

## "A Collection of Vignettes"

### The Englewood Telephone Exchange

Member Lora Snell shared historic family photos with the society. It shows the Englewood telephone exchange which was in a small building attached to the corner of the Snell home on U.S. Rt. 40 at 105 South Main Street in Englewood. According to a newspaper article dated 1952, Lora's mother, Mrs. Marguerite Leon Snell, started as the Englewood switchboard operator in 1918 when the exchanges were located at the northwest corner of Rts. 40/48 in the Farmers State Bank. She took time off to raise a family in the 1920s but went back to work in 1939 when the exchange was built onto her residence. (This may have been necessary when the bank building burned.) She continued to serve as switchboard operator until dial service reached Englewood in 1952. That same year, John Bergman who was Randolph Twp. fire chief, asked Mrs. Snell to stay on as the emergency fire dispatch operator for the village. A special incoming-line only and fire siren switch were put into the building. When fire calls came in, Mrs. Snell or her daughter Jean could activate the siren at any one (or all) of four stations: Englewood, Union, Clayton and Irvington. The dispatch operations cost \$3,000 per year. The small building that housed the telephone exchange was taken down and the house remodeled later by Jean Snell Rohr and her husband Roscoe Rohr.

### A Brief History of the Engle Family

Jim Oren relates that his grandparents, Harvey and Minnie Denlinger Engle, married in 1896, first owned a 50-acre farm on St. Rt. 48 now occupied by the Stillwater Center. They sold that farm when the county expanded the Stillwater TB Sanatorium and Harvey built a new house south of Little York. Before the family could move, the 1913 flood wreaked its havoc and even though the new house was not damaged, Minnie refused to move there in fear of another flood. Harvey then bought about 37 acres on the south edge of Englewood and built a frame and stone farmhouse and outbuildings. The family moved there about 1915 and continued to farm the land and stand market in Dayton for many years. The house is gone now but the Villas of Englewood Apartments (previously Canterbury Runn) now occupy the site at 507 South Main Street.

### Welcome to the Kern Motel

The only motel known to exist along the old National Road in Randolph Township stood at the northeast corner of Fox Road and U.S. Rt. 40. The farm was purchased about 1948 by Joseph and Hazel Kern from Dayton. The house that stood on the corner was moved to the east and a chicken house on the farm was relocated to the corner and remodeled into a small frame motel with rooms for about eight overnight guests. The house kitchen served as the rental office when the motel opened about 1950. Joseph died in 1959 and Hazel continued to run the motel for a while. In later years, the motel rooms were rented out to boarders. In 1965, Hazel sold the property to the Clayton EUB Church and the motel eventually was torn down.