



PROVIDES VINTAGE PHOTOS FOR COURTHOUSE DISPLAY--Helen Soper-Richardson of Monticello is pictured here with a large family photo montage of the George Gill clan along with one of the photo albums from which prints will be taken to be included in a display in conjunction with the forthcoming Centennial of the Green County Courthouse. Two of the Gill daughters, both of them grand-aunts of Mrs. Soper-Richardson, owned and operated a photo studio on the south side of Monroe's Square from 1906 to 1916, and their work provides a vivid history of the downtown which includes paving of the Square for the first time in 1913. These materials, along with those supplied by historian Dorothy Kundert, will be exhibited in a case donated by County Board supervisor Harold Schulz of Brodhead and located across from

County Agricultural Chest account, and that lighting will be installed. He said the Courthouse Centennial will be climaxed with a week-end celebration Sept. 20-22, 1991. A committee organized by Ellen Swan, executive director of the Monroe Chamber of Commerce, is already making preliminary plans and will meet again on Jan. 8.

Dorothy Kundert, now a resident of the Pleasant View Nursing Home, is a former school teacher who has taken an active interest in collecting historical data and since moving to Pleasant View has turned over most of this material to a friend, Tom Fey. The latter has been working with Lindgren in selecting that information which pertains to the Courthouse.

"Dorothy worked closely with us in perfecting the existing Courthouse informational brochure, -

which was updated a few years ago with the help of local Quester groups," Lindgren said. "It is our hope that her health will permit accepting a role in the Courthouse Birthday Party. She has done more research on the Courthouse than any other individual, and deserves special recognition," he said.

Anna Gill, the youngest of nine children of George and Hannah Gill, owned and operated a photo studio on the south side of the Monroe Square from 1906 until 1916. She had started working there with P.M. Weigel in 1900, having demonstrated an interest for the arts, painting, sewing and embroidery. She was joined in the business by her sister, Hannah, who was more proficient at writing and was four years older. Neither of the women married, and Hannah died Oct. 15, 1949, at the age

of 86, and Annie died June 3, 1963, at age 96.

The two women left behind a legacy of glass negatives and photo albums which trace the early-day history of Monroe, but some of these were lost in subsequent fires. Helen Soper and her deceased husband, Bud, cared for "Aunt Annie" in her later years and Helen continues to be custodian of those photos that remain, along with the spinster's original camera.

Mrs. Soper-Richardson, the daughter of George and Olga Bleiler, said George Gill was patriarch of the clan. He was born in England, and moved from the country into Monroe with his five children in 1883. Hannah was valedictorian of her high school class and graduated in 1897 from what was then a two-year term. The Gills sold their studio to a Mr. Frautschy in 1916.

## History of Courthouse to Be Displayed In New Case During Centennial Year

A new 4'x8' display case located across from the county clerk's office on the main floor of the Green County Courthouse in Monroe will be taking the spotlight soon as the building approaches the year-long observance of its 100th birthday in 1991. The case, which was constructed with funds donated by Harold Schulz, a County Board supervisor -

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of Brodhead and located across from the County Clerk's office. The 100th birthday of the Courthouse will be observed throughout 1991 and climaxed with a celebration and re-dedication of the building on Sept. 20-22. Larry Lindgren, Green County Tourism Coordinator, said anyone else with materials which would be appropriate to mark the Courthouse centennial and would be willing to loan them to the county should call him at (608) 325-3267.

visor from Brodhead, will initially feature photos and early documents associated with the Courthouse and the downtown Square. Among these will be historical collections from Dorothy Kundert and vintage photographs taken by the late Anna Gill, as loaned

to the county by her grandniece, Helen Soper-Richardson of Monticello.

Larry Lindgren, Green County Tourism Coordinator, said two side shadow boxes which will permit the display of additional artifacts, would be added to the display case financed from a joint Tourism Committee and Green