

I think I remember.....Building Destruction

Argos had two significant home explosions both of which were caused by natural gas build up. The first house was located on the east side of N First Street. It was the second or third house south of Church Street. I think it was a house in which a beauty shop was operated by Gladys Carr? I think the explosion was in the evening and a major fire soon followed. The home was a total loss. Seems like there was a loss of life (husband?) but I don't remember which of the occupants it was for sure. I think a new home was built later on that site.

The second house was located on the east side of N Maple Street just north of Fremont Street near the intersection of Smith Street. The first house was occupied by the Hooker family and the next house north was the home that exploded. A fire also followed and the house was destroyed. Don't remember if anyone was home during the explosion. I remember that residual damage was evident for years in the adjacent house to the north caused by flying timbers at the time of the explosion. I don't believe a home was ever rebuilt at that location.

Around 1956, during construction of the new Argos School, construction workers were setting the new steel rafters in place at the top of the new gymnasium. While placing a new rafter, that rafter and those that were already in place, started to collapse. I believe several, if not all of the rafters collapsed and fell to the floor. It seems like there were three workers that went down with the steel rafters to the floor and suffered injuries, but no deaths. Lots of dust, noise and emergency personnel. Don't remember what was determined to be the root cause for the failure.