

One advantage of living in the country is being able to see changes in the weather as they happen. Sometimes the most threatening skies turn out to be the most striking. Skies need not be blue and white to be beautiful.

... by Rob O'Dell

## Monon Hotel opened in 1927

On Aug. 1, 1927, Mr. and Mrs. H.E. Haslund arrived in Crawfordsville to supervise the installation of furniture in the new Monon Hotel on North Green Street prior to its opening.

The Haslands had taken a 15-year lease and planned to manage the establishment themselves. The building was owned by a Muncie millionaire who later sold it to a man in California. It was later owned by Harry Freedman. The Monon was built by Dee Bridges of Indianapolis.

The Haslands were immediately welcomed by the business circles of Crawfordsville and were considered hotel proprietors of the "high grade type." They had owned hotels in Colorado, Iowa, Ohio, Michigan and Chicago. They announced that a restaurant would be open in the near future adjoining the hotel by William Endicott, prominent local restaurant man.

In reporting the new establishment in town, the *Journal-Review* said: "The handsome little hotel will be one of the most up-to-date establishments of its kind in the state and will be operated in an absolutely modern manner."

Nearly a third of the 40 rooms in the hotel were equipped with baths. All of the rooms had telephone service as well as hot and cold running water. Each room was furnished with a high gradeline of furniture and the

floors were carpeted. The walnut furniture and floor covering was purchased by Hasland from the Albert Pickens Co. of Chicago. The rooms were well-lighted and arranged.

The lobby of the hotel was handsomely fitted with overstuffed furniture, console writing desks, library tables and antique floor lamps.

There was considerable public interest during the construction of the hotel and the public was invited to an open house to inspect the completed project.

On Thursday, Aug. 18, 1927, the doors of the new Monon Hotel were opened and hundreds of people visited the establishment the first day. There was unanimous public praise given to the management of the hostelry. The two to three hundred people attending the open house were surprised to find the many types of hotel service available, including the elevator which served all four floors.

From the front entrance and lobby to the fourth floor rooms, the hotel was called a "real model." Many of the visitors declared that the Monon Hotel was one of the finest small hotels in the state and that it was an addition to Crawfordsville which should be the subject of common pride.

Others who leased the hotel after the Haslands included Mary Ricketts, a Mr. Tyson who furnished two of the

floors from Marshall Fields, and a Mr. Felag.

In 1939, Walter Dunn and his wife, Nora, of Chicago, leased the hotel and furnished the third floor from Marshall Fields. Mr. Dunn died in 1945 and his wife now residing at 409 E. Market St., continued to operate the hotel until 1959.

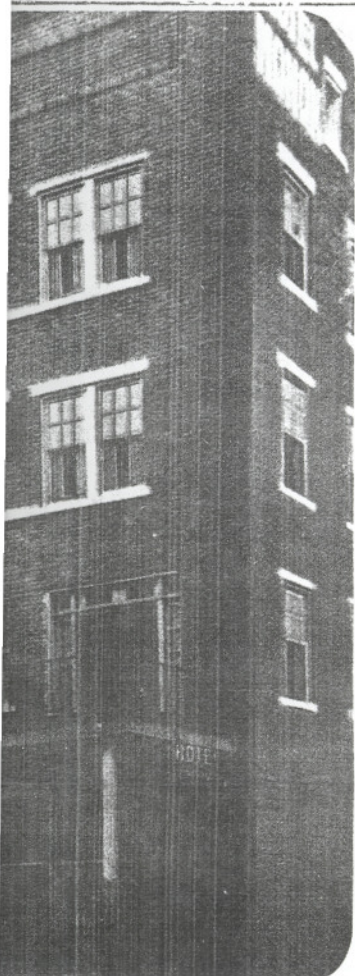
The hotel was operated in future years by Warren Sargent, Frank Rose, and Bob Thompson. In 1977, the hotel was closed and the structure condemned by the city.

The Monon was purchased by Berry & Tulley Law Firm who are in the process of repairing the structure. The lawyers also bought the adjoining Schlemmer Building and have moved their law firm to that location.

Crawfordsville Star, Aug. 24, 1875 — Hannan and McClean's track was the site last Saturday evening of another clandestine affair, it would seem.

Jack Baldwin had issued a dare to all those interested in racing his fine bay mare to show up then. But due to unknown circumstances, neither Jack Baldwin nor his friends showed up.

Only one fellow rode in expecting a full evening's entertainment. And only a few spectators arrived in their carriages. Apparently the message failed to reach all concerned.



Closed in 1977

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