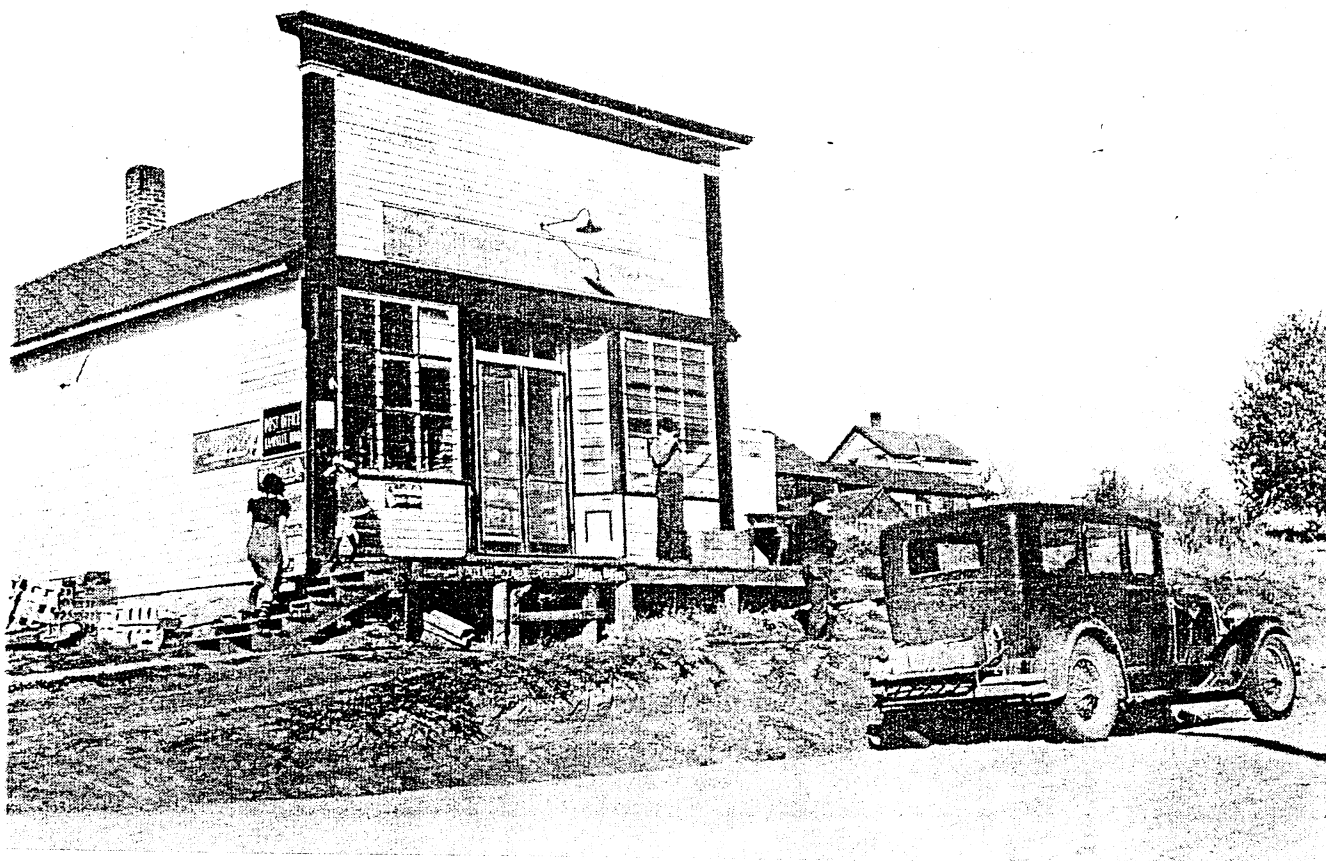


Town
of
LaMoille



LaMoille General Store and Post Office in the 1930's

This was the place where school children would like to come at noon to spend a penny on candy.

In the evening the children would play croquet behind the store while their parents picked up mail and visited with friends.

LaMoille Is Losing Another Landmark — Its Depot

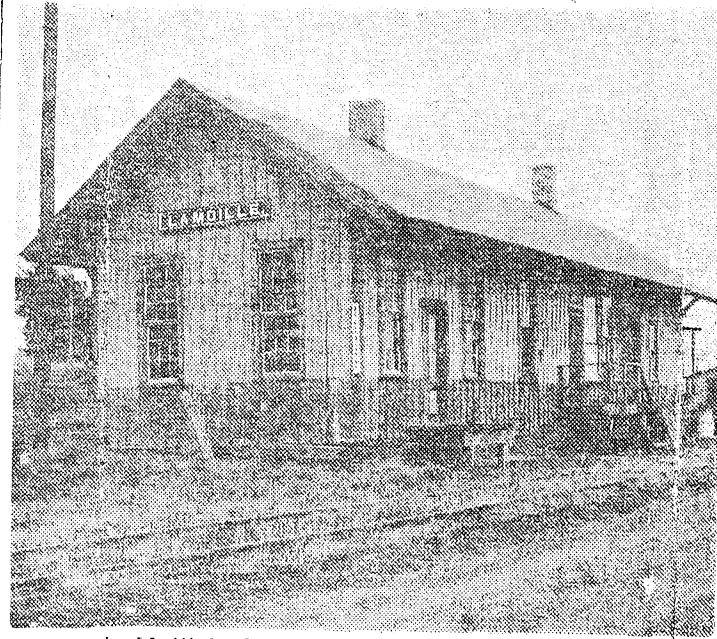
By BOB HAYES
(T.-R. Staff Writer)

LaMOILLE — The iron pot bellied stove in the waiting room of the wooden frame depot of the Chicago and North Western Railway Company at LaMoille which once welcomed chilled travelers to its cheery red sides, stands deserted now, a memento of another era.

Shards of glass from broken windows in the depot litter the waiting room floor and a musty odor of decay has replaced the expectant air of the station agent awaiting passenger and freight trains.

THE TOWN ITSELF, which once numbered three general stores, one dry goods store, a hardware and grocery store and a wheelwright shop, has been slowly depleted, a shrinking monument to progress that has obsoleted this town and many others like it.

Once citizens of this town collected \$800 to induce the railroad to build the depot here. Now, although spelling doom for the road's activity in the town, progress is



LaMoille's Soon To Be Forgotten Depot

Of the original handful of businesses that thrived in LaMoille only a combination general store and garage operated by Mr. and Mrs. Marion Ingalls due now survive.

The LaMoille school is going following the post office which was taken out in 1954 during government move to economize mail service.

FOR A WHILE residents received dual mail service, being served on Route 3, Marshalltown from its post office and also getting some mail from the Chicago and North Western trains which stopped there with periodicals for townspeople during the change of address.

Then too, that service was gone and freight for LaMoille came via a Chicago and North Western freight truck from Marshalltown.

Now the depot, originally subscribed for by townspeople and only six years short of its 100th year of service is doomed and bids for the razing of the

old structure have already been submitted.

LaMoille owes its existence to the railroad for it was planned as an outgrowth of the Chicago and North Western line which was surveyed in 1863.

NOT UNTIL FOUR years later was the village founded by John L. Stevens, a railroad employee. The first building of the town was put up in the same year and the name was given it by Issa Howe from a town in Vermont with the same name.

In 1868 the first store was erected and the same year the post office was established. It lasted 86 years and finally succumbed to the pressure of department officials who took a dim view of its estimated \$900 yearly loss.

The large coal sheds, elevator, stockyards, water tower and wind mill that followed the depot in 1875 have already been removed and bids for the depot and an out building stipulate that they will be removed from Chicago and North Western property in LaMoille.

The old fashioned crank telephone still hangs on the wall keeping solitary company with two stiff looking wooden waiting benches drawn up around the stove in the center of the room.

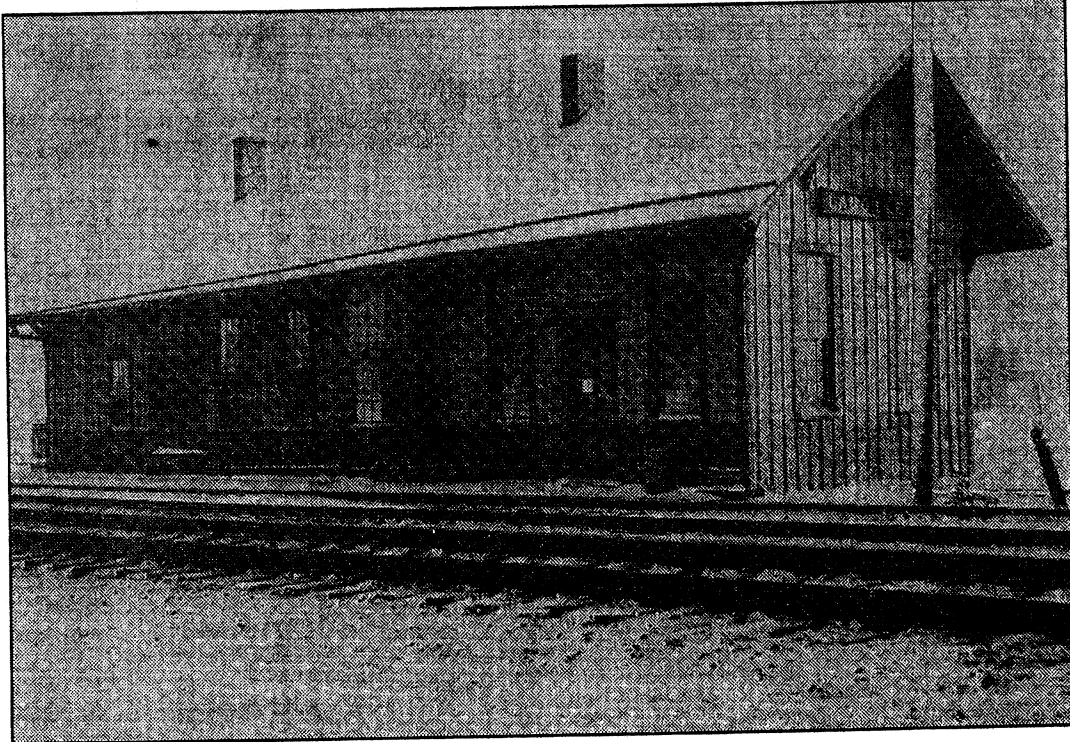
THE DOOR which once passed travelers to points both east and west stands ajar now no more to slam accompanied to the station master's "Here she comes folks."

The last parent of LaMoille leaving town and soon now the town will be only a memory of



MARSHALLTOWN TIMES-REPUBLICAN, Thursday, August 9, 1956

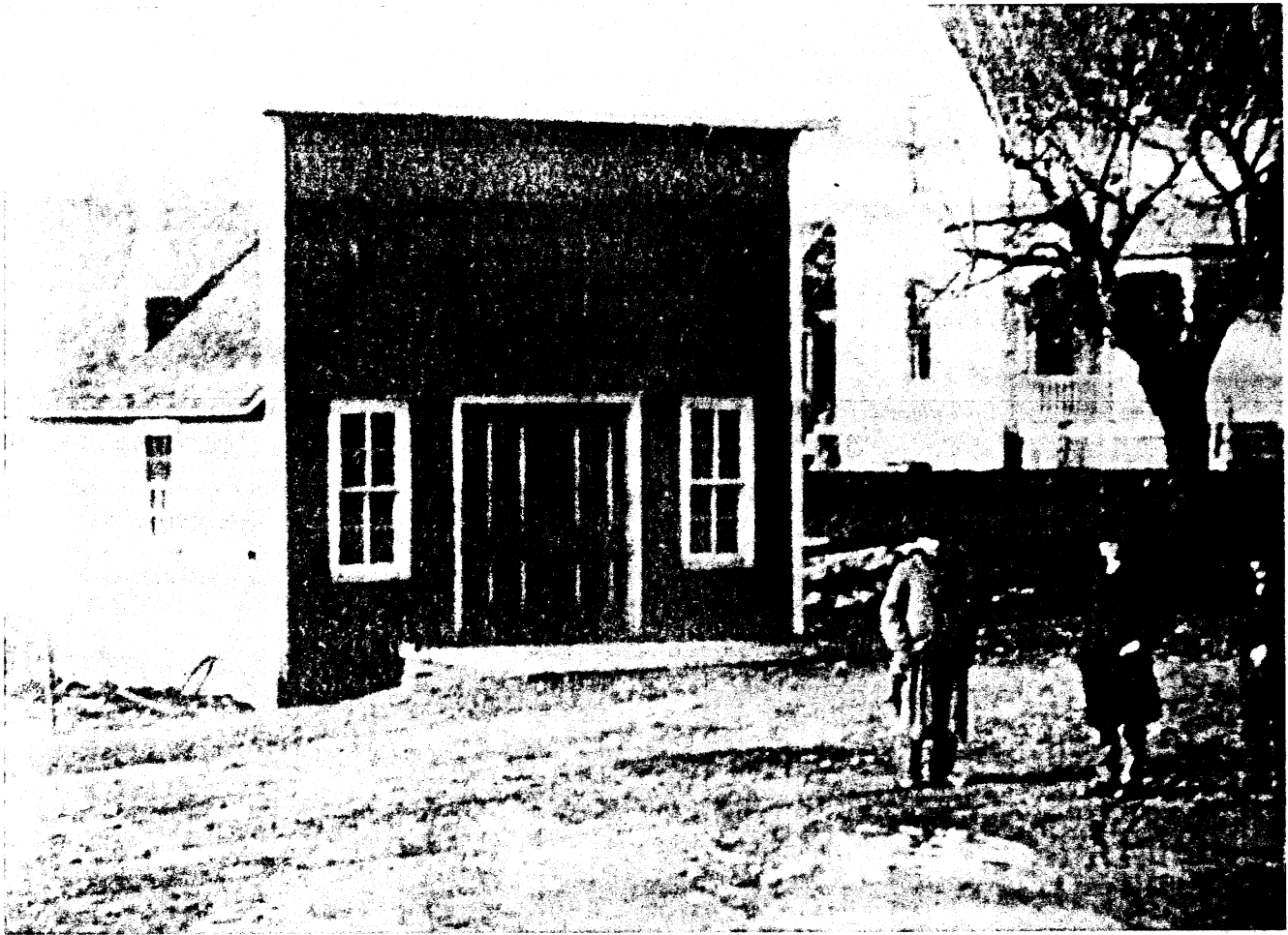
Times-Republican, Past Times, July, 2005



This December 1952 photo of the LaMoille Northwestern Railroad depot should stir some local memories. At this time, C&NW was proposing its closing. Herb Benson, one of approximately 40 cattle buyers in that area, remarked, "Many of us depend on the LaMoille agency for our incoming cattle. Without the agency, we'd have no way of knowing exactly when our shipments were due and no way of paying for them locally." (Photo submitted by Allan Packer)



Farmer John Hysek waits for the mail to be sorted and to greet his friends. In the background is Bill Sharer. (1939)

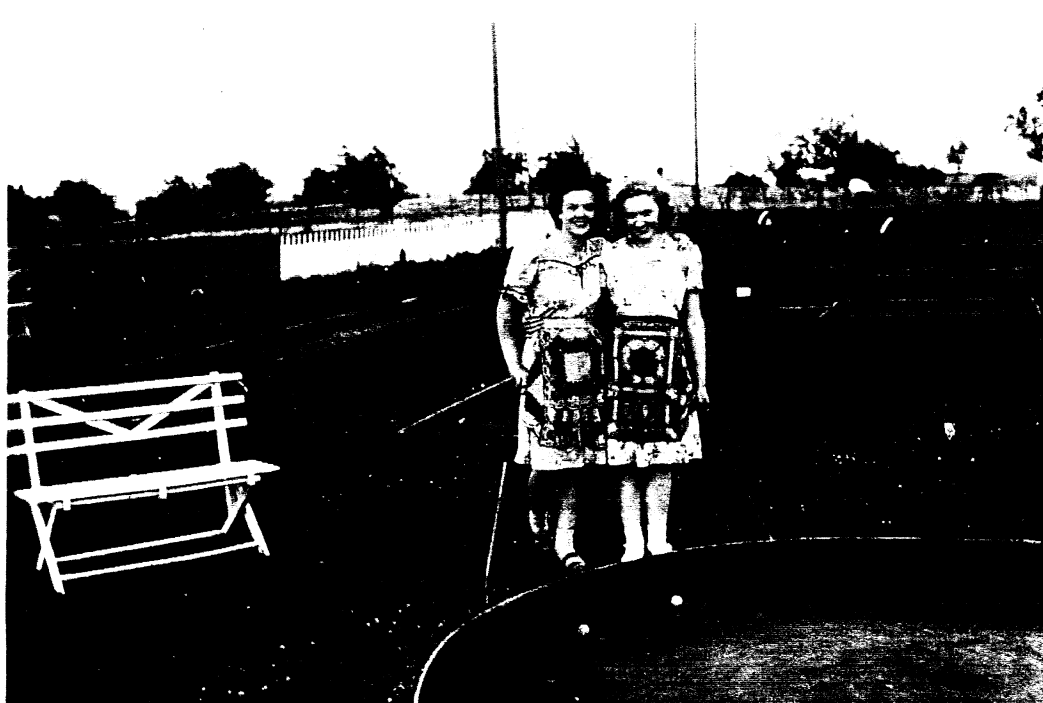


Ernie and George Larson ran the Blacksmith Shop which was on Main Street half way up the hill.



The LaMoille Railroad Depot where farmers brought livestock to be loaded and taken to Chicago by rail to be sold. Farmers would ride in the caboose to city. Many farmers drove the cattle down roads to LaMoille.

Note building at back of depot where train would stop to refill with water.



Alice Mae
McLean
and
Barbara
Benson



Don McLean
(center)
owner



In the late
1930's and
early 1940's
the
community
had a
miniature
golf course
owned by
Don V.
McLean.

Pictured
here is a
girl's 4-H
Club outing

LIVING ON THE HILL — Residents of LaMoille know what it means to live on a hill, especially in the winter when the roads are icy. The town is situated on the side of a hill leading to the Linn Creek valley. At the top of the picture is the school and the Community Congregational church. The Chicago and North Western railroad tracks form the south boundary of the town.



Picture at bottom
was taken in 1956

