

## THE HISTORY OF ALTAWOOD

*This paper on the history and development of Altawood was prepared by Mrs. John Whitesell with the assistance of Mrs. Joe Merk for use of the women of Altawood at their meeting on August 12, 1959, held at the home of Mrs. Charles Zurschmeide.*

*Mrs. Merk and Mrs. Whitesell called on Mrs. Julia Best, Floyd Knobs, on Saturday, July 11. Mrs. Best seemed very pleased to talk with us and gave us an enjoyable hour at a time when she was busy preparing to fly to Colorado springs on the next Tuesday.*

*We didn't ask Mrs. Best her age but would guess her to be in her 60's. Her memory of this area goes back to her childhood. Her uncle came to work for the Sneeds, who owned the farm located where Altawood is now, when Mrs. Best was seven years old. The uncle lived in the house where Lees live now for eleven years.*

Udolpho Sneed bought the farm in May, 1886. The Sneed family lived from October each year until May at the old Galt House which used to be located at Second and Main in Louisville. Mr. Sneed operated an iron works in Louisville. Each May they would come out to the "Big House" as the main farm house was called. During the summer they had lots of company. The Bradley boys from Lexington were among those who visited each summer.

As we can still see on the old entrance the farm was called "Knob Edge". The "Big House" was located where the Long's house is now. (The Gunnison House now occupied by Jenkins.) It had a drawing room, a dining room, a huge kitchen with a breakfast room off of it and a big hall. As Mrs. Best put it: "The hall was immense, as big as my own whole house." There was a stone fireplace in the hall and the stairway went up from it. The stairway was at least six feet wide and had three landings. It was a beautiful stairway. The second floor was bedrooms. Mrs. Best recalled there was a pink bedroom and a blue bedroom.

The house had running water. They would pump water from the cisterns to a tank on the third floor. The colored help lived in a log cabin located in the hollow. The barn was located where the Turbeville

house is now. The Sneeds kept cows and had three horses. Each animal's stall had its name over it.

There was a carriage house for the two-seated carriage or buckboard and the one-seated carriage or phaeton. A path came up the hill to the house from the main entrance, and Mrs. Best's uncle had built the stone wall along the entrance road.

The area where Merks live was known as the North field. There was a peach orchard where the Engles live, and nearby a wonderful vineyard. Where the Gerdemans live used to be the low pasture, and Vernias was known as the tower field. A stone tower used to be there for a fire lookout. This tower was torn down before Mrs. Best's memory.

The Sneeds had an ice house and ice was cut each winter from the nearby creeks. The Sneeds sold the property to George Todd who at one time was mayor of Louisville. Things were never kept up as fancy after the property passed from the Sneeds.

The big house was struck by lightning and burned while the Todds owned the property.

There was a road from the property which led to a stone quarry, and even then they referred to the Devil's Backbone where the jonquils bloom each spring.

Paoli Pike used to be a toll road made of planks. The toll gate was at the bottom of the hill. Toll was first five cents and then eight cents. The road was always mud or dust. A stage line operated from New Albany to Paoli. They changed horses at Fredericksburg. They surveyed several times to run an interurban line to French Lick but it was never constructed.

The property now known as Buffalo Trails was once "The Pines" and was a famous gambling house. The biggest problem of operation was the shortage of water. At one time they hauled two or three truck loads of water each week.

In the early days the economy of Floyds Knobs was a box factory and a stone factory.

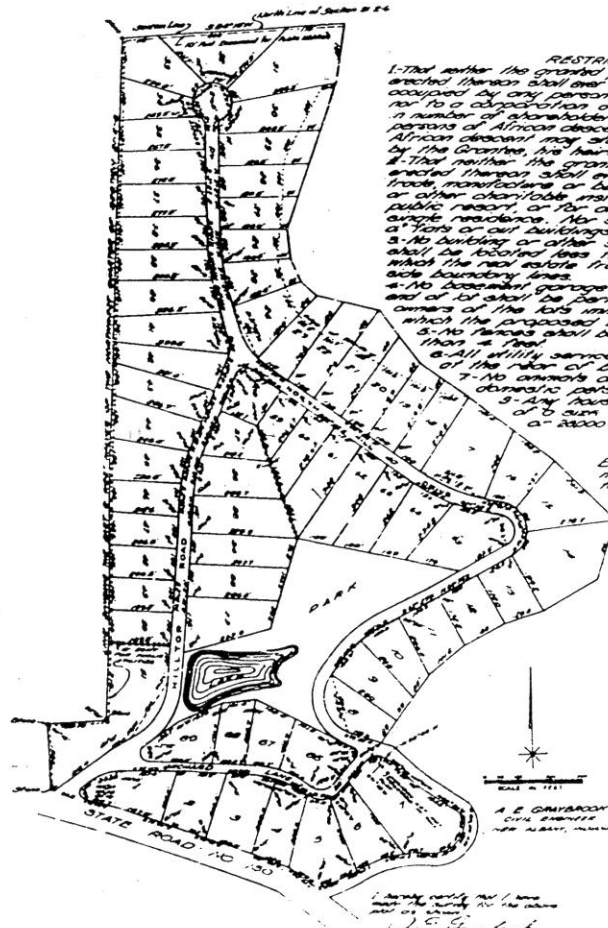
Altawood was developed as a subdivision by the Knobhill Realty Company which was incorporated in 1946. They owned 80 acres of

property including about one half of Bald Knob. There is an old colored cemetery located on Bald Knob. 120 lots were originally laid out but this was cut to 69. In July 1959 the realty company still had 21 lots. The first house was the Lee house which was remodeled by Mrs. John Gaither. When this article was prepared there were 28 homes. There are now 52.

May 31, 1968

PLAT NO. 631  
 FLOYD COUNTY, INDIANA

ALTAWOOD SUBDIVISION  
 KNOB HILL REALTY COMPANY



- RESTRICTIONS**
- 1-That neither the granted provisions nor any building to be erected thereon shall ever be sold, rented, leased or in anywise occupied by any person or persons of African descent, nor to a corporation a majority of the stock of which either a number of shareholders, or agent of which either persons of African descent, or agent of which persons of African descent may own or the premises while employed by the Grantee, his heirs or assigns or domestic servants.
  - 2-That neither the granted provisions nor buildings to be erected thereon shall ever be used for the purpose of trade, manufacture or business or as a school or place of public resort, or for any purpose other than a private single residence. Nor shall any tenement house or block of flats or cell buildings be erected thereon.
  - 3-No building or other structure except a boundary fence shall be located less than 40 feet from the roadway and the rear setback lines nor less than 20 feet from the side boundary lines.
  - 4-No basement garages with an entrance toward the front corner of the lots immediately adjacent to the lot upon which the proposed basement garage is to be constructed and the rear setback shall be erected of a greater height than 8 feet.
  - 5-All utility services above grade shall be connected at the rear of buildings.
  - 6-No domestic or farm shall be permitted except domestic pets.
  - 7-Any house or residence erected shall be of a size not less than 2800 square feet.
  - 8-2800 cubic feet.

**DESCRIPTION**  
 Being part of the northwest and northeast quarters of section 21, township 2 south, range 6 east.

EXAMINED AND APPROVED  
 This 11th day of October 1946  
 George Leiberger  
 Clerk of Court  
 Board of County Commissioners

ENTERED FOR TAXATION  
 This 12 day of October 1946  
 John J. Jeter  
 Assessor of Floyd County

7330  
 FILED AND RECORDED  
 This 12th day of Oct. 1946  
 9:13 A.M.  
 Thomas E. Dyer  
 Recorder of Floyd County

WITNESSETH THAT  
 The Altawood Realty Company, Inc. by and through its president, Mrs. Mary Ann Leiberger, being duly sworn, has acknowledged to be a subdivision of land that is subject to the provisions of section 21, township 2 south, range 6 east, Floyd County, Indiana, and that the same is subject to the provisions of the plat hereon shown and that the same is subject to the provisions of the plat hereon shown and that the same is subject to the provisions of the plat hereon shown.

ATTEST:  
 My hand and seal this 11th day of October 1946.

Witness my hand and seal this 11th day of October 1946.

ATTEST:  
 My hand and seal this 11th day of October 1946.

F. E. 20