

Stalking My Hometown

1924-1947

Chet saw his Future

**Chet Reynolds**

When mass entertainment was limited to silent black&white films, one little boy knew what he really wanted. In letters to Santa published in 1924 and again in 1925, Chester asked for an "picture machine".

During my earliest years in the 1950s, visiting Stella Kain's appliance store was exciting. I raced past the washers, dryers, refrigerators, and televisions to the tall counter in the back of the store. Along the counter front was a row of shallow bins holding photograph records. For my birthdays and a few other times, I could select a record. While I had a fantasy that Stella would give me my selection, I was prepared to pay whatever price I could afford. Over sixty years later, I can hear in my memory Hugh "Uncle Lumpy" Brannon (AKA Mr. Green Jeans) telling about *Lil Orley and the Haunted House* and Danny Kaye singing the *Ugly Duckling*. The Home Appliance and Radio Store was important to me in my childhood, but more so to Chet Reynolds.

In his 1924 and 1925 letters to Santa published in the newspaper, Chet was focused on Santa bringing a "electric moving picture machine".

In 1924, Chester (6) asks Santa for a 'picture machine'

Winamac.  
Dear Santa Claus—I am six years old and I go to school. I want a picture machine and I want a airplane and a dog and give me a suit of clothes and a football and a fire gun, some candy, oranges and some nuts. Chester Reynolds.

*Pulaski County (IN) Democrat* 18 Dec 1924: 3. Microfilm.

Again in 1925 Chester (7) is even more specific, requesting an 'electric moving picture machine' from Santa.

Dear Santa Claus:  
I am 7 years old and I want an electric moving picture machine, a derrick, niggertoes and some English walnuts and some oranges and some candy.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chester Reynolds.

*Pulaski County (IN) Democrat* 24 Dec 1925: 7. Microfilm.

As Chet went to school and into the army in World War II, he likely continued to have that dream.

When Chet was discharged in November 1945, that dream began to come true.

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Pvt. Chester Reynolds, son of Mrs. Nellie Reynolds of Winamac, in the Army Air Corps. His wife lives in Winamac.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat Sep 7 1944: 1. Microfilm.

Chet's Christmas wish is coming true

### Home Appliance Store Has New Owner, Manager

Apt's Home Appliance Store, one of Winamac's newest business places, changed hands late last week when E. I. Apt sold the concern to A. W. Kain, proprietor of Community Motors.

The firm, which will be called The Home Appliance and Radio Store, will be under the management of Chester Reynolds of Winamac, who was recently discharged from the Army. Leslie Tate will continue in the radio repair department.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat Jan 10 1946: 1. Microfilm.

A.J., the new owner of the Appliance and Radio Store, sees the same future as Chet

### TELEVISION HERE

"Television is here," A. J. Kain said this week after returning from Chicago where he witnessed a demonstration of a television broadcast. "It's just like sitting in a movie house," he added. The demonstration was held for RCA dealers. The present range of a television station is about 22 miles. Engineers expect to increase this range to about 45 miles shortly, Mr. Kain learned.

Winamac (IN) Republican Oct 31 1946: 1. Microfilm.

Chet gets his 'electric moving picture machine'!

It's Here!

### TELEVISION

For the first time in Pulaski County  
at the

### Home Appliance & Radio Store!

We have installed an RCA television set here in our store and have received several televised programs. We take great pleasure in extending to you an invitation to come in and see a broadcast. Since all radio programs are not televised, we suggest that you consult a Chicago paper for such listings, or call 45 for that information.

While you are in our store we also invite you to take a look at our large selection of

RCA	-	Radios	
	-	Bendix	-
		Sparton	

Oil Burners - Water Heaters  
Electric Ranges - Deep Freezers  
Electrical Contracting and Radio Repair

**Home Appliance & Radio Co.**

Chet Reynolds, Mgr.

Phone 45

Winamac

NORGE & WESTINGHOUSE

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat Oct 9 1947: 5. Microfilm.

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Within a year, there were televisions for sale at Kain's store and Chet, home from World War II, was the manager. The television in the store window was popular. Once, during a Chicago wrestling match broadcast on the store's set, the town marshal saw his sister at ringside.

'The Feed Bag'

## *The Feed Bag . . . .*

*By John S. Shortle*

We didn't believe that television could be that good, but Chet Reynolds, manager of the Home Appliance and Radio Store proved it to us. The other night we saw wrestling matches in Chicago over the television receiver at the Home Appliance. It was nearly as clear as the movies. That same night Town Marshall Neil Lloyd identified his sister, who lives in Chicago, among the crowd of spectators at the ringside of the grunt and groan exhibition. . . . Some people have wondered about the aerial above the Home Appliance store. That is the antennae over which the television broadcasts are received. It extends 70 feet above the street, as we explained in our page one story of last week. . . . Chet Reynolds and his aides deserve a hand for installing the first television receiver in Winamac.

There was a lot of interest shown in the proposed county hospital at the meeting held last week in the court house. Representatives of clubs and civic organizations all over the county attended the meet-

ing and heard Robert Rogers, of the Indiana State Board of Health, explain the steps to be taken toward getting a hospital for Pulaski county. We believe the action taken by that group was very progressive and should be lauded by every resident of this county as a step in keeping Pulaski abreast of other Indiana counties.

Members of the Western Beagle Club who presented the show Saturday night should be complimented of the event. Held at the Tippecanoe River State Park, it was praised by dog lovers who attended as one of the most outstanding shows ever presented in this part of the country.

Have you seen the Indian summer colors on the trees of Pulaski county? All kinds of reds, yellows and greens. We can't help but be amazed at the variety of hues found in the autumn leaves as we drive along the country roads. Brown county has nothing on Pulaski county when it comes to autumn shades.

Winamac (IN) Republican Oct 16 1947: 2. Microfilm.

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By the spring of 1948, Chet had installed a television in a tavern in a nearby town and at the home of the publisher of one of the two Winamac weeklies.

TV installed in Winamac IN home of  
Democrat publisher

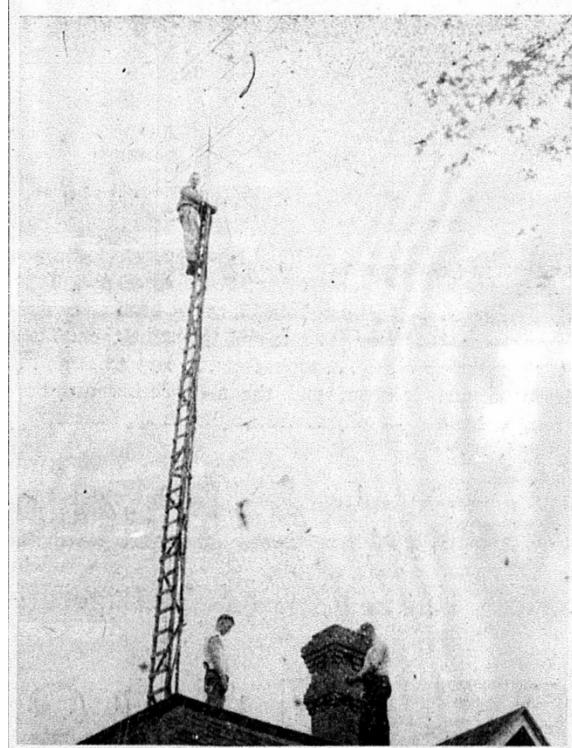
### Television Installed

The first television set in a Winamac home has been installed in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Verne Gorrell on South Monticello street, by Chester Reynolds. The tower rises to ninety feet, extending fifty feet above the two story house. Reception is generally good, with baseball games from the Chicago fields coming in clearly, as well as other sports and studio programs. Both national political conventions are to be broadcast on television, the Gorrells have been informed. The set is the only one this county.

*Pulaski County (IN) Democrat May 20 1948: 2. Microfilm.*

### Install First Television

### Install First Television



Workers of the Home Appliance and Radio Company are shown installing the antennae for the first home television set in Pulaski county at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Vern Gorrell, South Monticello Street. The man on the tower is Ray Chapman and left to right are Keith Ash and Chet Reynolds, manager of the firm. (Home Studio Photo.)

*Winamac (IN) Republican May 20 1948: 1. Microfilm.*