

Seed house meant more space

When the Decatur County Last Indian Raid Museum received the former seed house, north of the main building, it provided an opportunity to expand.

In 1996, Wayne and Mary Lohofener decided to donate the building, which now houses the gift shop, print shop and livery, to the museum to be used for whatever the museum board desired.

Mr. Lohofener had purchased the building at 252 S. Penn Avenue from Bob Paddock in 1971 and operated Sappa Valley Seeds in it. The building was built by Mr. Paddock's father, Claude Paddock in 1932.

Besides the main level, the building has six apartments upstairs, which over the years were used by country school kids who came to town for high school and families as well. The last renters lived in the apartments in the 1960's. Since then, the rooms have been vacant.

When the building was donated to the museum, Fonda Farr served as the curator. At the time Mrs. Farr said the plan was to put the old buggies, tack and livery stable items in the building.

She said she also wanted to house the blacksmith shop and an old stage coach there. That's exactly what the back of the building is used for today.

The old stage coach used to carry passengers, mail and payrolls across the prairie. In past years board members have taken the stage coach out for parades.

The coach isn't the only mode of transportation in the building. There were many kinds of modes of transportation back when the stage coach was used, including a surrey used by families to attend church and other activities, a sparking' wagon used for taking a date to a dance, a sleigh used for rides in the snow, farm wagons and spring wagons.

For many of these modes of transportation, people would use a foot warmer which was filled with hot coals. It was set at the feet of those in the wagons to keep their feet from getting frost bite.

In the middle part of the building is the print shop with older newspapers and other printing machinery and items.

In October 1975, the C Inter-type typecast-



DRESSED IN OLD-FASHIONED CLOTHES, Jim and Reva Marshall posed as passengers in an early day buggy at the Last Indian Raid Museum.

ing machine retired from *The Oberlin Herald* and was moved to make its permanent home at the museum.

The front of the building became the Seeds of Hope gift shop. The shop is open when the museum is open and carries books about the Indian

Raid, sweat shirts, shot glasses and other memorabilia, including many hand made items.



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WALLACE T. WOLFE, who was with the law firm for many years, was the first Treasurer for the museum.

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