

Un-Identical Twins, The Ingels Sisters, To Mark 75th Birthday at Open House

By ALLENE MAGANN
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The social note could probably read: "Miss Mazie Ingels and Mrs. Mabel Ingels Dixon, twin sisters, will observe their 75th birthdays Sunday, Sept. 15, with an open house-tea, at their home, Ingelside-on-the-Pumpkin-Vine Pike, between 2 and 5 p.m. No special invitations will be issued

"They are the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Garr Ingels of Kokomo."

What will really happen is that Kokomo's "sister act" will perform once again what they like best to do: entertain. Discussing some of their plans for the occasion the other day against a background of buzzsaw, hammering and other assorted building-redecorating noises, the twins sounded like a perfectly attuned pair, living harmoniously, yet with completely un-identical looks and viewpoints—on almost everything.

Are Un-Identical Twins

"As different as east and west," they agreed amiably. "We don't agree on anything, but we have more in common than out of common" Mazie added.

For instance: Celebrating their 75th birthday is "just about the same as being a bride," commented Mazie, relating the event to, the abundance of area weddings lately. "No, it's not," said Mabel, who is widowed, and has a son, Richard who lives with them.

Their 100-year-old home, antiques-filled, is undergoing the beauty treatment because Mabel wants a downstairs, not upstairs bedroom. An arthritic knee has kept her "living in the dining room" for awhile.

"Besides, she's the mechanic," said Mazie, "she lives to build. I'm the arty one."

And Mabel counters, "I fixed all the lines for the landscaping, scalped the sod on that front-lawn bed (off flowers), and carted the dirt away in a wheelbarrow, and then planted the flowers and shrubs too

And Mazie comes back, "Not yesterday you, didn't." And ends triumphantly. "Besides, you grow the flowers. I cut (arrange) 'em!

And the lively, good-natured flow of repartee goes on.

Has been Home for 63 years

They have lived in the house, built by their grandfather during the Civil War, for 63 years, were born "just across the field" where THEIR father was born in a log cabin. Bricks of the homestead were made from the clay bag on the farm in 1863, with woodwork and plastering done in 1865. Poplar sheeting, black walnut woodwork and cherry stairwell were all cut from timbers on the farm.

Their original home was sold to Mrs. Mary Stahl, and it, too, has a claim to fame. That's where Elwood Haynes stopped while testing his new-fangled car, in 1904, and bought a pound of butter for 10 cents to grease it up.

Their father helped haul the first gravel for the pike, and Mazie "thinks" that the gravel may be what changed it from a "road" to a "pike".

In their combined 150 years of aptitudes and activities they've stored up a wealth of

memories and experiences, watched Kokomo grow into "Lawsa-Daisy Bill," Mazie says, "a metropolis!" Mabel recalled 'the "time when, three or four years'old, she was intrigued by the swinging doors of the town's one saloon, with the sawdust floor visible through. She darted away from her mother to open the doors and look in.

"And got. dusted for it."

"And we both grew up," adds Mazie, "to be members of the Anti-Saloon League".

Rode Horse and Buggy to School

And speaking of the town's growth reminded both of when they used to go to the old Kokomo High School with Nell, their dappled sorrel, and an oilcloth side-covered buggy taking an hour each way. "In winter mother heated bricks to keep our feet warm," and their father always put a sack of hay and corn in back for the horse.

The thought of winter made Mabel think of Nell, "almost a race horse, "flying down the dirt roads with her long, pretty tail sweeping in the snow and their long curls bobbing. And both of the time they were coming home from school, wearing new hats, when a storm broke three miles from home.

"Oh, yes," said Mazie, "Yours (hat) was tan and mine was red."

"Mine was red," Mabel denied.

Anyway, they agreed, the hats were ruined . . . and that their buggy was equipped with the status symbol of the times-rubber tires.

The girls, as they could still be called, maybe don't get around quite as well as they used to, but they haven't given up too much.

Active in Social, Civic Affairs

Past and present merge in an account of their active lives. Mazie, a retired school teacher, is a past president of the Altrusa." Club, still edits its newspaper, "The Ink"; past president of the Women's Department Club, past president of the Chautauqua League of the Round Table, historian of the DAR and now its national defense chairman. She was a charter member of the Schoolmasters Club and its first secretary; founded the Kokomo Little Theatre Society, and directed it for several years; directed the annual pageant for the Federation of Missions. for Neighborhood House.

In the Federation of Women's Clubs' ninth district she was legislative chairman, now is international relations chairman. She was president of the Howard County Federation. She now is a member of the Taylor Township Home Demonstration Club, and the First Church of Christ, Scientist.

She studied art (several of her still life oils decorated the home); dramatic art at Arthur Jordan Conservatory and art at Indiana and Michigan Universities; graduated from IU.

Mabel is a member of the Business and Professional Woman's Club, the Morning Musicales of the Women's Department Club, DAR, and Taylor Home Demonstration Club, and was a church soloist for many years. She's a member of Grace Methodist Church now, and is a licensed practical nurse. She has been active in YWCA work, and says without undue modesty, that she is the cook of the family, "and a very good one, they tell. Me

The sisters expect that probably around 150 will drop in for the tea, but are reserving an extra cake or so in case more do. They've engaged Mrs. Dorothea Tarkington to play the accordion

And it's our bet that they'll be around to hold another joint open house in 25 years or so. Their kind of active minds and spirits stay ageless.