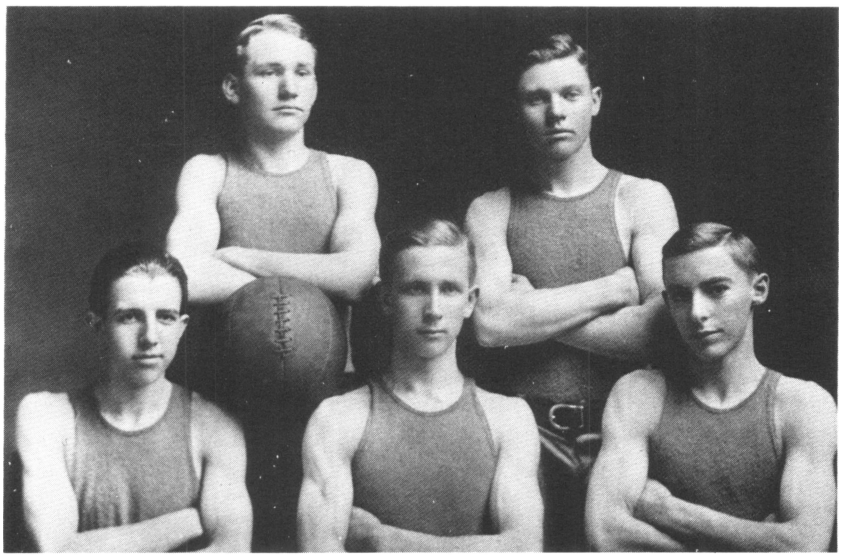

MEMBERS OF THE LEBANON HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM, 1911

Courtesy Indiana High School Athletic Association. Reproduced from Patrick J. Furlong, *Indiana: An Illustrated History* (Northridge, Calif., 1985).

for this kind of cooperative production is not likely to be arranged.

Hendersonville, N.C. Howard H. Peckham

A Rush County Retrospect, 1980's-1920's. [By Donald T. Zimmer *et al.*] 2 volumes, plus paperbound index compiled by Ruth Dorrel. (Rushville, Ind.: Rush County Historical Society, in cooperation with the Indiana Historical Bureau, 1984. Pp. xii, 416; vi, 552. Illustrations, notes, maps, figures, tables, appendix, index. $70.00.)

In 1976 the Rush County Historical Society decided to update A. L. Gary and E. B. Thomas, *Centennial History of Rush County* (1921). The Society engaged an historian, Donald T. Zimmer of Tri-State University, and got some technical help from the Indiana Historical Bureau, but kept much of the project in local hands. The family, organizational, and business histories

that comprise the second volume were prepared under the Society's own editorial control; the town histories that fill the second half of the first volume are based on public discussions initiated by the Rushville Consolidated High School Junior Historical Society; and Zimmer's half of the first volume has a scattering of "vignettes," which are brief, descriptive essays by local writers, including students in Rush County schools. The result is a happy combination of scholarly craft and the community's own vivid recollections of its recent past.

Zimmer's part of the project takes Rush County as an illustration of "the impact of urbanization and its alter ego, modernity" (vol. I, p. 181). He emphasizes economic developments, especially the decline of railroads and the rise of automobiles, Rushville's furniture manufacturing, and agricultural change. Two chapters, about a quarter of Zimmer's contribution, provide a sophisticated narrative and statistical account of recent agricultural history, particularly the adoption of new technologies, changing production patterns, and farm consolidation. Case studies of the Marion Liggett and Wayne H. Carmony farms show what those changes have meant in practice. The agricultural chapters make splendid use of interviews, county agents' reports, and a manuscript history by Clarence L. Spuller, who was county agent from 1943 to 1966.

Zimmer also considers politics, especially school consolidation, and social topics such as family life, crime, and popular amusements. Rush County followed national trends in those matters; mentioning them simply demonstrates that the county is not a "changeless, bucolic backwater," though Zimmer claims that it remains "quieter, more scenic, safer" and generally more liveable "than its urban neighbors" (vol. I, p. 182). The historian obviously developed some affection for his subject.

Much of the county's social and cultural history is left entirely to local writers. Residents describe their churches, congregation by congregation, in the second volume, and a few informants consider the small black minority. Frank G. Evans, a black physician who grew up in Rushville before World War II, pays a particularly interesting tribute to his home town by writing that he learned about "prejudice and discrimination as a student at Indiana University" and later in the army and in Indianapolis (vol. I, p. 410). Many of the local contributions are equally illuminating. They are a valuable complement to Zimmer's fine history.

Indiana University at South Bend, South Bend Donald B. Marti