



MOVING DAY — New Whiteland's "first family" moves some of their furnishings from their home on Whiteland Road. Mrs. Delbert Burks and children, Jack, 13, and Brad, three, are loaded down with material to be taken to their new home in Southport. The family was the first to move into the town over nine years ago. Mr. Burks was not available when the picture was taken.

New Whiteland's first family moving from town

By HARRY McCRAWLEY
NEW WHITELAND — The first family of New Whiteland is moving.

For nine years the Delbert Burks' have made their home at 250 Whiteland Road. Their occupancy will end Tuesday when the moving vans take their furnishings to nearby Southport where a new home awaits them.

The title of first family is not misleading for that is exactly what the Burks are in the community, the first family, by three days.

For three days in 1954 the Burks and their son Jack com-

prised the entire population of the newly established town. When they moved to the community from Indianapolis there were 70 unoccupied homes in New Whiteland.

Their privacy was shortlived, however, as other families started pouring into the town. The 70 unoccupied homes were quickly filled and joined by hundreds of others, 800 in fact.

In speaking of the growth of the town Mrs. Burks said, "It's really something to be able to watch a town like this grow from scratch. It gives a wonderful feeling to know that we were part of this growth."

When the Burks first moved in the area resembled a modern ghost town.

"In our area, the south side of the town, there was hardly a house in sight. Originally the land was a farm. You just wouldn't recognize it now."

The move from New Whiteland to Southport is not an easy one for the Burks.

Mrs. Burks said, "I really hate to leave the community. This town can be really great. It's growth proves that. But there is more to it than that. We have a wonderful community spirit here. Whenever anyone has any problems the whole town pitches in to help."

The move is difficult for other reasons.

"Of course we have a lot of friends here that we won't be

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★Family

able to see as much as in the past. The people here are very close. Then too our oldest son, Jack, 13, has a lot of friends at Whiteland junior high. We just hope the he'll be able to keep in contact with them."

The "first family" is still looking forward to their new home in Southport despite the uprooting from their nine year home.

"Our main reason for the move is the need for a larger home. We have two growing boys, Brad, three years old, and Jack, who will need a lot of room to roam. We've already made plans for Jack to transfer to Southport junior high at the end of the semester."

The Burks will be taking something besides memories to their new home.

"We have a basketball goal set up in our back yard that we're going to try to take with us. That basketball goal has been the neighborhood meeting place for all of Jack's friends. The only thing wrong is that it's cemented to the ground and we'll have to wait for a thaw to get it out."