

## Parkwood

**Parkwood** is an unincorporated village of about a dozen houses and two beer taverns located three miles west of New Albany on Ind. 62.

History – The first stopping place on the Southern Railroad west of New Albany was **Huffman's switch** later called Parkwood. Because of the clay peculiar to that community, one of the first brick yards of southern Indiana was located here South of the railroad. This industry was started by a **Mr. Broeker**, who made bricks by hand, but his plant was absorbed by the **Hoosier Brick Company**, who had a large industry here for a number of years.

The timber from the Knobs made into cross ties and this, too, added to the business of the settlement. One switch was placed by the Railroad company either upon or soon after construction of the track and, as business prospered, another was added. This made a passing track and helped to relieve the [congestion] of the yards in New Albany. When the flood waters of the Ohio in 1913 completely inundated the railroad, as well as Ind. 64, these switches were used as the terminal for the Southern trains. Now all this business has been discontinued.

The **Renn Stock Yards**, which was located north of **Willians Beer Tavern**, was also a busy place. The farmers from the country west drove their stock along the roads in herds to the market. From this point to the Louisville market was another day's drive; therefore, most of the stock, which was too tired to walk farther was sold here. An old resident says she can remember seeing the side of the Knobs covered with sheep and cattle, grazing and resting after the day's drive. But trucks and trains now take stock direct[ly] to market.

West of the stockyard a quarter of a mile, an old rock foundation is still standing, almost covered with honeysuckle vines of the old **Hockitty Tavern**. Across the railroad tracks on the south side of the highway is [a] small cottage with a stone foundation and boarded sides built on the side of the hill. The building known as the Plaiss home was originally built entirely of stone and was over a hundred years old when the top was blown off in the cyclone of 1917. Here **Mrs. John Plaiss** reared a large family of children in her "spacious" home. Her daughter-in-law remembers her telling of watching the deer, bear and snakes come off of the Knobs to drink at the creek that flowed in front of the house. The reptiles were the most dreaded of all the animals and, because of these, men folk never went out to work without a gun. Reptiles often make their homes among stone; therefore, the stone house of the Plaiss family as it grew older made a place for them to hide. **Mrs. Truman**, who lived in later years, said they never retired without first removing the covers to make sure there were no snakes in the bed.

There was no road here for a number of years after the Plaiss family settled in the district, but the trail followed the creek.

[From information compiled by Velsie Tyler, District 5, Floyd County.  
See VF Place Names for references. ]