4-23-1999

Legacy of Joel Roberts Ninde--First Woman Architect in Fort Wayne

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LEGACY OF JOEL ROBERTS NINDE--FIRST WOMAN ARCHITECT IN FORT WAYNE
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Research has found that from 1901 to 1916, fifteen years, Joel Ninde designed and built approximately 300 houses. With little formal training and no known technical education, Joel Ninde left an impressive architectural impact on the Fort Wayne community. This research was conducted by two personal interviews and among the archives at the Allen County Historical Museum, ARCH, and the Allen County Library. My research revealed that credit has not been given to Grace Crosby, architectural draftsman, who was a key player in the design of Joel's houses. Other analysis has proved that 20 percent of the stockholders were women. Other key members in the success of Wildwood Builders, Wildwood Lumber Company, Wildwood Magazine were Lee Ninde, his brother Dan, Arthur Shurtleff, Boston landscaper, F. K. Safford, Fred B. Shoaaff, board members, and Mr. Sandmueler, manager of Wildwood Lumber Company. In addition to the three above companies, Joel and Grace incorporated their own company, Wildwood Design. These findings will be useful to ARCH, Allen County Historical Museum, and the Historical Web page of IPFW.