."

HUSBAND POET'S PERSONAL SERVANT

Both Mrs. Ewing and her husband, Dennis Ewing, saw service in the Dennis household, where Mr. Riley spent many years of his life. Her husband, still active at 71, was houseman, and in later years of Riley's life, was personal servant to Riley.

A foundling, abandoned by a mother who left her to go on with a traveling dog show, she was adopted by Miss Kindall last summer.

Miss Kindall now lives in a small house across the street from the James Whitcomb Riley Memorial Home. To it she moved much of the furniture in the home, and that "Jim" and the printer were good friends," says John F. Mitchell Jr., one of the owners of the Democrat, "and it is probable that he visited at the aunt's farm home and that the poem may have been written from reminiscences of his visits there."

DR. BRYAN AMONG SPEAKERS

The afternoon's ceremonies were to be held on the hospital lawn. Dr. William Lowe Bryan, president of Indiana University; Mr. Landon Riley association head; Fred Hoke, William H. Book, executive vice president of the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce, were to be the speakers.

The pool was constructed with the aid of FERA labor and its warmed and healing waters are adapted to treatment of cases of infantile and other forms of paralysis. The waters are said to have the same healing effects as those at the Warm Springs Foundation, sponsored by President Roosevelt.

BUILT AT COST OF \$40,000

Funds of Indiana University were to be held on the hospital lawn. Dr. William Lowe Bryan, president of Indiana University; Mr. Landon Riley association head; Fred Hoke, William H. Book, executive vice president of the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce, were to be the speakers.

Glass enclosed, the pool is under the direction of Miss Charlotte W. Anderson. Patients are taken one at a time into the pool for treatments.

Hospital officials as well as those in charge of the dedicatory rights say the general public are welcome to attend the ceremonies and visit the new pool.

Today means much to Miss Kindall. But to Lockerbie the Second it's just another day.

MY GOD, AM I WORTHY OF ALL THIS?

With memories like these, Miss Kindall lives quietly with her parents and Lockerbie the Second. From her front window she can see across the street the home in which she was employed many years before and after the poet's death.

Today means much to Miss Kindall. But to Lockerbie the Second it's just another day.

ARTILLERY REGIMENT CHOOSES HEAD

Russell Watson, Kokomo, was elected president of the One hundred thirty-ninth Field Artillery at the reunion closed yesterday in the Lincoln.

HEIGHTS W. C. T. U. TO MEET

The University Heights W. C. T. U. will meet at 2 tomorrow in the Madison Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church.

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