

Chapter 1

This Land of Ours

Chapter 1 describes the boundary lines of Cracker Barrel Country, and it acquaints the reader with a brief history of the area, of its first settlers and towns, and townships.

Articles too, are devoted to descriptions of natural terrain, rock formations, fossils, rivers, native plants and wildlife, climate and the Indian tribes. Readers may also enjoy following the tours outlined.

Chapter articles are :

- 1.1 This Land of Ours
- 1.2 Boundary Lines
- 1.3 Rocks & Fossils
- 1.4 Autumn Tour
- 1.5 South Tour From New Melle
- 1.6 Searching for Historical Sites
- 1.7 Callaway Fork Road Tour
- 1.8 Historic Sites

No. 1.1

THIS LAND OF OURS PART I

This land of ours, referring only to Boone Township (formerly Callaway and Femme Osage Townships), and a few places near its borders in the southwest corner of St. Charles County, is affectionately designated here as "Cracker Barrel Country." It is bounded on the north by Boon-slick Trail where creaky high wheeled wagon trains once ground their way to and from the salt deposits. The eastern boundary reaches into Dardenne's TNT section of World War II renown where thousands of acres of uninhabited land serves today as a wildlife refuge and conservation quarters. The milk chocolate Missouri River rolls peacefully along the south where rich gumbo bottom land and forested limestone bluffs fringe its shore line. West boundary lines intrude into nearby Warren County territory from mountain-like terrain to the prairie. Our Creator was kind to this land of ours. In this small corner of an immense nation we have a myriad of native flora and fauna that is seldom equaled, and the changing terrain from river bottoms to lofty bluffs, to rolling hills and valleys, to deep ravines and creek beds, and the flat prairies, give us a splendid blend of natural beauty.

When the earth was formed and molded into its present state it left for us great deposits of organic limestone, filled especially with fossil shells and crinoid stems (sea animals resembling plants). The calcium bearing limestone is quarried extensively for soil sweetening and construction. In these ancient stones one will find trilobites (creatures related to crayfish), brachiopods, coiled cephalopods, crinoid heads and stems, bryozoan spiral (archimedes), coral, and interesting concretions (an aggregate of organic matter in the shape of balls, discs and rods). There are some geodes and quartz crystals. The area, however, is practically void of minerals. There are a few beds of fireclay. An occasional piece of petrified wood is found, there is considerable sandstone,

and large quantities of flint and chert.

Cracker Barrel Country has an average temperature of about 55 degrees F. July is the hottest month with an average temperature of 77 degrees. January, is our coldest with an average of 30 degrees. A mild Indian summer lasts well into November. Annual precipitation measures nearly 40 inches, and our total snowfall averages out about 18 inches. Snow rarely stays on the ground more than a few days. Northwest winds prevail in the winter. Breezes in other seasons come from the south and southeast. The average wind velocity is 9 to 12 miles per hour. Weather is generally pleasant, but there are extremes, and even the experts admit that it can be most confusing at times.

The wide differences in soil, geological history, and topography gives us our interesting flora variations. Perhaps over 2000 different species can be identified. There is an endless list of both rare and common native wildflowers, edible greens, medicinal plants, berry plants, hardwood and soft wood timber trees, flowering and fruit bearing trees, and many different grasses and legumes. We have these all today because our people love their land and have protected it for generations. It is regrettable that many other such beautiful areas have been ruined by thoughtless and extensive exploitation for selfish material gain. May it not happen here.

The fauna that once inhabited "this land of ours" in untold numbers and varieties, is of course, greatly reduced. However, the area still supports much wildlife. Possibly 250 to 300 species of birds spend part of their time in our midst. There are doves, quail, turkey, flashing cardinals, screaming blue jays, scores of fascinating song birds, soaring hawks in search of rodents, at least seven different kinds of woodpeckers, and ducks, geese and other water birds. Hundreds of ponds, lakes and inland streams are stocked with black bass, small mouth bass, perch, blue gill and channel cat. Turtles and lizzards bask in the sun and bull frogs croak at night.

Rabbits, squirrels, muskrats, raccoons, opossums, minks and foxes form that all-important balance of nature. Coyotes howl across the prairie, and deer are frequently seen. Thus, briefly described, is a general picture of our beautiful and serene natural surroundings.

Early man came to this land of ours, lived here for hundreds of years, and left us an heritage that has thrilled each succeeding generation of man.

Although no mounds or campsites of importance have been discovered within our boundaries, traces of primitive people in the area are widespread. Almost every type of arrow and spear point, from tiny bird points to long spears, have been discovered. Knives, scrapers, hoes and axes are frequently found. All of these were chiefly made from flint, an abundant igneous rock in our hills and valleys. It appears that many different tribes migrated through this section, especially along the Missouri River bottoms and bluffs, and the artifacts we find may have belonged to either the Fox, Sauk, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Quapaw, Shawnee, or Sioux tribes. However, it would be safer to assume that they belonged to the Osage, as they seem to dominate local stories involving Indian encounters. The Osage were tall and athletic. They were basically hunters and their warriors wore bright blue and red breechcloth secured by a girdle, and leggings made of dressed deerskin. These fearless, free, first Americans that roamed throughout our virgin, rolling prairie, and Callaway hills, and confronted white

haired Daniel Boone along the Femme Osage Creek, were the stars in the first act of our colorful, exciting early history.

No. 145 9-22-76

THIS LAND OF OURS PART II

In Part I of "This Land of Ours" we were reminded of our area's rich natural beauty, how it is blessed with an endless variety of plants and wildlife, and how the fearless, exciting, and athletic Osage lived their nomadic lives, and hunted the abundant game for centuries, in the land where we in the 20th Century now live. Their wild, free life, however, was disturbed in 1795 when the first white Americans came into the Femme Osage Valley to also live off the land, to claim land granted to them by the Spaniards, and to build crude log cabins and forts.

These first white Americans were in the main descendants of very early English Pilgrim families, and the majority migrated here from Virginia. They were principally hunters and trappers. Their free, hard life in a total wilderness, and their encounters with the Indians, is a part of our heritage that should be understood and appreciated by all of us now. Callaway Township, a few miles north in this land of ours, experienced the first real farming settlers, however. Thus Callaway Township was considered the second township to be settled in St. Charles County (St. Charles was first). These first settlers also came from Virginia in the early 1800's. Here they found many fine springs, arable land, wild game and berries, and high ground where they could avoid the dreaded malaria fever. All of these factors were important to their way of life. Springs were an absolute necessity because wells and cisterns were out of the question. They needed good land for gardens and small fields of corn, and some pasture land. Their diet consisted principally of corn bread, milk and butter from the spring house, smoked meat (domesticated and wild), hominy, mush and wild honey. They wore homespun jeans and linsey, and lived happy, independent lives. As time passed their homesites improved, they built Methodist and Presbyterian churches, and waited until the late 1830's to greet the first German immigrants who brought with them a

more conservative set of customs from central Europe. Trained craftsmen of every trade came, architectural styles took on a more European appearance, farming became more intensified, and the steeples of a few Evangelical and Lutheran churches became countryside landmarks. Cracker Barrel Country had now become a blend of "Americans" and "Germans." Democrats and Republicans, English Protestants and German Protestants, and a few German Catholics. There were differences to be sure, but they were friendly differences. All were neighbors in a new land, and each benefited from the other. Soon handsome "American" boys were marrying comely frauleins, and visa versa, and that, of course, soon made us all Americans.

Craftsmen and merchants began early to locate their shops at particular points where they could best serve the neighboring homesteads. This encouraged others to build homes nearby. The town of Mt. Pleasant (later Augusta) was laid out in 1836 when the first Germans began to arrive. German immigrants moved in rapidly and in a few years Augusta was noted for its vineyards and wineries. Just 12 years later, in 1848, New Melle was laid out, and it too experienced a rapid growth for a period of time. A number of other small settlements became recognized towns. Each supported a Post Office, and each was connected with narrow dirt roads that slowly bound the two old townships into one cohesive community. These first roads were Boonslik, Marthasville Road, Howell's Ferry and Ferry Roads, and St. Charles Road which ran from New Melle south to Femme Osage, and thence to Augusta. Blacksmith shops, grist mills, saw mills, creameries, wagon shops, liverys, and small hotels did a flourishing business. One room grade schools sprung up in the center of each school district. Missouri River boats docked at a number of places along our southern shore line to deposit lumber, farm implements, cloth, medicine and precious food

supplies. In the late 1800's the "iron horse" began moving along the newly laid Missouri, Kansas and Texas railroad tracks to further improve our passenger and freight transportation.

Wheat was beginning to be a major money crop for our farmers, and elevators built in Matson and Defiance helped to process this commodity. Wheat threshing crews with the steam engine, the separator, buckboard bundle wagons and the water wagon were part of our colorful past that still stir fond memories in the hearts of old-timers today.

Stories of the past can go on and on in this land of ours, and the broad scene throughout the hills and valleys has not changed a great deal. Smooth, blacktop roads have replaced the dirt pathways, and late model cars travel much too fast around the sharp curves. However, the roads still wind through the same beautiful forests, and meander along the same rocky creeks, and over the same iron bridges. Much of the land has been signed over to new owners. Some has been divided into smaller sections, but fortunately scores of old 18th Century homes and barns, and summer kitchens still stand in reasonably good repair. Many of these are being restored to their original charm. Neither has 20th Century development affected any of our small towns significantly. Providence has been kind to "This Land of Ours," where a rich heritage of 19th Century remains to be saved and restored.

No. 146 9-29-76

New Melle

"From The Cracker Barrel News"

THIS LAND OF OURS PART III

Articles on "This Land of Ours" were prepared for the Cracker Barrel News on Sept. 22 and 27, 1976, and an earlier column entitled "Rocks and Fossils" appeared Oct. 23, 1974. These were intended to give the reader a general knowledge of our terrain, our soils and rocks, rivers, forests and other plants, climate, wildlife, the Indians and our first white settlers.

This Land of Ours, which I have affectionately referred to as "Cracker Barrel Country," is that beautiful SW corner of St. Charles County, and a portion of Warren County. The boundary lines are Peruque Creek on the north, the east line of the old TNT District in Dardenne Township, the Missouri River and the Warren County line.

In a recent review of the 1956 Soil Survey pamphlet of St. Charles County, I found a number of significant facts about our land that were not covered in the previous articles. It seemed worthwhile to pass them along, especially since so many new people are finding "our land" such an attractive place to live.

In general, most of the territory south of Peruque Creek is moderately hilly. In fact, the entire drainage area of Femme Osage Creek is characterized by narrow ridges, steep rocky slopes, and narrow valleys, and much of the flood plain area along the Missouri River is framed by perpendicular rock bluffs 75 to 150 feet high. The highest elevation in the county, about 825 feet above sea level, is on the ridge where New Melle is located.

Most of our upland ground has been covered with an unstratified

buff, or yellowish brown loamy deposit known as "loess." It is believed that centuries ago it had blown off the river flood plains, and spread over the surrounding hills and bluffs. In some places on the bluffs bordering the flood plains it reaches a thickness of 50 feet. Farther back it becomes thinner, and may only occur on ridge tops. An excellent example of heavy loess deposits is the road cut along the Defiance Road one quarter mile west of Defiance.

Most of our uplands were heavily forested when the first settlers arrived, although there were several grassland openings in the NW section near the Warren County line. This area is known as Teuque Prairie, and its principal soil is Mexico. Mexico silt loam has a darker surface than other upland soil developed under forest. It has a dense plastic subsoil.

The Lindley-Marion soil predominates otherwise in the area north of New Melle. Lindley soils have a shallow light colored surface soil, and a leached clay loam subsoil. Marion soils also have a light colored surface soil, but a very dense, plastic, clay subsoil. The natural fertility of this combination of soil is low, and more suitable for pasture, hay and small grains.

Steep, stony land predominates south of New Melle, with Huntington soils on alluvial deposits in the small stream bottoms. The Huntington soils are medium textured, brown in color, well drained, highly productive, but they occur in small areas.

Along the Missouri River hills we find the Menfro-Winfield soil associated with the loess deposits. These soils are silty and have open friable subsoils. They are fertile, well drained, and easy to till.

Finally, in the river bottom flood plain we have the Sarpy-Onawa soil, commonly known as gumbo. Sarpy soil is sandy, coarse textured; whereas, Onawa soil is fine textured. This combination is highly fertile.

When Missouri was admitted as a state in 1821, the total population in St. Charles County was only 4,058. By 1950, 129 years later, the population had only reached 29,834. Normal growth continued until the 60's, and the county remained strictly rural. Then one day it was realized that the St. Louis County gates had been flung open and St. Charles County became the fastest growing county in the state. It may, in fact, reach "first class status" early in 1978. Major changes are occurring rapidly, and "This Land of Ours" is no exception. Fortunately, however, the changes that we have been noticing in our immediate area appear to be professionally and environmentally planned. Maybe, just maybe, future generations may also have an abundance of native soils, and natural plant growth to appreciate as we do today in "This Land of Ours."

No. 187 Aug. 24, 1977

No. 1.2

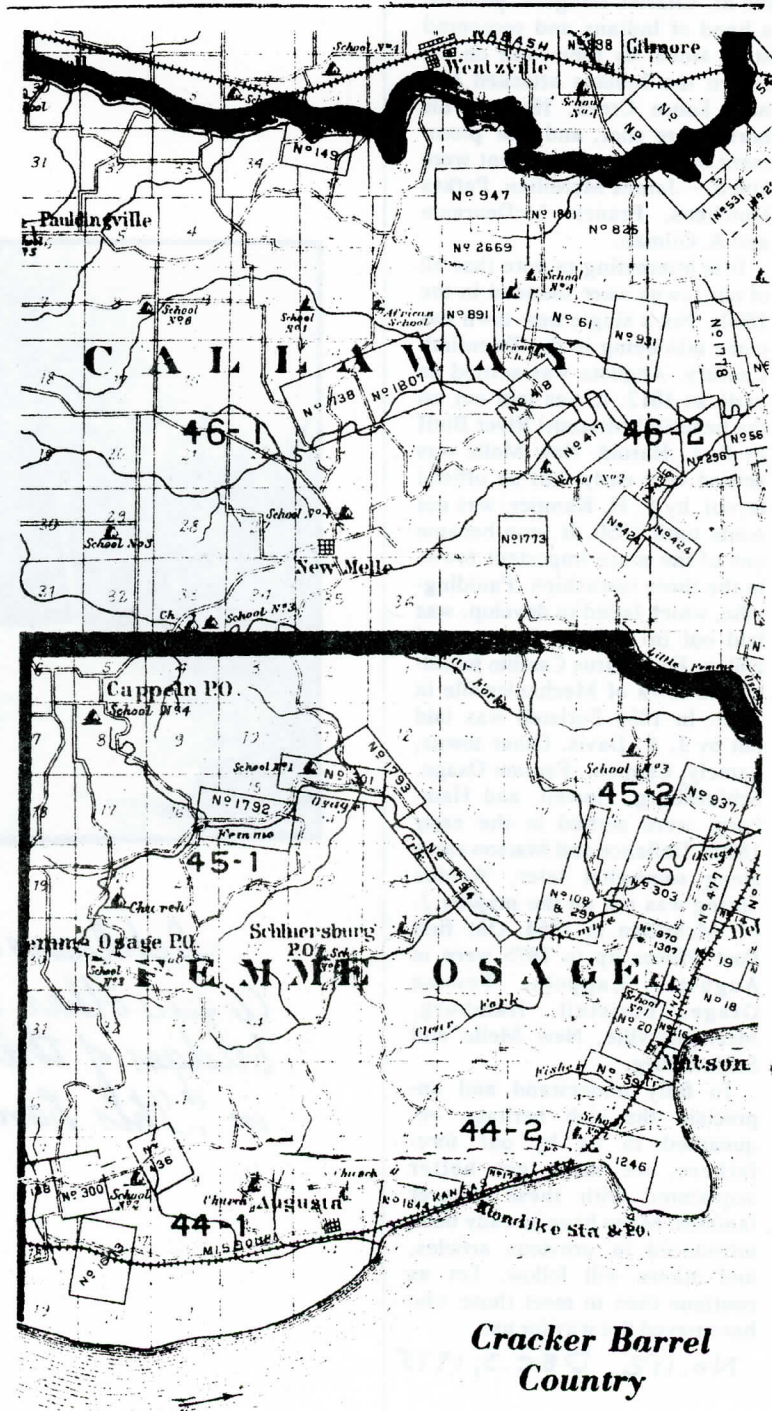
BOUNDARY LINES

The Cracker Barrel News, with its home base in New Melle, has limited discussion of current news in most cases to the immediate New Melle area. However, in historical articles I have found it necessary to fan out to more distant boundaries. These boundaries have included the original Callaway and Femme Osage Townships, and a portion of the Dardenne Township. This area is bordered on the north by Peruque Creek, on the south by the Missouri River, on the east by the outer boundary line of the old T.N.T. District in Dardenne Township, and on the west by the Warren County line. This particular area feels like home, and I hope to continue to bring to light historical accounts related to these boundaries. They can be further identified as Township 45 Range 1 and Range 2 East, and Township 46 Range 1 and 2 North.

The early history and settlement of these townships are closely associated, and the earliest positive date of their settlement is in the spring of 1800. At that date Francis Hamell was the first and only settler between Petit Cotes (St. Charles), and a French village 40 miles west, called Charette. Our area at that time was neutral ground among the Indian tribes, and the whole section abounded with wild game.

In 1800 three forts were built within these townships: Howell's and Boone's on the Missouri Bluff, and Paul's Fort, about seven miles south of Howell's. The protective forts opened the door for more settlers to come in and establish themselves on small farms, but they relied principally on wild game for food and hides for commerce.

Life for our very early settlers continued to be peaceful until the "War of 1812" broke out. It brought about excursions of hostile Indians who stole and drove off stock. Abraham Keithly in 1813 was the first white man killed by Indians here. His death occurred in Dog Prairie.



In 1815 Capt. James Callaway, a grandson of Daniel Boone, and his St. Charles Rangers, pursued a band of Indians and recovered stock stolen by them, but on his return the Indians attacked him near Loure Creek. He and his horse were shot, and four prominent men of the settlement were killed — James McMillan, Parkes Hutchens, Francis McDearmon and A. Gilman.

It is interesting to note that all of our towns were founded in the 1800s. Not a single new town has come into being in the Twentieth Century. Augusta was settled as early as 1812. It was laid out on the beautiful Missouri River Bluff by B. L. Harold. New Melle was settled very early, but an official layout, by F. H. Kamper, was not made until 1850. It soon became one of the more important towns in the three townships. Pauldingville, which failed to develop, was laid out in 1836 by Renner and Dillon. Fortunatus Castilio founded the town of Mechanicsville in 1865. In 1856 Foristell was laid out by J. A. Davis. Other towns, namely, Cappel, Femme Osage, Schluersburg, Howell, and Hamburg, were settled in the early 1800s. Defiance and Matson came along somewhat later. Weldon Spring was put on the map by J. M. McMillen in 1864. Our first Post Offices up to 1875 were in Augusta, Cappel, Femme Osage, Foristell, Hamburg, Mechanicsville, New Melle and Schluersburg.

To fully understand and appreciate the rich heritage bequeathed to us by our forefathers, we must get better acquainted with these pioneer families. Many have already been introduced in previous articles, and others will follow. Let us continue then to meet those who have paved the way for us.

No. 112 DEC. 3, 1975



*Schluersburg Bridge
A few other fine old iron
bridges of this type remain
in "This Land of Ours".*

No. 1.3

ROCKS AND FOSSILS

These crisp, sunny autumn days are excellent for hiking up and down our Callaway Hills, and to lend more interest to the outing, if so inclined, you may want to keep a sharp eye trained for some unusual rock out-cropping, or for a rock with imbedded fossils, to enhance your collection.

Geologically speaking, we are essentially in the Mississippian rock formation region, and on the fringe of the Pennsylvanian. The Mississippian formation contains much shale and limestone, and many beds are particularly rich in fossils. A study of fossils tells us what the animals of the past were like. Their hard parts were preserved by quick burial under tremendous pressure, and under certain conditions ground water dissolved part or all of the original material and deposited in its place some other substance such as calcite, silica, dolomite, or pyrite. On the very top of a hill, where the ocean floor once existed, one may find crinoid stems (marine animal fossil) imbedded in a piece of limestone.

The early American Indians used the hollow stems as beads. A rock ledge may reveal a thin slab of limestone with countless fossilized brachiopods exposed on the surface (shell bearing marine invertebrates). A gravel creek bed is a good place to find colonial coral, or honeycomb coral, or possibly a solitary horned coral. If you get permission you may want to examine some of the local quarries for a fossilized dragon fly, or the cork-screw like form called an Archimedes. Archimedes, the celebrated Greek philosopher, invented the principle of the screw. Perhaps the fossil that now bears his name gave him the idea.

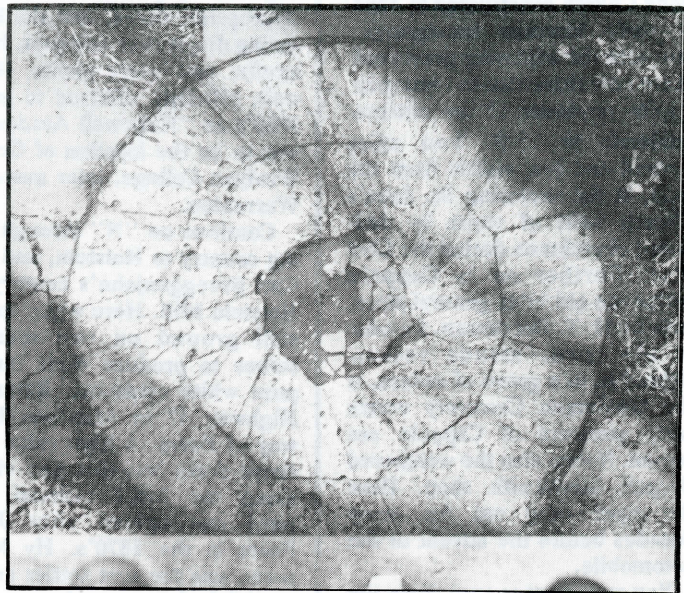
Fossilized plant leaves and ferns can also be found in this area, and once in a while a piece of petrified wood is found. Another item that adds zest to the hike is an Indian arrow-head find. Locally these were all made from the abundant fine grained rock known as chert, or flint.

No. 54 OCT. 21, 1974

*From the native stone such
uses were found. ---*



*Stone school house in
Gemme Osage*



Mill stone in New Melle

1.4

AUTUMN TOURS

This is that time of the year when favorite autumn tours are published throughout the forested sections of the United States. Leading newspapers publish tour maps of the most scenic fall color tours, and we can be proud that our immediate area is always included. We could begin in New Melle, where the elevation is high, and where the terrain is relatively flat. Here, we can fan out into a 45 degree pie section, from a line southwest to southeast, and continue all the way to the Missouri River, and truthfully say that any route within those defined limits would be delightfully scenic. This particular area, where scores of 19th Century homes, churches, stores and burial grounds are nestled among the trees, has much to offer the sightseer, the historian, and the camera man.

For orientation let us always start at the point where county roads "D", "Z" and "F" intersect in the center of New Melle, and first proceed southwest on "D". Before leaving New Melle circle around the Lutheran Stone Church constructed in 1854 by early German immigrants. Also note the adjoining graveyard where only three stones remain as a grim reminder of the cholera epidemic in 1849. Two miles beyond and just visible from the road, is the charming St. John's Church built of stone by dedicated churchmen during the Civil War. Further on is Cappeln where the old brick general store, built by H. T. Gerdeman, founder of the town, stands vacant. Behind it, in a grove of cedars, is the Gerdeman Cemetery where early pioneers of Cappeln are buried. Notice also the weathered Borgelt blacksmith shop. Here the anvil rang out for many decades before the advent of the automobile.

You may want to turn down the Becker-Joerling Road to the one-room Cappeln School. The school yard, although overgrown and neglected, is complete with school, two outdoor privies, and a cistern, and has all the charm of early rural school days. Retrace

your route to Cappeln, turn left on "T" at "T" & "D", and pass the entrance of Lake Sherwood where rugged, heavily forested Callaway Hills frame a magnificent lake.

Farther ahead is the old log cabin stage coach inn. Roads to Marthasville, Dutzow and Augusta branch off at this point. Take the first road to Marthasville, wind through the lovely Boone valley, be sure not to miss Daniel and Rebecca Boone's historic burial sites along Teuque Creek, and then visit the Emmaus Home. Pause here for a snapshot of the church steeple peeking out of the hilltop trees, and take particular notice of the impressive yellow stone dormitories. These were part of the first Evangelical Church Seminary in America, later to become Eden Seminary in St. Louis County. Continue to Marthasville where there are many fine examples of the 19th Century architecture.

Now head west a few miles to Hopewell. Turn left into the village and visit Phyliss Eisenberg's "Touch of Country" located in the two story brick general store that was constructed in the late 1800's. The visitor will be surprised to see the appropriate decor, and the interesting displays of antiques, handicrafts, and house plants. Hopewell, officially referred to in the 1800's as "Hopewell Academy," was to be the location of Central Wesleyan College, later moved to Warrenton.

Continue on "N" through rolling country to Holstein, and visit Carl Brueggjenjohn's century old Holstein Mill. Here white corn is still ground on two massive stones to produce their famous pure white cornmeal. Return to Highway 47 at Marthasville by way of Peers. A high ridge road drops down into this tiny village along the MKT railroad. The town was named after Judge Peers in the 1870's. Hy Massmann was the first settler and he established a general store here soon after the Civil War. Stop for a soda and visit with the proprietor of today before crossing the tracks onto Highway 94 and proceeding east through rich Missouri River bottom land. A narrow iron bridge and white

stone cliffs lie ahead. Keep a sharp eye for the Missouri Champion Chinquapin Oak. This giant, over 200 years old oak, is on the south side of the road, and about one-half mile west of Highway 47.

Proceed on 47 to Dutzow, where again white, frame, 19th Century architecture prevails. Much activity centers around the town square where the modern Bank of Dutzow, the General Store and Post Office is located. Road "TT" out of Dutzow leads up to "T" to the stage coach inn mentioned earlier. Along this three-mile stretch you will notice "Peters Stone Age Museum." Quentin Peters would be glad to show you his fine collection of Indian artifacts.

Less than one mile east of "T" and "TT" is the historic town of Femme Osage. A story book view of the settlement is unsurpassed as you roll down the hill toward it. Here you will want to spend an hour or more exploring the first Evangelical Church, the hillside cemetery, and the cemetery near the stone school house, and the old Paul & Neunheuser General Store which the Larry Praegers have converted into a most interesting antique shop. This is Gottfried Duden country, and a study of its history by the visitor would be rewarding.

Continue out of Femme Osage along the Femme Osage Creek Road where you will pass by a number of fine farms on the west side of the creek. Finally, to complete the loop for this Autumn Tour turn left at Road "F" to our starting point in New Melle. Other tours will be described in the next issue.

No. 149 OCT. 18, 1976

1.5 South Tour From New Melle

Tour No. 2 through "Cracker Barrel Country" starts again from New Melle at the intersection of Mill Street and "D." Proceed south on "F," a continuation of Mill Street. Note immediately the two small brick homes on the left, directly across from Friedens Church. Both were built in 1871 from bricks made in town at the Stahlhuth Brick Factory. Blacksmith Fritz Kamphoefner built the first house, and added a summer kitchen. The rich gray weathered oak on the latter is typical of many others throughout Cracker Barrel Country that have withstood more than a century of Missouri sun, wind and rain, without paint. Now, thanks to our modern clear preservatives, these fine weathered buildings can be preserved in their present state indefinitely.

The second brick home was built by Conrad Weinrich, an original New Melle settler. The deep wine cellar in this house served as one of the nine New Melle wineries in the early days.

Auping's old wagon shop once stood adjacent to Kamphoefner's home. It was moved, intact, one block east and can be seen from a side road.

To the right is Friedens Church. Once a general store in the 19th Century, it was converted into a church in 1904. The site is considered the highest point in St. Charles County.

The large white frame corner home south of the church was the Central Hotel in the early 1900's. You may want to drive one block west to identify the 1870 frame house with the mill stone, the "Hat Shop." A. C. Hoefner's red brick home, and still older Giesman and Frank Sudbrock homes. Back on "F" again, and down from the hotel is the white frame home where the Methodist school teacher once lived, and the tiny school house is at the rear of the home. Proceeding farther, note the Methodist Cemetery enclosed with a handsome wrought iron fence. Here many of the areas' early German Methodist settlers are buried, and the fence is believed to be the first one of its kind in the vicinity. The "Peniel Methodist Church, built in 1878, is located in the heart of town.

The ribbon of blacktop now winds out of town into beautiful, and sparsely settled country. It crosses over Callaway Fork one mile down grade, climbs a steep hill, bails out over the other side, runs along a dry creek forming a big, flat S curve, and splits the Rehmeier farm in half. In the 1800's the barn on the left was the Holt Wagon Shop, and the Holt home across the road was the headquarters for the Vine Hill Telephone Exchange. The telephone was installed here in 1896, just 22 years after the Alexander Graham Bell invention. High above the farm home, on a cedar hilltop, is the historic Bryan burial ground, and nearby is a cemetery for two other early settler families, the Voglers and Fuchs.

Take note of the Femme Osage Creek Road, and narrow bridge at this point. We will return by this route on the return trip.

We are in the Femme Osage Valley now where each early settler carefully chose a commanding view for his homestead. Ahead is the 1830 Fuch picturesque yellow rock barn and home which is now undergoing extensive restoration. Early 19th Century log homes and the old Borgman Mill near Marthasville are being reconstructed exactly as they stood on original sites. The project promises to be a true "Missouri Territorial Village" when completed.

Next is the Heuman rock home, similar in construction and age to the neighboring Nathan Boone Home. Bollman's place follows, then the nationally known Boone Home. Across from Boone's Home is the Fant family cemetery.

Now we come to Schluesburg Road (mileage from start 6.6). A side trip into Schluesburg, over a very narrow ancient iron bridge, would be most worthwhile. This small village along Brushy Creek was settled about 1840, and in this town one may see such early places as an 150-year-old log home, Lonesome Glen School, Bethany Church, the Koenig, Brune, and Tuepker homes, Piepmeier's Harness Shop, and Fritz von der Brelje's store (now vacant). We can drive also into Ponde Rosa, a camping and

fishing resort, where the Jentzsch family has many primitive items and construction features to show.

Back again on "F," and on the left is the Fant Home high against the steep hillside. Fants were related to the Boones, and were of some prominence. Note the massive external rock fireplace flues on each end. Design and workmanship were superb, and after generations of weathering they remain in excellent condition without any known repair.

Richmond "one room" School, now a home, stands at the end of Strub Road (mil. 7.4). The impressive yellow rock home, built by Daniel Hays in 1832, is located on the far end of Stub Road. (Hays was a cohort of the first Boone family.) Continuing on "F," and to the left is the pre-Civil War Ferney tobacco plantation. The hilltop to the rear is the site of a slave burial ground with crude head and foot stones. Teckemeier's farmstead, also on the left, was constructed in the 1860's of pre-cut lumber from Washington, Mo. Material was floated across the Missouri River on rafts.

Just beyond is the iron Femme Osage Creek bridge, and the intersection of Callaway Fork Road (mileage 8.7). (See "Callaway Ford Road Tour" in Cracker Barrel News No. 30 of May 6, 1974.)

Now up the hill, around a sharp curve onto the graveled Defiance Road, over another iron bridge built in 1907 by the Joliet Bridge and Iron Co. pass the vacant and unpainted Fluesmeier house, pass Howell Road (mileage 9.8), turn right, pass St. Paul's Cemetery and the sand hill road cut, and view the Missouri River bluff range from the St. Paul Church hilltop site. This is Defiance (mileage 10.2).

Before continuing south on Highway 94, visit a few of the early places in town. Stop at the "Trading Post" where a wide selection of antiques, and local crafts are attractively displayed in a typical 19th Century general store. Years ago when the outlying farmers brought their produce and grain into town, when the elevator was in operation, and when the MKT railroad

brought the outside world to Defiance, this area was the center of constant activity. Across the street is the August Ruebling first store. Next is the Albert Ruebling store (no longer in operation), the Schiermeier home, the vacant bank building, and the town hall. Pay particular attention to the large Tom Parsons brick home overlooking the town and across historic Darst Bottom below. The house was built by slave labor in 1842. A short distance north is the 1926 Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church, and adjoining is a very old cemetery where pioneer Defiance Virginians are buried.

On now toward Matson. See the site of the first Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church. This landmark was destroyed by a storm in the 1920's. Continue along the Katy tracks and view the stately home on the bluff enclosed by a white picket fence. It was built by pioneer Charles F. Knapel in 1884.

Matson (mileage 14.3) was named after Abraham S. Matson, who came to the area with his parents in the 1830's. Daniel Morgan Boone was the first settler in 1796, and the famed Daniel Boone would sit here on the river bank and watch the riverboats go by. The Matson mansion is about one quarter mile behind the general store. The front lawn of the Matson home was once the site of Daniel Boone's cabin.

Highway 94 soon begins to roll up into the bluffs to Klondike Hill, the hill that long ago gave Model T's so much trouble. In recent years the hill has been graded down to some degree. Modern cars can now proceed with ease, and passengers can enjoy the fantastic scenery without fear of pushing or brake failure.

Down below is Schluesburg Road. Take this some time for a beautiful gravel road drive. It leads far across this tour area onto "F," mentioned earlier. The town of Augusta is next (mileage 19.9). Augusta, and details of the surrounding community are too large, and too important historically, to include in this description. The Augusta Tour will be reserved for a future article. So, at this time, we will just gaze at

the interesting German town to our left as we pass photogenic Christ Lutheran Church and proceed along the "ridge road" (94 and right on "T"). It really is a pleasant high ridge drive, and the highest place appears to be about midway between 94-T and the Femme Osage Road. Drop down hill to the Femme Osage Road on the right and carefully observe this story book village hidden away in a peaceful valley. Here, the Evangelicals, led by young Herman Garlich, founded their first church in America in 1833. The one-room German school standing near the road was constructed in 1887 from stones salvaged from the first stone church built in 1841. The new church was also built in 1887. An original cemetery is adjacent to the school, and a later cemetery, relocated to avoid a water flooding problem, marches up the steep hillside near the church. One can also see the Webbink home and shoe shop, and other frame buildings of the 1870's. Of

special interest are the Kippenberg home and general store landmarks. The store was erected as early as 1828 and is today in an excellent state of restoration. The Larry Praegers have converted the store proper into an "old store atmosphere" antique shop. Visitors will enjoy the wide variety of antiques.

The tour has now stretched out over 26.8 miles and we are ready to follow along the graveled Femme Osage Creek Road five miles to "F." It is a peaceful country drive along the creek, and with a number of imposing farmsteads on the north side. The Becker/Joerling Road running north will take one into Cappeln, and a few hundred yards from the creek road exit, near the creek, is the site of the old log cabin Vine Hill School. Turn left on "F" and retrace back to Highway "D" and Mill Street in New Melle. Thus ends a scenic and historical 36-mile tour through a portion of "This Land of Ours."

No. 153

NOVEMBER 17, 1976

1.6

SEARCHING FOR HISTORIC SITES

The search goes on for 19th century history in our historic western section of St. Charles County for "Site Book" material. There is some effort involved, to be sure, but the opportunities to visit so many interesting places, and to talk to so many equally interesting people, is just reward for the time spent.

Friday morning I started early to cover the Schluessburg area via a route east on "D" from New Melle, and south on "94." The first stop for an inquiry was the Busch Wildlife area office. Here the agent was weighing and measuring a 23 pound turkey gobbler killed an hour earlier by 18 year old Fred Klippel of Defiance. It was his first turkey and the largest recorded at the Wildlife Headquarters thus far in 1976.

The Thomas Howell Cemetery was stop number two for a picture of the arched wrought iron gate framing the World War I soldier memorial to young Captain Bowman who was killed in the war. It is regrettable that vandals have broken off the barrel portion of the gun. Nevertheless, it remains an impressive landmark as one drives along Highway 94 near the Busch Wildlife entrance. Thomas Howell, a native Kentuckian, was one of the very early settlers of St. Charles County. His wife was Susan Callaway, a granddaughter of Daniel Boone, and their children and grandchildren became leaders in the community. We recall the town of Howell, Howell Road, Francis Howell High School, and so on.

Approaching Hamburg, the old Hamburg School No. 5, now in a deplorable state, warranted a picture, as did the H. A. Ruebeling three story brick house still standing in the abandoned town of Hamburg. Near Defiance are the Tyler/Long, and the Louis Nadler farm homes that date back into the past century. After a few new stops in Defiance I drove

New Melle

"From The Cracker Barrel News"

toward Matson and visited the Omer Nadlers in their beautiful three story frame home built by Charles F. Knapel in 1884. This big white house, trimmed with green shutters, stands in bold relief on the bluff overlooking their entire flat, bottom farm land stretching far across to the Missouri River. The parents of Charles Knapel came to America from Hanover, Germany in 1845. His father was a carpenter and farmer, so he possibly was personally responsible for the fine workmanship in the home as we see it today. Charles F. married Adele Horst in 1877. They had two children, Thura and Verna. When Mr. Knapel retired the property was sold to John Nadler, and it has remained in the Nadler family ever since.

Another very important place in our historic site search is the old Matson farm one half mile west of Matson. Present owners are Mr. and Mrs. Koenig. Abraham S. Matson was born in Bourbon County, Kentucky in 1813, and came to Missouri with his parents in 1816. They settled in Pike County. At the age of 22 years Abraham came to St. Charles County to look after his grandfather Shobe's estate, who was then an aged man. The Matson farm was the original Daniel Boone claim, and the residence stands in the yard where the cabin of Daniel Boone was located. The story is told that the old pioneer would walk down to the Missouri River banks, now Matson, to watch the river boats. Already a nationally famous frontiersman, the boat captains would point him out to the passengers who, of course, were thrilled to see him and to wave a friendly greeting.

Finally it was time to head toward Schluessburg, but then there was the old Fluesmeier place on Defiance Road, and the

Teckemeier home on "F" for pictures, and this time I must locate that burial ground for slaves behind Chiles Ferney's plantation home and tobacco barn, now the property of Esther Schemmer. Esther and I climbed over fences, and puffed up a steep hill to at last find the unmarked graves of former slaves that had died in the mid-19th century. The crude flat, but somewhat pointed head and foot stones were tilted toward each other, and no more than 12 inches high.

Stub Road, at the Richmond School, leads to the picturesque yellow rock home of John B. Hays. Daniel Hays, the father of John B., came to the Femme Osage Valley in 1797 with his grandfather, Daniel Boone. He was just a young boy then but he learned quickly from the famous pioneer, and inherited his grandfather's bravery and courage. He too became a fearless Indian fighter and took part in many bloody encounters after the War of 1812. Once he was shot in the neck by an Indian, and the ball remained there until his death in 1866. His wife, Mary Ryan, died in 1867. Of their 12 children, only two were living at the time of her death. John B. Hays, born in 1836, was a farmer and miller, and enlisted in the Confederate Army in 1862. Approximately one quarter mile from the home is the family burial ground. In walking to it I forded a small stream, passed a covey of quails that paid little attention to me, and continued up to a wooded knoll where a few inquisitive cows seemed to be guarding the fenced-in burial ground. Here, a number of weathered, but clearly marked stones were softened by the thick bed of spring wild flowers. It was truly a serene place in this serene valley, yet I could not help but sense the sadness that transpired here long years ago, lined in a

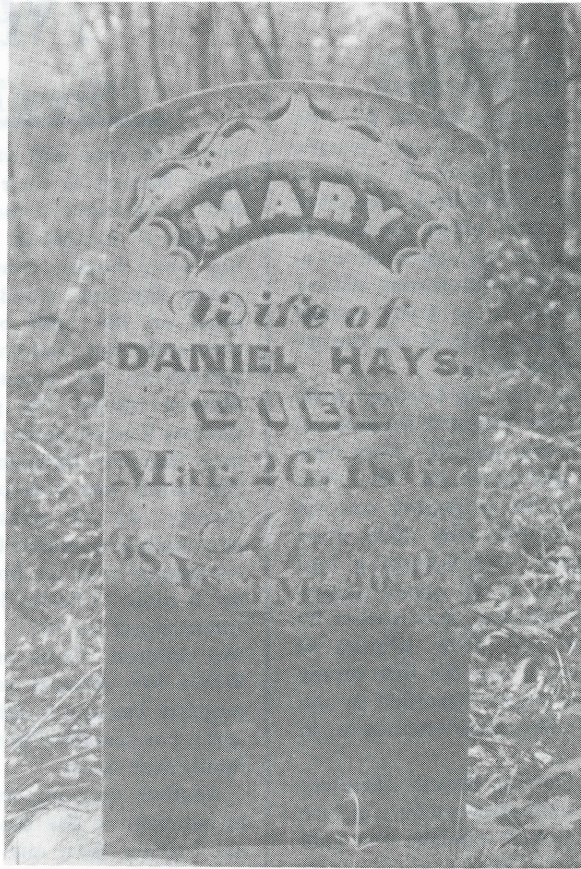
1.6

perfect row in front of Daniel's and Mary's graves were the graves of seven children. Susan, the youngest, died Jan. 12, 1819. The dates that follow are 1821, 1822, 1824, 1836 and 1851.

Cruising down "F" once again I noticed friend Al Gerleman working in the field far down the steep hill from his home. After the climb we visited and discussed the history of the home. It was a pleasant surprise to learn that it was the old Fant home, built in 1840 with a giant rock fireplace flue on each end of the two story frame house. Mr. Fant married a descendant of Daniel Boone and the Fant family cemetery is directly across from the Nathan Boone home.

Schluesburg, the intended goal for the day, was only three miles away but the day was far spent, so the historic sites there must wait for another day.

No. 133 MAY 10, 1976



1870 Hy Brune Home in Schluesburg

1.7
Callaway
Jork Jowr

There are a number of interesting short trips leading out of New Melle and its a splendid time of the year to become acquainted (or reacquainted with them). So, this past Sunday afternoon we drove to Defiance via County Road "F" and returned via the Callaway Fork Road, a round trip of 23 miles. Observations and experiences encountered are as follows:

The trip started from the German Methodist Cemetery on "F" in New Melle. It's downhill for a mile to the Callaway Fork bridge then up to the crest and a view of the forest covered valley below, and downhill past the Joerling Quarry.

The blacktop flattens out as it winds through the Femme Osage Creek valley and parallels a pretty little rocky branch to the right. The Femme Osage Creek Road is just three and one-half miles from our starting point and we are reminded how Daniel Boone named the stream.

The story goes that a small band of Osage Indians met the Boone party near the swollen stream and by some unfortunate accident an Indian maiden fell in and drowned. Daniel at once remarked "Femme Osage."

Wesslers' old picturesque place with its yellow rock home and barn is around the bend. This property has a potential of becoming a famous attraction.

Down through the beautiful valley are familiar farm homes such as the Heumans with Grandpa Heuman's small frame house near the big one. The Bollman's with a log barn across the road and five miles from our starting point is Nathan Boone's nationally famous home where Daniel lived his last years.

Soon is the road that leads to Schluesburg, marked only by a sign advertising Ponderosa Lake.

Other familiar names on mail boxes that have been known for generations in the Femme Osage area are Geniemans, Krugers, the John H. Schemmers, Priggies and Teckemeiers. In between is

the one-time Richmond one-room school house, now converted into a home.

Next is the first iron bridge that crosses the Femme Osage. Then up the hill and around the switch back turn onto the gravel Defiance Road and across the second iron bridge with wood plank flooring. A plate above the rusty photogenic bridge reads "1907 Built by the Joliet Bridge and Iron Co., Joliet, Ill., W. H. Boenker, Presiding Judge, E. H. Holtrah and M. Henke, Judges, A. Riske, County Surveyor.

We move on past the old Flusmeier home and on into Defiance. An impressive view of the Missouri River bluff range appears first from the Defiance high ridge line at St. Pauls E & R Cemetery. Down the hill before entering the town is the boyhood fishing and swimming hole and the sandy clay banks just perfect for carving out miniature tunnels.

The principal stop is at the Defiance St. Pauls E. & R. Church on top of the hill where we feast on a delicious roast beef and chicken dinner and meet such good friends as Glen Fridley, Clyde Kuelling, Walter Schlueter, Erich Sander, Oscar Osthoff, Charles Picraux, Alberta Kessler (Ruebling) and many others.

The return trip took us through the town east on 94 to "F" intersection where the Judge R. L. Fulkerson's stately home once stood. This road meanders along the Femme Osage, through one-time Parson territory, past the Leimkuehler and Isac McCormicks farms and back to the first iron bridge. Here we turned right and headed into the Callaway Fork Road.

Many pleasant surprises were in store for us along the narrow five mile stretch that wound along through Callaway. The stream was crossed nine times (no bridges). Its serenity is unsurpassed. Wild flowers were blooming everywhere and rich little pockets of farm land were fresh plowed.

We came upon the peaceful old Gus Hindersmann farm. Here stands a huge sycamore tree which has some Daniel Boone story associated with it. Then we came to the Ed Greiwe place where the Jensens now live.

It was interesting to talk to Mrs. Jensen about this beautiful part of our county. She had quite a story to tell about one of their mares that was stolen several months ago. The first horse stolen in St. Charles County in a number of years. After much searching, it was finally found at Pere Marquette State Park, Ill. and in a pregnant condition. She has since given birth to twins, a rarity. The colts will soon be brought to their place along the Callaway.

Many stories can be told of people who lived their pioneer life along this road a hundred or more years ago and maybe those descendants who remember will come forth with a few. For instance there was a mill and there was also a store that sold whiskey at five cents for a water glass full.

The road ends at "D", three miles east of New Melle and the afternoon trip ends at St. Paul's Lutheran Church where we were just in time for a fish fry supper sponsored by the ushers.

No. 30 MAY 6, 1974

No. 1.8

HISTORIC SITES

Malcolm C. Drummond, partner in the firm of Harlan Bartholomew and Associates, has just released several thousand brochures introducing the forthcoming book, entitled "Historic Sites of St. Charles County, Missouri." The book is to be placed on sale by the St. Charles County Historical Society in September. The brochure's two opening paragraphs read as follows: quote, "This book will document the historic and architectural significant buildings and structures in St. Charles County. These remaining treasures of our entire County will be portrayed with photographs, old lithos, old engravings, or new sketches of each and every site. Stately houses, small homes, churches, farm houses, barns, smoke houses, cemeteries, bridges, wineries, and log cabins will all unfold in the pages of this book."

— "The book will document each site with a photographic sketch of engraving, along with a brief narrative explaining its particular history. There will be over 600 sites identified. The book will contain over 300 pages, eight full-color photographs, and nearly 1,000 other photographs, sketches, maps or illustrations. It will be an 8½ by 11 inch case bound book with a photo on the cover and dust jacket." End quote. The last two chapters will be devoted to our far western section of the County. Their headings are: (Chap. Seven) "New Melle, Cappeln, Femme Osage, Schluesburg" and (Chap. Eight) "Augusta and Defiance, Matson, Nona."

As stated in a previous article, our western section of the county is rich in 18th and 19th Century history, and so many of the old places remain much the same as they were inherited from the early settlers. Even the countryside has escaped the marring effect of the 20th century colonization. It has remained basically rural. Consequently, the aged structures retain their individual charm across the landscape of beautiful hills and valleys. There are a few towns that should be classed as 19th century towns because they

still claim so many sites that pre-date 1900. The towns so classified are Augusta, Femme Osage, Schluesburg, Cappeln and New Melle.

Over 100 sites have been found in Augusta and vicinity alone. We have found at least 45 in the New Melle area, 17 in Cappeln, 15 in Femme Osage, and so on. It would be regrettable if time ran out before all deserving places were located, so everyone's cooperation is needed.

On a Sunday drive through the Femme Osage Valley I stopped at Warren Rehmeier's place at the intersection of "F" and Femme Osage Road. He pointed to a dense growth of cedar on the crest of a steep hill, as the location of the old Bryan cemetery where DAR members come regularly to pay tribute to the pioneer family. After a one-quarter mile climb through thorn trees and undergrowth, a neat, fenced in cemetery about 50 feet square, appeared. Several weathered stones emerged from a thick carpet of periwinkle. It was the Vogler and Fuch family burial ground. The Bryans were buried some distance downgrade. Possibly the shelter from the cedars helped to preserve names and dates on the soft stone as all were discernible.

Frederich Vogler was the first to be buried here, apparently. He was born in 1833 and died in 1865. Another bears the name of Peter Vogler, born 1803-died 1889, the father of Frederich (or Fritz). Fritz, a native from Germany, crossed the Atlantic at age 14. He first settled in St. Louis County before coming to the Femme Osage Valley, where he married Charlotte. Their son, named Peter, after his grandfather, was born Sept. 26, 1861, and due to his father's untimely death, he had to operate the farm with his mother at a very early age. He did manage to get a better than average education for that time, which included one year at St. Charles College. According to the 1895 Biographical Record he became a successful farmer on 163 acres of improved land, and at the time the book was published he had just completed building a beautiful residence, two stories high,

18 x 44 feet in dimensions, with a large L-annex, and of the latest architectural style, and considered to be one of the finest houses in this part of the county. In 1886 Peter married Miss Minnie Diedrich, whose parents were Jacob and Conradina (Staaake) Diedrich. Their children bore the names of Ella (Mrs. Walter Schlueter), Fritz and Walter. Many people living in the area today will remember Ella and Walter Vogler, and the Schlueter/Vogler General Store in Defiance.

Continuing on to Defiance I found Landon Schlueter, son of Walter and Ella, working on the old store building. He and Mrs. Schlueter have rented the main store portion to Mr. and Mrs. Grodon Kempf, who have recently opened up a "Defiance Trading Post." The Kempfs are stocking the store with crafts and antiques. Stop in and visit the Kempfs when passing through Defiance. You will find them a congenial couple to do business with.

On the return trip a stop was made at the picturesque yellow rock home and barn on "F", east of Femme Osage Road. Folks still refer to it as the "Wessler Place." It was a pleasure to meet the present owner, Dr. Robert

Thompson who has already done a remarkable job in restoring the building that had been allowed to deteriorate severely.

Dr. Thompson has gathered considerable historical data on the property. At the time he was busy working with an antique corn cutter, a grist mill, and a rare piece of machinery for processing barley. There is so much to say about this particular historic site, and the careful restoration work taking place, to warrant a special future article.

No. 127 MAR. 31, 1976