BOONE
Your County Magazine

Ralph W. Stark
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The glint of polished copper
The fragrance of green shrubs, scented candles
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Introducing...

In this, the inaugural issue of BOONE, Your County Magazine, you will find a variety of interesting and entertaining articles. All of them relate to Boone County.

Each month BOONE, Your County Magazine, will present a fresh window on your familiar world. The magazine will dust off the rich heritages and nostalgia of Boone County, as well as polishing up the present, and digging around for a look at the future.

Through the unique perspectives a magazine is capable of presenting, BOONE, Your County Magazine, will help all residents gain greater knowledge of the far-flung four corners of the county. History, personalities, current issue, artistry, and comment are all a part of the magazine's bag of possibilities. Likewise, we believe in working together, so BOONE, Your County Magazine, presents an opportunity for budding writers to express themselves. It will present a chance to publish fiction, as well as fact, and a chance for the whimsical, as well as the serious. BOONE, Your County Magazine will be entertaining and interesting, but most of all it will be fun. Read on, and ENJOY YOURSELF!

The Contributors

PAT HEIDENREICH--Pat lives in Whitestown and handles editing for Zionsville Main Street and the Zionsville Times. She enjoys feature writing and authors the award-winning column, "Hot Off The Ironing Board."

EMMETT J. PIRICAL--"EM" lives somewhere out in the sticks, where he pours over Mark Twain's work and dreams of the day when Bugtussle will be the state capitol.

JOHN PARSONS--Co-owns and co-publishes Zionsville Main Street and the Zionsville Times.

RUTH ANN MERRILL--Dedicated artist whose work appears with Bugtussle. Ruth Ann teaches batik and studies photography near Zionsville.

GEORGE LEAMINSON--George is former publisher of The Zionsville Times and now Director of Community Relations for the Indiana Regional Medical Program.

PAM FERRE--Pam graduated from Butler, where she worked on a college magazine. She lives near Zionsville and will write in-depth features.

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BOONE, Your County magazine, welcomes unsolicited manuscripts, art work, and photos, but cannot be responsible for their return unless they are accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Payment will be made only for assigned articles. Letters are also welcome. Correspondence should be addressed to BOONE: c/o John R. Parsons, 76 1/2 S. Main St., Zionsville, Indiana, 46077, 873-3738.
Ralph W. Stark - County Historian

by Pat Heidenreich

"I'm a nut on local history," commented 72 year old Ralph W. Stark, with a twinkle in his eye. "When people accuse me of living in the past, I tell them I think it's better to live in the past than in a shaky present and an unpredictable future."

Unofficially dubbed "The Boone County Historian," Mr. Stark is now in the process of amassing a great amount of material preparatory to writing a county history which he will entitle, "Boone County in the First Hundred Years". The publication will cover the century from 1830 to 1930.

"I've hit a snag though," he smiled, "I need to know when Joe Wilson's mill was built and when it burned. The mill was located on Sugar Creek at the N.E. edge of Thorn-town."

Mr. Stark has a vast interest in Indian lore and has traced the historical paths of tribes of Boone Co. on a large hand drawn map of local Indian trails and encampments.
Born May 10, 1901, the son of Elmer T. and Alpha Katherine Stark, Ralph was raised on a farm. "We had no radio," he recalled, "and for amusement during my preschool days, my father would read to me from McGuffey's Reader and Montgomery's American History. I had an intense desire to learn to read, so my father taught me my ABC's and then, on one June morning, we traveled to a drug store in Zionsville and purchased my first primer. I wasn't really a precocious child, I just had an enormous love of books and reading."

He was schooled in the Lebanon elementary schools and graduated from Lebanon High School in 1921. He attended Butler University, taking special courses in botany and plant taxonomy. Never losing his love and fascination for nature, he returned to Butler University in 1958 and resumed his study of botany. Well-versed in insects, forestry and wildlife, he maintains 17 acres of wilderness across the road from his home just east of Lebanon, and enjoys spending time there every day.

He was employed in the editorial departments of The Lebanon Reporter and The Lebanon Pioneer for six years, before establishing a business under the name of Ralph W. Stark, Stationer, in March 1923. He remained in this business in Lebanon until October 1, 1962. Since then he has devoted his time to non-professional genealogical research, serving clients in some twenty-two states.

His wife, Naomi, shares his interests in history, Indian lore, nature and genealogy. Married on September 2, 1922, the couple have one son, Dr. Ralph W. Stark Jr., a professor in art education in the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, North Carolina.
County historian

Mr. Stark holds life memberships in The Indiana Historical Society, the Indiana Audubon Society, the Indiana Academy of Science, and the Boone County Conservation League which he founded in 1935. He is also a life member of the Izack Walton League of America and was president of the League's Indiana Division, 1955-57. He is a member of the First United Presbyterian Church of Lebanon and is a non-resident associate member of Chicago’s Field Museum of Natural History.

An honorary member of the Lebanon Rotary Club since 1956, he is a Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary International’s Foundation. In 1968 he was recipient of the Lebanon Jaycees’ Community Service Award.

A Republican, he is now in his first term as a member of the Boone County Council.

His writings and publications include the "History of Lebanon's Presbyterian Church", published in 1966; "Birth Certificates of Lebanon and Boone Co."; and numerous magazine articles, pamphlets and booklets concerning history and conservation.

He has reprinted and distributed Harden & Spahr's "Early Life and Times in Boone County" and plans to reprint in original size the Kingman Brothers' Boone County Atlas originally published in 1878.
Howdy, my name is Emmett Pirical, Emmett James Pirical to be exact, but most folks just call me Em. I have been asked to report the news from Bugtussle. I don’t know why exactly. It has been my good fortune to have been many places and to have done many things in my lifetime, but none of them have been reporting the news or writing. So I hope my errors will be forgiven. I suppose the fact that I have been a collector of stories about people over the years may be one reason. I enjoy stories about people. To my way of thinking, about the funniest thing in this world is people. If you wish to be entertained, you normally need look no further than the end of your nose.

I really don’t know how to go about writing a column of this sort. I reckon about as good a way as any would be to set down what a person like me believes in. I think it was Aristotle or one of those historical characters who said that everyone has one belief that is central to his life. Mine would be the inspiration of the scriptures. I believe in the deity of Christ, and that God is the creator of man. However, I also believe that God must have had a sense of humor, and since He is the creator of man He gave man a sense of humor. That’s why, to my way of thinking at least, we humans seem to go out of our way to look ridiculous. Seems like if we stumble upon a molehill somewhere, we begin as quickly as possible to convert it into a mountain. That’s why we can often discover funny situations everywhere we go. Many of the groups of people I shall be writing about have excellent goals, goals that I am hopeful they will achieve. But because these organizations are made up of people they very often tend to be funny.
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Well I reckon I ought to quit talking about myself and tell you a little about Bugtussle. It's really not much of a place, very small and very rural. I guess the best way to describe Bugtussle is to say that it is a, one barber, one policeman, and three preacher type town. If I don't miss my guess the Baptist preacher would probably say that there is a moral lesson in those ratios.

Bugtussle is right in the heart of Indiana corn country. In the late summer when you drive down the State Hi-way the tall corn makes it seem as if you are driving in a long green tunnel, that goes as far as the eye can see. Every so often there will be a brief interruption in the wall of green as you pass a crossroads, a home, or a small town. Bugtussle makes a very brief interruption in the wall of green.

The origins of Bugtussle have long forgotten. Nobody seems to remember why or how Bugtussle came into being. Some of our more romantic folk talk of wagon trains stopping to bury their dead, and then staying on to be close to their loved ones. While others argue that it just sort
of sprung up along the railroad tracks. It apparently is acceptable to go along with either side.

Where Bugtussle got its name is even more of a mystery. The romantics claim that it is an Indian name that means Maple Woods, or some such thing. Others think that it was meant to be a practical joke, while more than one person seems to think that the name came from the size of mosquitoes found here. Jake Williams claims that out at the airport they put 15 gallons into one once, before they discovered that it wasn't young Hank Jones' Piper Cub!

I reckon though that most folks don't worry much over how the town got started or where its name came from. They are just satisfied that it is here providing them with a good place to live, and neighbors that take neighboring seriously. The town folk consider being a good neighbor about the most important responsibility they have, right after their families and Church of course. Although sometimes it seems that these too, are a part of being a good neighbor.

So there you have it. That is Bugtussle, not much when you think about the overall scheme of things, but pretty important to those of us that live here. You will start meeting some of Bugtussle's citizens very soon. You will find that they are just ordinary folk, sometimes petty and little; very often demonstrating the Creator's sense of humor; now and again a little more nosey about each other's business than they should be, but generally they are generous and kind; willing to help out when needed; and quietly going about the daily business of living.

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Board members include: Joe Robinson, County Extension Agent; Bill Harlos, County Surveyor; Clifford Beesley, Thornbrook; Devon Bevington, Sugar Creek Township; Walter Kinnard, Eagle Township; and Bill Wiley, Center Township.

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The Boone Planning Board

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Development Committee charts solutions to future county needs

Boone County's fledgling Plan Commission is a reality today largely through the efforts of a group of dedicated, public-spirited county residents who like to look diligently for effective ways to meet this county's needs, to help in solving its problems, and to realize opportunities open to it.

Organized in a voluntary fashion and, by design, loosely coordinated through the office of the Boone County Extension Agent, the group is known as the Boone County Development Committee.

It is essentially a study group which, in some ways, might be compared to a garden club or any other study group which convenes periodically to learn more about chosen subjects for its own education, amusement, or, simply, amazement.

But it has a higher commitment than merely the education of its membership. It looks beyond this aspect of its operations to the more difficult area of effecting change based on the results of its studies.

Among its continuing studies, dating back almost to the time some seven years ago when it came into being is the matter of land use planning and zoning. Most persons who have followed the matter give most of the credit for formation of the new Boone County Plan Commission by the cooperative actions of the Boone County Commissioners and the Thorntown Board of Town Commissioners to the base of information and awareness that resulted from the Development Committee study.

The new, six-member "area-wide" Plan Commission replaces an older commission and has a broader mandate to do land-use planning and zoning in an advisory capacity to the two boards of commissioners. The old commission had responsibility for only the unincorporated land in the county. The new one's jurisdiction covers all that land and the incorporated land in Thorntown as well.

In addition, its legal base is broad enough in the enabling state legislation that other incorporated cities and towns in the County (and even areas from adjoining counties) could, by passage of the proper resolutions by their governing bodies, give it the same planning authority over land in their jurisdictions, and have representatives on the Plan Commission.

The Plan Commission is yet untried in extended actual practice. But the study and work done by the Development Committee in the four years preceding its formation indicated that it has every chance for success. Its identity in the Boone County scheme of things political is greater, in this its first year, because of the educational efforts of the Development Committee.

Its approach to a subject is simple, yet one that requires great patience as it proceeds; define an area in which to study, draw on as many qualified sources of information as
possible, learn as much as you can from these sources and each other, involve other persons and groups who are interested in the matter and are in positions to bring about needed changes—wait, wait some more, ask some additional questions, re-examine the matter, and let the results come into being.

The last part of this process, the tough part for committee members, is necessary because of the organizational structure of the group. It is, as noted, voluntary. Members serve because they want to. It is not an official governmental agency. It actually does not have the power to put into operation any needed change it identifies.

And this has been a problem for some members who have been given the opportunity to serve on the Committee; they found it too deliberate in its study, too little oriented to action and, in their estimation, ineffective. Some members have resigned for this reason.

The group was formed through the efforts of Joseph J. Robinson, county agent, who conferred with county leaders for suggestions about likely members. Its membership is now self-perpetuation. Members on a continuing basis look for new persons from throughout the county to join them in their studies.

Membership now totals about thirty and is made up of a mix of persons from various geographic, economic, cultural, educational, career, and political areas.

President this year is Livings Brindle, Jameson, a farmer and county employee who has been active all his life in various county affairs. Balance of the membership reads somewhat like a Who’s Who in Boone County, although public identity is not a qualification for membership, rather representing a quality of awareness of public attitudes that is extremely important to the studies undertaken by the Committee.

The key concept in the committee’s approach is “development” and relates to a philosophy inherent in the county agent’s function and the backup provided to him and the county by the Cooperative Extension Service of Purdue University which has been instrumental in forming similar committees in well more than half the state’s counties.

“Development” is being effected in this county through technique evolved over the years for transmitting findings of the committee to those action bodies that can bring about change. A current study of the critical matter of trash and garbage disposal in the county provides an example. In order to pave the way for possible important developments and improvements, the Committee has extended an invitation to its next meeting on the subject to the County Commissioners, to the Mayor and City Council of Lebanon, and to town board members throughout the county.

The concept is, that while it’s fine to identify problems and needs, if you don’t take it through a developmental or implementation stage, you have achieved little.

Other subjects studied over the years have included emergency ambulance service in the county, physician supply and possible need, general availability of health care services, conditions at the county home, population and other growth statistics in the county and Central Indiana, economic development and needs, federal revenue sharing and other public financing matters, county highway and road conditions, and other lesser topics.

Resources utilized by the Committee have included economists and other specialists from the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service; local, county, and state officials; professional and voluntary society representatives from county and state levels; educators; businessmen; and professionals from various walks of life.

Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month, September through May, at 7:30 p.m., in the Farm Bureau Insurance Building in Lebanon and are open to the public.

Author George F. Leammson, Zionville, is a member and president the last two years of the Development Committee.
Albert Theobald was born July 3, 1928, in Green Valley, Ohio. He moved to Boone County with his parents when he was four years old. He attended Thorntown grade school and graduated from Thorntown High School in 1947. He joined the Army after graduation and was discharged in 1950.

After working six and a half years at Monarch Buick in Indianapolis, Theobald joined Lebanon's Ogden Olds for two years. Later, in February, 1959, Theobald went into the auto repair business for himself in a garage he continues to operate behind his house.

He and his wife, Thelma, live at 605 W. Main St., in Thorntown. One daughter is married and another in nursing school. Two sons, Doug and Danny, attend Thorntown High School.

Theobald served on the Thorntown Town Board from 1957-59. He was elected to the Sugar Creek Township Trustee Advisory Board in 1962 and later elected Trustee in 1966. He has been re-elected and is in his seventh year at that post. His term expires Dec. 31, 1974, but a recent change in state law allows township trustees to serve more than two terms.

"My main reason for wanting the trustee position would be to see the improvement of the township volunteer fire department," said Republican Theobald, whose trustee duties include poor relief; two abandoned cemeteries, and the dog and fire funds.

Sugar Creek Township has received $8,965 in federal revenue sharing funds so far and Theobald has placed the money in cash deposit. He plans to appropriate it to help pay the fire department building.

The Sugar Creek Township Volunteer Fire Department has purchased a building, a grass fire truck, a foamer, and a water wetter since Theobald was elected. Both Thorntown and the township have separate volunteer fire departments.

Theobald belongs to the Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite, Shrine, Eastern Star, and the Presbyterian Church.
Mrs. Green holds finished dolls. Those near the sewing machine are in various stages of refurbishment.

Mrs. Green enjoys restoring old dolls.

Old dolls are getting a new lease on life through the tender ministrations of Mrs. J.W. Green and the members of the "Helping Hands" sewing group of the Zionsville United Methodist Women. The dolls are taken from the Indianapolis Goodwill. Member Mrs. Lee cleans them, shampoos their hair and puts them into the hands of the women who "do" their hair and make new clothing for them.

The newly refurbished dolls are then returned to the Goodwill where they are re-sold very inexpensively to needy parents who give them to their daughters for Christmas. In extreme need, the dolls may be made available at no cost.

The desire to rescue these abandoned dolls had been growing in Mrs. Green's heart since she had first seen a woebegone collection of them in a Goodwill center in Topeka, Kansas. When she and her husband moved to the Quail Run Apartments, three months ago, Mrs. Green quickly became active in the U.M.W. of the Zionsville United Methodist Church. There, she met Mrs. Robert McKnight, Sr., head of the women's sewing group, and Mrs. Cloradell Salmon, both of whom were interested in dressing dolls for Christmas. With these ladies, Mrs. Green visited the collection center in Indianapolis, and her wish came true.

At the Goodwill Center, Mrs. Green picked out a number of promising looking dolls. The center also supplied fabric, trims, buttons, zippers and all findings necessary to make the clothes.

Mrs. Green finds the plastic faces and bodies of today's
dolls come clean easily with the help of any household
cleanser and a toothbrush. Her only exception is ball-
point pen marking which she has, so far, been unable to
remove. She has found the enamel used for model airplanes
useful in touching up the dolls' faces.

The hair she washes with regular shampoo, drying it
under a cap made of an old nylon stocking, to keep fly-
away hair close to the head. Long hair can be set on
curlers. Hair spray keeps the dolls' new hair-do in place.

"Don't wash dolls' hair in water that's too hot, though",
she warns, "this seems to mat it together."

If the hair is a hopeless mess, she has cut it all off and
used yarn to make a new wig for the dolls.

Patterns for doll clothes can be purchased in standard
sizes, Mrs. Green advises. Sometimes a pattern can be
cut from the clothes the doll was wearing. "And you can
always do a little designing yourself," she says enthu-
siastically. "You just use your imagination."

The whole subject of dolls is fascinating to Mrs. Green
who has learned many facts from collectors and from books,
Two which she recommends are available at the Hussey
Memorial Library. They are:
  The Complete Book of Doll Collecting, by Helen
Young; and Old Dolls, by Eleanor St. George.

"I always enjoyed my own dolls when I was a little
girl," Mrs. Green says, "and I've always thought they were
interesting. Restoring them is something I've thought
about many times and have finally gotten to do since I
came to Zionsville."

by Carol Finley

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Thanksgiving through the eyes of Melinda Hiland,
2nd grader in Mrs. Faye Peter's class at Union
Elementary School. Melinda is the daughter of
Mr. and Mrs. Max Hiland.

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Thanksgiving Day, which we are celebrating, the twenty-second day of this month of November, 1973, is now a national holiday by congressional resolution in all fifty states of the Union. The festival originated in the fall of 1621 when William Bradford, governor of Plymouth Colony, called upon the Pilgrim fathers and their families to observe a day of prayer and thanksgiving for the bountiful harvest that their first crop year in the new settlement had provided them.

In that year of so long ago, the observance was held in early December, not in November as it is today. Although it was scheduled to be a rather solemn occasion, the joyful Pilgrims turned it into a day of feasting and merrymaking. They invited their Indian friends to partake with them, and at noon all sat down for the New World's first Thanksgiving dinner. The crudely made but sturdy tables were heaped high with roast venison, baked wild turkey, fruits and vegetables, corn bread, pumpkin pies, and delicious jams made from the wild berries that had ripened during the summer. It was a day of rejoicing, friendship, and mutual goodwill.

Two years later, in 1623, the occasion was one of fasting and prayer in the midst of an extended drought, but was changed into a day of thanksgiving when the first rain in many weeks began falling during the prayers. The custom of observing a day of thanksgiving spread rapidly throughout all the colonies along the Atlantic seaboard.

Pumpkin pie became such a menu staple for the annual banquets and was so heartily consumed and relished by the feasters on those occasions, that some New England preachers dourly dubbed Thanksgiving as Saint Pumpkin's Day. In 1705, Thanksgiving Day was postponed for an entire week because one Connecticut town had not received its shipment of molasses in time to make the traditional pumpkin pies.

President George Washington issued the first Thanksgiving Day proclamation for the new nation, calling on the people of the United States to observe Thursday, November 26th, 1789, as a day of public thanksgiving and prayer. Seventy-four years later, Abraham Lincoln decreed the last Thursday in November, 1863, "...as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent father who dwelleth in the heavens."

In succeeding years, the country's presidents continued to issue Thanksgiving Day proclamations. In December, 1941, the United States Congress, by a joint resolution approved by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, permanently fixed the fourth Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day, declaring it a national holiday.

Because Boone county's first settlers, in general, were second generation descendents of forefathers who lived in the eastern states beyond the Alleghenies, they brought with them the custom of celebrating Thanksgiving. The early Booneites celebrated in much the same way as did the Pilgrims, feasting on wild game and wild turkey, fruits and nuts from the forest, vegetables from the pioneer gardens, and, of course, pumpkin pie.
BOUNTIFUL BLESSINGS

As families grew, Thanksgiving Day by the 1860s had become a time for family gatherings, with sons and daughters, grandchildren, uncles and aunts, and numerous in-laws tucking their feet under dad and mom's festive table. In the three decades, the menu had changed to home-butchered pork and beef, domestic turkey, fruits from the new orchards, and many new kinds of garden truck. For dessert, there were all sorts of home-baked cakes, but pumpkin pie still reigned supreme. For drinks, there was plenty of coffee, with milk and sweet cider for the children, and, particularly for the men, apple cider that had been permitted to "harden" to just the right degree of alcoholic potency.

After the dishes had been washed and put away, the women sat in the house and gossiped, while the men lollled on a long bench made from a split log on the sunny side of the dwelling, smoking, chewing tobacco, and swapping stories, pleasantly tired from a morning spent in hunting or competing in shooting matches.

It was a great day for the youngsters, too. The small fry played "Hide and Go Seek," "Drop the Handkerchief," "Ring Around the Rosy," and "Dare Base," providing there were enough kids, (and there usually were,) to form sides of sufficient numbers and strength for the latter game. The older boys indulged in games of "Town Ball," "Three Corner Cat," and "Cricket," all three being scaled-down forms of baseball. And there were some lads content to play "Mumble-the-Peg" with their Barlow pocket knives.

In the late, late afternoon, when the last good-byes were said, the guests clambered aboard farm wagons, the more affluent climbing into buggies and surreys, and all headed for home, happy but "plumb tuckered out," after celebrating another wonderful Thanksgiving Day.

by Ralph W. Stark
Warren Wright established WNON, Boone County's only radio station located in Lebanon. In 1967 after organizing and serving as general manager of Channel 20, the Indianapolis area public television station.

Wright began his career in Philadelphia as an actor, worked for ABC radio in New York, was CBS executive television producer, and moved to Indianapolis as program manager for Time-Life owned WFBM. He produced a CBS children's show called Willie and was involved with producing the CBS Big Top.

WNON's purpose is to serve Boone County. The station broadcasts a variety of music, traditional farm news at noon, and county as well as Lebanon news. Coffee with Barbara, a community service program at 10:06 a.m., is broadcast live daily from Akerman's Drug Store.

J-Comm, a WNON sponsored Junior Achievement company, is producing and will soon air weekly one-hour programs concerning school news and activities. The series is scheduled to last 18 weeks.

A listener survey made in April showed that 61% of Boone County residents listen to WNON about 3 hours daily. Another survey made by the American Research Bureau showed that WNON listeners equal major Indianapolis radio station listeners when WNON broadcasts the Indianapolis Indians baseball games.

Wright is a member of the Lebanon Rotary Club and is a recent past-president of the Indianapolis Legal Aid Society. He is the first non-attorney to hold that office.

Wright is married and lives in Indianapolis. He has a married 22-year-old son, a 21-year-old son studying at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, and a 17-year-old son at North Central High School.

The Inside Story

Give a LAUGH for Christmas

... give a copy of

Hot off the Ironing Board

(autographed!)

writings by Pat Heidenreich

drawings by Ruth Ann Merrill

send $3 (includes tax) to:
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by Pam Ferrero
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An exciting experience is in store for you when you browse through our expanded selection of beautiful home furnishings. Love has fascinating color correlated sofa and chair groupings and comfortable recliners for your leisure time enjoyment. Run your fingers over smooth satin finished bedroom suites and marvel at the beauty of stylish dining room suites for your enjoyment during the fast approaching holiday season. And the best part is yet to come. Choose the one item in Love's vast selection of home furnishings that would be your own personal "HEART’S DESIRE". Then register your choice on the form provided. On Saturday, Nov. 17, some fortunate person will receive their "HEART’S DESIRE". It could be you!

What is your Heart’s Desire?

Come in and register...
You may win your HEART’S DESIRE

READ THESE 'HEARTS DESIRE' GROUND RULES:

SELECT ONE ITEM

Choose the one item from Love’s displays that is your "Heart’s Desire." You may decide on this item anytime between Nov. 1 and Nov. 17. It must be identified on the registration form and must be a single unit or a group that is priced at a single retail price. It might be anything in the store from a lamp to a sofa.

REGISTRATION

No purchases are necessary to take part in the "Heart’s Desire" event. Only one registration per person is allowed and you must register in person. You must be 18 years of age or older. You need not be present to win. Entries must be received between Nov. 1 and Nov. 17. A drawing will be held and the winner announced on Saturday Nov. 17. Be sure to visit Love’s open house soon and tell your friends about the "Heart’s Desire" event.

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