

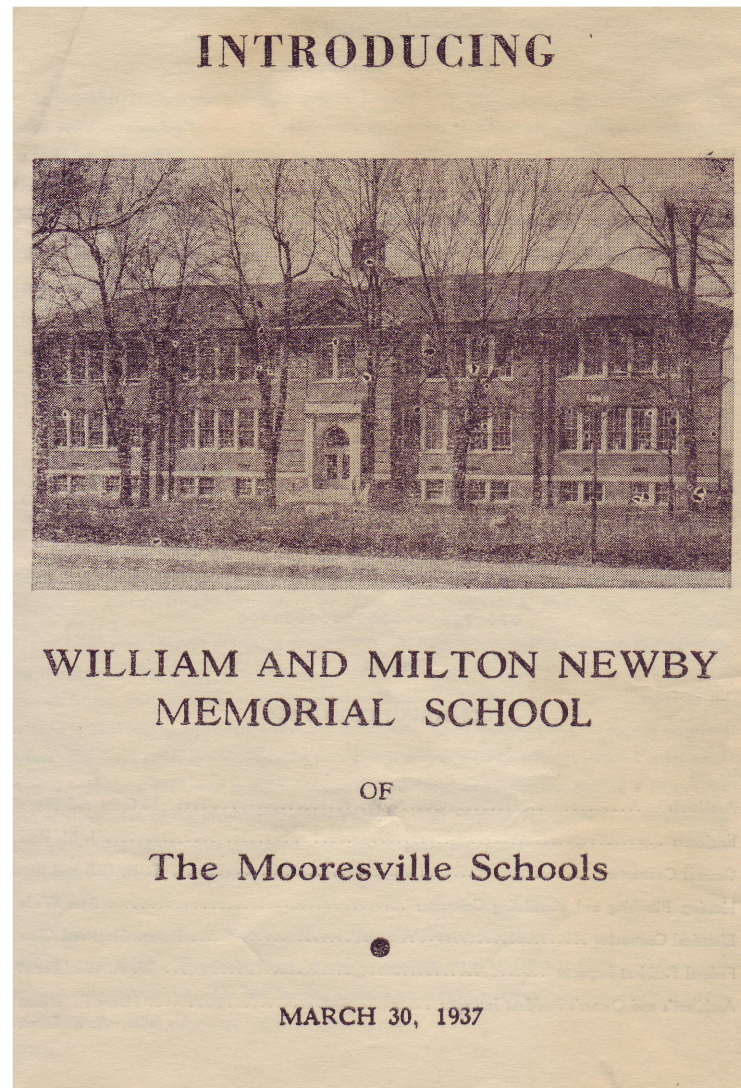
In 1920, Arthur C. Newby gave a 140 acre farm (located west of Mooresville near Bingham and Greencastle Roads), together with considerable other property, to the Mooresville School Association. His wishes were that they be sold and proceeds used toward the creation of a new school with the stipulation that it be named in memory of his uncles, William and Milton Newby. Mooresville's existing elementary school, the Academy Building which originally housed MHS, was filling more and more each year.

The William and Milton Newby Memorial Elementary School was decided upon and plans were drawn in 1935. Construction began in January 1936. The cost was approximately \$93,000. The architectural style was Georgian Colonial. The new building included ten classrooms, a recreation room, cafeteria and kitchen, four dressing rooms, the principal's office, a suite for first aid, music and art supervisor's office, teachers' rest rooms, a workshop for the custodians and a large storage room were also included in the plan. The school grounds covered about eight acres of picturesque rolling and wooded lot.

To make room to build Newby, the front section (a later addition) of the Academy Building was removed. Originally the entire Academy was to be demolished, but Superintendent Forrest Caldwell decided to save the original portion of the building. The front addition was removed brick by brick as part of a Depression-Era Public Works Administration project. Part of the materials were saved and used to build the log cabin in the old Town Park.

The school was dedicated on March 30, 1937. Earl "Pop" Warriner was named the school's first principal. Eight teachers and one custodian completed the staff.

The MHS Class of 1912 had the arch with the motto, "Enter to grow in Wisdom" built at the walk entrance of the campus. In 1963, the school trustees decided to



**PHOTOS:** Top left - The Newby dedication booklet; Above - Newby first graders in 1955; Top middle - the campus in 1951; Top right - the arch being built in 1912; Middle right - children on the playground in 1951.



remove the arch after the foundation had weakened over the years because of the lack of funds necessary to give the arch a firm foundation. On Nov. 14, 1963, a town meeting was held by interested persons to determine if the arch could be restored rather than destroyed. In March 1965 the arch was restored on a new foundation, with the school board paying \$150 of the total \$498 needed for restoration. The rest of the money was raised by 1912-1914 Alumni and community donations.

In 1953, an addition carefully matching in exterior appearance to the original structure, was made at the rear of the building. The addition contained six classrooms, and a large room on the lowest level. The large room was used as a band room, but could be turned into two large classrooms. Part of these rooms were used by the high school at that time.

From 1959 to 1966, the old high school building was used for the junior high school students. In 1965 the Paul Hadley Junior High School was built and the old high school building was used by the fourth and sixth grade students. For a time when the community was growing at a rapid pace in the 1950s and 1960s, some students attended classes at the Friends Church.

The Newby campus underwent some large renovations in 1971, when the old MHS building was torn down. The MHS Industrial Arts and Home Economics building was torn down in 1994.

Students at Newby used the existing Gymnasium building (no longer used by the high school after its current building was built in 1959) for classes through 1992. At that time, a new gymnasium/cafeteria was added to the back of the Newby building.

During 1998-2000, the campus underwent additional renovations as the Academy and Gymnasium buildings were restored. The Newby building also underwent a \$2 million upgrade in the summer of 2011.

**COVER PHOTOS:** Top left - The Newby front doorway; top right - the campus in 1951; below - Newby Elementary today



## Arthur Newby

Arthur Newby's nickname, "the quiet philanthropist" was well earned. One of the four founding fathers of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Newby often gave away his money to help others.

Newby was born near Monrovia on December 29, 1865. After moving to California as a young child, he returned to Indiana in the 1880s to begin a journey working with his first love: bicycles. He founded the Indianapolis Chain and Stamping Company (which later became the Diamond Chain Company) which supplied 60% of the bicycle chain in the American market. They eventually switched to roller chain production and Diamond Chain produced the chain that was used on the Wright brothers' first flying machine in 1903.

In 1898, he built a quarter-mile wooden bicycle race track near what is currently 20th Street and Central Avenue in Indianapolis. "The Newby Oval" was one of the top two racing tracks in the United States and held 20,000 spectators. It was a major sports facility for the city, as it was used by Indiana University and high school teams for track meets and football games.

In 1900, Newby founded the National Motor Vehicle Company and began manufacturing electric automobiles. In 1903 he entered the gasoline automobile market. In 1912, a National driven by Joe Dawson, won the second Indianapolis 500.

In 1909, Newby joined together with James Allison, Frank Wheeler and Carl Fisher to construct the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. He served as the track's vice-president until it was sold in 1927 to Colonel Eddie Rickenbacker.

Newby was a selfless and giving man, a philanthropist to the highest degree. He donated over \$100,000 to help advance the James Whitcomb Riley Hospital for Children. He bought and donated 233 acres of woodland to develop Turkey Run State Park.

His associates claimed he cared for hundreds of Indianapolis residents in need and purchased numerous houses for homeless families. He was also personally responsible for the education of hundreds of Indiana students, asking only that they not divulge the source of their assistance.

Arthur Newby was named an honorary member of the Mooresville High School Alumni Association in 1922, as he had attended Mooresville schools as a young boy. His quiet philanthropy is also evident in his greatest gift to Mooresville - his wishes specified that the school be named not after Arthur Newby himself, but his two uncles.



**Henry Ford, Arthur Newby, Frank Wheeler, Carl Fisher, and James Allison**

### Resources:

*The Newby Campus Bicentennial Booklet – compiled by William Roberson, Rachel Ruona, Euphema Phillips, Phyllis Gregory, Judy Gross, and Phillip Painter.*

*Arthur Newby biography information provided by Brian Wiser*

*Mooresville Public Library, including information gathered by Bill Buckley*

*Academy of Hoosier Heritage Museum, including information gathered by Julie Kyle Lee*

*Mooresville Consolidated School Corporation Archives*

*Edited by Susan Haynes*

# William and Milton Newby Memorial Elementary School

