

# Smitty's Petting Zoo – The Spirit in the Silo

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### “Smitty’s Petting Zoo – The Spirit in the Silo”

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## Introduction

Lincoln Bridges hosts a podcast called “Crimes In Your Backyard” but decided to break course and focus on a man breaking addiction. Little did he know; it was still going to involve murder. Smitty's Petting Zoo a story of twists and secrets.

## Chapter 1 – The Podcast

Hello podcasters this is Lincoln Bridges of the true crime podcast 'Crimes In Your Backyard'. Today we begin a different kind of podcast. This isn't one of mystery, though it can be unpredictable. It isn't about death, though it is about dying to one's self. This isn't a crime story, this is a story of one man's pursuit of repentance. This is a story of one man's search for meaning. This is a story of one man's search for love. This is a story of one man's search for success and the meaning of success. It is an intriguing story of a regular guy. It could be you, it could be me or it could be your neighbor. This is everyone's story.

## Chapter 2 - The Beginning

The story begins in a small town in Southern Indiana called Minceville. Most of the males either worked in the coal mines, owned business or farmed. There was a buzz as Toyota was to open a plant soon. Allegedly they Toyota was going to open a plant that be the main facility to build and assemble the Camry, The number one selling automobile in America.

Even though Minceville was small the amount of athletic talent was immense. There were basketball, football and even baseball players of above average talent. Because of the athletic talents it provided for full stands under the Friday Night Lights and packed gymnasiums on Fridays and Saturdays during winter. Baseball didn't quite carry the same notoriety because there were other things to do in the

summer namely cruise in your car and of course land the attention of a member of the opposite sex with the hopes that you land a spot in the fields known as “Smitty's Petting Zoo”. Only it wasn't a goat behind a fence that you were looking to pet.

Smitty's farm contained a 70 foot tall silo. It was quite a distance from the road and cornfields on either side with a long gravel driveway to get you to the silo and the petting zoo. Getting to first base was expected, getting second base was a hope, getting to third base was a dream and sliding into home? Well, that was reserved for the athletes or you were with the girl or boy that you didn't take home to mom.

Back in the early 1900s, the farm belonged to Samuel Smith. Story has it that Ole Smitty that after his wife and two children died of cholera, he couldn't take it any longer and

hung himself in the silo. Legend has it that his spirit still lingered in the silo. Of course that spirit will curse and haunt anyone who dared enter the silo. Young folks would drink a six pack of beer, a bottle of Jack or maybe sloe gin and then play a 'truth or dare' by the silo. When you could get a female with you this was a prime opportunity to dare her into first or second base and prove your manliness by stepping in the silo. Of course after a couple of snips of the bottle, Ole Smitty's moans and groans could be heard by everyone.

The reality was Samuel Smith died of a heart attack one day during the summer heat of his 65th year. But why waste a good urban legend when there was teenage sex on the line.



## Chapter 3 - Robert Wentworth

Hello everyone and welcome back to Crimes In Your Backyard and I am your host Lincoln Bridges. This episode is being brought to you by [HoosierHorrorStories.com](http://HoosierHorrorStories.com). It is absolutely one of the best kept secrets available. The books are full of crime, lust, and mystery. The books are written by Ricky L Brewer, Ace Donovan, Brock Edwards and Mickey Stone. My favorite is probably SNAP 2 from the SNAP series. But there are several good books to choose from. Do yourself a favor and visit [HoosierHorrorStories.com](http://HoosierHorrorStories.com) and take your mind on a thrill ride.

Today we meet the man at the center of this story, Robert Wentworth. Robert, welcome to the show. Excited to hear your story.

Robert--thanks for having me. I listen to your podcast and was so excited when you invited me onto the show.

Lincoln---I guess the best place to start is at the beginning, right?

Robert---well, I grew up in a small town in Southern Indiana called Minceville. It was one of those small towns where everyone knew your name and the worst part is everyone knows your name. You could not get away with anything. There was always someone watching which was great when it came to your homestead (laughing). But when it came to doing ridiculous teenage boy things, not so good.

Lincoln---so tell me about your influences.

Robert--that is easy. My parents. I am not really that different from most folks growing up in the bible belt. You know we went to Church on Sundays and your church friends many times were your closest friends. Church was more than sermons. Church was THE gathering spot outside of ball games. Church was so important that we had 'family dinners' at the church. It was your church family and we gathered at least once a quarter to have these meetings. And my parents were there every time the doors opened. Their names were Mo and Reva. Their story was the true American love story.

Lincoln---how so?

Robert--they got together in the 50s. No internet, no Facebook, heck hardly had long distance phone calls and they were reserved for emergencies. So, when my parents met and my dad was living ALL the way in Kentucky. The best

they could do was love letters. Basically, love at first sight and just a few weeks later, they were married. The kind of love that lasts. No