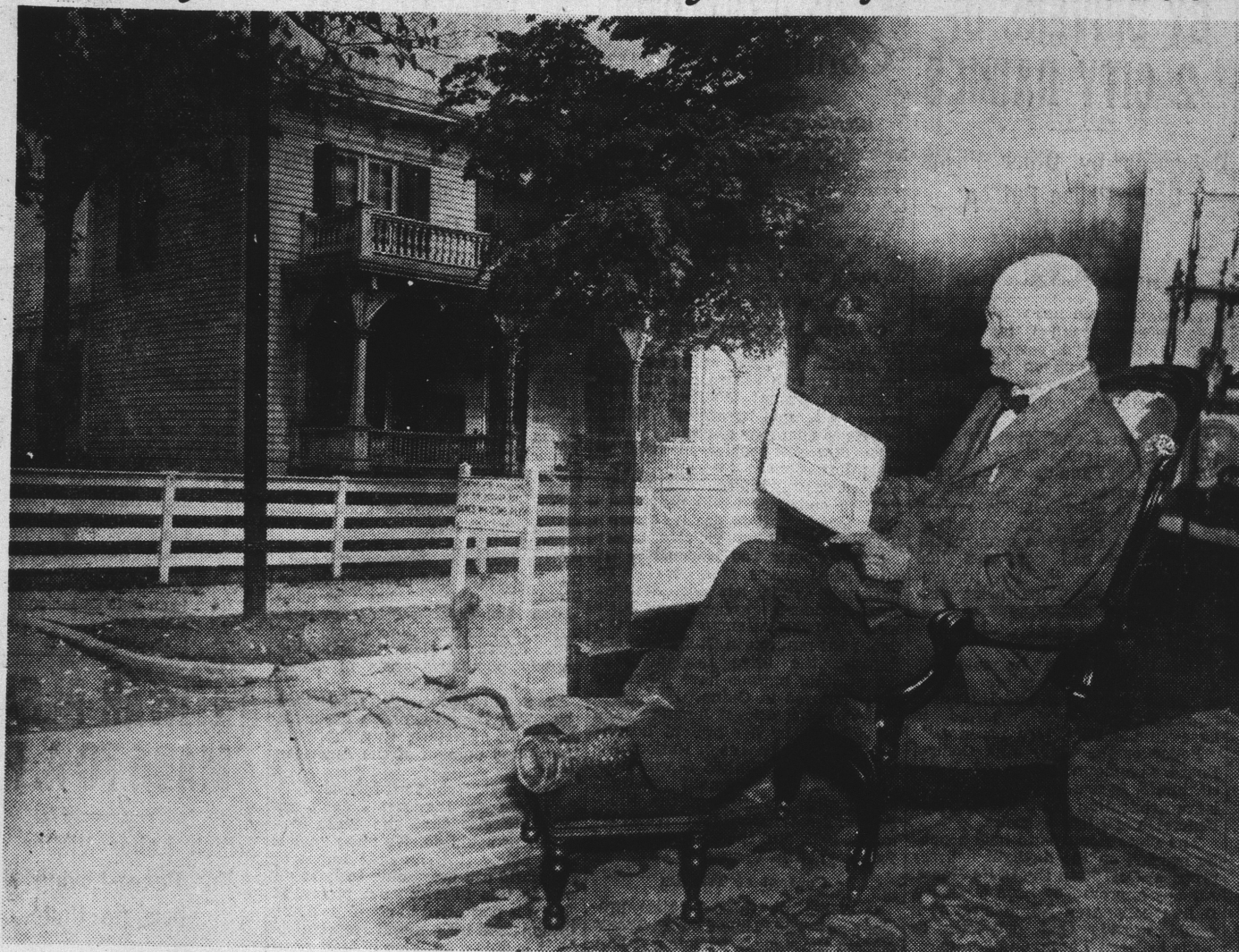


Brandywine Bank Is Memory Lane for Poet's Chum



The bank of Brandywine was memory lane today for J. Mart Hinchman (above). The Greenfield schoolmate of James Whitcomb Riley paid his tribute to the poet with a visit to the Riley homestead.

'Jim Didn't Care for School,' Friend of Riley Remembers

(Continued from Page One)

myself played hookey for 10 days. There was too much excitement to stay in school. Those were Civil War days and we went off along the railroad tracks to watch trainloads of soldiers go by."

He went about examining an old case in the homestead which contained early records and programs of events in which the poet participated.

Teacher Recognized Talent

"That puts me in mind of some of the others who were in our room," Mr. Hinchman said. "There was Will Pierson, John Guymann and Jerry Martin. I can't remember all the teachers we had, but there was a fellow named Stevenson, Col. Foley, one named Van Wee and of course Lee O. Harris."

"Now Lee, I guess, was about the first one who thought Jim really could be a poet and he taught him about rhyme. Funny thing about Lee. He'd sneak down the aisle, stop at my seat and ask: 'Got a chew?' He'd always chew in school, but wouldn't let the rest of us."

Mr. Hinchman continued his latest tour of the restored homestead with Arthur Downing, Old Home Society president, who this afternoon was to accept it upon presentation by Mayor Arthur Allen, Dean Herman Wells, acting Indiana University president, also was to speak.

Old Furnishings in Shrine

The solid walnut doors, old maple dining room table, four-poster beds, trundle bed and other handmade furnishings were examined by Mr. Hinchman.

"Cap Riley, he was Jim's father. He was a lawyer and went to the State Legislature. He could make a fine speech until he spoke too long and spoiled it. He had a hobby for making furniture. I used to watch him in my father's planing mill."

"Cap always was making rolling pins, towel rollers, potato mashers like this (he picked one he had made off the kitchen table) instead of tending to his business."

"Cap wanted Jim to be a lawyer, but he wouldn't and kept on drawing and writing. Guess maybe I did read some of his early poems in 'The Democrat' (Greenfield), but I don't remember. Nobody really paid much attention then. They didn't think he was going to be the great poet he was."

"But everybody thinks different of Jim now. Wonder what he'd think about that shelter house for putting on bathing suits down at his swimmin' hole they're going to build."

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He is shown sitting before its open fireplace reading one of "Jim's pieces that I guess maybe he dreamed about when he wasn't studying his lessons."

came a group of visitors to the home. One was more than 80. He examined the poet's trundle bed. "One thing about it," he said, "Mr. Riley slept in the same kind of bed grandma tucked me into."

School Children To Honor Riley

State and city school children today paid their tribute to James Whitcomb Riley in song and pageant.

Programs were scheduled in the schools, while other youngsters were to give a program in his Lockerbie St. home, and another in the Wm. H. Block Co. auditorium. A program at Riley Memorial

Hospital at noon was to be featured by the unveiling of a bust of the poet. The work of Myra Richards, made before Mr. Riley's death, has been given to the hospital by Mrs. William H. Coleman in memory of her grandson, William Coleman Atkins, killed recently in an automobile accident.

The program was to be in charge of the Junior League with Dean Herman Wells, acting Indiana University president, as speaker. John Herron Art Institute was observing Riley Day with an exhibition of portraits of the poet.

ABANDONMENT OF FARM LAND FEARED LIKELY

Change of Tillage Tactics Needed, Expert Tells Purdue Group.

Times Special

LAFAYETTE, Oct. 7.—Abandonment of a major portion of Indiana's agricultural land is inevitable unless present tillage practices are changed, H. H. Bennett, Washington, Soil Conservation Service chief, warned the annual extension conference at Purdue University today.

The conference is composed of county agricultural agents, home demonstration agents and farmers' institute workers.

"About two million acres of state farm land essentially has been destroyed by soil erosion and the present rate of abandonment is four times as fast as the decade from 1910 to 1920," Mr. Bennett said.

Records Are Cited
"From 1900 to 1920, Indiana farm-lands were abandoned at the rate of 28,000 acres a year. From 1920 to 1930, the rate increased to 137,000 acres a year. And the worst of it is, erosion is now progressing in Indiana at a rate much faster than ever."

"Results of a recent survey reveal

that less than half of the land area of 52 Indiana counties is suitable for the production of cultivated crops under present farming practices.

"This means that if farmers continue to plant open-tilled crops on steep hillsides, run their crop rows straight up and down the slope, leave fields unprotected by vegetation for long periods of time, and continue to use countless other destructive practices, this enormous aggregate area is going to suffer serious erosion damage."

The task ahead is not hopeless, Mr. Bennett assured the group. "The adoption of sound soil-conservation methods will make it possible to cultivate a greater share of this land safely and profitably."

Soil defense measures listed by

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