

Chapter 2

New Melle

Chapter 2 is concerned entirely with the early German settlement town of New Melle, Missouri, and the section north of the original town known as French Town.

Subject matter is all within a half mile radius from the center of town, named originally "Market Square".

Topics included are:

- 2.1 Early New Melle History In Review.
- 2.2 Early History of New Melle.
- 2.3 Early New Melle.
- 2.4 Original New Melle From The Carpenter's account Book.
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First Public School in New Melle
1860

"From The Cracker Barrel News"

Early New Melle History In Review

2.1

From the time of Daniel Boone, to Gottfried Duden in 1833, and to the German immigrants of 1840 from Melle, Westphalia and Braunschweig, our area was establishing a rich historical heritage.

Samuel F. Cunningham, a Virginian, located near the present site of the village of New Melle in 1834. The town in this western part of St. Charles County, was laid out in 1848, and Earnst Bannerman, who arrived in 1840, found his log cabin home to be within the limits of the new town. Thus, he is considered the first citizen. Conrad Weinrich passed through in 1837 but did not locate permanently until 1851.

The 1848 layout appearing in the 1905 St. Charles County Plat Book, shows New Melle originally to be a true rectangle, approximately 700 feet by 1300 feet. Property lines were marked off consecutively from one to 16, with an un-numbered rectangular section in the center, 200 feet by 400 feet, known as Market Square. By the late 1800's there were 26 homes and other buildings, which can be considered the originals. Seventeen are still standing. Population totalled 60.

The Market Square included a Mill Pond, the John H. Kessler home, and his business establishment consisting of a wagon making shop, a tin shop, and a blacksmith shop. In 1889 the town's carpenter, Earnest Sudbrock, agreed to build a general store for Mr. Kessler for \$460. It was completed November 3, 1889, as it appears today, at a cost of \$525.

Earnest paid his eight carpenters \$124 out of this for 99 1/4 man hours of work. Records show that he often lost money on building contracts. The store served for many years as the central station for eight Bell System country lines. It was from here 77 years ago, that Dr. Oscar Muhm placed the first phone call to the main station headquarters in the home of Edward Holt on the Femme Osage.

Other stores in the once thriving community included that of A. C. Hoefner, Charles E. Meier, Edward Rickmers, and a store where Friedens Church now stands. There were blacksmith shops operated by Hy Meier and Conrad Weinrich about 1858. Then Fritz Kamphoefner and later David Hommes, who closed out the blacksmithing era in the town.

Across the street from Market Square stood a livery operated by George Broeker, and the Mill next door was constructed in 1858 and powered by oxen. Later Mr. Renkel converted over to steam power.

George Karrenbrock followed by converting it into a roller mill. Ed Panhorst then operated the mill with a gasoline engine. Now, of course, the mill is electrically powered.

The oldest home in New Melle, just east of the A. C. Hoefner store, was the residence of William Giesmann and family. Their daughter, Edna (Mrs. Edna Welge), was born there and she holds the distinction of being the oldest lifetime citizen in town. Her present home, also an original, is located on Mill and Peter Streets, where rough hewn timbers and mud bricks are now

hidden by plaster and panelled walls.

Mrs. Alice Heuman nearly equals Edna's record. She, the daughter of George Broeker, has never moved from the house where she was born. Her father for many years provided the only public transportation in the area. His old horse drawn hack served as a taxi and a truck. The livery across from Market Square is non-existent today.

The first public school was established in 1850. Ten years later a one room school building was constructed and Mrs. Robinson, followed by Mr. Edwards, were the first teachers.

A bank once flourished here in the early 1900's, boasting a surplus of \$19,000. Also a brick factory, located a short distance west of the original layout, was operated by Mr. Stahlhuth. The Schlueter, Kamphoefner, Weinrich, and Hoefner homes, and possibly the German Methodist Church, are the only brick buildings in New Melle.

Bricks for the Central Wesleyan College and for the orphanage in Warrenton were supplied by the local brick factory.

Churches played an important part in the communities' early history. German Lutherans settled down in the New Melle area because the countryside reminded them of their Fatherland. A congregation was formed in 1844. In 1858 members constructed a permanent stone church, which stands today as an historic landmark.

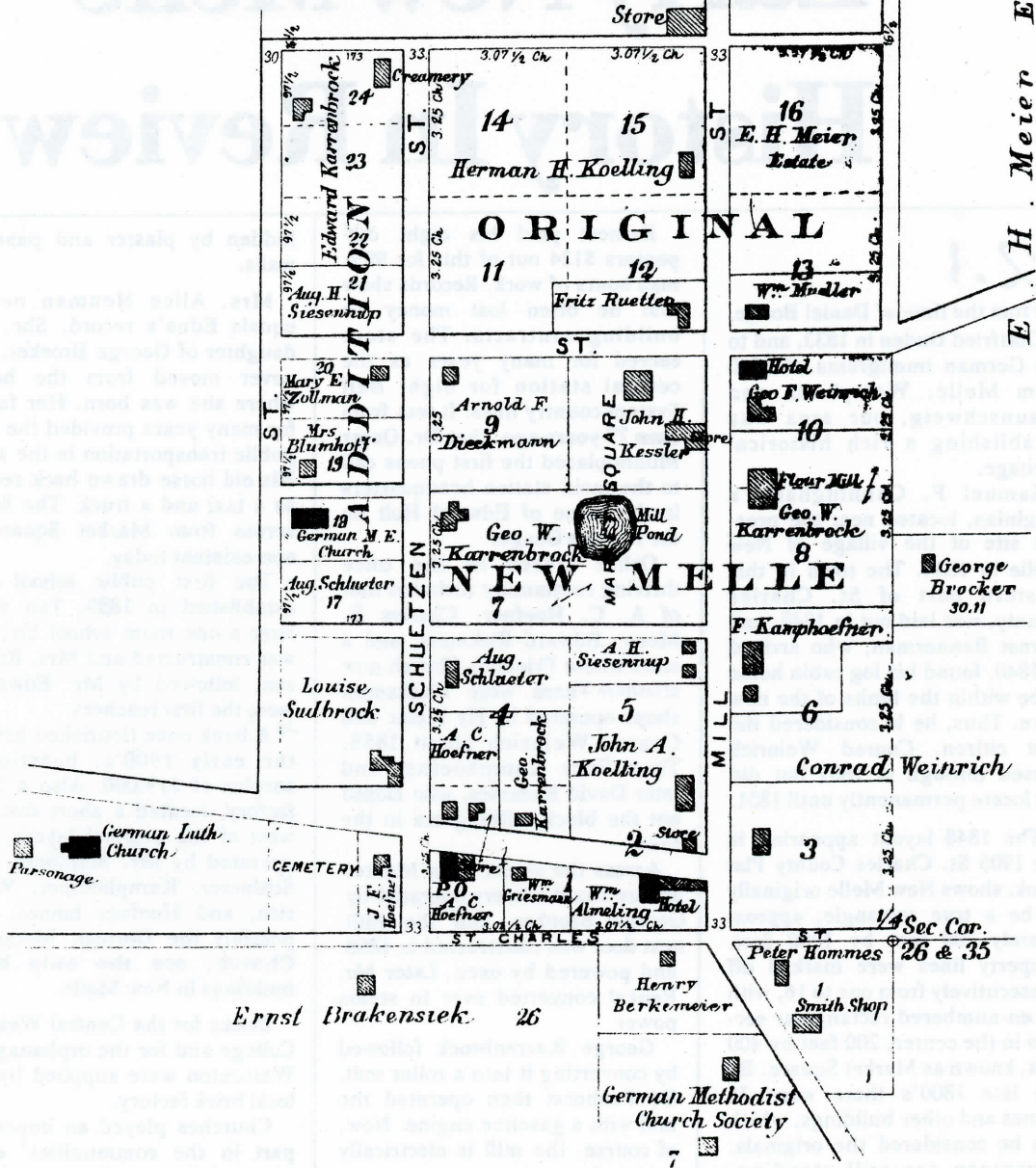
The Pheffer Organ, one of the finest in the country, continues in use today at St. Paul's, and is in excellent condition.

2.1

NEW MELLE

LOCATED IN CALLAWAY TP.

Scale 200 ft. to 1 inch



Due to the high ridge sight of this old church, rain water from the west side of the roof flows into the Mississippi River eventually, and water from the east side finds its way into the Missouri River.

Early settlers in New Melle of the E and R faith drove wagons to worship service at St. Johns in Cappeln until 1904 when the Deutsche Evangelische Friedens Fermeinde of New Melle was formed. The present church

evolved from a store building remodeled by Earnest Sudbrock. The sight is reputed to be the highest elevation in the county.

The old 19th Century German Methodist Church west of Market Square still stands but is no longer used as a church. The attractive Methodist cemetery in the south end of town bears many first family names.

Roman Catholics established themselves much later in the

immediate community. In 1943 Father Pezold purchased land from Charles E. Meier for a church. In 1945 the present edifice was dedicated by Cardinal Glennon.

In 1900, a Creamery, owned and operated by Ed Karrenbrock, was in full swing. Until 1926, when electrical power was installed, the boilers had to be fired with wood and coal. One man, John H. Schemmer, had this and

many other duties, for over 50 years without a vacation, seven days per week. The quality of "The Creamery's" ice cream, butter, and other dairy products, was highly regarded.

Truly, the town of New Melle in the late 1800's and early 1900's could point with pride to its business activities, its community spirit, to its church and educational culture, and especially to its pioneering heritage.

Many details of its history have been brought to light in previous issues of the Cracker Barrel News, and the search will carry on. More of the history of the very early townspeople that brought their skills from the old country should be discussed.

There are such names as Hy Auping and F. W. Braucksecker, carpenters and joiners; Reinhold Eichpoot, a shoemaker from Saxony, who was also a band leader and music teacher.

There was Philip Klippel who operated a hotel. J. H. Landwehr was a stone and brick mason. John H. Luetkemeyer was a wagon maker. A. H. Liesennop served the town as a tailor, etc.

No. 31 4-10-75

NEW MELLE HISTORY

In 1858, an oxen mill was located where later August Auping opened his wagon making shop. Following this a stock company opened a burr mill. Soon thereafter this old oxen powered mill was converted over to steam power under Mr. Renkel's ownership. Next George Karenbrock bought the mill and remodeled it into a roller mill. Ed Panhorst was the next owner and operated with a gasoline engine.

Finally electricity became the modern source of power. As is evident from above, the once oxen drawn mill also carries an interesting historical background. It is now flourishing as never before under the ownership of J. T. Blair.

In 1858 Henry Meier opened a blacksmith shop in the northern part of town. His son, John, followed him and later John's son Bruno, turned it into a garage

and operated this until his health failed and the business was closed. Conrad Weinrich also started a blacksmith shop which later Fritz Kamphoefner owned and operated. His two sons followed him in the same business.

Then David Hoewes came along as a blacksmith in New Melle until his death which marked the end of an ear of blacksmithing in this locality.

In the 1870's John Kessler had a blacksmith and wagon maker shop where the store now stands. As time passed, however, the horse and buggy days ceased with the advent of the horseless carriage and consequently the village blacksmith in this locality could no longer conduct a profitable business.

Starting in the early 1870's and continuing through the 1920's, New Melle progressed steadily forward to the point where it could boast of three well stocked general stores, a branch post office, a bank, a hotel, a tailor and barber, a tinner, harness shop, blacksmith shops, a cooper maker, meat market, a hack service, and even a brick factory.

There was a winery and saloon and to counteract these there was a doctor and four churches. Operating also was a creamery mill, soft-drink parlor and a garage.

No. 5 11-21-73

The quest for early historical material is often quite frustrating. Information is learned bit by bit and the pieces don't always fit together as well as they should.

However, since it requires much digging and prodding, the "finds" are treasured all the more, and thus the pursuit carries on.

* * * *

Art Webbink, who has shown a great deal of interest in the early days of New Melle, brought in three deeds and a precious old account book belonging originally to carpenter Ernst H. Sudbrock, all of which he found in the home he purchased in 1945 from the Sudbrock estate.

His well-preserved home, very possibly built in the 1880's by Mr. Sudbrock himself, is located in the south part of town, across from the old Lutheran cemetery and bounded by Schuetzen Street on the east and Lutheran alley on the west.

Art has a large tinted picture of his house taken in 1914 which is most attractive with the fluted porch columns, green shutters and two tiny trees in the front yard. Two foot diameter stumps are all that remain of the trees today.

The Sudbrock House has been modernized and enlarged. It is very comfortable and cozy and Mrs. Webbink has several 19th Century items placed in the rooms that immediately attract one's attention.

One item in particular was a tin match box with a label reading "Compliments of New Melle Bank - Capital and Surplus, \$19,000., John Cunningham, president, A. C. Hoefner, vice-president, Hugo Rottman, cashier, C. F. E. Meier, assistant cashier, G. W. Karrenbrock, J. H. Kessler, John H. Meier."

* * * *

Souvenir plates have been collectors items for years and we are most fortunate to have on loan for display in the Cracker Barrel from A. C. Hoefner's and Charles E. Meyer's stores in New Melle, from Paul Nienseuse's store in Femme Osage and from A. W. Schiermeier's store in Defiance. Only the Defiance store remains in business today.

No. 17 FEB. 11, 1974

2.2

Early History of New Melle

The town of New Melle is in the center east and west, and near the south border of the old Callaway township (now part of Boone township). It is the only town within the original Callaway T.S. boundary lines.

Fur trappers and some Osage Indians were the only human beings that frequented the area up to the very early 19th century, then in 1837 the first settlements were made by immigrants from Melle, Westphalia, and Braunschweig in the Kingdom of Hanover, Germany.

Ernst Bonnerman is considered to be the first man to build a home, possibly of logs, within the present town limits. He was followed by Edward H. Rickmers, Sr., a gunsmith, Samuel F. Cunningham, and Conrad Weinrich, a wine maker. Henry Auping came in 1840 as a carpenter and joiner.

As word spread in the Fatherland that the area and climate was similar to the Melle, Germany area many others secured passports and braved the Atlantic Ocean in small sailboats in order to reach their land of opportunity.

In 1844 St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church was formed. Also Evangelical and Reformed ministers

came regularly into the settlement on horseback from the E. & R. foothold in Femme Osage to hold services in crude log homes. Soon it was apparent that a town was about to be established. These first settlers had already begun to call the village "New Melle", after their home town in Melle, Germany.

Finally, on August 22, 1850, a plat of the town of New Melle was filed by Samuel F. Cunningham, a Virginian, in the Recorder of Deeds Office in St. Charles. Inhabitants at that time numbered 50 to 60.

The original town area contained 160 acres, however, lots were laid out only in a 700 foot by 1300 foot rectangle. Property lines were numbered 1 to 16, with an un-numbered rectangular section in center of town, 200 feet by 400 feet, known as Market Square.

The town began to grow, and to serve the wide-spread rural neighborhood. Tragedy struck a severe blow in 1852 when the cholera epidemic wiped out entire families. The "Grave Yard" next to the Lutheran Stone Church, built in 1854, is the site of many mass graves resulting from this dreaded disease.

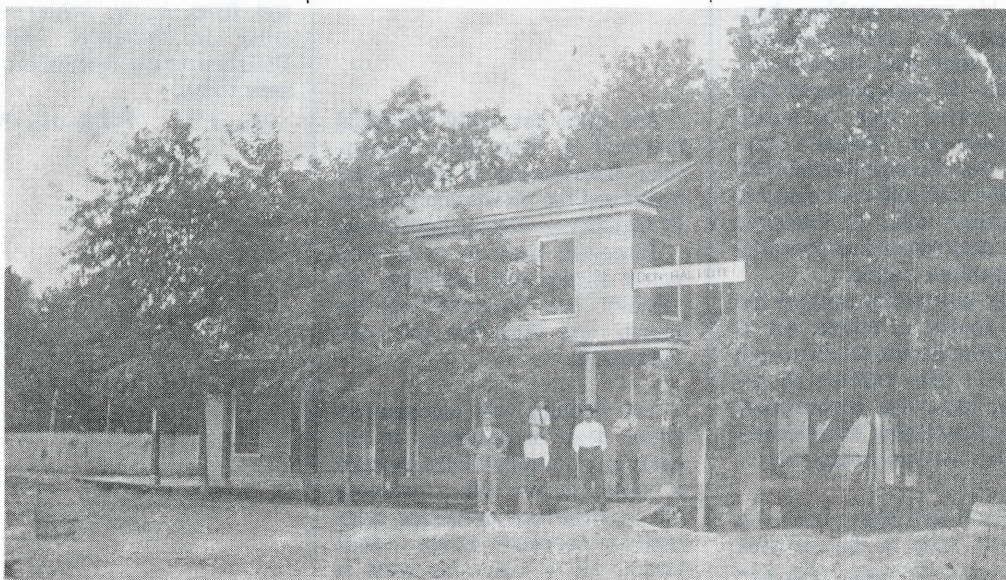
New home and store construction was at its peak in the 1870's, and existing log homes were framed over and enlarged. Some of the more prominent family names in New Melle during the initial twenty-five years were: Bade, Boese, Borberg, Braucksecker, Dierker, Eich, Heer, Hoefner, Holt, Kamphoefner, Kemper, Kessler, Klippel, Koelling, Landwehr, Leimbrack, Siesennop, Luetkemeyer, Matuska, Meier, Panhorst, Renkit, Rickmers, Rodatz, Schierbaum, Schlottman, and Siesennop.

Others continued to follow and before the turn of the century the town had two churches (the Peniel

German Methodist had been built in 1869), two German parochial schools, a public school, two saloons, three general stores, a post-office, two wagon shops, a brick factory, a creamery, a burr mill, shoe cobblers, carpenters, a stone mason, and nine wineries. Board walks had been laid down in the main section of town, a "Town Board" was beginning to function, and the Bell Telephone was brought in as early as 1898.

Historically, it is important to note that nearly all of the buildings in New Melle were constructed in a brief thirty-year period, and then construction stopped. Fortunately, however, there remain approximately 100 homes, barns, stores, churches, etc., in the present vintage, and 48 of these are in the immediate town of New Melle.

No. 136 MAY 26, 1976



Central Hotel

2.3

Early New Melle

The 1885 Missouri History book mentioned earlier, carries the following account of New Melle, quote:

New Melle is one of the most thriving villages in the county. It is located in the midst of a rich farming country, in Callaway township, eight miles from the Wabash, St. Louis and Pacific railway, and twelve miles from the Missouri river. Samuel F. Cunningham, a Virginian, located near the present site of the village in 1834, but the town was not laid out until 1848. Ernst Bannerman was the first settler on the town site of New Melle, arriving there in 1840. Henry Hardach came about the same time, and yet resides near the town."

* "Franz Henry Porter secured a government grant for the land upon which the town is built, erected the first house and practically laid out the place. He died soon after 1848, leaving a large family, many of whom still reside in New Melle and vicinity. Conrad Weinrich, who yet resides there, passed through the place in 1837, but did not locate permanently until 1851. He is now the oldest living resident. The town does a thriving trade, being supplied with all the necessary stores and a mill. Its location is high and dry, and consequently healthy. The rich prairie soil to the north-east and north-west of the town, has brought to the vicinity a class of well-to-do farmers, whose presence guarantees to New Melle a prosperous career. There are two churches here; the town has the best of school facilities, and its people are a cordial and hospitable community."

One cannot help to have mixed feelings, and certainly some misgivings, after reading that glowing account. The growth as forecasted did not occur. Businesses closed one by one, and the town drifted along through decades without any organized civic direction or restriction.

Despite this, the town managed to survive, thanks to an active and concerned Community Club, to progressive people who were responsible for obtaining a fine consolidated public school, to strong church ties, and to many residents who maintained their homes.

How long, however, can we control our own destiny by ignoring official civic responsibilities when we see thousands of people pouring across the Missouri river, and great blocks of land bought up around us for future development.

Could this be the time when the entire nation is preparing for the Bi-Centennial for New Melle to seriously consider incorporation into a "Village"? The advantages appear to far outweigh any disadvantages, and our town would enjoy a status, as well as an identity, as never

before. Your comments on this matter are encouraged.

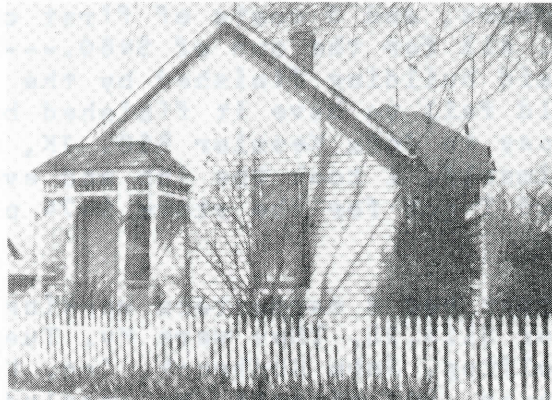
Paul Berkmeier has been admitted to St. Francis Hosp. in Washington. Mr. Berkmeier, a life-long farmer near New Melle, makes a weekly visit into town and always has an interesting story to tell about the town's old history. We wish for him a speedy recovery.

JAN. 9, 1975

* should be Franz H. Kamper. See 2.30 For Documents recently located.



Karrenbrock Home



The Hat Shop

2.4 The Carpenter's Account Book

The careful handwritten notes of carpenter Ernst Sudbrock tell us more of early construction in New Melle. A list of customers on first few pages total 244, a surprisingly large number for that period in the village (1882-1903). The long list alone, coupled with much repeat business, tells us that he was a skilled craftsman, and a good man to do business with.

His work on "coffins" occupy his first account entries. Perhaps he was thinking--"The last shall be first, and the first shall be last". He built 31 coffins in 1884. Number one was for Theo. Huning on January 25. It was 5'9" long. He was paid \$18. for it. Others ranged from 2'0" to 6'3", and prices from \$5.90 to \$24.58. Some were of pine, and some were walnut, with and without glass windows. This had little effect on cost, because not a single bill exceeded \$25. A few were paid for in cord wood.

The next 154 pages are filled with specialized jobs. Note a few: "Dec. 30, 1891 Repaired fiddle for \$3.25. Bad shape when I got it.-----1882 Mar. 4 Worked 11 3/4 days for Hy Mashmeier for \$17.60. Paid in part on Mar. 13, 1883 with 49# beef @ .06¢/lb.-----Apr. 28, 1888 Bought 365 ft cherry wood for \$10.83.

His major work begins on page 222 with heading "1889 Build John Kessler's Store". It reads in part as follows: "I the undersigned, agreed to put a new building on the foundation of the old wagon maker shop on John Kessler's lot in New Melle. I agreed to put a new building 18 x 38 ft and 12 ft high, etc., etc. (He continues at length with details of construction, including the flooring, roof, porch, windows, doors, and 3 coats of first class white lead on the exterior. All for the sum of \$460.---He added, "I also agree to have said building finished by the 30th of Nov. 1889, and if I should fail to have it finished by that date I will cheerfully pay to John Kessler \$50. JK, not me made this agreement himself. I took the job and even painted the inside for \$14 and I got for the store \$474 plus the old wagon maker shop."

Ernst had 8 carpenters working a total of 99 1/4 man days for \$124.25. They were Hy. Tuepker, Ernst Brakensiek, Mats Rolfig, John Sudbrock, Geo. Koehler, Wm. Hoffman, Wm. Finkemeyer, and himself. He concluded with the cost of materials. Then in red ink he writes, quote--"The store cost me \$525.82 1/2".

From what is known to date the first section of Kessler's store really started as a tin shop in the early 1870's. The next section as described above, was built in 1889. Mr. Sudbrock follows with various improvements until Oct. 1898. He then writes--"The first contract made Oct. 2, 1898 for \$1047, the second for shelves for \$100, and a dormer window for \$10." Details are lost but this is considered to be the front portion of the store.



*Mid 19th Century Reinhold
Eich Home in New Melle*

No. 18 Feb. 18, 1974

Note: The store was destroyed by fire Oct. 10, 1977

2.5

FRENCH TOWN-NEW MELLE

Long time residents of New Melle refer to a small settlement north of the main town as "Frenchtown." The settlement extends only along the Public Road (now "Z"), starting near the "Public School No. 4," and continuing almost to Foristell Road, a distance of approximately 1000 feet. How it got its name is not known, but nevertheless the French had a word for it. Very early property owners bore such names as Boese, Vogt, Eich, Schierbaum, Brocker, Laumann and John W. Meier. Later, around the turn of the century, we find the names of F. H. Sudbrock, Jr., E. H. Meier, E. H. Rickmers, John H. Meier and Emma Goethe. So, it is evident that Germans predominated with the exception possibly of Boese. However, his first name is Heinrich.

In the next few weeks more time must be devoted to learning what structures may qualify for the Historic Site book, remembering that they must have been built before 1900, and they must be still standing. Therefore, for the present, a brief account of the homes in Frenchtown will replace any lengthy historical account.

Last week I visited the large two story frame on the east side of "Z" now owned by Joe and Nancy Ginnever. Clarence Sudbrock, their neighbor and long time resident, was present to help set the record straight. Most of the following information was learned from Clarence.

Ginnever's home was built in 1897 by Mr. Sudbrock's father John. It stands on land originally owned by William Boese in 1850. At one time a log house stood in the middle of their front yard. The interior trim, doors, staircase, etc. are typical 19th century design. Of particular interest are the ceilings in the parlor and library. They are wood tongue and groove "Sharon Mold" boards, cut diagonally at the corners, yet forming a square in center. The square is recessed approximately two inches and molded. When Joe attempted to remove a coat of paint he dis-

covered a beautiful stenciling of varying colors encircling the entire ceiling.

To the north are the remains of a wagon and blacksmith shop, and beyond that is the old home of E. H. Meier. Near the home on the south is the foundation of a blacksmith shop, and next is Clarence's home where the road bends around his property. This small house, partially log, dates to about 1857. A portion of an abstract bears out that Henry and Caroline Schierbaum sold this lot to Reinhold Eich on May 13, 1857. Clarence, however, differs with me on this being the old Eich home. In later years though, the John Meiers lived here before moving into their spacious two story home.

Across the street we find another string of 19th century dwellings. One neat frame house is the residence of Mrs. Bertha

Schemmer, where she and her late husband John moved in the early 1900's. She remembers how at that time it was little more than a barn. Now it is comfortable, and modernized, and she holds very dear the happy family days there. It was also the boarding place for early public school teachers.

Setting back from the road is Mrs. Elsie Schroeder's home. This original home of Edward Rickmers was located away from the road to accommodate his tin shop in front, which is now torn down. The Crowe residence to the north was the second home of E. H. Rickmers.

This small section of New Melle, fondly referred to as Frenchtown, is truly historic, and the brief history above may help others to appreciate the early

history.
No. 124 MAR. 10, 1976

FRENCH TOWN

The mystery as to how Frenchtown in New Melle received its name has been solved. Mrs. John Schemmer came into the store Saturday with a picture showing she and her husband, John, standing in front of their 1946 Ford. In the background is John Meier's wagon shop. The shop was located in the heart of "Frenchtown" on County Road "Z." Business was flourishing there in the late 1800's when Mr. Meier hired a wagon maker from France. Soon someone started calling the area "Frenchtown," and the name has stuck to this day.

No. 126 MAR. 24, 1976

2.5

John Meier Lumber Bill for his House

3800 ft	White Pine Extra clear Siding 6-16	\$75 Selects and 100 ft 3 in 6000 Red Seal Domestic Shingles Six Dollars each in place of White Pine \$109 Dollars for all the Bill without the Car's Spikes
91	Thousand Extra Shingles	
6	" Gementel "	
3800 ft	1" rough or Dressed 2nd Boards 12 ft long	
825 ft	Yellow Pine Flooring 4" to 16 ft long in front the Rooms	
725 ft	" " " 4" - 16 ft " up Stairs	
450 ft	" " " 4-16 in Kitchen above	
525 ft	" " " " in Kitchen below	
725 ft	White Pine Flooring 9 or 18 ft long on Porch	
985 ft	Yellow " Ceiling 5/8 x 3/4 - 16 Extra clear in Lower Rooms	
1800 ft	" " " " up Stairs and on Porch and Pantry	
450 ft	" " " " in Kitchen over Shed	
385 "	White Pine 1x6 Partition about the Kitchen 9 or 16 ft long	
2750 "	Yellow " Flooring 1x3/4 - 16 ^{1st & 2nd} on Outside in Kitchen ^{on side the} Walls in ^{Place} Pantry	
100 ft	Ceiling on Stairway in back the House	
500 ft	White Pine Finishing Lumber 1/8 x 12 - 16 Dressed A Selects	
50	Pieces " 1/8 x 12 - 16 Dressed " "	
7	" " WP. " 4 x 4 16 " " "	
22	" " " 7/8 x 12 - 16 for Base Boards and corner strips " "	
12	" " " 7/8 x 10 - 16 for Cornish B Selects	
12	" " " " " " " " " Lible Ends " "	
12	" " " " x 12 - 16 " " Face Board above Siding "	
18	" " " " x 12 - 12 for Pine at Lible Ends a "	
35	" " " " x 9 - 16 for Wash Boards and ^{chape Boards} v B "	
12	" " " " x 15 - 16 for Landing Work a "	
14	" " " " x 12 - 16 " " " a "	
40	" " " " x 12 - 16 Casing " a "	
18	" " " 2 x 4 - 16 Extra Clear for Hand Rail a "	
8	Pieces Yellow Pine 1/8 x 12 - 16 for Stair Way a "	
3	" White Pine 2 x 12 - 12 rough or Dressed Stairs on Stair Way a "	
2	" " 2 x 12 - 16 in Kitchen a Selects	

John Mercer Lumber Bill for his House

- 4 Prs Window Sash 14x34 - 2 lt 1 3/8 CR
- 4 " Blinds for same 4 " " R.S.
- 2 " Window Sash 14x34 - 4 lt 1 3/8 CR
- 2 " Blinds for same to folding together R.S.
For Bay Windows.
- 8 Prs Window Sash 14x34 - 4 lt 3/8 C.R.
- " " Blinds for same 4 lt 3/8 R.S.
- 13 " Window Sash 14x32 - 4 lt 1 3/8 CR
- 13 " Blinds for same 4 lt 1 3/8 R.S.
- 1 Front Door 3x6 10 1 3/4
- 1 Transom for same 16x3 1/4 1 3/4 2 lt Glass
- 1 Front Door 2 10x6 8 1 3/8
- 1 Transom for same 14"x2 10 2 lt 1 3/8
- 1 Door 2 10x6 3 3/4 Moulded Both Sides in back the Hall below
- 3 Door 2 10x6 10 1 3/4 Moulded 2 Sid
- 8 " 2 10x6 10 1 3/8 up Stairs and Kitchen
- 7 Turned Porch Columns 6x6 - 10 or 9 1/2 ft


No 23 21 140 Pieces White Pine 1x6 - 22" Sawed Balusters out Side in Porch

No 12 24 1 11 ins Black Walnut Smoke Panel Newel Post Fancy Moulded


No 1203 42 2" Fancy Turned Balusters 2 8" long

" " 17 " " " " 2 4 " "

25 ft Stair Railing with 4 Turns to mesh the Cap on the Newel Post

324 ft Mldy No 18 7/8 x 4  \$2.00

420 " Mldy No 318  \$1.52 1/2

1432 " Mldy No 283  \$3.10

80 ft Mldy No 407  for Bay Windows \$3.25

320 ft Water Dip 1 1/8 x 1 3/4

224 ft Crown Moulding No 21 1 1/2 x 7-16  \$5.25

2.6 New Melle at 2500 Feet

Last week Ray Biermann, a long time friend and working associate at McDonnell-Douglas, offered to fly me over the New Melle area to see how the old town looked at 2500 feet. It was a pleasant and unexpected experience.

We took off from Lambert Field Tuesday evening immediately after working hours in a shiny Cessna 172, and climbed to an altitude of 2500 feet. The day was perfect for flying, and landmarks were very pronounced. We crossed the river at St. Charles, then followed the river to Highway 40. Soon we used County Road "D" below as our airway map.

The picture below appeared as an oil painting, or mural, on a huge canvas, and the farmer is the master painter as he shapes his fields around the wooded edges, and contours his soil along the natural slopes to avoid erosion.

Within minutes the town's water tower and church steeple appears. Almost all homes in New Melle are painted white, which is so noticeable from the air. Next we headed for Lake Sherwood and dropped down for a couple of passes. It was a beautiful sight. We passed directly over our "family's old homeplace" along the Warren County Line, then continued to Wentzville and landed on the air strip. Wentzville has a neat little airport. My wife and cousins were waiting to take me to the Farm Booster Association Banquet.

The entire flight was over in one-half hour but what a pleasant way to break the daily routine. To be sure many other people have surveyed our countryside from a few hundred feet above, and have convinced themselves that the area would be a nice place to live.

*John Meier
Home in
Frenchtown
New Melle*



No. 20 Mar. 4, 1974

2.6

A TEENAGER'S VIEW OF NEW MELLE

The history of New Melle, and other neighboring towns, has been discussed frequently in the Cracker Barrel News. At present we have been looking at the history of our towns some 125 years after their founding. However, 35 years ago a young teenage girl became interested in the early beginnings of her town, and wrote her own version of its history, in fulfillment of a school project. The paper is entitled "History of New Melle — by Dorleen Thiemann — May 13, 1942. The 14-page manuscript includes an outline, several photos, and the story based on a number of personal interviews. In part it reads as follows: "New Melle is one of the most thriving villages in the county. The first settler was Ernst Bannerman. He arrived in 1840. Another was Hy. Hardach who operated an oxen mill. Women and children fled to his home from guerilla or rebel warfare during the Civil War.

* "Franz Hy Porter secured a government grant for the land on which the town is built. He erected the first house and laid out the place. Conrad Weinrich passed through in 1837 and located here in 1851. His brick house still stands.

"The first two stores were owned by Rudolph Dercus and Sudbrock. The first mill was made of stone and owned by Casper Stratman. In 1869 he built the mill which stands today.

"Two churches, both Lutheran, were here when the town started. They were in separate buildings, and in 1878 they united into one church. New Melle has the best of school facilities. The first teacher was H. John Guater. At that time everything was taught in German. In 1898 the present school was built. It stands about one-quarter mile north of the main town. The first postmaster was John F. Dierker. He delivered the mail by horse and buggy. The postmasters since then are: John Dierker July 25, 1856; Rudolph Peters Jan. 20, 1858; Jobst H. Sudbrock Dec. 14, 1869; August

H. Siennop May 8, 1877; William Sudbrock Sept. 25, 1885; Frank H. Leimbrock May 4, 1879; Jobst H. Sudbrock March 5, 1890; Arnold C. Hoefner March 5, 1898; George E. Broeker April 7, 1931; and Claude Ernst McElhiney Jan. 10, 1933.

"In 1837 Edward H. Rickmers, a gunsmith and tinner, came to New Melle. He personally built his own home from lumber cut and joined at an old customs mill near Callaway Creek. His son has the Rickmer's shop now... In 1858 another blacksmith shop was opened by Mr. Meier. Son John Meier took it over in later years. They had also employed a wagon maker by the name of Crist Rendunger.

"Herman Sudbrock started his shoe shop in 1878 where Oscar Holt now lives. Later he moved his shop to the west part of town.

"When soldiers came through town during the Civil War several old women took their bedding and hid it in a ground cellar so they would still have their bedding if the soldiers would burn their homes. Women and children would often hide in the woods to avoid being seen by the rebel soldiers. The soldiers had their training camps on Aupings farm one-half mile of New Melle. These were Southern soldiers, however the people here were for the Northern soldiers because they wanted to set the slaves free. Mr. George Woodman was one of the slave owners.

"Fashions of the day were something to be talked about. Women wore their hair in large rolls on top of their head with wide ribbons. Dresses were a two-piece affair. Blouses were called basque, and the long skirts were hoop or bustle. To make matters worse collars were high.

"Crimes right after the Civil War went to great extremes. First, Meier's store was robbed. Clerk Martin Berkemeier was tied to a nail keg with his hands behind him. Thief Schlatman and his companion were caught and sent to jail. The same store was robbed again in 1941. They took one each of several different things, including one shoe. The large adding machine was found later in a pond near Troy. After a

few months the men, father and son, were caught hiding in a closet.

"The most exciting place in town was the market place. All people would bring their goods and exchange them for different things. On special days, twice a month when the buying was over, all would get ready for a dance. Dances lasted several hours. These dances remind me of the saloons of that time. If the saloons had been closed it would have been better for all people. In the 1800's men stayed around the saloons just to pass the time away. Their behavior in these places was not very good, and often there were some terrible fights.

"The first creamery was a community creamery managed by Edward Karrenbrock. It was located where Al Almeling now lives. Later it was to the west end of town, and it is still in the hands of Edward Karrenbrock.

"The New Melle Band was organized in 1875 with 25 members. It broke up after a while, reorganized in 1888, and finally broke up for good.

"In 1880 Henry Boise started a furniture shop. Charles Holt followed with a wool carding shop. In 1889 the Hase Tin Shop was opened, and in 1890 a cooper shop began making whiskey barrels. Also in these days Mr. Siennop operated a barber and tailor shop, and Mr. Grapentine made an apartment out of an old store. Five families are living there now. Dances, movies and vaudeville were held in the Almeling town hall, and later in the Paul and Welge hall, every weekend.

"In 1941 a funeral parlor was built in New Melle by Mr. Mushaney because the T.N.T. plant took his place in Howell.

"Local men who went overseas in World War I were August Almeling, Ernst Fuerman, Fred Kamphoefner, Elmer Meier, Arnold Neiderjohn, Frank Stevener, Henry Wessler, Ed Dieckman, Otto Griewe, Oscar and Edward Thiemann, and the only New Melle man who fought in the Spanish American War was John Kessler.

No. 176 MAY 30, 1977

*Should be Franz H. Kamper.
See 2.30 for Documents recently located.

2.7

2.8

The Same Old Town

When New Melle folks on a recent vacation visited friends in a distant state, who had moved away several years ago, the question was asked — "And, how is New Melle, is it still the same old town?" The reply was — "Yes, it's still the same old town."

If one relates this question and answer to outward physical changes, the "same old town" expression would apply, because small villages have had a hard time progressing since the Great Depression and World War II. New Melle is no exception.

However, if our ancestors could have come back at different periods they would have noticed many changes. They would have noticed a brick church, and a few brick homes added to the single rock church, and oak log homes. Some of the first log homes had even been covered with clapboards.

A generation later they would have seen a bustling town with busy stores, shops, liveries, nine wineries, and various craftsmen. Mill Street, and a few side streets, dusty in dry weather, and muddy in wet weather, would have been crowded with buckboard wagons, spring wagons, surries, and men on horseback.

Oak board sidewalks edging these impossible streets, provided a clean path for German descent housewives to stroll from their primitive, yet immaculate, homes to shop or visit.

Our "awakened" ancestors would have recognized many men as members of a dedicated "Town Board" who were actively engaged in the town's progressive projects.

Still another generation later, a Town Board continuing in general control without any real lawful power, but with common sense and mutual understanding, would be busy removing the oak boardwalks, and replacing them with walks made from a hardened mixture of sand, gravel and an ingredient called "cement."

The pitch black streets at night were now at least dimly lighted by an electric light bulb suspended over each corner. A few homes were brighter too at night, and electric was being used to turn the wheels at the mill, creamery, and shops.

A bank and two hotels had been added, and several new homes were under construction. Also a new strange vehicle called an automobile, or horseless carriage, emerged on the scene here and there, creating a need for a gasoline pump, and a mechanic, who began taking some business away from the blacksmiths.

Another strange device was noticed in stores and some homes which enabled people to talk to each other though miles apart by merely turning a crank a few times, holding an earpiece to one's ear, and talking loud into a box. A quarter of a century earlier the inventor called it a telephone.

But what happened during the next generation? A war to end all wars brought on a brief period of prosperity.

A great depression followed. Banks closed, and automobiles carried away what little business there was. Building ceased, and New Melle almost became a ghost town.

A false prosperity in the late 30's, brought about chiefly by open government purse strings, supported by high taxation, and followed a few years later by a prosperity equally as false, but created by the effects and after-effects, of World War II, did nothing to rejuvenate the small towns. Some have never recovered.

The generation just past, that of the 50's and 60's, were expanding years throughout the country. The trends toward bigness, to tear down and rebuild, to waste and throw away, all ran rampant. Beautiful, historic towns such as Florissant, Mo. were simply engulfed by rapid, uncontrolled expansion.

Fortunately, the urban sprawl did not spread this far during those 20 years. However, New Melle held its own. The spirit of earlier generations prevailed. Thus a fine consolidated grade school was located here.

The Community Club established a recreation center in the north end of town, and began staging regular events, festivals and parades, that attracted hundreds of out-of-town visitors. The New Melle Volunteer Fire Department steadily improved its equipment and ability to protect the area within a wide radius. Churches remained strong, a few new homes were built, and a deep well water system and storage tank provided fresh running water for the immediate area.

Now the generation of the 70's and 80's are in full swing. It has been 100 years since the town headed into a half century of bustling activity, say from 1875 to 1925. Are we ready to cope with the problems that lie ahead?

Mounting problems in the neighboring big city, and in subdivisions, have created a strong desire for quiet country living, so New Melle, with its beautiful countryside, is most desirable. St. Charles County is one of the fastest growing counties in the country. Soon it will be a Class I county. Public sewers will be widespread, and the completed bridge at St.

Charles will bring the big city even closer to us.

New Melle today has a particular appeal despite its list of faults, (if one chooses to be pessimistic). It remains an historic town wherein the majority of its 50 or more homes were constructed in the 19th Century.

This is an important asset at the present time when there is such a nationwide interest in nostalgia. All should be saved and improved upon. The St. Charles County Historic Site book due to be released about October 1, will further emphasize this, and direct more visitors to the historic sites.

In New England owners of historic homes are encouraged to show the date of construction on the front, and owners here may want to add this interesting feature.

Anyway, it's a town where the majority of people still care about each other, and where most desire to live quietly and safely. However, we now find this peaceful and safe way of life infringing upon more and more.

Perhaps we are not ready to consider incorporation, but maybe it is time to give some thought to the purpose of that dedicated Town Board of old, and consider holding informal civic meetings composed of civic minded individuals, where various problems, and/or goals could be discussed. It was suggested that these meetings could be combined with pot-luck suppers, and held in church halls, or in the school.

No. AUG. 25, 1976

2.8

2.9

SIDEWALKS OF NEW MELLE

It was nearly 75 years ago when progressive men of New Melle tore up their old board walks and laid down a three foot ribbon of concrete from one end of town to the other. The area around Market Square was bustling with a variety of businesses those days. Wagon wheels and horses huffs on unpaved streets stirred up the dust in dry weather and slopped through the mud in wet weather.

One can imagine how the fine ladies in hoop skirts appreciated the clean, smooth walks as they promonaded into Market Square with parasol and wicker basket, and their applause repaid the men for the great effort that went into the construction of the sidewalks.

Many local citizens pitched in to help mix tons of cement, sand and gravel by hand. Principals identified at present were Henry Geiger, Arnold Dieckman, and Oscar Tieman. Hy Geiger was the first man in town to own a gasoline engine and he had the only one for a long time. He used it to saw fire wood for the townspeople, and it may have been used to mix some of the concrete for the sidewalks.

Since that time no additional improvements to the walks have been made. Down through the years water, road grading, freezing and thawing, and three roots have taken their toll. However, the old sidewalks remain today as some sort of memorial to spirited small town folks who had visions of continued growth and prosperity. Later, as we all know, many factors entered in that hampered further development of small communities; namely, the depression, the automobile, the lure of youth to big cities, etc.

No. 61 DEC. 11, 1974



Friedens Church

2.9

2.10

POLES and STREET LIGHTS

*

Franz Henry Porter settled in the future town site of New Melle in the early 1840's, secured a government grant for the land upon which the town is built, erected the first house, and officially laid out the town in 1848. It became one of the first five towns in St. Charles County. Since he died very soon afterwards he was denied the satisfaction of seeing how rapidly the village progressed and how carefully the early residents built their homes. Lawns were kept neatly trimmed. Flower beds and lawn swings added charm to the spacious front yards that were heavily shaded by virgin trees, and trees were planted along the streets to shade the board walks. Craftsmen, merchants and innkeepers moved in and the community supported them. A Town Board consisting of some 12 to 15 dedicated men, was even formed to discuss and pass on various needed improvements. It was an unincorporated village then as it is today.

Years passed, and then came the first modern conveniences that affected each resident as a group. They were the electric lights and the telephone. This necessitated the erection of unsightly poles and power lines. They became more unsightly when interfering trees had to be removed or deformed. Now we are standing by to watch the utility company remove each of the old poles and replace them with larger, more unsightly poles.

We were not as fortunate as many communities throughout the country who have had the dangerous and ugly power lines installed underground. So, now that we are stuck with these giant poles for another 50 years what is going to happen to the incandescent light bulbs and brackets that have served as our street lights since they were first installed? Is it possible that the new poles could support a series of new mercury vapor type lamps, and that the cost could be shared by all property owners?

The present lights only dimly light up the streets on a dark night. Consequently many property owners have had their own private dusk to dawn lights installed at a cost much higher to them personally that if they were part of a group plan. The idea of installing modern street lamps is something worthwhile to consider. Perhaps someone would

For years the New Melle Community Club has paid the entire bill for the street lights, but the majority of club members do not feel that this should be their total responsibility, and it is possible that they will not always continue to pay the bill. The majority of members reside outside the town itself. It is a community club, and not necessarily a town civic organization.

No. 162 FEB. 14, 1977
* should be Franz H. Kamper. See 2.30 for documents recently located.



Charles E. Meier Home

2.11 A Sale of Two Lots

The original town of New Melle was laved out as a true rectangle a-proximately 700 feet by 130 feet. This was divided into property lines numbered consecutively from No. 1 to 16, and with an un-numbered rectangular section in the center of town 200 feet by 400 feet, known as Market Square.

Market Square contained only a Mill Pond, John H. Kessler's Store and the Kessler home. There are 26 homes and other buildings shown on the original plat, of which 17 are still stand at this writing.. There is an heritage here that we should all learn to appreciate more each day, and care for.

On August 1, 1844 a tract of land containing 40 acres in the SE Quarter, Section 26, Township 46, Range 1 East, was granted to John H. Bunnemann at the U.S. Land Office. On January 6, 1846 Charles H. Heer, who now owned the 40 acres, sold it to Franz H. Kamper for \$300. Mr. Kamper, a trustee for the German Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of New Melle purchased it for the church..

On August 22, 1850, a plat of the town of New Melle was filed for record in the office of the recorder of deeds in St. Charles, of which the afore mentioned 40 acres is a part. It was filed by Samuel F. Cunningham. Lots were marked off and two lots within the Bunnemann tract became No. 3 and No. 6, bounded on east by lands of Cunningham, north by Lot No. 8, west by Mill St., and south by St. Charles Street..

In 1850, Mr. Kamper sold the lots to John H. Schierbaum for \$40. On August 18, 1851, the widow of John Schierbaum, Catherine, married Conrad Weinrich. Then in 1868 Mr. & Mrs. Weinrich fell heir to Lots 3 and 6. Later, on September 16, 1871 Mrs. Weinrich sold lot No. 6 to Frederick Kamphoefner for \$200. A note in the reference papers states that the wagon maker shop and blacksmith shop are excepted from this deed. In that same year Mr. Kamphoefner built a brick home on his newly acquired homesite. It stands today, and at the time of this writing it was the home of Mrs. Martha Stevener. She, and her husband Otto (deceased) purchased the home in 1951.

On January 3, 1903 Mr. Kamphoefner purchased the second lot. As time passed his daughter Minnie married August G. Weinrich, and again Weinrichs were owners of the property through inheritance.

Conrad Weinrich was born in Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, on May 7, 1827. His father died five years later. On his tenth birthday he was sailing to America in a three-mast vessel of Russian build with his four brothers and sisters, and his mother.

They landed in Baltimore after a 63 day trip from Bremen and then came west to St. Louis on a river boat. They settled in Femme Osage Township in St. Charles County where his mother died just two years later. She was one of the first white women to be buried in this section of the country. Although she was buried near her home in the woods, the site has not been located.

Conrad worked on the farm and clerked in a store until he began apprenticeship for five years as a blacksmith under his brother-in-law. He then set up his own business as a blacksmith and wagon maker in New Melle where he did a flourishing business for 21 years.

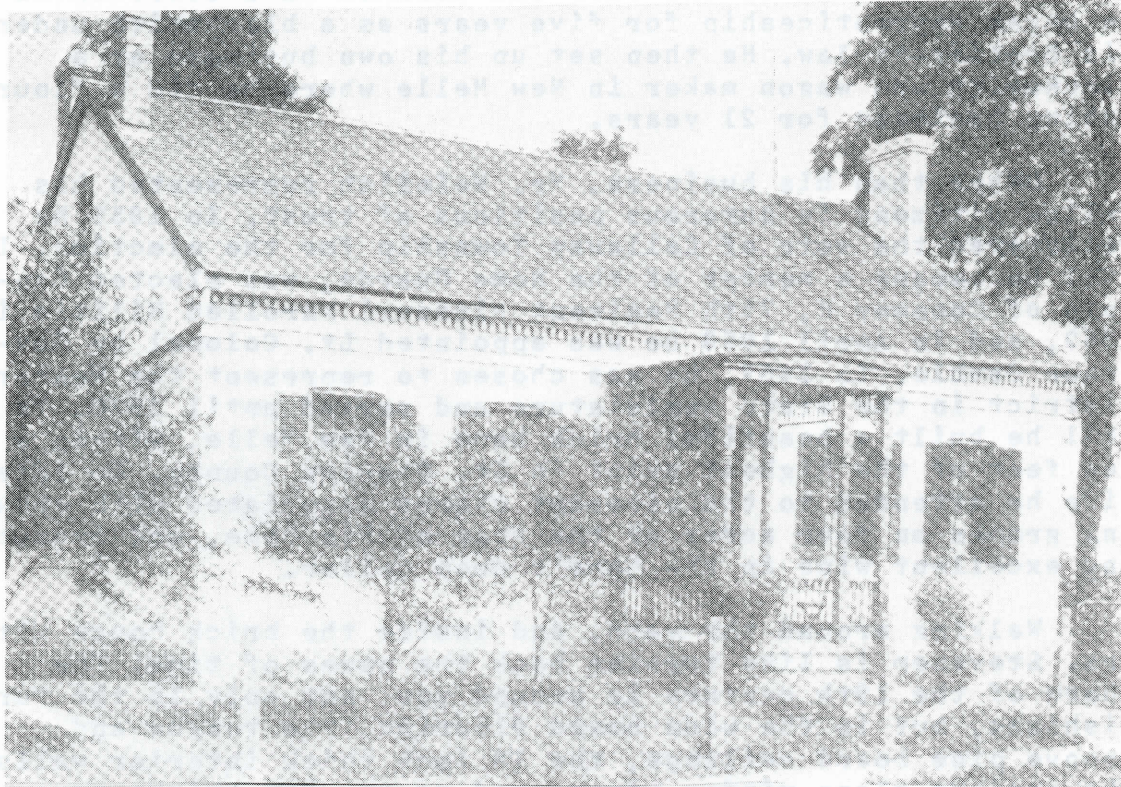
Other than his business, Mr. Weinrich represented his fellow citizens in numerous positions of trust. In 1855 he registered the vote of Callaway Township for the election. In 1861 he became a member of the Home Guards, was elected Captain of Company H, 75th Regiment Missouri Enrolled Militia in 1862, and in April 1863 he was appointed Lt. Colonel by Governor Gamble. In 1867, he was chosen to represent the Western District in the State Legislature and served until 1870. In 1871 he built a beautiful brick home in New Melle, within a few feet of the highest point in St. Charles County. In later life he attended to the pleasant chores associated with growing grapes on four acres at the rear of his home, and producing excellent wine in the home's deep cellar.

Walking around the yard, and inside the brick house with Mrs. Stevener is like turning back the pages of time. The charm of the 19th century is around you, not only in the furnishings, but in the wide board flooring, the tongue and groove pine board ceilings, the 18 inch thick interior walls, the antique glass window panes, and so on. The bricks came from the one time Stahlhuth Brick Factory near by.

A wash house, combined with a meat smoke house, (typical of yeateryear) stands in the rear on a rock foundation. Exterior white oak boards, nailed on vertically, are in a good state of preservation, but ashen gray, of course, due to the long exposure to rain and sun. The interior still remains a neat and trim little wash house.

Mrs. Stevener is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Demean. She was born at the old Demean homeplace "down in the Callaway," some four miles southwest of New Melle. Here she spent 29 happy years "despite the rocks," ad she remarked. It was necessary for she and her family to wade through the Callaway 14 times on their way to town. At 29 Martha married her next door neighbor sweetheart, Otto Stevener.

The neighboring pioneer farms were so close a conversation could be carried on without leaving each other's premises. After Otto and Martha were married, they moved to a farm on the Femme Osage and raised a family of four daughters Erna, Milda, Norma and Dorothy. All were members of St. Pauls Lutheran Church in New Melle and daily the girls trudged back and forth over the rocks and hills to German Lutheran School, and to Confirmation classes.



*Conrad
Weirich
Home*



*Kamphoefner
Home
See 2.36*

The Fritz Kamphoefner property has recently been purchased by Ted and Jo Christner of St. Louis County.

2.12

EARLY SETTLERS

The fascinating old 1875 St. Charles County Atlas is being used once more as a source of reference, and in it we find only one man from New Melle in the section on Biographical Sketches of Citizens. He is George Dierker. In part, this is what was said of him. quote "Prominent among the successful business men of the town of Wentzville stands the name of George Dierker. He was born about midway in the Atlantic Ocean, while his parents were on their passage to New Orleans, where they landed in 1842. After a few days they took the steamer for St. Louis, and settled down in Femme Osage Township.

Young George went to school for seven years in New Melle. In 1858 he moved to Wentzville, and went into the dry goods business with his brother until the war broke out. Having been infected by the war fever, and also impelled by the military courage of the Germans, he entered the U.S. service, and rushed to the front to risk his life and all he had in the defense of his adopted country.

He joined as a private and concluded his service as a first lieutenant in the 49th Regiment of Missouri Volunteers. When the war closed in 1865 he returned home, and built a very fine frame hotel. On New Years night of 1867, the hotel burned down. But Mr. Dierker, nothing disheartened, with true Teutonic persistence, set to work and raised a very fine brick hotel on the scare cool ashes of the former one. In this same year, 1867, he married Henrietta Matilda Peters of St. Louis, an American lady of German descent. By her he has a fine rising family." End quote.

A priceless pencil etching of George Dierker's Wentzville Hotel and Restaurant, eight by 12 inches, is one of many old style etchings in the Atlas that truly depicts the life and times, and the architecture of that era.

* * *

A listing of first NM settlers continues: Hy Hofer — farmer from Germany 1850; Conrad Holt — farmer from Germany, 1853; Koelling and Brothers General Store, 1844; Philip Klippel — Hotel and Bar Room, from Germany 1849; John Kessler — blacksmith from Prussia, 1870; and J. H. Landwehr — Stone and Brick Mason from Germany, 1873.

More names of first New Melle settlers are — F.H. Leimbrack, general store of the firm of Sudbrock & Co. 1845, John H. Luetkemeyer, wagon maker from Germany 1851, A. H. Liesenopp, tailor from Germany 1866, E. H. Meier, store keeper and mill owner from Germany 1840, J. H. Panhorst, merchant tailor from Germany 1858, Otto Rodatz, saloon keeper from Prussia 1869, and Edward Rickmers, blacksmith and gunsmith 1837. The list will be concluded next week.

No. 2.12 SEPT. 30, 1974



Reinhold Eick

2.12

The Cracker Barrel News

New Melle Area Items of Interest

By Bill Schiermeier

2.13 History Bits

Roy Sudbröck, formerly of New Melle, and now of Wentzville, came into the store a few days ago with a framed picture of the "Ohio" Forty, a forty hp automobile costing \$1,850, and manufactured by J. I. Case Plow Works in Racine, Wis. The picture appeared in Farm Implement News dated Dec. 23, 1909. Many of the early autos were made by well known farm implement and wagon manufacturing concerns. This right drive "Ohio" was fully equipped, including top, windshield, speedometer, foot rail and robe rail, and also with a complete set of "lamps".

There have been drastic changes in the automobile since 1909, and many well known manufacturers in their day are no longer in existence. The industry has grown into an uncontrollable giant. Our economy and life style is a slave to it, and such major problems as air and noise pollution, depletion of fossil fuels, and tragedies affecting the lives of millions of individuals, have been created by it. Now, because of these problems, drastic changes in the automobile are sure to continue to the point where the next generation will view our cars of today as we now view the 1909 "Ohio".

Pat Nolan brought his family and mother in for a visit. The log cabin he is reconstructing on Hopewell Road will be something to look forward to in the near future. (ref. Oct. 14, 1974 C.B. News)

Jerry and Mrs. Mattlock, neighbors of the Nolans, also dropped in at the same time. Jerry had a new 1969 reprinted copy of the "History of St. Charles, Montgomery and Warren Counties, Missouri." The book was first published in 1885. The 1131 pages includes a condensed history of Missouri, detailed history of the three counties, their pioneer records, resources and biographical sketches of prominent citizens, local activity in the Civil War, and countless incidents, and reminiscences. He sold us a book, and it will be used as reference material in future articles. Anyone else who may wish to purchase a copy must speak for one soon because only a very few are available.

Other visitors were Charlotte and Carolyn Meyer from Moscow Mills, where they are known affectionately as "The Meyer Sisters". Both are retired school teachers, and both have a keen interest in Missouri history. They especially wanted to pin point a few of the places that were talked about in the C. B. News, and they came prepared with a roll of Missouri maps, one for each of the 114 counties, and they also came for a 10 lb. sack of Holstein white cornmeal.

Charlotte and Carolyn's great-grand father Carl Meyer immigrated to America in a sailboat and obtained his land directly from Nathan Boone in 1832. Their original homeplace joint the Boone property on the Femme Osage. In 1871 grand-father Louis Meyer moved to Moscow Mills from the Femme Osage area. A future article will feature a story on the Meyer family which will include old diary notes and the sail boat passenger list.

Jan. 4, 1975

HISTORY BITS

Quite often we have people coming into the store who can recall brief accounts of early New Melle days and they are appreciated. Rather than withholding these little "bits of history" for some future complete story it may be just as well to publish them as we hear them.

Roy Sudbrock, formerly of New Melle, stopped in and had a few stories for the record as follows:

He knew Earnest Sudbrock well, our carpenter of 1890 who was mentioned several times in past issues and recalled that he built Bob Tylers place in Defiance and that the Tylers raised and trained fine saddle horses. The old Tyler place was later purchased by William Long. Maude Tyler (we called her Miss Tyler) was the Walnut Grove School teacher for many years.

Emil Holt clerked for years in "Kesslers Store" before he bought "The Mill." Later he worked in the Wentzville Bank and finally became it's President. Wonder if that could happen today?

Remember Bill Theilemann, the basket weaver? Roy knew him and recalls how he lived a hard life alone in the woods as a cripple and peddled his baskets on foot from farm to farm. Then in his last year Bill Ulmansiek watched over him and admitted him into a "home" in St. Charles where he died.

Earlier it was stated that Mr. Edwards was the town's first school teacher. Apparently he was not the first. It was a Mrs. Robinson.

The Brick factory, mentioned earlier, was located across from the Lutheran Church and was owned by a Mr. Stahlhuth. A few old brick homes from these bricks still stand.

No. 26 APR. 10, 1974

2.14

BOONE DESCENDANT VISITOR

Many folks in the area may remember the Frank Boone family who operated a farm in the Missouri River Bottoms near Defiance. Frank was a great-great grandson of the famous Daniel Boone. Last week his attractive daughter, Helen (Mrs. John Coffman), and her husband came into the store for a "first in many years" visit. They were accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Orville Gerken. All are from St. Charles. John and Orville have retired recently from McDonnell Douglas where John was a design engineer and Orville was the Engineering Personnel Manager.

Helen, a schoolmate of mine in the one room Walnut Grove School in the bottoms near Defiance (now unfortunately torn down without a trace), was especially interested in the old store ledgers where listings of her father's purchases appear a number of times.

No. 63 DEC. 23, 1974

2.13 & 2.14



2.15

IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, 1907

One day in 1907, photographer Hurd of Troy, Mo. came into town with his photographic equipment to prepare for posterity a picture of 18 local citizens which comprised the New Melle Improvement Association. The photographer at that early date did a splendid job, not only in developing a sharp, clear group portrait, but he succeeded in capturing the determined, progressive spirit that all of these men displayed throughout their lifetimes.

As a team these men moved forward to develop New Melle, one of the first five towns of St. Charles County, into a thriving small town, buzzing with activity. There were four general stores, three blacksmith shops, three churches, two schools, shoemakers, a mill, creamery, jewelry shop, a gunsmith, livery stable, taxi service, hotel and carpenter shops, wagon makers, tanners, a saloon, and a medical doctor.

There was even a brick factory, a saw mill, and possibly other services that have not been brought to light.

With these public-spirited men guiding their town's destiny, a steady home building program, and general improvement program were carried on. Sidewalks along the main streets, for instance, were one of the public improvements credited to this group of men.

All of the men, of course, dressed in their Sunday best for the photo. The local barber gave each a fresh haircut. They were clean shaven, and mustaches of various styles are neatly trimmed. They were as proud of their appearance as they were of the appearance of their town.

As we study each one individually we start with the top row and proceed left to right:

Charles E. Meier, owner of the C. E. Meier General Store (now the New Melle Inn). He and his wife, and two beautiful daughters, Frances and Helena, lived in the stately home to the right of the store where the Schneider family now resides. Henry Theil-

mann is next with hand on David Hommes' shoulder. Henry's farm south of town is now deserted and a shambles. David was possibly the last successful blacksmith in town. The tall man in center is George Broeker, father of Mrs. Alice Heuman who owns the original photo, and who still lives in the old Broeker homeplace as you enter New Melle from the east. Mr. Broeker, among his endeavors, operated the livery, and "The Hack," a horse drawn taxi to and from Wentzville. The gentleman to his right is Hy Geiger. Number six is Ed Rickmers. Last in back row is Julius Kessler with long drooping mustache. He was a partner with his brother, John H. Kessler in Kessler's Store (now the Cracker Barrel).

In the center row we first find Carl Karrenbrock, operator of the mill. Next to him is Edward H. Rickmers, tinner and gunsmith, and one of the first settlers in New Melle. He is the father of Ed Rickmers mentioned before. Number three is Bill Miller. Seated with pencil in hand, and with his head held high as usual, is Herman Sudbrock, painter in

**

2.15

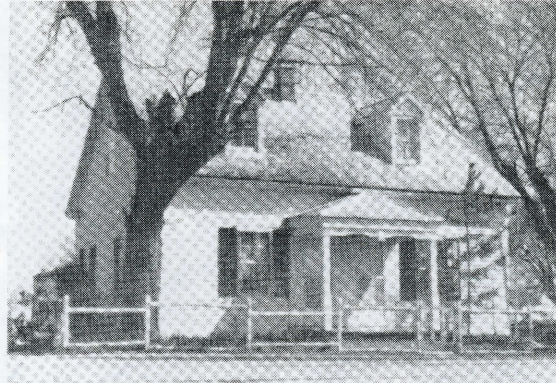
the summer and shoemaker in the winter. To his right is George Karrenbrock, and number six in center row is Arnold Hoefner, owner and operator of A. C. Hoefner General Store in the west end of town. Eddie Karrenbrock, operator of the creamery, completes the row.

Number one in front row is *G. Berg Ernst Kamphoefner with large white bow tie is next. He was well known as a skilled blacksmith. Dr. Oscar Muhm, who practiced medicine in New Melle from 1902 to 1941, is second from right. Note rose pinned to his coat. His wife, at the age of 101, is still living, and makes her home with the Coopers in Ferguson. her son-in-law and daughter. (Ref. "Our Centenarian" Issue No. 70, and "The Country Doctor" Issue No. 71). The man to his right is Bill Willigman.

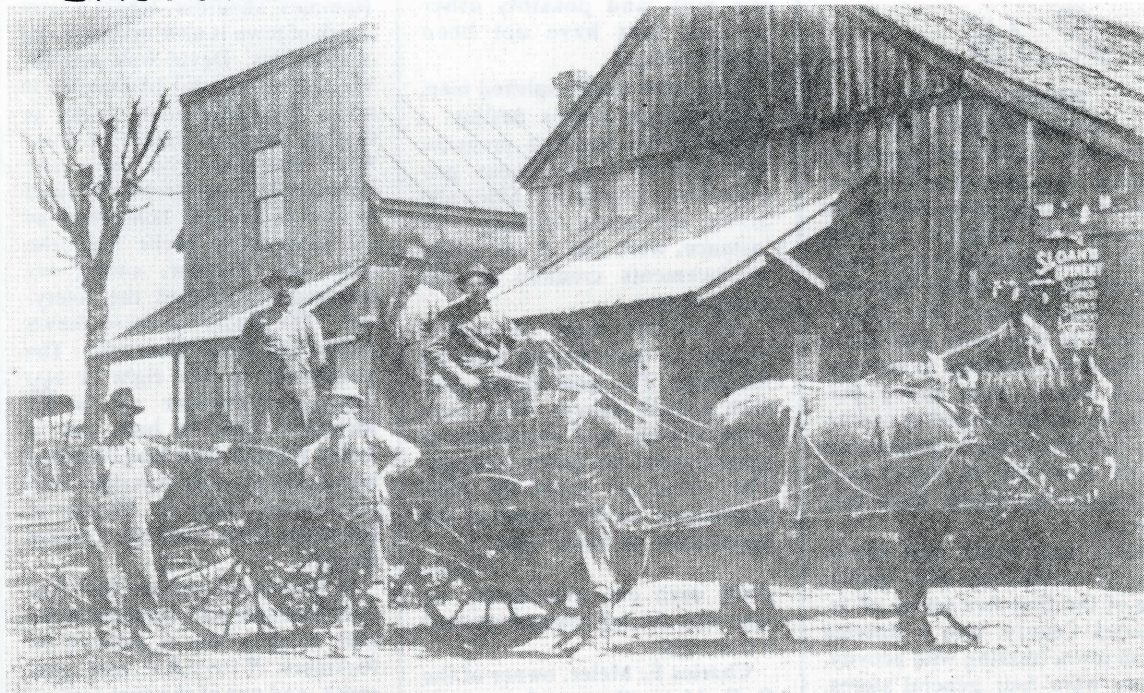
No. 99 SEPT. 3, 1977

*Gottlieb

**Hr. Geiger - photographer helped to build the town's sidewalks.



Webster Karrenbrock Home



Auping's Wagon Shop

2.16 TOWN INCORPORATION MEETING

On Thursday evening, Jan. 12, 1978, Mr. Gerald Kerr of the Missouri Extension Council, addressed a crowd of some 75 residents of the New Melle area concerning the incorporation of New Melle into a village of St. Charles County. The open town meeting was held at the New Melle Community Club.

Mr. Kerr, in his opening remarks, stated that it is quite evident that New Melle is a strong community, where there is a great deal of civic pride, and appreciation of its heritage, and an area where people work together well to get things done.

Mr. Kerr advocated "Village Incorporation," rather than "City Incorporation," and outlined the following points of interest and steps to take:

(1) Village incorporation is one of the oldest statutes in the books. There is no set number of people needed to incorporate; whereas, to incorporate as a city there must be a population of 500. However, once a village is incorporated only 200 are required to make a bid for city status.

(2) Describing the area to be incorporated requires careful thought and understanding. It is best to first obtain an aerial map from the local ASC office where approximate boundary lines can be drawn. The map should then be taken to each property owner for suggestions. When this initial canvass is completed the final boundary should be established. Farmlands not labeled for subdividing may be excluded from incorporation, however, a farm home near a road, or within the proposed incorporated area, may be included.

(3) Once the boundary lines are established it is time to draw up a petition for either all voters 18 years old and over, or for all land and property owners to sign. Mr. Kerr prefers the voter status arrangement. The petition requires that two-thirds of the voters within the described area sign. Voting by ballot is not required on village incorporation.

(4) The petition then goes to the County Court for their action.

(5) During these proceedings a surveyor is not necessary. An attorney, though, should be hired at the time of incorporation. His fee would be expected to be nominal.

(6) Once the incorporated Village is approved, a town government is set up. The first year the County Court appoints five board members to serve three, two and one year terms. The Board then elects its Chairman, who also serves as the Police Court Judge. A Town Marshall, and the Clerk, other than Board members, are selected. The Town Marshall works with the County Sheriff. Board members serve without pay, and Board members are elected by the residents the following years.

(7) Responsibilities of the Board include those set forth by the town. They must see that streets are maintained although State Roads such as "D," "F" and "Z" would be maintained by the State. (Some funds from the State are available for street maintenance.) Also law and order, planning and zoning, and the leveling of a tax not to exceed 50 cents on \$100 valuation (based on one-third of total value) comes under the Board's jurisdiction. The Board must prepare a yearly budget, and the Treasurer must keep accurate which are subject to audit.

(8) Incorporation would not effect the local Fire Department in any way, or a County Sewer District. Mr. Kerr advises that it would be better to incorporate first and put in sewers, rather than form a Sewer District.

(9) Once the Village is incorporated, boundaries can be extended by satisfactory agreements, but it cannot annex, as in the case of cities. If a village decides to become incorporated a three-fourths vote is required.

(10) The main advantages of incorporating a small community into a Village are: The community can protect and retain its identity, make rules and regulations of control, pass and enforce speed limits and other traffic regulations, raise money for street and sidewalks, apply for government grants for streets, sewage and

other public works, can borrow money through the issuance of bonds, can regulate dogs and other animals running loose in the community, can pass laws regulating taverns, pool halls and other places of business, can pass regulations on the dumping and collection of trash and other public nuisances, can raise money for a town hall and other public buildings, parks, clinic, library, etc.

The above remarks are from notes taken at the meeting. If there are any errors please inform the writer so they may be corrected in the next issue.

No. 205 JAN. 18, 1978

2.17 TOWN PLANNING

On Thursday, Jan. 19, Mr. Malcolm Drummond, a partner in the City and Town Planning firm of Harland Bartholemew Associates, came out to talk to several New Melle residents who had expressed a keen interest in town planning and progress. He brought with him April Young of their firm who was especially well versed on small town planning and government grants. Mr. Drummond, who has almost as much personal interest in the town as many of our local citizens, outlined different approaches that could be taken to give us an overall guide for future development, which would go hand in hand with Village Incorporation (see Cracker Barrel News dated Jan. 16). The presentation excited many of those present, who wanted to proceed immediately with a follow on meeting so that a civic "Town Planning and Development Committee" could be set up.

The study, of course, would cost some money, and Miss Young pointed out that we may have a good chance to receive a Government Grant for this if our request could be submitted by April 1. Time to act, therefore, is important. More details on the study, and on the next meeting date will follow.

In September, 1975, the Cracker Barrel News published an article on the New Melle Improvement Association of 1907. This

2.16 & 2.17

dedicated group of 18 men had to cope with a growing community. The town was buzzing with activity, and supporting a number of stores, shops and services. Signs pointed to many years of continuous growth. New Melle did continue to progress until the '20s. After that we are all familiar with the demise of small towns due to the automobile, lack of interest among the young people, and the Great Depression.

There was a closeness too between business firms, as is evident from the scores of letters written by my father. Portions of 1894 to 1898 letters from Matson are: To H. J. Seib in Hamburg he offers 300 lbs. of side meat and shoulders at five cents/lb. "All is nice, bright smoked meat." — To J. E. Foristell in Foristell he offers 7 fine big steers at 1200 lbs. each at 4 cents/lb. "I can arrange to ship by rail Thursday if you are still in the market for such feeders." — There are letters concerning the installation of a steam engine for his elevator. He had engaged Edw. Holt of New Melle, and there were problems with the damper, ash pan, grate and pipes. — There was a transaction with the Hoefner Bros. in New Melle for 150 bu. corn. "Yesterdays quotation was 34 cents." — A long letter to Cappeln teacher F. L. Audrain concerns the school board's refusal to supply Mr. Audrain with a chart he had expected to use in his school, quote "since it was decided we could not use the chart, previous to our school meeting last spring Mr. Knapel took it to his house for safe keeping. Now Mr. Audrain, don't think hard of us in this matter, etc." — Another letter is to Wm.

Schmidt in Foristell on the sale of a lot. — To George Grumke in Augusta he transmitted express charges on a shipment of beer which he had purchased for some affair. — In April, 1895, H. T. Knippenberg in Femme Osage is quoted a price of "40 cents/bu. for your corn delivered to my granary; 57 cents for wheat today." — An 1895 letter to G. W. Karrenbrock in New Melle reads in part, "Please send me a load of flour and meal, and send information by Ed on price for

grinding 25 bu. of corn into bolted meal." — On and on they go. If placed in a book form they should make interesting reading.

No. 206 JAN. 25, 1978

2.18

MORE ABOUT OUR TOWN

To date there has been two meetings on "Incorporation," and "Planning." The response has been most encouraging. Interest was high, and attenders showed a genuine desire to push forward. Consequently, a third meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m. at the Community Club. All interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

From a concensus of opinions the main objectives to be accomplished this time would be: (1) To establish a Steering Committee so future steps can be pursued effectively, (2) To establish approximate boundary lines from review on an appropriate map, (3) To review once again all aspects of Village Incorporation, and (4) To review the principal considerations in good planning for New Melle.

The town of New Melle was settled more than a century ago by merchants, millers, and artisans to serve the neighboring farm community. Unknown to those early pioneers, history was being made by them for 19th Century nostalgia minded America of today. The town and surrounding area remained relatively static for decades. Now history seems to be in the making again. We hear about hundreds of new homes being planned around us, so it behooves us to seriously consider what kind of an image is most appealing to those who may be using our town as their gateway. It appears to many that we should retain, and promote further, that image created by our forefathers.

Why is that period so appealing to people of today? It must be due to the following two conditions:

It was the period just prior to the Industrial Age. Most items were still being made by the careful, skillful hands of immigrants who did not understand the meaning of mass production. The late 1800's were the last days

of the horizontal line graphs which plotted against time the progress of production, speed, national debt, birthrate, etc. Since the Industrial Age the rate of progress is no longer a straight, or a gradual sloping curve upward. It became a steep vertical line. Folks found it difficult to keep up with the pace. So, in a desperate attempt to cope with time, to slow it down, they found it quite satisfying to relate back to 19th Century charm.

The other reason interest is high in 19th Century memorials; that is, homes, tools, furnishings, utensils, etc., is because sufficient number remain for any of us to study, to restore, and/or to collect.

Just 100 years ago New Melle had a wealth of those items that would have made the town nationally famous if they would have been carefully saved for today. What are those things that have not entirely vanished from the scene here? There is the smokehouse and summer kitchen, a blacksmith shop, a wagon shop, a few privies, log homes, salt box, Cape Cod, Queen Anne and Carpenter Gothic frame homes, early brick and stone structures, a mill dating back to oxen powered days, two one-room schoolhouses, a creamery, a harness shop, the remains of a general store, a small town hotel, and a couple of barns with hand hewn timbers fitted together with pegs.

There is a cupola, attractive cornices, tongue and grooved board sidewalls and ceilings, recessed ceilings with hand paintings, leaded glass windows, small windows with bubble glass, brick flues supported diagonally against the walls, the cistern and hand pump, iron and picket fences, shutters, and mill stones.

Here and there in protected places one can find old harness and horse collars, the curry comb, the horsewhip, wagon wheels, sleigh bells, the coal scuttle, lard kettles, a grindstone, grain cradles, corn shellers, a carpet beater, washboards, cuspidors, button shoes and hooks, and hand wringers.

Among the furnishings and accessories are old style wood burning stoves, iron kettles, the

2.17 & 2.18

dry sink, wall hung party line telephones, candle molds, canopy beds, the pottie chair, pitcher and basin, a wooden tub, kerosene lamps and chandeliers, butter churns, carders, spinning wheels, the hatrack, grandfather's clock, whatnot shelves, music box albums, player pianos, an historic church organ, talking machines, stereoscopes, feather dusters, foot peddle sewing machines, flat irons, wooden spoons, coffee grinders, wardrobes and clothes trees, cuspidors, hatpins, tin types, stickpins, boot jacks, snuff boxes, pocket watches, watch fobs, straight edge razors, shaving mugs, razor straps, and the mustache cup.

There are many other items, of course, and all are part of our heritage.

No. 207 JAN. 28, 1978

2.19 Special From New Melle

VILLAGE INCORPORATION MEETING

On January 12, 1978, the first New Melle Town Meeting on "Incorporation" was called by, and at the Community Club. Mr. Gerald Kerr, an authority on the incorporation of small towns, was the principal speaker. He outlined pros and cons associated with incorporation. Approximately 60 citizens attended.

A second meeting was held February 2 with some 50 in attendance. At this meeting an ad hoc committee of 11 members was appointed to investigate all advantages, disadvantages and procedures. Officers appointed were Cullen Henson, chairman; Michael Lammert, co-chairman; and Becky Burt, secretary.

Since that meeting a series of committee meetings have been called by Chairman Henson. After exhaustive investigations and special consultations with various authorities in the county the committee called a third Town Meeting on April 6, 1978, to present their findings, and to also

present a proposed boundary line map. Again approximately 50 people attended. Special guests were Karl F. Buhr, Community Development Specialist with the University of Missouri Extension Service; Charles Niedner, St. Charles attorney; and Joe Graves, Judge of the Western District.

Mr. Buhr discussed the availability and merit of Government and State grants, stating that money is often available to aid towns in various ways, but almost impossible to obtain unless the town is incorporated. Mr. Niedner discussed the legal aspects involved. He does not anticipate any unusual problems with our particular area. Mr. Niedner has been highly recommended as one who is especially knowledgeable in small town problems.

The presentation by Hon. Judge Joe Graves was most encouraging. In speaking for the entire County Court he advocated New Melle incorporation, and especially stressed the importance of maintaining our historic identity. Mr. Graves elaborated on how our neighbor Wentzville can very well be the real "Cross Roads of the Nation," with the New Melle area the cultural focal point of the southwest part of the county. He expressed how thrilled he is just to be a part of it, and hoped that New Melle will unite, and move toward a bright future.

The principal issues presented and clarified at the April 6 meeting are as follows:

VILLAGE INCORPORATION: New Melle at this time can only qualify for incorporation as a "Village" due to the limited number of residents. This is really an advantage because the town can be operated much more economically as county services should continue as they do at the present time. A "Village" also requires a minimum of administrative work, however we would still enjoy the same advantages as any other form of incorporation.

ADVANTAGES:

1. **RETAIN IDENTITY:** This means that if incorporated the historic town and name of New Melle, founded in 1850, would for all time be protected. Our way of life, our customs, and traditions, would not be disturbed unless the people so desired.

In the past this was not an important issue as the entire community had remained strictly rural. Recently this has changed dramatically. New Melle is now encircled by several large tracts of land fully approved for subdivision development. Fortunately these sub-divisions appear to be headed toward first class projects.

As stated by Judge Graves, St. Charles County is still a Second Class County, and any other settlement, regardless of size, that decides to apply for incorporation must be at least two miles from another incorporated area. However, the county will reach First Class status January 1, 1979, just eight months from now. The required distance will then be increased to five miles. It may then be even more conceivable that one of the many settlements around us may elect to incorporate. If this happens, New Melle could very easily be included in that new town, or we would for all time lose our opportunity to be anything but a small group of homes and other buildings without any organized direction.

2. **CONTROL OF OUR OWN DESTINY:** There are four items to consider here. In addition to the present County Sheriff we would also have a Town Marshall to protect the people and property, and to enforce traffic control laws. The Sheriff and Marshall would work together on all cases. — All people within the incorporated limits could personally contact governing officials, who, in turn, would serve as a sounding board for everyone's grievances. — Town improvements could be discussed in a logical manner, and if the people so desired the improvements could be implemented. — Another important item under Destiny Control is local control of planning and zoning. Now all planning and zoning problems are resolved by the County Zoning Commission at the Court House in St. Charles. They meet once each month.

Sewers would not be the responsibility in either an incorporated or un-incorporated town. In case county sewers are expanded though, New Melle, if incorporated, would certainly be much higher on the priority list.

2.18 & 2.19

DISADVANTAGES

To enjoy all of the above advantages will, of course, cost some money, but as a Village these expenses can be held to a minimum. These could be the salary of a part time clerk, a token salary for the Marshall, plus some car allowance, some attorney fees, and other office expenses. Lights we already have, and our streets hopefully may still be maintained by the County, provided the town elected to turn over the Road and Bridge taxes an incorporated town qualifies for.

To gain revenue to support the above minimum expenses, real estate could be assessed a maximum of 50 cents to one hundred dollar valuation. However, this method is not often used anymore in small towns and villages. Instead, a usage tax on telephone, electric, and heating gas and oil bills is often more adopted. The state allows a maximum of 5%. A small village though, such as New Melle, may never need that much. As an example, if your assessment ranges from 2% to 5% on a total of \$100 utility bill, your payment to the town would only range from \$2.00 to \$5.00. This taxing method is considered the most fair to everyone. administrative work involved, although this is normally done on a volunteer basis in villages this size. Good people usually step forward to offer their services for the town they are proud of.

REQUIREMENTS TO INCORPORATE

The village boundary lines must first be established. The area considered New Melle proper has been studied carefully by the ad hoc committee, and these tentative boundary lines have been established, and presented to the attendees at the April 6 meeting.

The limits essentially encompass three sections, or approximately 1920 acres. From the center of town they extend roughly 4600 feet south, 6660 feet north, 3000 feet west, and 3800 feet east.

The boundary always is along section, quarter-section, or property lines, to avoid any need for a survey.

A census of all taxable inhabitants, 18 years of age and over, is the next requirement. This will be done by the committee when the petition is circulated.

The petition for incorporation must be prepared by an attorney and each inhabitant will then be approached in the near future for signature. If two-thirds of the taxable inhabitants sign the petition, it will then go to the County Court for their approval, or disapproval.

If approval is granted, the village stands as incorporated. The County Court will immediately appoint a five member governing board. After the first year regular elections of new board members will be held.

The appointed Board chooses its chairman, and all serve without pay.

If you have any questions please feel free to call any one of the following committee members:

1. Cullen Henson, chairman, 828-5336;
2. Mike Lammert, co-chairman, 828-5177;
3. Becky Burt, secretary, 828-5326;
4. Betty Adkisson, 828-5449;
5. Bob Almeling, 828-5122;
6. Alice Benne, 828-5358;
7. Nels Brown, 434-2642;
8. Dorle:n Joerling, 828-5228;
9. Gary Porter, 828-5792;
10. Bill Schiermeier, 828-5887;
11. Sue Schoenberg, 828-5929.

From: Your Ad Hoc Committee on Village Incorporation.

No. 217 APR. 17, 1978

2.20

TOWN INCORPORATION

The original plat of New Melle long ago in 1848, and its official recording at the county seat, were truly historic events locally. These very early progressive men; the Cunninghams, Kampers, Bannermans, Weinrichs, Kesslers, and others, were interested in establishing an organized town. Later an 18 man town board, called the New Melle Improvement Association, guided the town's destiny for many years.

Incorporation was not considered essential at the time. By horse and buggy it was far removed

from the county seat, completely encircled by farms, and strictly on its own without any outside interference. Farmers within a reasonable distance were only too happy to patronize New Melle with its general stores, shops, mill, creamery, etc.

Gradually their way of life changed. Better roads, and the automobile deprived the town of much business. World War I came, and then the Great Depression. The unofficial, but dedicated town board ceased to exist, leaving in its place a void. It would appear that incorporation around 1910 would have guaranteed some degree of continued progress. At least there would have been an elected board operating under established county and state rules. It could have met regularly to study the problems, to listen to the people, and to make decisions.

Changes continued. The county began to fill up and spread westward. Old family farms encircling New Melle became planned sub-divisions. The historic town that had been fashioned after the beautiful town of Melle, Germany, however, continued to decline. Now a movement to incorporate into a village is under way. There have been many meetings, and thorough investigations. Everything that has been learned has been circulated to each resident. At this writing the reception has been most favorable. The necessary two-thirds petition signatures looks brighter each day as our people become thoroughly acquainted with all facts.

No. 221 MAY 17, 1978

NEW MELLE TOWN MEETING

The appointed board of trustees for the newly incorporated village of New Melle held their first public meeting Thursday, 18, at the Community Club. Many citizens were present.

Attorney Charles Niedner explained proper procedures, and acted temporarily as the village clerk. Maps were available showing the exact boundaries of the town.

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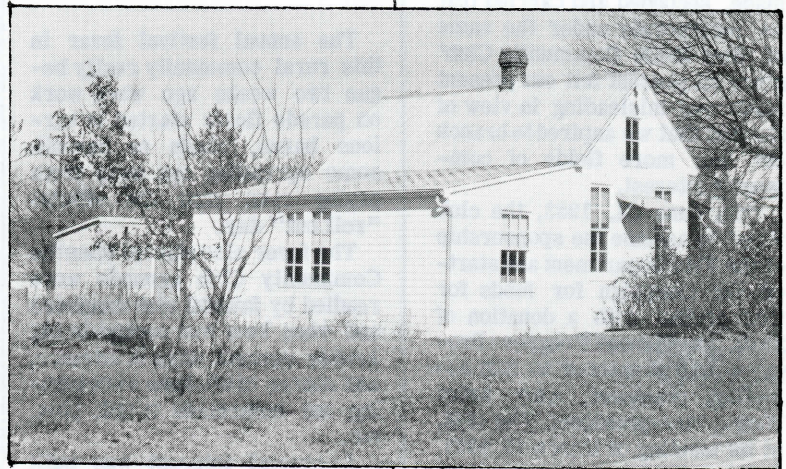
The board of trustees, appointed in December by the St. Charles Administrative County Court, are as follows: Betty Adkisson, Robert Almeling, Becky Burt, Dorice Joerling, and Mike Lammert. Miss Becky Burt was unanimously voted in as chairman, thus she becomes the first mayor of New Melle.

The first bill was introduced, and later approved as Ordinance No. 1. Essentially it names the following to various positions and committees: Janet Karrenbrock, village clerk; The Rev. Gary Archbold, zoning commission chairman, with members, Barbara Auping, Ernie Arteaga, Sandra Azline and Wayne Welge, with Arteaga approved as the planning and zoning commissioner; Gerald "Buddy" Molitor, assessor; James Blair, collector; Carroll Burrows, marshal; Alice Schneider, treasurer.

The second bill was introduced and later approved as Ordinance No. 2. This ordinance establishes the regular board meeting time and place as the first Thursday of each month, starting at 8 p.m., at the Community Club.

* * *

NO. 258 JAN. 24, 1979



*The Frank Sudbrock
Shoe Shop in New Melle,
(Near home of Art & Mrs. Webbink)*

2.20

2.21

NEW MELLE
COMMUNITY CLUB

The New Melle Festival brochure of 1957 has an account of the origin of the Community Club. It reads as follows:

"Early in the Spring of 1948, the men of the community, under the leadership of Rev. E. J. Dierker of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, met in Paul and Welge's Store for the purpose of organizing an organization that would provide recreational facilities for the community.

They chose the name of "New Melle Recreational Association" and elected Rev. Dierker as president; Edwin Paul as vice-president; L. M. McCormick as secretary; and Leonard Fuerman as treasurer. They leased land adjoining the Lutheran Park for a ball park and set out to secure necessary funds for purchasing equipment.

"On February 8, 1951, the men voted to open the membership to women and in that year elected Ophelia Dreiholz as secretary—a post she was to hold for the next five years; and Myron Welge as treasurer—a post he held for over six years.

"In April of 1952, the president appointed Scott Jordan, Al Almeling, and Pete Dreiholz to proceed with the incorporation of the organization. Motion was made, seconded and carried that we incorporate under the name of 'New Melle Community Club' since all present felt our present name was misleading in view of the fact that we aspired to branch out into more fields of community interest.

"On June 24, 1953, the club voted to assume the sponsorship of the Fire Department and started the campaign for funds for this project with a donation of \$850. The Planned Progress Program was presented to Bill Almeling, president, and Arley Welge, vice-president. The club, at its meeting of March 15, 1953, decided to enter this program and filed the entry blank by April 1. On January 18, 1956, the big thrill of the evening came when president Almeling

read the letter from the Missouri Edison Company stating that New Melle received the third place award of \$500. We were cited for our united action in working for the Fire Department and for our careful, self-analysis of community needs.

"This award money was designated to be spent for the second project of the Community Club, that of building an extension to the Fire Hall for housing the telephone system for the community. The building was leased to Lincoln Telephone Company for said purpose.

"On March 23, 1956, the Community Club voted to sponsor Khoury League teams from our community.

"In July, 1956, the club laid water pipe from the Lutheran Church Hall to the ball park to furnish necessary water supply and built toilet facilities in the Park.

"In May, 1957, the Community Club entered a high bid for the purchase of the old school house which they plan to restore and make into a Community Center. This festival is sponsored by the Community Club as it has been for the past two years."—End of the account appearing in the 1957 brochure.

Since 1957 the Club has continued to progress, and facilities have expanded considerably.

No. 9 DEC. 17, 1973

The annual festival fever in this rural community really began two weeks ago when work on parade floats started in various barns, sheds or beneath some spreading oak away from prying eyes until the official "roll out" day.

The fever also started when the Community Club grounds were readied by faithful club members and when beef was cooked in big kettles several days in advance, and scores of kitchens were turning out homemade bread, pies, etc.

A special interest was built up too because of the Frontier Days theme as barns and attics were raided for antique tools, household wares and Nineteenth Century clothing.

All of this preparation was done in anticipation of a crowd of several thousand people descending upon a town with only a population of 250 residents.

There was considerable concern that the conflicting Youth Fair in Wentzville would hold the visitors down.

Saturday came in hot on the sun baked grounds and the crowd did seem small, but as the evening wore on, the crowds came. Food lines formed, friends met friends and ate together. Parking became a problem. Motorcycles raced between the parking lanes before being contained and a fight flared up somewhere in the hot seething mass of humanity.

Over in the beer garden, a rock and roll band drove the young folks onto the rock surfaced dance floor where the sweating bodies of boys stripped to the waist and girls, almost so, twisted and churned as the older folks sitting nearby marveled at the endless energy.

The frontier costumes and bearded men sprinkled throughout the crowd, truly presented a picture of a Saturday night shindig in our homespun past.

In another location, Miss Marilyn Smart was crowned the Festival Queen, an honor her twin sister received last year. So, the crown will continue in the family for another year and the popular girls will continue to share many happy memories in years to come as they reflect upon their successful reigns as queen.

Marilyn is a senior at Frances Howell High School and among her accomplishments, she plays the flute and the organ. She often serves as the organist in the New Melle Friedens Church.

Everyone looks forward to celebrations but when they are over and when everyone is bone tired, the quietness of one's home is a most welcome retreat. Parade float winners as announced by the judges were as follows:

Benne's Farms Inc. and Dan's Meat Shop, Grand Prize; Pioneer Coon Club, Most Original; Friedens Church, Most Beautiful; Daniel Boone School Square Dancers, Social; St. John's of Cappel, Religious; T & D Station, Commercial; Raggedy Ann and

2.21

Andy, Clowns; Boy with dog and gun, Walking Unit; and Rose Ellen Beauty Shop, special.

The Parade Committee wishes to thank all who participated.

No.42 JUL.31,1974

2.22

FIRE PROTECTION

The following resume concerns the New Melle Community Volunteer Fire Department which stands always ready to protect our homes and to give emergency care to those who suddenly must be cared for in some physical manner.

Many of our citizens in the New Melle Fire District may not realize what a truly fine Fire Department we have. Fire Chief Bill Almeling was kind enough to outline pertinent information for this issue, as it is reassuring to know that we are quite well protected against one of the greatest destroyers of property - FIRE.

The local Fire Department started in the Spring of 1954 with the construction of a fire hall and with the purchase of a new 1953 model engine. These were financed completely through donations.

In 1962, the department was expanded to include the purchase of a 1962 model GMC one-quarter ton pickup truck with a four-wheel drive. At the same time, a new firehouse was built. Then in 1966, a station wagon was purchased and converted into a semi-ambulance. Finally in 1970, a new and much larger fire truck replaced the 1953 model. Also in 1970, the present rescue wagon was added. It is fully equipped with all emergency equipment.

Other equipment recently purchased and/or on the way includes a one ton four-wheel drive brush truck fully equipped with 3600 watt inverter, foam dispensing equipment with generator, a new three-quarter ton van four-wheel drive rescue wagon equipped to meet Civil Defense requirements, a four ton Porto Power unit and an air chisel.

Trained personnel under Fire Chief Almeling are Assistant Chiefs Bob Almeling and Leonard Stevener and over forty volunteers. The first Fire Chief was Arley Welge. Roy Almeling followed and now Bill has served for the past eight years.

In the fall of 1973, the Community voted to place the 1962 brush truck at Lake Sherwood. The Lake Sherwood area is in the New Melle Fire District. The fire house there will be known as Fire Station No. 2. Additional equipment will soon be added and starting early in 1974 a group of 20-25 men will begin their training in fire work.

At present the department in New Melle has six men trained in emergency treatment and 20 in advanced first aid. The New Melle Community Volunteer Fire Department is the only fire department in St. Charles County that provides such first class service from revenue received only from fire tags. Tags at \$5 each are due each year on December 1.

It is also the only one in the county that starts training Junior Firemen as early as 14 years of age. (Boys may sign up anytime). All men are fully insured as is the equipment.

No.7 DEC.1,1973

2.21 & 2.22

THE GENERAL STORE

The General Store, preceded by "The Trading Post," was the first mercantile establishment in America. It started with a brisk trade with the Indians in furs and tobacco when beads, or wampum, were a welcome item of exchange, developed into a business with "Everything under one roof," and continued full circle to the modern food store that provides one-stop shopping.

Without the Trading Posts early settlers could not have endured the rigors of colonization and expansion. These pioneer stores were the answer to survival from 1620 to 1800 in a frightening wilderness. The General Store, where a mixed stock of anything available was carried, followed.

The first stores had bright signs overhead and in windows picturing merchandise carried to accommodate those who could not read. It was a barter, or trade, operation and the storekeeper, with only a meager education himself, considered it quite unnecessary to keep any form of records. Some would hang a boot on each side of the chimney where money taken in was deposited in one, and receipts or vouchers in the other. At year's end they would empty them out and hope they would balance.

The "American Grocer" was first published in 1869, and it started immediately to stress the importance of bookkeeping. However, the E. B. Holden Store in Turin, N.Y., used a day book and ledger as early as 1837. It was necessary for merchants then to make their own quill pens and usually their own ink. Today there are still a few general stores in rural districts, but the country store of the open cracker barrel has become Americana.

Early general stores in the western section of St. Charles County can be dated back to 1842, but few are operated as such now. However, a number still stand, and are either vacant or operated as antique shops. We had trading posts too, in the area, but none are existant today.

On Aug. 22, 1850, the town of New Melle was layed out as a true rectangle approximately 700 feet by 1300 feet. The area was divided into property lines numbered 1 to 16, with an unnumber-

ed rectangular section in center of town, 200 feet by 400 feet, known as Market Square. It first contained only a Mill Pond, Kessler's Blacksmith and wagon shop, and their home.

John H. Kessler had expanded his business to include a small store fronting Mill Street, and later in 1888, the town carpenter, Earnest Sudbrock, agreed to tear down the old wagon shop, move the existing store onto the wagon shop foundation, and build a new store. It was completed Nov. 3, 1889. His interesting handwritten accounts of all material, labor, etc., are on display in the store today.

It was one of the largest rural area general stores constructed. It was outfitted with beautiful walnut counters, showcases, cornice molding, and finished shelving. A complete line of food, household, clothing, and hardware merchandise was handled, and it was even considered "The Headquarters for Furniture, Tinware, and Musical Instruments."

A central switchboard for Bell Telephone was installed soon after the store was completed and it was from this store that Dr. Oscar Muhm placed the first call over the new line to Edward Holt's home on the Femme Osage where the main station headquarters had been installed. Original "rings" of other people on the line were found glued to a post and they are now preserved.

Kessler's store became a common meeting place for townspeople, and the "Town Board" often held their meetings there.

Years passed. Finally in 1921 the store was purchased by a group of shareholders, and it became the New Melle Mercantile Company. Also, the Post Office was relocated there from the old A. C. Hoefner Store. With the advent of the automobile, and the lure of young people to the big city, prosperous small towns struggled for their survival. This, of course, affected the small town merchant.

In 1973 the Schiermeier family purchased the business from Giles and Theda Mooney as a retirement venture, and the store building was acquired by them in 1976. Giles had suggested the name "Cracker Barrel" as a fitting name for the typical

general store. Thus it became "Schiermeier's Cracker Barrel," and the building otherwise is still "The New Melle Mercantile Co."

Slowly the store has undergone a few changes, and inventory has been increased and varied to fill the needs of a changing and faithful community. An effort too has been made to retain the general store atmosphere in company with today's modern merchandise. Much nostalgia of former years are on display. Ledgers and beautifully engraved invoices, dating back to 1878, and continuing through the early 1900's, are also available for anyone to examine. Now, the youngest son, Tom, and his wife,

Priscilla, have decided to manage the store themselves as their sole source of livelihood. The young couple, and their twin boys, will greatly appreciate everyone's support.

#163 MAR. 2, 1977

2.24

KEEP ON KEEPING ON

Many thoughts come to mind during these days of despair and thankfulness. The favorite old sign hanging in the doctor's office, "Keep On Keeping On," is a daily reminder for all of us, regardless of the circumstances.

A friend of mine drove out to see me soon after the devastating fire, to voice his concern. He loved the store and the artifacts of the past century as much as I did. We talked about the loss of irreplaceable treasures, and we agreed too how relatively unimportant they were when compared to the safety of everyone in the building, the avoidance of any accident to the firemen fighting the blaze for several hours; and the outpouring of human kindness by many, many people. All of us are deeply grateful to our Lord for his protection, and to the people for what they have done.

Within minutes after the alarm was sounded the New Melle firemen were pouring water on the flames that spread rapidly and filled the entire store with smoke. Soon the Wentzville/Flint Hill and O'Fallon Fire Departments arrived. They all did a remarkable job in saving what little is left of the store, and in protecting other nearby buildings. They also are to be commended for carrying out a large quantity of stock in the front part of the store. I offered to help but Fire Chief Bill Almeling flatly refused to let me in without a hard hat.

Crowds gathered as the unbelievable day wore on, and everybody was helping in one way or the other. A flat bed and pickups came to haul things away out of the threatening rain; meat was stored in Dan's coolers; dairy products were hauled into St. Charles Dairy; women handed out food and coffee from Noldkamp's porch; Welge's held an open house for my family; we were invited out for supper; other people brought food; and son Tom, and Priscilla and their twin boys have received clothing and monetary gifts from individuals, from groups, and from churches. New Melle is not just a town, it is

a family.

Friends and relatives have also been devoting long hours on the retrieved stock so that it is clean and examined for the "Fire Sale" at the New Melle Community Club on Wednesday, Oct. 19, and Thursday, Oct. 20, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. All stock will be disposed of at 50 per cent of the retail price.

We have often been asked what our future plans are. Are we going to rebuild, etc.... It is just too early for a decision. However, every effort will be made to restore, or to develop something that will be a credit to the town.

The building which housed our Cracker Barrell Store, the Post Office, Tidd Realty, and a small living quarters is the New Melle Merc. Co. It had been the New Melle Merc. since 1922, however, recently my wife and I became the principal owners.

The original portion of this two-story, 45 feet by 85 feet frame landmark was constructed in 1871 for John H. Kessler. His business prospered, and in 1888 he contracted with carpenter Earnest Sudbrock to build an addition. When completed its capacity was more than doubled. Folks came into New Melle from long distances by horse and buggy to see the beautiful new store.

It was one of the finest rural general stores of that day. A 15-foot high ceiling accommodated tracks for rolling ladders on each side for the merchant to reach anything on the finely trimmed shelves lining the walls. A 14-inch cornice mould trimmed the top shelf near the ceiling. Graceful columns supported the center, and walnut counters complimented the handsome glass showcases. The store front was carefully designed to include a pair of nine-foot high entrance doors, and ornately designed screen doors. Large show windows flanked each side of the entrance. Four-foot high glass panes were overhead and across the front. Fancy millwork appeared generously around the front entrance and above the overhanging porch roof. The porch roof is supported by eight turned wood columns. Kessler's Store continued to prosper until the early 1920's. In 1922 the

entire Kessler business property was taken over by a group of interested local shareholders.

Years passed, and small towns suffered from the Great Depression, and from the automobile. New Melle was no exception. However, the doors have continually been open for business every business day until 10 a.m. Monday, Oct. 10. It is our hope that some day in the near future the same century old nine-foot entrance doors will again swing open to the waiting customer.

No. 194 Oct. 19, 1977

2.24

2.25 Central

Kessler's Store served as the central switchboard for Bell Telephone, and for other country lines. Five of the country lines feeding into the store were; Western, Howell, Wentzville, Deere, and Foristell. A Western System box telephone, presented to the Cracker Barrel store just one year before he died, was mounted on one of the store columns for display.

Each home in those early days had their own "ring". To get a message through it was necessary to first call into the store, and then ring the outlying farm home. A list of local residents, and their "rings", was found tacked on the rear wall. Although deteriorated, the following was copied for posterity:

THORNHILL PRAIRIE AND TELEPHONE COMPANY

Wentzville-----	1	long		
Dr. Ried-----	2	long		
Harry Tiemann-----	3	long		
J.H.Kessler-----	1	long	2	short
Louis Brockmann-----	2	long	1	short
Wm. Massmann-----	3	long	3	short
Chas. Massmann-----	3	long	1	short
August Moellering---	3	long	2	short
J.H.Dyer-----	2	short	1	long
R.A.Caruthers-----	2	short	2	long
August Schlueter---	3	short	2	long
P.B.Davis-----	3	short	3	long
B.D.L.Borgelt-----	3	short	1	long
Wm. Sudbrock-----	1	short	1	long 1 short
Wm. Detmer-----	4	short		
Fritz Brockmann-----	4	long		
Fritz Fuermann-----	2	long	2	short
Wm. Brockmann-----	2	long	3	short
John Nadler Place---	1	short	2	long 1 short
Philip Hensiek-----	1	short	3	long 1 short
Henry Tiemann-----	1	long	1	short 1 long
John Schroeder-----	1	long	2	short 1 long
Wm. Braucksieker----	1	long	3	short 1 long
John H. Meier-----	1	short	1	long

Other names with "rings" missing were:

Edward Rickmers
Chas. F. E. Meier
Richard Grapenthin
A. C. Hoefner
Edw. Karrenbrock

No. 12 Jan. 7, 1974

Note: The telephone, although damaged in fire, was salvaged.

2.25

2.26

KESSLER BAKING POWDER

Some time ago I visited again with George Kessler, son of the late John H. Kessler, founder of the Kessler General Store in New Melle in 1871. George left a few items that should be passed along.

Of principal interest were the two photos pictured above, showing both sides of a Kessler & Co. Baking Powder can, and featuring the face of George as a baby. Young George, born in 1899, was about two years old when he was chosen for the label. It was a wise choice. George appeared on thousands of baking powder cans, extending over a period of 27 years. It undoubtedly helped appreciably to bring attention to his father's store, and to New Melle, and to sell the special brand of baking powder that was manufactured expressly for J. H. Kessler & Co.

Another item was a letter George received from his grandmother in St. Louis on Jan. 26, 1905. It is translated from the German, and reads as follows: quote — "My dear little George: Since tomorrow is your birthday, I will write you a few lines; since it is the first of your birthdays, without your dear Father. He certainly must have loved you. When the weather is again agreeable, you must often visit his grave. So, be a good little boy, always love your Mother, study nicely in school, that you may soon write a letter to me. Many good and hearty greetings from your Grandmother, who loves you. C. Kessler."

His father, John H., had passed away a few months prior. Mr. Kessler's grave, and those of other members of the family are in the German Methodist Cemetery, located on Highway "F" on the south edge of New Melle. Note the wrought iron fence enclosing the cemetery and the gate. It was the first of its kind in this part of the country.

The family graves are in unrelated lots, which is typical of some early cemeteries. Mrs. Harvard Kessler (Doris) of Wentzville informs me that often

cemeteries were started, say along the back edge, and progressed toward the front in an orderly fashion. Therefore, immediate family members became separated.

A third item concerns a letter, and an enclosure entitled "Memories," received from his good friend, Dr. Raymond A. Ritter, M.D. of Cape Girardeau. Dr. Ritter's "Memories" was published in the Cape County Medical Journal in April 1974. Dr. Ritter "grew up on a farm in the outskirts of the village of New Melle," so he remembers first an experience that happened to him here.

As a young boy during the horse and buggy days, he was entrusted with a big basket of eggs to be taken to market via horseback. As he rode into town a piece of paper blew across the road and frightened the horse. The horse jumped to the right, and young Raymond landed on the left side under a basket of broken eggs. Dr. Ritter continues

as follows: "Drenched in eggs and humiliated, I led my horse to Kessler's Store. Julius Kessler, the owner of the store then, greeted me and asked, "How many eggs did you have when you left home?" I gave him the answer. Then, with a smile, he took me to his house next to the store and washed me and gave me credit in "the store book" for all the eggs broken and whole."

Dr. Ritter continues to relate various fond memories, especially those associated with his medical career where he had so many opportunities to help other people. In his conclusion he states that he was visited recently by an agent from the Bureau of Internal Revenue. After a complete audit was made the agent commented, "I had expected to find that you would have more money than you have." "I pondered his remarks and concluded that actually I am a very rich man because of so many happy memories that life has afforded me."

No. 122 FEB. 18, 1976



2.26

2.27 The Creamery

Mrs. John H. Schemmer came into the store Saturday with her daughter Agnes Wunderlich of St. Louis. The old pictures on display triggered a conversation on the Creamery, a New Melle facility in full operation in the early 1900's, under the ownership of Ed Karrenbrock.

Mrs. Schemmer (nee Bertha Klausmeier) was married to John Schemmer in 1916. Mr. Schemmer died in 1968. Bertha told how her husband had started working at the creamery as a boy in 1908 on a seven day work week schedule, and continued there on that schedule without a single day vacation, until his retirement.

John was the principal employee and had a variety of duties. He would arrive for work each morning at 4:00 A.M. to fire up the boilers manually with wood and coal to build up steam to operate the machinery. After this initial chore he would have breakfast. Immediately after breakfast it was time to hitch up the horses to the milk wagon, and start out on the first of five milk runs. It was not uncommon for him to arrive at the farms before the cows had been milked. Perhaps he would be invited in the house for a cup of coffee while he waited for the pails to be filled.

There were times when some trouble occurred with pipes at the top of the creamery's fifty foot water tower. Generally this happened, of course, during severe cold weather. John would be the one delegated to climb the tower and correct the problem. John had another distasteful chore, that of testing the cream content with acid and regardless how careful he would be his clothing and gloves would be ruined by the quick action of the solution.

In 1926 the old creamery burned down, and in the same year a new creamery was built. Also in 1926, after considerable effort on the part of New Melle citizens, electric power came to town. Thus the new creamery was equipped with electrically powered machinery, and John no longer had to fire the boilers.

The New Melle Creamery had a reputation of producing delicious ice cream, butter, and other dairy products. The separation of cream from the whole milk was the most important operation. The market for pure cream extended into the surrounding counties, and into downtown St. Louis.

Electric lighted signs, especially in rural areas in the Twenties, were not too common. However, during the Holiday Season a large lighted sign across the creamery roof read "PEACE ON EARTH GOOD WILL TO MEN". Folks from miles around came to view it.

No. 15 Jan. 28, 1974

2.27

2.28 The Roman Catholic Church

In tracing back through early church history it is noted again how early settlers found it difficult to attend church regularly. Until 1943 the nearest Roman Catholic church accomodating New Melle area people was St. Joseph's in Cottleville, several miles to the northeast.

In 1936 arrangements were made to transport Catholic school children from New Melle to Cottleville. Then in 1943 the Rev. Wm. Pezold, pastor of St. Joseph's was instrumental in purchasing a seven acre tract of land from Chas. E. Meier a merchant in New Melle, for a church. Ground breaking, with 25 people present, was on June 24, 1945. Soon thereafter, carpenter work was begun by Elmer Kolkmeier of St. Charles. The church was to cost approximately \$16,000.

On August 26, 1945 the Cornerstone was laid by Right Rev. Monsignor Leo Steck, Director of the Catholic Rural Life Conference. The Most Rev. Archbishop J. J. Glennon presided. Five hundred people were present. Dedication service followed on Sunday, December 9, 1945, and thus the Mission Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary became a reality. The original congregation consisted of some 20 families. Now over 100 families are on the rolls.

The original debt was paid off November 28, 1951, and on April 5, 1956 the Mission Church was raised to the status of a full parish. Rev. Arthur Bromschwig was appointed pastor, and a rectory just west of the church was erected. Rev. Bromschwig continued to serve until 1966, at which time he was succeeded by the Rev. James Komaska. Many improvements followed, including church redecorating, and remodeling. In 1969 a new picnic building was added. So, in just 29 years an active, growing institution has developed in our community to serve its people, and the Lord.

No. 32 May 20, 1974

HISTORY OF ST. PAUL'S

On Thursday, Oct. 26, 1978, St. Paul's Lutheran Church in New Melle will be host for over 100 St. Charles County Historical Society members for their quarterly dinner meeting beginning at 7 p.m. Claire F. Blackwell, architectural historian with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources in Jefferson City, will present a slide and talk program on "Historical Preservation of St. Charles County." Plans are under way to establish St. Paul's as an official historical landmark, and Miss Blackwell will arrive early to meet with some church members on details concerning these plans prior to the formal meeting.

It is timely then to trace the history of St. Paul's, one of the oldest churches in Missouri, and one of our country's churches that was founded and constructed almost entirely by German immigrants.

Germans, as early as 1607, have immigrated to America. Some came in groups and formed settlements where their religious faith and culture were maintained. Others came as individuals who settled in Anglo-American towns, and soon lost their cultural identities. In the 200 years, from the early 17th century to the early 19th century, however, immigration was very light, with nearly everyone settling in the east.

Around 1815 conditions worsened in Germany. There were outbreaks of cholera, revolution, and the lower middle class people were losing what little they had, so the determination to forsake their fatherland for an unknown mystical new world spread throughout the provinces. Great numbers traveled to distant parts, only to find inadequate ships and exorbitant fares. The immigration movement was stalled, and it did not persist again until the 1830's.

Conditions in Germany had not improved, except more ships were available, and certainly the Gottfried Duden papers released in the early 30's heightened the interest to immigrate to Missouri. Anyway, by 1830 the movement was on in earnest. First, from southwestern Germany, then from Franconia, Westphalia, and Hanover.

As early as 1839 a group of dedicated German Saxon Lutherans settled in St. Louis and Perry County, Mo. In that same year another group of Lutherans from Melle, in the old kingdom of Hanover, drifted into St. Charles County, settled here, and named the settlement New Melle.

These were middle class immigrants who cultivated their own land, who had been small village shop keepers and artisans, and who also were somewhat skilled in carpentry and masonry. They were hard working, self-sufficient people, and deeply religious.

Immediately, they began to worship together in their crude pioneer log homes, and occasionally a "roving preacher" arrived on horseback to minister to them. Finally, in 1844, this small band of German immigrants organized St. Paul's Congregation.

During this same period the Saxons, under Dr. Walther in Perry County, had built the first Concordia College, and were editing the "Lutheranor." Leaders at St. Paul's had heard about this progress and requested Dr. Walther to send them a full time minister.

Dr. Walther heeded the appeal and prevailed upon Rev. Carl Herman Fick, a native of Hanover, to become the first pastor at St. Paul's. He preached a "trial sermon" on Palm Sunday, 1847, but did not accept the "call" until he had joined the Missouri Synod when it was first organized a few weeks later in Chicago. St. Paul's was represented at this historic meeting by H. Welker.

Pastor Buenger, founder of Immanuel Church in St. Louis, had this to say about his trip to New Melle for the ordination of Mr. Fick. — "Pastor Schieferdecker of Monroe County, Ill., and I were authorized by Dr. Walther, president of Synod, to go to New Melle and install Rev. Fick as pastor there. On May 27, we left St. Louis, on horseback, and arrived in New Melle the next day. The weather was most pleasant. New Melle lies about 45 miles northwest of St. Louis, and about 12 miles inland from the left bank of the Missouri River, about 25 miles from St. Charles,

on the road to Marthasville. It is a quaint little settlement founded about eight years ago (1839) by two young Lutheran men and other Lutherans from the parish of Melle and Buer in Osnabrueck. The congregation which consists of about 60 families had bought a parcel of ground of 40 acres near their settlement for \$300.

"A neat two-storied, well built log house, 20 feet wide and 30 feet long, and with a porch, had been built to serve as church, school, and the pastor's dwelling. The lower story was divided into two large rooms, one of which was to be the schoolroom, the other to be the living quarters.

"The 'upper room' provided with pulpit and altar and benches, was to serve as the church. Nearby was a fenced cemetery.

"It was a lovely sight to see, on that Saturday afternoon, the members working here and there; some were digging a well; others were hauling stones; others were working on the house. On the next day, Trinity Sunday, the ordination service was held with approximately 200 present."

Troubles soon came to St. Paul's over how serious the Holy Ministry should be regarded. The Rev. Adolph Claus, also a native of Germany, was installed in 1850 as the second pastor. It was the same year that F. H. Kamper, one of the young Lutheran settlers, prepared the official town layout of New Melle.

Two years later the majority left St. Paul's and formed the St. Peter's congregation over the controversial issue. They took possession of church property and barred the doors from former members. The "faithful few," although very poor, then purchased 12 acres of land (now part of the cemetery today), did their farm work early in the morning and late afternoon, and worked on their new church during the mid-day hours.

Another severe trial came when an epidemic of cholera reduced their membership considerably. Many were buried in mass graves, unmarked, in the Stone Church graveyard east of the present church. The old cemetery was closed to further burials soon

after the Civil War.

Despite this, the new church was completed just before the scheduled Christmas Eve Service 1852. On Christmas Eve, however, rowdies or vandals broke into the church and smashed windows and doors, destroyed the stove, chopped window frames to pieces, and tore up the floor.

Again the members set to work to bring order out of chaos, repairing the damage and laying the foundation for the parsonage. But the worst was yet to come. On Jan. 23, 1853, the church was burned down. Even the carpenter's tools were destroyed. When Lutherans all over the country heard about the severe trials at St. Paul's, donations poured in reaching a total of \$747, a large sum in 1853.

With renewed vigor the founders once more moved forward. They completed the parsonage and built a new frame church, which later became the school. It was dedicated in November, 1855, at the beginning of Pastor Ottman's ministry.

In 1858, St. Paul's congregation resolved to join the Missouri Synod at the Western District Convention. Also in 1858, the St. Peter's congregation resolved to build a stone church. It was completed in 1860. Little is known about construction details, however, in 1923, during a remodeling program, a board in the church was found bearing the following inscription: "A. Carl Schlottmann, a native of Oldesloe in Holstein, in Germany, did all the labor in this church. And if anyone should ever loosen this board, let him think of me. Begun in the spring of 1858; finished Easter, 1860."

Herman Sprengel, the first of two pastors of St. Peter's, retired in 1866, and purchased the only stone house in New Melle, and lived there a number of years. It is believed by the writer to be the home now owned by Ray and Mary Cunningham.

The fourth minister of St. Paul's was Fredrich Matuschka (1863-1890). He was a strong, dedicated man, and won over many St. Peter's members back to St. Paul's. He had organized **Immanuel Lutheran Church in Washington, Mo., before coming**

to St. Paul's, and was later to form Immanuel Lutheran in Wentzville. In 1868, the two congregations in New Melle were re-united, and all properties reverted back to St. Paul's. After 16 years, all wounds were healed. A brighter future now lay in store for the church.

Church records show that in 1869 the congregation voted to purchase a new Pfeiffer organ. John G. Pfeiffer, builder of fine pipe organs, came from Germany in 1854 and established an organ factory in St. Louis in 1860. He was contacted by the church on Aug. 1, 1869, and the organ was delivered by wagon in 1870. Total installed cost was \$1,255. A comparable price today would be over \$30,000.

A balcony was installed at this time to house the organ. Pfeiffer placed nearly 600 of his famous organs in Roman Catholic and Lutheran churches. The Pfeiffer organ at St. Paul's is still in excellent condition, and has been used continually since 1870.

The four walls of the stone church have remained virtually the same for 118 years. A cupola housing the bell on the west end was removed to relieve suspected wall damage, and a freestanding bell tower was erected instead. In 1881, the present tower was built for \$1,500, and the bell was hung high in its steeple. A new bell was purchased in 1891 for \$207, plus the old bell. A German inscription on this bell reads — "So oft nun diese Glocke wird geruehret, So ruehre Jesu jedes Christen Herz, Zu hoeren Gottes Wort, wie sich's fuer keinen Scherz." Translated in English it says "As often as this bell is stirred, May Jesus stir each Christian heart To hear, as meet, God's sacred Word, And Life and Blessedness impart."

Down through the years there have been the normal type of changes made to meet the comforts expected today as a continuing house of worship. However, each generation of church leaders have been careful to retain its original character. Now in 1978, it is possibly in its finest condition.

The Christian Day School has had a major role in the development of St. Paul's. The frame church dedicated in 1855, which later became a school, was taken down in 1919, and the lumber used for a building now standing near the northeast corner of Mill and Peters Streets. A new school building was erected in 1866. It too, is non-existent. The present office and pastoral study was erected as a school in 1919, and remained so until the early 60's, when the school was closed. It stands today as a fitting memorial to those early German school days.

Lutheran Church property in town today includes the beautiful, spacious grounds south of Highway D containing the historic stone church and burial ground, the school, hall and parsonage. Beyond, to the west, is the cemetery, almost as old as the original burial ground. Across from the church is a 10-acre Lutheran Park, the site of countless early day picnics and mission feasts.

Many pastors have come and gone since the formative days of Fick, Claus, Ottmann and Matuschka. Henry Grefe followed. Then Robert Falke, the last of those born in Germany, came in 1902 and stayed 27 years. Many members living today were baptized, confirmed, and educated by him. He is buried in St. Paul's Cemetery. Others that followed were the Rev. Wein, Dierker, Nickel, Blemaster, Heckman, Bahls, Asen, and now the present pastor is the Rev. Gary Archbold.

St. Paul's remains rich in old traditions and customs. Services, annual picnics, sausage suppers, apple butter cooking, and fellowship gatherings, have changed very little since early formative years.

Thus generation after generation retain strong ties with the past they cherish and respect. Even new members, young and old alike, sense the closeness that exists, and soon they too become an integral part of the church family. Total membership today, including children, is approximately 240.

OCTOBER 25, 1978



St. Paul's Lutheran Church in New Melle as it looks today.

2.30

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Some site, a building, or even some part of a town, that is considered by authorities for the National Register as an historic landmark, must be historically significant. That is, it must be sufficiently important locally, statewide, or nationally, and/or it must have withstood the test of time, and survived through trials and tribulations. Architectural features, and the general way of life it symbolizes of an early period, are all significant factors.

Old deeds and maps are among the more significant papers required. Often the importance of these are overlooked until a specific need leads one to search diligently.

Consequently, as the effort continues at St. Paul's in New Melle to place the church on the National Register, a diligent search for all historic papers has netted rather exciting results. There, locked up in the safe well over 100 years, and bundled up among a number of relatively unimportant papers, was the deed describing the land that is now New Melle proper, and also the original 20-acre plat of the town.

The following 1847 warranty deed failed to mention that the recipient of the land, F. W. Kamper, was a trustee of the German Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of New Melle, and that he was buying it for the church. A later warranty deed, dated July 13, 1876, 29 years later, corrected this oversight. This second deed was also located in the safe.

The 1847 deed read thus: "This indenture, made this twelfth day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-seven between Charles H. Heer, and Mary his wife of the county of St. Louis State of Missouri of the first part, and Franz H. Kamper of the same county, and State aforesaid, of the second part, Witnesseth, that the said Charles H. Heer and wife for and in consideration of the sum of three hundred dollars, to them in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged,

do hereby grant, bargain, sell, convey, and confirm unto the said part of the second part his heirs and assigns forever, all that tract or parcel of land situate, and being in the county of St. Charles in the State of Missouri to wit — The Southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section twenty-six Township forty-six north of Range No. 1 East, containing forty acres same as that entered in the U.S. Land Office by John H. Bunnaman (or Bunemann) on the 1st Aug. 1844 as per Certificate No. 14840."

Three years later, in 1850, 20 of the above described 40 acres were set aside for a town. Rectangular in shape, and consisting of 16 one-acre plots, with a two-acre "Marketplatz" (later referred to as Market Square) in the center.

It is bordered on the north by Gronenberger Street, on the east by farm lands, on the south by St. Charles Street, and on the west by Schutzen Street. Muhlen Strase (Mill Street) runs north and south through the town.

Names of property owners appearing on this original sketch are Rudolph Peters, Fritz Dierker, H. and also S. Hackmann, ---- Hagamann, and Conrad Weinrich. A reproduction of the first map appears in the 1875 edition of the St. Charles County Atlas. It shows that F. H. Kamper laid out the town in 1850, and that it was drawn by L. D. Worley. The sketch in the safe shows that Conrad Mallinckrodt was the surveyor.

Soon after 1850 a few log structures were erected in the new town. Conrad Weinrich, for instance, lived in a log house several years before he built his brick home in 1871. Only recently the log home was taken down.

Existing frame homes, dating back to the early 1870's, were built around the early log buildings. The town eventually extended to adjoining 20 acres which had been retained for the church. The church still owns several acres. (Ref. "History of St. Paul's" in the October Cracker Barrel News.)

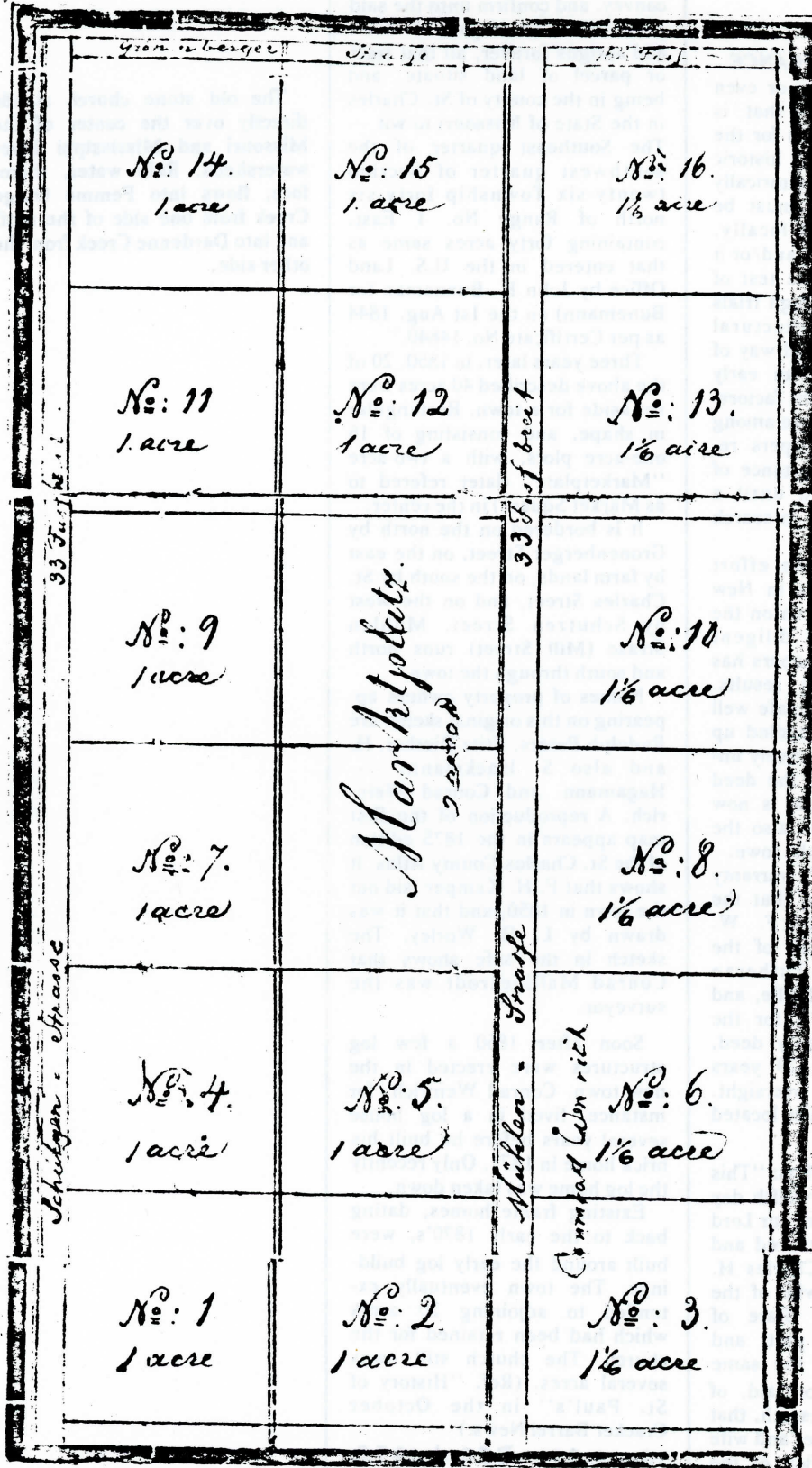
No. 252 DEC. 4, 1978

The old stone church stands directly over the center of the Missouri and Mississippi River watersheds. Rain water, therefore, flows into Femme Osage Creek from one side of the roof, and into Dardenne Creek from the other side.

2.30

Stadt New-Melle in St Charles County, Missouri

Nord



West.

Süd

West

East Part of the South East Quarter of South East Quad. of Sec 27. 6
 in Township forty six Range one East of the 5th Mer.
 April 1850.

2.31

THE PFEFFER ORGAN

John G. Pfeffer (1823-1910) was born, apprenticed in building pipe organs, and married in Sigmarigan, Germany. He came to this country in 1854, and established an organ factory in St. Louis in 1860. Of his nine children, two sons, Eugene and Robert, entered business with him. It is believed that Mr. Pfeffer placed nearly 600 organs in churches of various faiths, mostly Roman Catholic and Lutheran. Tragically, most of these organs have fallen prey to neglect, abuse, and other damage.

One, however, that remains in excellent condition is in St. Paul's Lutheran Church in New Melle. Two members of the Organ Historical Society, William E. Repperger Jr., and Robert I. Thomas, doing research on the Pfeffer Co., believe the 1870 New Melle organ to be the oldest Pfeffer organ in existence. It cost about \$1200 in 1870. Today, a comparable organ would cost approximately \$25,000.

The above and much of the following is taken from an organ recital program prepared by the Rev. Bernard Asen of St. Paul's.

Recently a young accomplished musician, Earl Carleton Naylor, visited St. Paul's and became intrigued with the opportunity of giving a recital on this wonderful historic organ.

On Sunday, March 16, Mr. Naylor thrilled a large crowd of both local and out-of-town visitors with an afternoon recital on the famed organ. The recital was under the auspices of The Performing Arts Association. Mr. Naylor received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in music from Drake University. He is presently an instructor in piano at the Community Association of Schools of the Arts, Midtown Campus and Director of Music at Arlington United Methodist Church, Bridgeton.

Mrs. Dorothy Rueppel, great-granddaughter of Mr. Pfeffer, was in attendance. She was publicly introduced by Rev. Asen. After the recital she made a careful inspection of her great-grandfather's workmanship.

The organ consists of 54 notes, and 569 wood and metal pipes. It has such accessories as a pedal coppel, a calcant, Forte Pedal and Piano Pedal. The square stop shanks, vertical stop jams, and hinged doors in front of the manual are unusual features showing antiquity.

Church records show that the congregation voted to purchase a new organ for \$1000 on August 1, 1869.

Mr. Pfeffer was contacted, and on August 23 specifications were established, cost was set at \$1,185, and the organ builder offered \$50 for the old organ. Also at this time some land was sold for \$124.40 to finance a balcony to house the new organ. On November 29, the organ builder was instructed to pack the new organ in such a way that if a wagon was not available it could be shipped by rail. Delivery was made in 1870.

No. 75 MAR. 19, 1975

2.31

2.32

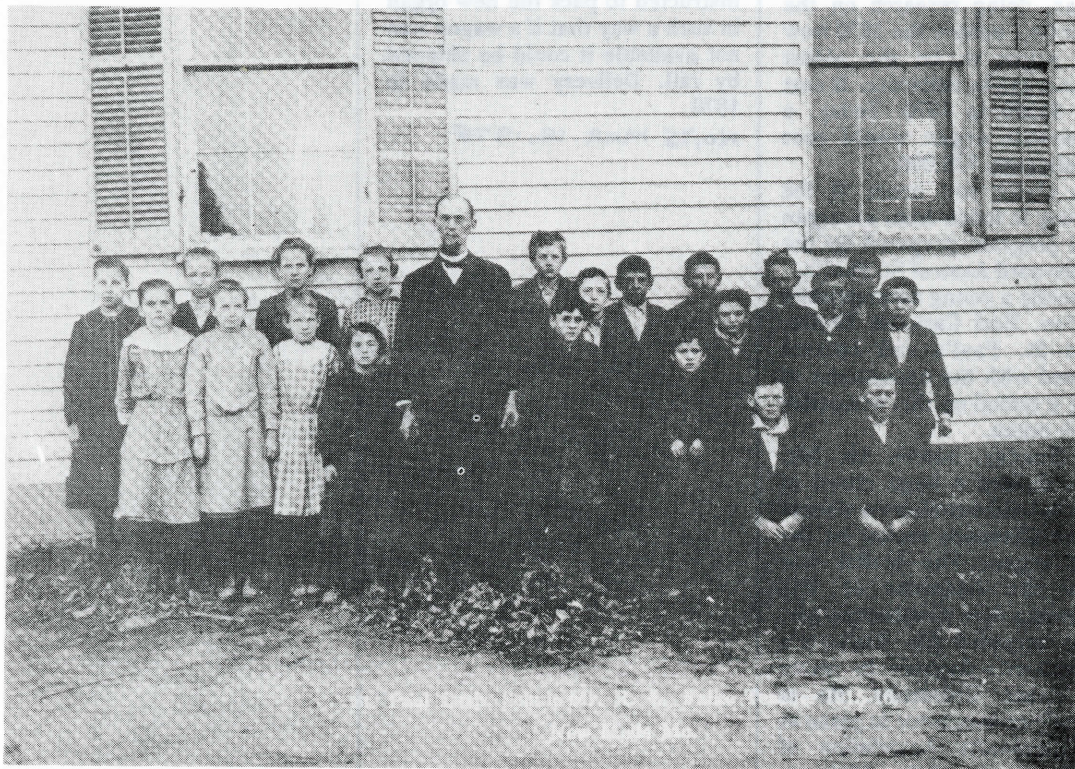
ST. PAUL'S SCHULE

In 1915 St. Paul's Lutheran Church in New Melle was still conducting its parochial school on the original site just east of the cemetery. Later a new school was built adjacent to the church, and the original school was moved to Mill Street next to the bank building.

Children attending in 1915 are shown above with their teacher, the Rev. Robert L. Falke. Mr. Falke was a strict disciplinarian and believed in separating the girls from the boys at all times. Even at recess they were not allowed to play such innocent games together as tag, drop the

handkerchief, hide and go seek, etc. Note how sternly he stands between them in the photo. Note also the stove pipe through the window.

When I visited Mrs. Emilie Demien for identification of some of the children she was carefully ironing the white communion cloth for next Sunday's service. She could name them all without hesitation as if it was only yesterday.



Pictured are the students of the St. Paul's Lutheran Schule in 1915. They are: girls in front row, left to right, Alma Dormann [nee Meyer], Alma Stevener [nee Toedebusch], Clara Demein. Erna Vogt [nee Griewe]; girls in back row, Emilie Demien [nee Auping], Esther Shemmer [nee Griewe], Lydia Fuhr [nee Thiemann], deceased, Clara Schuknegt [nee Hemsiek], deceased, twin sister Marie Hemsiek had to stay home and bake bread the day the picture was made. Boys, kneeling are: Frank Schroeder, deceased, and Ewald Schlueter, deceased. The small boy holding his cap is Alvin Schroeder, whose 30th wedding anniversary was celebrated Sunday. Other boys are Fred Gravemann, Oscar Meier, Fred Griewe [deceased], Al Grapenthin [deceased], Adolph Nadler [deceased], Johnny Meier [deceased], Emll Schiermeier [deceased], Raymond Schlueter, Eddie Meyer [deceased], and Wernhard Schlueter [deceased].

No. 222 MAY 24, 1978

2.32

2.33

BOOKS FOR THE BLIND

One day each month a group from New Melle travels to Wentzville to assemble books in Braille for the blind. I participated in this last week and found the experience to be most enjoyable and heartwarming.

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod had resolved some time ago to supply religious books in Braille to the blind wherever they are needed. It was an ambitious undertaking, and its success depended on the love extended by volunteer workers.

Headquarters for this nationwide operation was established in California. Soon the importance of this worthwhile contribution was recognized by local LWML units throughout the country. Today there are 110 book assembling "Centers" in the U.S. turning out thousands of books for blind people all over the World. In fact, many of these books are accepted in countries that usually prohibit the distribution of religious literature.

Only two Centers are presently located in the State of Missouri. One is in Jefferson City, and the other, for which we should be justly proud, is located at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wentzville, Mo. Mrs. Ruth Temme of Wentzville heads the local Center, with Ruth Moelling of Wentzville, Shirley Walters of St. Charles, and Jane Bowen of Troy, on the Board. When Ruth accepted the volunteer position she had no idea it would grow to such proportions. However, she has found it most rewarding.

There are 15 different groups participating at the Wentzville Center, and the groups of eight to 10 persons each come from the 12 Lutheran churches in the St. Charles Circuit, although anyone regardless of church affiliation can participate in the program. One day per month is set aside for each of the groups. Assembling these books is an assembly line, hand operated effort, with each group working straight through without the normal coffee break. It's routine enough though for

plenty of congenial conversation. The Center produces about 225 books per month.

The original group from New Melle, when they started last May, consisted of Emilie Deman, chairman; Wanda Greiwe, Esther Priggie, Esther Welker, Millie and Lloyd Hoffman, and Ruth Schwede. Since that time the following substitutes are on call: Juanita Brakensiek, Georgia Lee Diederich, Jo Ann Hamel, Ann Rathje, Jean and Josie Schiermeier, Edna and Elsie Schroeder, Alma, Nancy and Shirley Stevener.

When it was our day to assemble books on Thursday, eight of us took up our stations before two long tables, and after an appropriate prayer by Emilie related to spiritual light and darkness, work was begun. Elsie started numbering the pages from 1 to 36. Juanita punched the holes. Millie and Lloyd stuffed the pages between two Braille master zinc plates. I placed the plates in a hinged metal jacket and handed it to Alma, who fed the jacket into a press (the press was handmade by a couple in California). Nancy removed the embossed paper from the zinc plates and handed the plates and jacket to Jo Ann, the runner. The embossed paper went over to Esther, the book binder. Jo Ann returned the empty jacket back to me and ran the plates back to Millie and Lloyd. When the session was over we had broken the group record at 21 books, and I reminded Alma she had shoved that jacket into the press 755 times. Emilie, our inspector, failed to find any rejects.

The Braille System, consisting of an arbitrary code of raised points, or dots, embossed in paper, and read by touch, was first invented by a Frenchman, Charles Barbier. Louis Braille, however, perfected the system in 1829 when only 20 years old. Braille himself was blind from age 3. As a small boy he was admitted to the Institute for the Blind in Paris, where he excelled, not only as a teacher for other blind students, but also in science and music. As years passed, many modifications of the Braille alphabet were devised in attempts to simplify or improve it.

Confusion resulted. Finally, as late as 1932, a conference was held in London to standardize the point system. The conference adopted an alphabet known as Standard English Braille. It is essentially the same as Braille devised 100 years before.

No. 213 MAR. 22, 1978

PENIEL METHODIST CHURCH

The very early beginnings of Methodist work in New Melle are lost in the deep shadows of the last century. However, a small group of pious men did come to the settlement of unknown spiritual extraction, and formed the "Frie Peniel Gemeinde" church. Their chosen Bible passages (Genesis 32:23-33) imply their crossing the sea, and selection of the name "Peniel," for it says in part — "He took them and sent them across the stream...." and then — "And Jacob called the name of the place PENIEL — 'for I have seen God face to face and my life is preserved'...."

History does record that later in 1869 a need for a pastor was sent to 'die Hochschule' (Central Wesleyan College) in Warrenton, and that Brother W. Simon was sent to New Melle from 1870 to 1872.

On March 31, 1869, John W. and Catherine Clara Welker sold a plat of ground for one dollar to Church Trustees John H. Geisman and John H. Hackman for a

free burial ground to all those who may wish to be buried there. It is located near the present church building, but the corner stone referred to in the legal description has never been found. It is believed that the cholera epidemic influenced the term "free burial ground." For many years after that recorded history was almost non-existent. An old German record book published in 1903 states that the congregation was organized in 1869 by a preacher of independent congregations, and a list of successive pastors is given.

At the time of the 1903 report the following brethren were serving as stewards: Charles Borgman, G. W. Karrenbrock, Sr., who was also local preacher, Henry Meyer and Edward Karrenbrock. Trustees were Henry Meyer, Fred Borgman and Andrew Kohler. The congregation at that time was maintaining a Sunday School and Epworth League.

The congregation carried on until July 9, 1959. President M. G. Joyce and Secretary Mary Jane Phillips signed the necessary legal papers dissolving the operation, and on Nov. 15, 1959 a

group of interested persons held a meeting in the Pitman-Muschany Chapel at New Melle, and formed the New Melle Methodist Cemetery Assn. The Board of Directors elected were Henry Aulbert, Dorris Schierebaum, Irene Rickmers, Marvin Hoefner and Roy Borgman. Judge Webster Karrenbrock drew up the document.

The writer is indebted to Clifford Aulbert for securing an Historical Document of the Peniel Methodist Church from his brother Henry for use as reference material. Three photos are included. One of the church built in 1878, the old day school building as it appeared in 1914, and the parsonage when it was sold in 1918. The document concludes with some random notes that should prove interesting. They are in part as follows:

"The first confirmands were Alvina Hackman (mother of Mrs. Alice Heuman) and Frank Sudbrock." — The bricks for the church building were made in New Melle by Sam Stalhuth. The bricks cost \$1,700." — Charter members in 1871 were Henry Hackman, Joseph Gieseman, Joseph and Frank Sudbrock, Joseph Reiske Henry Welker, William Nievey and J. W. Karrenbrock. Total membership was 43." — The 'old church' was standing in Mrs. Hommes' present garden plot when her parents came to New Melle. This was in the year 1890 and Mrs. Hommes remembers seeing the old church building; it was small and was no longer used by the congregation. In fact, the 'Brick Church' had been used 12 years."

"The wash-house used by Mrs. Hommes was the old German School and the fine walnut timbers still bear the initials and names carved by the school

children." — According to Henry J. Aulbert, his father John H. Aulbert, born Sept. 1, 1871, was the first infant baptized in the Methodist building on Oct. 6, 1871 by Rev. William Frosgner."

— The church tower was built by William Brauckesieker and his sons, George and Henry in 1904." "In 1914 the church was completely redecoreated by Paul

Brockfeld of Truesdale. He and his crew were paid 15 cents per hour. — In 1907 the church boasted a singing choir of 14 voices."

"In 1938 the beautiful iron fence and gate around the cemetery were erected by the Stewart Iron Works Co. of Cincinnati. O'Fallon Quarry supplied the rock. Arnold Dieckman was paid for painting the fence on Nov. 15, 1939, and Pat Johnson and Clemence Brakensiek received payment for digging a trench for the cemetery 'rock walk'."

Thus we bring to an end the 91 years of history of the New Melle Methodist Church based on a recorded founding date of March 31, 1869.

*105 OCT. 15, 1974

METHODIST CHURCH

In this paper, much has been said in the past about other churches in the area, but very little was known of the Methodist Church that once flourished in New Melle. Mary Cuffingnam, however, has now handed me a faded newspaper clipping that reads as follows: "The church was organized in 1871. Original members were Henry Hackman, Joseph Giesmann, Joseph Sud-

brock, Frank Sudbrock, William Nieweg, Joseph Reiske, Hy Welker, and J. W. Karrenbrock. Pastors have included: William Simon, Hy Miller, F. Seuyaser, John Suntmeier, C. Steinmeier, Fritz Koning, and J. Froeschee.

"The church was built in 1878 of brick at a cost of \$1,700, Mr. Karrenbrock was superintendent of the Sunday School." End quote.

No. 52 OCT. 7, 1974



New Melle Methodist Church Choir of 1907

2.35

One of the classic old photos brought into the Cracker Barrel is that of the "New Melle Methodist Church Choir of 1907." The photo was made by Hurd of Troy, Mo. Local folks at that time would often refer to the group as "The Karrenbrock Choir." Note the familiar names of that early period as we start at the top row and read left to right:

Rev. Lucke (Pastor), Emil Holt, Theophia Karrenbrock, Bruno and Elmer Meier, tenors; Edward Karrenbrock, Edward Kessler, George Karrenbrock and Frank Brauchieker, bass; Eliza Karrenbrock, Anna Hoefner, Adelia Almeling and Mrs. Theophia (Lena Brauchieker) Karrenbrock, altos; Lydia and Lula Brauck-sieker and Sarah Karrenbrock, sopranos.

Some readers may still remember this fine choir. The following are interesting bits of information learned from Alice Heiman —

Emil, who had the mill in New Melle for several years, married Adelia. Adelia was the organist at Friedens Church. Theophia married Lena Brauchieker (Vincent's "Skeeter" parents). Bruno and Elmer are brothers. Bruno married Lula (parents of Hadley who attended FHHS with the writer and who knocked the writer out once in a high school boxing match). Bruno had a blacksmith shop in town and later a garage. George was county assessor for a long time. George married Anna. *George is the father* of Webster, the former and well known Probate Judge of St. Charles County. George and brother Theophia had the mill before Emil. Eliza, George, Edward and Theophia are brothers and sisters. Eliza taught organ music. Edward Kerrenbrock had the Creamery. Lydia, Lula and Lena are sisters and Frank is a brother. Sarah never married.

Thus, what seems to be a puzzle, is a brief account of a wonderful group of young couples

that enjoyed many happy hours together nearly 70 years ago.

No. 85 MAY 28, 1915

2.35

2.36
The Kamphoefner Home

The original town of New Melle was layed out as a true rectangle approximately 700 ft. by 1,300 ft. This was divided into property lines numbered consecutively from No. 1 to 16, and with an unnumbered rectangular section in the center of town 200 ft. by 400 ft. known as Market Square.

The Market Square contained only a Mill Pond, John H. Kessler's store and the Kessler home. There are 26 homes and other buildings shown on the original plat, of which 17 are still standing. There is a heritage here that we should all learn to appreciate more each day, and care for.

Lets walk south on Mill St. from the store about 100 yards, and cross over to the east side of the original homes first owned by Fritz Kamphoefner on property No. 6 for a visit with the present owner Mrs. Martha Stevener, who with her husband Otto (deceased), purchased the home 23 years ago.

Walking around the yard and through the brick house with Mrs. Stevener is like turning back the pages of time. The charm of the 19th Century is around you, not only in the furnishings, but in the wide board flooring, the tongue and groove pine board ceilings, the 18 inch thick interior walls, the antique glass window panes, etc., etc. The bricks came from the Stahlhuth Brick Factory near by.

A wash house, combined with a meat smoke house (typical of yesteryear) stands in the rear on a rock foundation. Exterior white oak boards, nailed on vertically, are in a good state of preservation, but ashen gray of course, due to the long exposure to rain and sun. The interior still remains a neat and trim little wash house.

Mrs. Stevener is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Demean. She was born at the old Demean homeplace "down in the Callaway," some four miles southwest of New Melle. Here she spent 29 happy years "despite the rocks," as she remarked. It was necessary for her and her family to cross

through the Callaway 14 times on their way to town. At 29, Martha married her next door neighbor sweetheart, Otto Stevener.

The neighboring pioneer farms were so close a conversation could be carried on without leaving each others premises. After Otto and Martha were married, they moved to a farm on the Femme Osage and raised a family of four daughters, Erna, Milda, Norma, and Dorothy. All were members of the St. Paul's Church in New Melle and daily the girls trudged back and forth over the rocks and hills to school and Confirmation classes.

As stated before, Mrs. Stevener has lived 23 years in her mid-1800 home and she is looking forward to her third 29 year stretch.

No. 28 4-29-74

2.36

THE STEVENER SALE

In 1974 this column carried a short story entitled "A Tale of Two Lots." It concerned the historical background of two adjoining lots, No. 3 and No. 6 in New Melle across from Frieden's U.C. of C.

These two lots were part of the town plat dated Aug. 22, 1850, that was brought to the County Court by pioneer Samuel F. Cunningham. The lots were part of the original Buennemann tract. In that same year town planner F. H. Kemper sold the lots to John H. Schierbaum for \$40. In 1868 Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Weinrich, New Melle's first settlers, fell heir to the lots. Later, on Sept. 16, 1871, the Weinrichs sold lot No. 6 to son-in-law Frederick Kamphoefner for \$200. Mr. Kamphoefner proceeded immediately to erect his home and blacksmith shop on his newly acquired acre of land.

The Kamphoefner home was built of bricks from the Stahlhuth Brick Co. in New Melle, and a summer kitchen and smokehouse, constructed of roughly sawed white oak boards, was erected in the rear. A story is told by Mr. Kamphoefner's granddaughter, Mrs. Frank Toedebusch (Alberta), that the 1871 summer

drought had ruined the gardens, and her grandmother was forced to use plantain leaves from the yard in her beef stew. Beef was then selling for .03 cents/lb.

In 1951 the property was purchased by the late Otto Stevener and his wife, Martha. I remember visiting with Mrs. Stevener four years ago and noting the 19th century charm that surrounds this small brick home and summer kitchen, and how the furnishings fitted in with the wide board flooring, the tongue and groove pine board ceilings, the antique glass window panes, and the framed doorways.

Martha (Demean) Stevener was born on the old Demean home place "down on the Callaway," some four miles southwest of New Melle. As a child she walked countless times to and from New Melle over the rocks and crossing the Callaway Creek 14 times. Now she has sold her home and lifelong possessions. We will miss her daily trips down Mill Street, but nevertheless all has worked out quite well, and she is very happy about everything.

The home was purchased a few months ago by Ted and Jo Christner of St. Louis County who are planning to restore it to its original beauty. On Saturday, April 8, 1978, Martha's furnishings, dishes, etc., were sold at public auction. The warm, sunny day encouraged a large crowd. The auctioneer's familiar call quickened the heartbeat of would be purchasers and sales were brisk, and the Lutheran Ladies Aid sold out of roast beef and homemade pies. It was a fun day. Ted and Jo were there, too, enjoying themselves immensely. I believe they fell in love with the town. They managed to buy the kitchen cook stove where it will remain. They joined the Community Club, and since Ted likes Country/western music he was happy to meet Nick Nixon. They wound up the day at VFW's fish fry and remarked, "You people really know how to live out here." Mr. Christner is a well known architect in St. Louis, and Jo is another history enthusiast and teacher. We welcome this talented young couple to the community.

No. 216 APR. 10, 1978

2.36

2.37 The Sudbrock Homes

NEW RESIDENTS

Welcome John and Sandra Axline and their two daughters, Anne, age 7, and Amy, age 3, from Morrow, Ohio. The Axlines have purchased the frame residence on "D" next door to the Lutheran Church Parsonage and have been New Melle citizens for one week. John commutes every day to Garvey Labelmatic in St. Louis County. Anne has enrolled in the Daniel Boone School and Sandra is excited about getting settled in this interesting old home.

In the early 1900's our New Melle carpenter, Earnest Sudbrock, built this house for he and his wife on a tract of land he had owned for several years. The cupola type lookout he added to the roof gives the exterior a special touch of distinction. The house stands on the highest ridge in St. Charles County. Therefore, the cupola satisfied Mr. Sudbrock's desire to have a commanding view of the entire countryside in all directions.

Later Herman Kamphoefner and his wife, Hulda, (nee Faulke, the daughter of Rev. Faulke who served St. Paul's Church from 1902 to 1928), purchased the home. Their daughter, Alberta, now Mrs. Frank Toedebusch, is believed to be the only person ever born in the house itself.

No. 68 JAN. 29, 1975

THE SUDBROCK HOME

Many homes and business establishments were built by carpenter Earnest Sudbrock in New Melle. The home pictured above was designed and built by him for his family.

Cupolas were the style in the late 19th Century to afford the owner a splendid view of the countryside in all directions. This particular house is located on the high ridge that runs through the town, so with the cupola added. Earnest satisfied his desire for that commanding view.

The photo was taken on a special occasion. It was the day possibly that the Sudbrocks ded-

icated their new home, and all were dressed in their very best "black." Herman Sudbrock is second from right, and Earnest is believed to be fifth from right.

Earnest could not keep his dream home for long due to a severe asthma condition. As stated in a previous column, Herman Kamphoefner became the new owner. Time passed and the home was neglected. However, in January of this year, the Axlines from Ohio recognized its charm and purchased it. They already have restored much of its original beauty.

No. 100 SEPT. 8, 1975



THE EARNEST SUDBROCK HOME



This house built in the early 1900's in western New Melle still stands today.

No. 2.37 Aug. 27, 1975

Mrs. Elmer S. Wood of Alexandria, Minn. (formerly Marie Hoefner of Defiance), and her sister Gladys, came into the Cracker Barrel store this week and identified the four boys, and the Stratman brothers as two of the carpenters. The two boys on horses are Francis Hoefner left, and George Kessler right. Seated on the boards in front are Wesley Hoefner (oldest of the Fred Hoefner family), and Marvin Hoefner.

2.38

RURAL SCHOOL TEACHER

Those of us who have attended a one room, rural grade school can remember what life was like in a single room where all eight grades were taught, and what it was like in the playground when kids from six to fourteen had to be chosen on each side for any kind of a game in order to make some semblance of a team.

Big kids bullied the little kids, but little kids often showed up the big kids reciting the multiplication table, or spelling difficult words at a spelling bee. Bad kids were punished before the whole school, and forced to stand in the corner, and all kids loved and feared their teacher. Now that many of us are much older kids we can better appreciate the trials and tribulations, as well as the pleasantries, experienced by the rural school teacher.

In recalling those days fond memories go back to "Miss Dorothy" (Hoefner) and "Miss Tyler" (Mrs. Maude Tyler) at Walnut Grove School in Defiance.

Here in New Melle, however, fond memories of Mrs. Ray (Mary) Cunningham are treasured by hundreds of her former pupils. Mary began her long teaching career in the original New Melle one room school in 1926, continued there for 11 years, taught in Wentzville four years, returned to New Melle and worked hard toward the establishment of the Daniel Boone Consolidated School, from which she retired in 1964 after completing 38 years in the profession.

Wherever she goes, former students never fail to greet her. An example of the devotion they have for her was noticed recently at the PTA Chili Supper when an attractive young lady (Miss Marcia Graewe) proudly presented her to her boy friend as "My first teacher."

Mary was born in High Hill, graduated from McMillian High School in Mexico, Mo. and received her higher education at Central Wesleyan College in Warrenton, and at the State Teachers' College at Springfield. She and her husband, Ray, live comfortably in one of the early

New Melle homes, the only all rock house in town.

No. 73 MAR. 3, 1975

2.39

UP IN THE ATTIC

We all know that an attic is that unfinished space directly below the gabled roof of our homes, but are many of us aware that the word was handed down to us from the ancient city of Attica, in Greece, or from its principal city, Athens? Also, an order of small square pillars placed by Athenian architects at the uppermost parts of a building was known as an "attic order."

Consequently, conventional homes throughout the world have had attics. Attics in the older two story homes with a rather steep roof pitch provided ideal places for families to store boxes and trunks full of clothes, books, letters, keepsakes, games and toys. They were no longer useful to the family, yet they were too good to throw away, and sentiment was often too strong.

Years passed and these discarded items stayed where they were temporarily stored. Grandma's bonnets and long black dresses were worn in festival parades, some items were miraculously transformed into valuable antiques, and boys and girls of a next generation delighted in venturing up into that mysterious place above their bedrooms to search for unknown treasures.

The Axlines, who live in one of the New Melle "historic homes," must have one of those ideal mysterious attics, because Sandra, a teacher's aid at Daniel Boone School, developed quite a fine show, entitled "Up In The Attic," for all of us who had breakfast with Raggedy Ann and Andy at the school on Saturday, April 14.

Sandy Molitor, as Marcella, was the "little girl" who invited her friends over to explore the attic's mysteries. Her friends were Raggedy LuAnn Heggs, Raggedy Andy Chris Ramey, Lady Doll Evelyn Hunn, and Alice Benne the Clown.

They went in raptures as treasure after treasure was found. Finally a big toy box was discovered in the corner. Someone opened the door, and out came the toys that had been hidden away for years. All were different and all were creations by the fantasy brain of each mechanical toy. They were: Jeff Bollman, Greg Brakensiek, Jim Collum, Kurt Grau, Vernon Ham, Darrell Jett, Tim Moore, Kenny May, Joe Mueller, Scott Phillips, Karen Anderson, Amy Brockman, Chris Crimm, Vicki Elliott, Cindy Freeman, Vicky Gerdeman, Sonja James, Vicki Lottman, Jenny Nierenberg, Chris Pavlik, Lisa Wagster, Denise Drewery, Angie Keeran and Tracy Martin.

The toys were a delight to all the children in the front rows, and everyone was having a good time until Mother Mary Ann Heil called from downstairs and insisted that everything must be put back where Marcella and her friends had found them. So, back in the box went the toys where they will stay until another little girl or boy decides to explore the mysteries of the attic.

Others who helped to make this program a success were: Stage set, Cassie Potter and Joy Kendall; pianist, Betty Keeran; choreography, Pam DeBold; directions, Donna Pant and Sandra; breakfast decorations, Lin Hires and Darrell Jett. Ruth Basile will be Raggedy Ann at the school performance next week. Also special thanks to PTA members, teachers, staff and students for their help.

No. 218 APR 24, 1978

2.38 & 2.39

The Cracker Barrel News

New Melle Area Items of Interest

By Bill Schiermeier

2.40

The Country Doctor

Many will remember the rural family doctor who practiced his profession under rather primitive conditions by today's standards. A mere 50 years ago the rural doctor was making his regular house calls to distant farms over roads that at times were next to impassable. Prior to that it was by horse and buggy. In the case of New Melle the nearest hospital was 26 miles away, a great distance at that time. Consequently he was forced to treat all sorts of diseases, and be prepared to handle any wound, or perform any type of an operation, completely on his own. Today it is rare when even the most severely stricken person cannot be rushed quickly to facilities where modern equipment and specialists are waiting.

The country doctor was the obstetrician when the delivery room was the family bed room. He was the surgeon when the operating room was a kitchen in some remote farmhouse, and his attendants were generally any persons close at hand that could stand the sight of blood. Shelves in his office were lined with bottles containing various solutions and compounds for preparing medicines. He even made pills for patients as needed. His devoted wife served as the head nurse. His pay was nominal, usually whatever the patient could afford. Frequently he knew in advance that he would never receive a penny for his services. His work was hard, demanding regardless of time or weather conditions. It was lonely and often heart-breaking. Out of a deep sense of duty and concern for his fellow man he would always "keep on keeping on". Despite it all he enjoyed the respect and admiration of the community.

As a boy, I particularly remember three such doctors in the home town of Defiance. First there was Dr. Hardin, who lived with us for a few years, and who later became a well known doctor in St. Charles. Then there was Dr. Snyder. His skill was recognized for miles around.

and it was a sad day when he announced his retirement. Dr. Bitter was the last doctor in the Defiance area.

Another such doctor was my own father-in-law, Dr. R. M. Stormont. He practiced medicine 60 years in Webb City, Mo. in the heart of the Joplin lead and zinc mining region. When the mines were depleted the town became extremely depressed. Most of his patients could not possibly pay him regularly, yet it never entered his mind to leave them without medical care. Each moment spent with him was a rewarding experience. He died in 1957 in his office at the age of 83 years.

This story of "The Country Doctor", however, was prompted entirely by our own Dr. Oscar Muhm

who practiced his profession in New Melle for 40 years, from 1902 to 1941. During the visit with his wife Martha, now 100 years old, an opportunity came to observe a number of his personal belongings that are now cherished by his family. Of special interest was the 'pill maker', and also the bells for his horse. Their ringing in the distance would reassure the patients family that the doctor was coming.

Flu Epidemic

The experiences recalled were equally as interesting. Once during an entire three week period when the flu epidemic hit hard in 1918. Dr. Muhm did not change clothes, sleep in a bed, eat a "decent meal," or return home. He hired a driver to enable him to eat and sleep enroute to house calls.

Another time a boy began to suffocate at a Lutheran picnic. Dr. M. was on the grounds and he had but one recourse, to perform an immediate tracheotomy with his pocket knife.

There was the occasion when Mr. Holt ripped the palm of his hand off in a wool carding machine. As he was brought through town, with all tendons exposed, onlookers "dropped like flies at the sight." The doctor not only dressed and healed the hand but also performed a successful skin graft. In time Mr. Holt had full use of his hand.

One peaceful summer day Louie Maschmeier fell from a cherry tree and broke his neck. The spinal cord was intact, however. The doctor gave explicit instructions how he had to be completely immobilized with sand bags and held without releasing a single grip throughout the long Model A trip to the hospital. The patient recovered and the doctor was widely acclaimed.

Then there was the night during a blizzard when the doctor was called to a farm to treat a pneumonia case, only to find a very difficult confinement problem in the hen house. Totally unprepared, he nevertheless improvised the necessary instruments and performed a successful caesarean.

Grant Cooper remembered the time Otto Stevener was kicked in the stomach by a mule. The doctor managed to get him to the hospital for x-rays, which revealed several unexplainable black dots. A later operation proved them to be imbedded shotgun pellets from rabbits and squirrels he had consumed throughout his lifetime.

Daughters Edith and Mildred recalled many more stories.

They are typical of those encountered by a host of dedicated country doctors that have all but passed from the great American scene.

No. 71 FEB. 17, 1975



Dr. Muhm's Home

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OUR CENTENARIAN

One hundred years ago, on Feb. 21, 1875, Fritz and Emma Riesmeyer became the proud parents of their third child, Martha. The Riesmeyers lived on a farm near Augusta, Mo., where they performed the many tasks of 19th Century farming, when self-sufficiency was an absolute necessity.

As a young girl, Martha learned rapidly and eagerly to cook and to preserve fruit, vegetables and meat; to card wool, to spin it and to weave it into clothing for herself and her nine brothers and sisters; to make soap and candles; to plant and care for a garden, to milk cows, to take care of the chickens, and so on. Formal school in those days, especially for girls, was not strongly encouraged by parents on a farm where all available hands were sorely needed. However, Mr. Riesmeyer provided private tutoring for each of the girls in home arts. Martha became exceptionally adept in needlecraft. There wasn't any sewing technique that she could not master.

When Martha was 20 years old she fell in love with a young man by the name of Oscar Muhm, who was to become the well known and highly respected general practitioner and surgeon in New Melle for forty years.

After seven years of courtship, in 1902, Miss Martha Riesmeyer married Dr. Oscar Muhm. Her wedding dress, of course, was made entirely by herself. Together they settled down to a dedicated life of administering to the physical ills of folks in the rural community of New Melle, where they also raised their three children; the late Dr. Harvard Muhm, (a dentist in St. Charles for a number of years); Mildred (a retired registered nurse in Cape Girardeau); and Edith (Mrs. Grant Cooper of Ferguson).

On Friday, Feb. 21, Mrs. Muhm, who was the weakling in the family, and who was not expected to live beyond her eighteenth birthday, will cele-

brate her 100th birthday. Yesterday we visited her at Edith's and Grant's home in Ferguson where she now resides. Mildred was also there. It was a happy experience to trace through 100 years with this remarkable lady.

Mrs. Muhm and her two daughters had just arrived home from the Ferguson Presbyterian Church where a program was given in her honor. Edith amusingly stated that life is really a whirl living with a celebrity. Mrs. Muhm is the oldest living resident in Ferguson, and the Mayor will be presenting her with "the key to the city" on her birthday.

Then on Sunday, Feb. 23, she will come back to New Melle, where an open house will be given in her honor at the Friedens U.C. of C. from 1 to 3 p.m. The public is invited.

Martha has been a dedicated member of the E. & R. Churches (now U.C. of C), first in Augusta and then in New Melle, throughout her long life. She is a charter member of Friedens Women's Guild.

Mrs. Muhm told several amusing stories about the early days in New Melle, and added that she attended the Ringling Brothers Circus every year and also the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904. However, she remembered too many difficult and trying experiences encountered as a doctor's wife in a sparsely settled area where the nearest hospital was 26 miles away over dirt roads.

There were times when she had to take in acutely ill patients who were not able to care for themselves. There were instances when she had to assist in emergency operations, and there was the endless preparation of food in large quantities for the doctor to take along with his medications.

Dr. Muhm contended that a patient could not get well on medication alone. She recalled the flu epidemic of 1918 when it was impossible for her husband to come home at any time during a three week span. During this period the office patients received their medication from Martha, who received her instructions from the doctor

through unique relay messages over a very limited early day telephone system. Mildred remembered her father's phenomenal success in restoring nearly all of his flu patients back to good health.

In 1941 Martha's husband, the long and faithful doctor of New Melle, died, but she continued to live by her favorite words of St. Paul, found in Philipians, Chapter 4, Verse 11, quote: "I have learned to be content in whatever state I am in." After repeating this, she added, "Smile and the world smiles with you. Weep and you weep alone." Such a philosophy of life has sustained her through the years and has molded her into a very happy, interesting personality.

NO. 70 FEB. 10, 1975

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HOME TOWN DEVOTION

"Our Centenarian," Mrs. Martha Muhm, having fully recovered from a recent flu attack, returned to her home town of New Melle Sunday afternoon to receive a warm reception from several hundred friends at Friedens U.C. of C. Hall.

She remained calm and most gracious as each guest came to her with either a gift or some congratulatory comment. This display of devotion was highlighted by a "Resolution" received from Missouri Senator Joe Frappier.

The Senator forwarded the Resolution to Arley Welge, a long time friend of the Muhm family, who read it personally to her. It reads as follows: quote, "Whereas, the members of the Missouri Senate, 78th General Assembly have learned of the 100th Birthday of Mrs. Martha Muhm, of Ferguson, and

Whereas, Mrs. Muhm was born February 21, 1875 near Augusta, and in 1902 she married Dr. Oscar Muhm and the couple then dedicated their lives to administering to the medical problems of New Melle residents, and

Whereas, Mrs. Muhm has long been a dedicated member of the U.C. of C. and is a charter member of Frieden's Women's Guild, and

Whereas, Mrs. Muhm is the oldest living resident of Ferguson, and she has enriched the lives of countless individuals who have had the privilege to know her for she truly is a woman of unquestionable integrity and exemplary conduct;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the members of the Missouri Senate, 78th General Assembly, extend their heartiest congratulations to Mrs. Martha Muhm in the days ahead, and

Be it further resolved that the Secretary of the Senate be instructed to send a properly inscribed copy of this resolution to Mrs. Martha Muhm, in care of Mr. Arlie Welge, New Melle, Mo. — Offered by Senator Frappier, State of Missouri, City of Jefferson Senate Chamber

¶ Vinita E. Ramsey, Secretary of the Senate, do hereby certify the above and foregoing to be a full, true and complete copy of Senate Resolution No. 85, offered into and adopted by the Senate on February 27, 1975, and fully as the same appear of record in my office. In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the Senate of the State of Missouri."

Then in a more personal display of affection, there was a decoupage plaque made by 11-year-old Karen Stevener. Karen chose the following verse for the plaque she presented to Mrs. Muhm, "It's the way we see life that we live it; And it's what we attract we find, too — It's no wonder your life's so beautiful; You've attracted what it's held for you. — Have a beautiful day."

Accompanying Martha to New Melle were her children, and grandchildren, and her weekly Pinochle Club friends from Ferguson; namely, Zelda Taylor, Dorothy Koenig, Ethlyn Summers and Edna Mitchell.

It was a day of happiness and contentment for one who has personified such qualities throughout her long life.

MAR. 19, 1975 No. 75

EMMA ZOLLMANN

Eighty years ago on December 1, 1894, John (1) and Lena (nee Ellermann) Meier became the parents of a daughter, christened Emma. Emma was confirmed at the Lutheran Church in Wentzville, and later married Frank Zollmann, son of Henry Zollman who operated a successful meat market in New Melle for many years.

Frank and Emma Zollmann moved to St. Louis County, where Frank became engaged in the poultry business in Wellston. He would make regular trips to the New Melle area to purchase truck loads of poultry and eggs for resale at his store. Emma, known

for her sweet and quiet disposition, became an expert quilter. She made countless quilts throughout her lifetime, and her beautiful work was much in demand.

On Sunday, February 23, she attended the 100th Birthday Party in Ferguson for her good friend and pinochle partner, Mrs. Martha Muhm. She became ill on the following Tuesday, and passed away on Thursday, February 27. She was buried in the New Melle Friedens Cemetery on March 1.

Mrs. Zollmann is survived by a daughter, Norma (nee Zollmann) White of Ferguson, a granddaughter, Jean (White) Ditenhafer, and two great-grandchildren.

Note (1) The parents of John Meier (Emma's grandparents) lived on what is now "The Massmann Farm" — Ref. C. B. News Issue No. 58, Nov. 18, 1974.

No. 76 MAR. 26, 1975

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PROFILE ---

ELIZABETH ALMELING

One of the most pleasant tasks associated with writing brief stories about people is the opportunity, or excuse, to visit interesting personalities in the area. One such visit was made Sunday to the trim, modest home of Mrs. "Lizzie" (Nieweg) Almeling on the southeast corner of Mill and St. Charles Streets in New Melle, where she has lived since 1963.

Lizzie, now 80 years old, moved to New Melle in 1911 with her parents, Frederick and Elisie Sophia Nieweg, from a farm in the Oakdale School District northwest of New Melle, where she was born. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Johns U. C. of C. in Cappeln and attended grade school in the one room Oakdale schoolhouse.

Lizzie was the youngest of eight children. Of her two brothers and five sisters, four are living today. Mrs. Almeling, of German descent, mentioned that her grandparents were all born in Germany but that both of her parents were born in the U. S.

The Niewegs arrived at their town house in 1911 with all of their belongings packed in buckboard wagons. Their home, now being torn down due to severe fire damage recently, is the third house west of the Lutheran Church. She especially remembered the deep cellar that was used in earlier years for grape and wine storage.

Today no trace remains of the large vineyard that once grew nearby. Her parents purchased the home from Oscar Holt, who had acquired it earlier from the town's carpenter, Earnest Sudbrock. This brings to mind the copy of "Der Lutheraner" dated July 13, 1897 found nailed between the walls of the old house by Pete Joerling who is dismantling the house. The paper written in German, bears the penciled signature of Mr. Sudbrock, also in German.

Soon after settling down in New Melle, young Miss Nieweg went off to Cape Girardeau Normal School, where she graduated with a teaching degree. She taught the elementary eight grades for several years in three different one room schools in Foristell, the Oakdale school west of New Melle, and in a school near St. Charles.

Her educational background must certainly account for her continuing zest to read. She remarked that her love for reading has kept her from ever becoming lonely, and she expressed sorrow for those people who have never developed the desire to read. A favorite paper of her's is "Grit," which she has read regularly since 1900.

Mrs. Almeling was married in 1933 to Clarence Nieweg who passed away in 1953. They had no children. When first married they lived on the A. C. Almeling farm one mile south of town.

From there they moved to the neighboring Herman Thielmann farm. Herman, a bachelor, vacated the "big house" for them and moved into the smaller house in the rear. From there the couple moved back into town.

So, in all of her active 80 years, Lizzie has lived in a number of places, yet she has not traveled too many miles from the home area. The opportunity for an extended vacation away from home, "like the young folks get today" escaped her.

Despite this, however, she remains well versed on the world beyond her, and although she has lived alone for many years, she has not once experienced loneliness. She is a fine Christian woman, a faithful member of Friedens U. C. of C., and a charming person to know.

No. 80 MAR. 19, 1975

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ALICE AND ANN AT 75

Little Miss Ann Koehler was born two and one-half miles west of New Melle on Aug. 23, 1902. The next day another young lady, Miss Alice Broecker, was born in town, and the St. Charles Banner-News announced their births in the same write-up. From that time until their marriages the two girls were inseparable, and they have remained lifelong close friends.

The families of both girls were active leaders in the New Melle German Methodist Church where they were both christened on the same day, where they attended Saturday afternoon and summer religious school and where they were both confirmed in 1915. They even walked to grammar school together; that is, after Ann has first walked the two and one-half miles into town from the Koehler farm home. Their first public school teacher was Oscar Boeneman, later cashier of the Defiance Bank.

Upon graduation from the eighth grade, Ann and Alice were eligible to take the teacher's examination, which they did and passed easily. Ann decided to become an elementary school teacher and taught for several years at the Bluff Springs, Doebelin Firuna, O'Fallon and Wentzville schools. Alice, however, decided to become a clerk in the New Melle Mercantile Co. store, where she remained until 1921. These were bustling days in the old town at that time.

Alice was married to Vic Heuman in New Melle on April 9, 1922. Vic died June 17, 1966, due to an unfortunate tractor accident. Alice lives in the same house where she was born. She has never lived elsewhere. The house was built by Mr. Kleinmeier in the 1870's, and purchased by her parents, George and Alvens (Hackman) Broecker in 1898 from Herman Koelling.

Ann married Roy Sudbrock Aug. 23, 1924, in Warrenton. Their home today is in Wentzville.

Alice has three children, 11 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. This close-knit family on Sunday, Aug. 28, 1977, arranged a 75th birthday party for their mother. It could even be considered a four-in-one family reunion, as 150 relatives from the Broekers, Heuman, River and Schiermeier families were present. Ann and Roy, of course, were also present.

In discussing early New Melle days with Alice, a few interesting historical briefs came to light. Grandfather Broecker, for instance, was a Lutheran and is buried somewhere in the woods behind the cemetery. The Hackmans, however, were Evangelicals, but disliked the long trips to either Cappel or Femme Osage to attend church. So, John Hy. Hackman and Josat Giessman went to the Evangelical Synod for a minister, guaranteeing \$400 per year salary plus a home and firewood. Their mission was unsuccessful.

They then went to the Methodist Church and succeeded in obtaining Brother Simon in 1870. Thus began the German Methodist Church in New Melle. Alvena Hackman (Alice's mother) and Frank Sudbrock were the first confirmands. The German religious school referred to earlier stands today at the rear of the Goins home in the south end of town.

Mrs. Heuman remembers the board sidewalks, the bandstand at the Lutheran Park, the long ringing of church bells when the war ended in 1919, and when everybody came into town to parade up and down the streets. She also remembers the day Edwin Paul installed a Delco plant so the town could have street lights.

Alice was the organist in the Methodist Church from 1915 to 1922, and at Friedens U.C. of C. (which she joined after marriage) from 1932 to 1977. She is active in the Women's Fellowship Guild, and the Social Neighbors Club. She is an avid quilter, was among the first group of women to join the Community Club and is now planning a trip to Germany next year.

No. 190 SEPT. 14, 1977

HILDA BROEKER

Miss Hilda Broecker, a lifelong resident of New Melle, passed away last week. She was in state at the Pitman Funeral Home, and services were held Thursday at St. Paul's Lutheran Church where she was baptized and confirmed, and where she remained a faithful member throughout her long life.

Hilda was born on the Broecker farm (now the Grant Cooper farm) in 1882. She was the youngest of 13 children born to Carl Broecker and Clara (nee Hensiek). Five of her brothers and sisters died in infancy. Survivors are three nieces, Amy Morris of New York, Marguerite Broecker of California, and Alice Heuman of New Melle; and two nephews, Robert Morris of St. Louis and Elmer Broecker of Illinois.

Alice, who cared for Hilda daily during the last 10 years, recalls especially her keen memory of happenings in former years, and she always enjoyed talking about the "olden days."

No. 62 DEC. 18, 1974

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HEIRLOOM QUILTS

Somewhere within the relationship of every family today there exists at least one heirloom quilt that dates back into the 19th Century. When family history is obscure, however, it is very difficult to accurately determine the age of quilts.

It is true that the passage of years induces a mellowing process into the printed fabrics, yet some very old quilts which were considered the "best" or "bride's" spreads were used so infrequently, and tucked away so carefully, that many appear like new today.

Many early bedspreads were made in one piece, or a series of borders surrounded a central artistic design. Tiny triangles, squares and hexagons appeared. These old patterns of our grandmothers' are repeated even today.

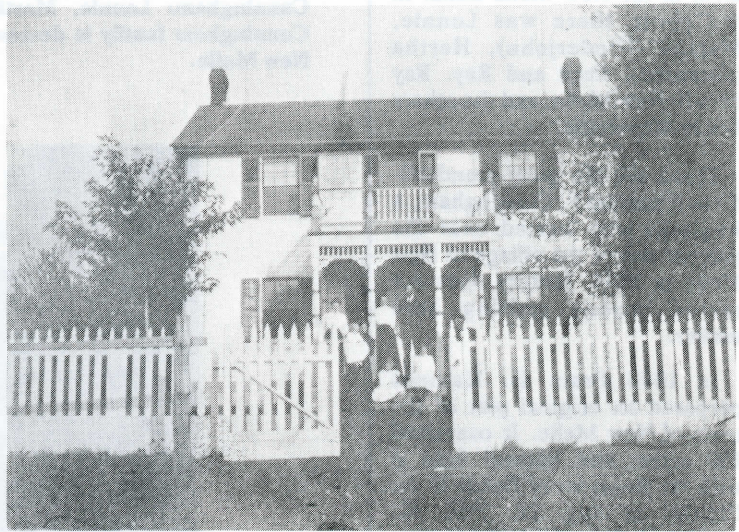
Also, it is difficult to determine what technique was first used. For instance, many old quilts show both the applique and piecework technique in one spread. Early bedspreads were sometimes lined with wool, but even before Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin, cotton was the favorite. Cotton seeds, therefore, found in quilts may be a factor in determining age, but not positively.

Prints depicting the times is a strong clue. In the Centennial year of 1876 Liberty bells, shields, flags, etc. were stitched into quilts. Features of Grant and Arthur were used about 1885. Now, with the Bicentennial year approaching, and with quilting becoming more popular than ever, the opportunities to design artistic heirloom quilts are unlimited. Current historical events could be shown, dates and names could be stitched in.

Here in the New Melle area, and I am sure it is true in other surrounding communities, there is always some group of ladies gathering together in the home for a quilting party. As dexterous fingers stitch away, coffee brews, and friendships weld together as conversations continue without letup.

Last week the New Melle Festival "Fancy Work Committee" presented their beautiful festival quilt design to the quilters and away they went with flying needles. The quilt was placed in the frame on Monday, and by 4 p.m. Wednesday the quilt was completed. Those on the Fancy Work Committee were Mabel Schmidt, chairman, Meta Paul and Alice Heuman, and the lunches were served by Margie Rehmeier, Vivian Joerling and Alice Schneider. The quilt will be raffled off at the Festival in July.

No. 80 APR. 21, 1975



*The George Broecker Home
in New Melle 65 years ago.*



*Early Broecker Home 1890's
Ed, Clara & Carl Broecker*

2.45

2.46

THE CUNNINGHAMS

Almost any day in New Melle or Wentzville one may strike up a conversation with a member of the Cunningham family. Their ancestors were first settler pioneers in this locality, and many direct descendants have made this their lifetime home.

A few days ago Lonnie came up with an early 1900 photo of the five children of Walker Cunningham. Walker, a farmer, was the son of Ulysses. John, a brother of Ulysses, was at one time president of the New Melle Bank. In the photo there was Lonnie, Martha (Niederjohn), Hertha (deceased), Cecil and Ray. Ray lives in New Melle, and the others live in Wentzville.

These are the great-grandchildren of Samuel F. Cunningham, a Virginian who located near the present site of the village of New Melle in 1834. History does not record anyone settling here earlier.

In 1848 Fram H. Kamper prepared an original plat of the town of New Melle. It contained 160 acres, and Samuel filed it with the Recorder of Deeds in St. Charles on Aug. 22, 1850. He possibly delivered it to the County Seat on horseback.

It is not known where the original Samuel Cunningham home was located. It would be safe to say that it was a log cabin, and perhaps in later years he lived with his son John on the old Cunningham homestead, two miles east of New Melle on Highway D and now occupied for the past 48 years by the Harry Sudbrock family. Walker and his family lived off the Old Colony Road on a farm. A short distance from John's farm home on D is the family cemetery enclosed by a concrete wall and wrought iron fence. A fund set up by John in 1932 insured the historic cemetery's perpetual care. Here Samuel F. Cunningham was buried in 1861.



THIS 1900 PHOTO shows the five children of Walker Cunningham: Lonnie, Martha, Hertha, Cecil and Ray. The Cunningham family is descended from the believed founder of New Melle.



LONNIE

RAY

2.46

2.47
Profile - Edna Welge

Saturday was an opportune time to talk to our long time friend Mrs. Edna Welge about early days in New Melle. Her neat white frame house on the northwest corner of Mill and Peter Streets has been her home since she and her husband Ed Welge purchased it on July 30, 1955 from the Charles Holt heirs.

Ed passed away nine years ago. Although Edna was not too familiar with the early history of this house she did produce an old deed which shows that Charles Holt purchased the home from Fred and Louise Ruether for \$825 in 1904, and the joining lot number 11 and 12 to the west and north conveyed to Ernst Sadbrock by Mathers Rohlring on September 14, 1894.

With the above information in mind, it is interesting to note that Fritz Ruetter's (spelled Ruether on deed) home is one of the few New Melle homes drawn on the St. Charles County Plat Book. Therefore, it appears that Edna's present home must be numbered among the very first in town.

Before remodeling took place, the home had exposed rough hewed timbers across ceiling and home made mud bricks were found as insulation material between the exterior clap boards and interior wall boards. Although hidden, the timbers and mud bricks still remain.

The conversation drifted on to her father William Giesmann and their home in the south part of town just east of the old A. C. Hoefner store, which she considers the oldest house in town. Here it was where her father carried on his undertaking business in the late 1800's. One room was set aside to house the wooden caskets. They were shipped to Wentzville by rail and hauled to New Melle by George Brocker in his horse drawn "hack"

They would come without handles and without inside cloth lining. Edna recalled as a young girl how tediously she tacked the satin cloth and fringes on scores of coffins.

Mr. Giesmann did no embalming and there were no funeral homes in the area. The deceased would be kept on ice in their home until the day of the funeral. Burials would often follow brief remarks by a minister in the home. Then everyone would go to the church for the regular service.

This reverse procedure was caused by the inability to carry a coffin up to the altar as the center isle was often blocked by the large wood burning heating stove. The hearse, or carriage for the dead, here in early New Melle was merely a farm buck-board wagon drawn by a team of the best looking horses that could be found in the neighborhood. Times have certainly changed.

Edna is a very interesting person to talk and has remained quite industrious. During the past nine years she has lived alone she has quilted 132 quilts for different people, she declares she is our best thimble customer.

No. 25 MAK. 27, 1974

SCHOOLMATES

Mrs. Edna Welge, oldest life-long resident of New Melle at 77, and back on her feet after breaking a leg, has a fine story for the Cracker Barrel News. Last week, at one of her regular noonday luncheons at the Green Lantern, she met three of her grade school classmates. They were Miss Elvira Rickmers, Mrs. Ann Sadbrock and Mrs. Alice Heuman. The four had not been together for years. They talked, of course, about things that happened in that New Melle one-room schoolhouse on the edge of Frenchtown (years 1906 to 1913) and about their teacher, Mrs. Arthur Schroer, who is still living.

In questioning her as to who the others were in her class she replied, "Oh, a raft of them." Those she named were twins, Webster and Waldo Karrenbrock. Webster, former Probate Judge of St. Charles County, was recently named "Man of the Years of St. Charles." Edna recalled how angry she became with Webster one time at a Spelling Match. Everyone had

missed a word except she and the future Judge. They were the only two standing before the entire school. Finally, she missed and he spelled the last word right. The anger only lasted a day, however.

Others were Hubert Almeling, Alice (Hoefner) Borgelt, Erna Rueter, Harry and Marvin Schlueter, Florence Zollmann, Myrtle Kessler, Wesley Hoefner and Dorothy (Hoefner) Wegner. "Miss Dorothy," by the way, was our Walnut Grove Teacher in Defiance. She lives in St. Louis and was in the store recently identifying old photographs. Edna concluded by stating that "there were a bunch of Braken-sieks"; namely, Dora, Verna, Earnest and Clarence. Happy memories of years gone by are a joy to any of us, and the older we become the more we all cherish those memories. However, we must also look to the future with vision and expectation, as Edna does, to gain a still greater joy.



The Earnest Kamphoefner, Sr. family posed for a portrait in front of their cabin in 1896. From left are, Earnest Kamphoefner, Sr., daughter Anna, [Mrs. Henry Theilmann], Mrs. Kamphoefner, Henry Theilmann and his two year old son, Herman.

2.48

AN EARLY FAMILY

George Theilmann of Wentzville searched through a group of family photographs and brought in one that is most interesting.

There in front of the log cabin of 1896, which we pass every day on "Theilmann's Road," and which unfortunately today is in ruin, is the family of Earnest Kamphoefner, Sr., on the far left, daughter, Anna (Mrs. Hy Theilmann), Mrs. Kamphoefner, Hy Theilmann, and Henry and Anna's little two year old son, Herman. Note the rugged facial expressions of Anna's parents that weathered many a pioneering episode, the strong, handsome countenances of daughter and son-in-law that vowed to carry on, and Herman's baby carriage that sold for \$75 at the sale a few years ago.

Earnest was a blacksmith as was his son, as mentioned several times in earlier issues of the CB News. Henry was a successful farmer, and was even a member of the New Melle Town Board. He and Anna both succumbed to the flu epidemic during World War I. Herman, a well educated young man, served in the war, and came home to live a life in seclusion in the old homeplace until his death six years ago. During his lifetime he continued to cling to happier days of old and left everything in the home as his mother had placed them, with the exception of the two rooms where he lived. He tended a herd of goats, roamed about the wooded acreage, sawed his firewood with a cross-cut saw, and was an avid reader. The familiar figure strolling into town for his mail and supplies was sorely

missed for a long time after he passed away.

NO. 106 OCT. 22, 1975

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CENTENNIAL FARMS

In 1976, our Bi-Centennial year, there was a great emphasis placed on farms that had been owned and operated by the same family 100 years or more. Farming has always been the backbone of these United States, and the small farm has sustained us since pioneering days through good times and bad, through peace and war, and through pleasant to severe weather conditions. The village of New Melle, founded in 1848, was a busy, progressive town from 1865 to 1920, when its prosperity depended entirely on farming neighbors that encircled it. Many of the farms were acquired by Government Land Grants issued to German immigrants, and they remained in the same families for generations.

Now we often find these "centennial farms" broken up and passed on to new owners. Their original identity became all but lost. We find too a new kind of life style, encircling the old town. Small farms are rapidly being replaced by still smaller farms, or rather, three acre sub-divided homesites.

One of these sub-divided areas is located on the south fringe of New Melle, and its name, "Centennial Farms," befits the development perfectly. Centennial Farms encompasses nearly the entire farm that originally belonged to German immigrant Earnst Kamphoefner, whose principal trade was blacksmithing. His farm is marked and so indicated in the 1875 St. Charles County Atlas. Later the farm was passed on to his son-in-law, Henry Theilmann and daughter Anna, then to their son, Herman Theilmann. Herman lived alone on the homeplace after his parents both died from the flu epidemic in 1919, until his death a few years ago at age 76.

The area under development by Mr. Nels Brown has been farmed very little. Consequently, trees have matured to a forest of beautiful white oaks and cedar.

The area comprising nearly 100 acres, rolls ideally from ridges to ravines.

A new hard surfaced road under construction, named Centennial Farms Road, leads directly south into Centennial Farms from Highway F at the Methodist Cemetery. Three cul-de-sac arteries branch off the main road to service the three acre homesites. Mr. Brown has used utmost care in preserving almost all of the trees.

The new road incidentally, will pass in front of the old Theilmann home, and between two linden trees. The trees were possibly planted by Herman when he was a young man. He had received a Degree in Agriculture from Missouri University during the first year such degrees were issued.

When the Thielmans enjoyed their finest years the home was beautifully kept, and a popular place for piano recitals. Henry Theilmann was an active church leader and a member of the New Melle Improvement Association at the turn of the century. The frame home built around the original Kamphoefner log home, was ravaged after Herman's death, however, the log portion escaped with little damage. A classic picture of this early New Melle family posing in front of their log home has been reproduced on page 264 of the recent book entitled, "Historic Sites In St. Charles County."

No. 227 JUNE 26, 1978

2.49

William F. J. Fienup

A New Melle Native

2.50

The opportunity to visit Mr. Bill Fienup finally came last week when his nephew, Clifford Aubert, drove me out to the Fienup's Missouri River bluff estate in Chesterfield.

As soon as the conversation began, it was apparent why it is that Bill Fienup continues to be so young in heart, in mind and in physical activities; why he is such a happy person; why he was so successful in business; and why he remains a wonderful inspiration to all who meet him.

Mr. Fienup was born on a farm near the SE edge of the town of New Melle on Dec. 16, 1890, and among the box full of family photographs we examined was one of his birthplace home, now torn down. There in the front yard poses young 10-year-old Bill himself next to his

father, Henry, on the right who is peacefully sitting in a rocking chair smoking his pipe. Next is his sister, Lizzie of St. Charles, sister Lula, brother Henry, his mother Elizabeth (nee Hetlage, who originally came from Wright City); and his brother, Gus. Not pictured are his sister, Mary, of New Melle, now 97 years old and in excellent health; a sister, Pauline; and a brother, Martin.

Bill's boyhood days on the farm and in town were happy days. He enjoyed the closeness of nature and the simple life that surrounded him and he found laughter in everything. So much so that during his grade school and confirmation classes at St. Paul's Lutheran School he received numerous whippings for laughing out loud. This optimistic outlook on life, though, would in later years mean much to his success.

At this point in our conversation he very frankly attributed his successful career to these early rural school days and to the opportunity to grow up with the early immigrants from Germany who were extremely poor, but who learned through necessity to be completely self-sustaining. Mr. Fienup even remarked how wonderfully New Melle folks governed themselves without an organized town government by just helping each other in every time and need.

By the time Bill was 16 years old he was already being recognized by his friends as quite a poet, a talent he has retained to this day. Once when still a very young man some "college kids" read some of his poems and then told him that there are three kinds of "nuts" in this world — Poets, Musicians and Inventors. If that is true then he



PICTURED IN FRONT of the old Fienup house in New Melle are, L-R, William Fienup, Henry Fienup [father], sister Lizzie of St. Charles, sister Lula, brother Henry, mother Elizabeth [Hetlage] Fienup and brother Gus. Not pictured are sister Mary of New Melle, now 97 years old, sister Pauline and brother Martin.

2.50

has been an outstanding example in each category. He has written hundreds of poems since those days of his youth and they are all exceptional. From time to time many will be published herein.

It was at the early age of 16 that a new life was about to dawn for him. During a ball game in Cappeln when the score was 34 to 4 and young Bill was at bat, the pitcher brushed him back with a fast ball. In dodging he fell and wrenched his back. While on the ground in agony he decided a weak back was no good for farming so he made up his mind to seek his fortune in the big city.

One day after walking thirty blocks in St. Louis seeking a job he came upon a sign over the door at the American Can Co. It read "Success Comes in Cans — Failure Comes in Cans." The sign so impressed him that he walked inside and convinced the management to hire him as an office boy.

As time passed, however, he became homesick for New Melle. When on the verge of quitting and returning home he remembered a song he had learned at the Lutheran School entitled "Paddle Your Own Canoe." He began to recite it over and over and determined to stay on the job. It was well he did as he went on to become the office manager of American Can, which in turn became the stepping stone to his presidency of the R. C. Can Company. Thus, today he credits his industrial career to three words — namely, Baseball, Sign and Song.

In 1920 Mr. Fienup purchased a small amount of stock in R. C. Can, a new company headed by W. L. Rutkowski and W. J. Cullen. Two years later, following the unexpected death of Mr. Cullen, "W.F.J." as Mr. Fienup was affectionately known to his friends and business associates, joined the company.

Together the two young men, operating out of a shed in north St. Louis, directed their resources and talents toward the efficient manufacture and sale of fibre cans they had invented. The growth of their company was phenomenal.

To illustrate, for example, anyone investing \$1,000 in R. C. Can in 1920 would have turned it into \$2,500,000 by 1966, 46 years later. This growth is 50 per cent better in 10 years less time than the best General Motors performance. The firm recently merged with Boise Cascade and W.F.J. has retired.

Not only did Mr. Fienup reach the pinnacle of success within his own company, but he also was a recognized leader in the entire industry. A beautiful plaque on the wall bears this out. It reads "To W.F.J. Fienup — Leader, Counselor, Friend, and above all, a gracious gentleman. This token is a symbol of the deep respect and admiration and gratitude of our members. There is destiny that makes up brothers: None goes his way alone: All that we send into the lives of others comes back into our own." — National Fibre Can and Tube Assoc. President 1960-61.

Moving now into an entirely different field, that of trapshooting, Bill Fienup emerges again as a champion. He was beyond a doubt one of the best shots in the U. S. He has been the highest scorer in untold numbers of matches throughout the country; he holds an impressive list of records; and in 1972, at the age of 82, won the World's Veterans Championship for all men over 65 years of age. It would be my prediction that some day the name of W.F.J. Fienup will be enshrined in the National Shooters Hall of Fame located in Dayton, Ohio.

Mr. Fienup, a noted philanthropist in many areas, has established a foundation in Linn Creek, Missouri for the Missouri Trapshooters Assoc. consisting of 240 acres and fully equipped with 19 trap shooting installations

His shooting prowess began at the early age of 10 when he used a rifle in a Defiance turkey match and outshot a champion by the name of Bradshaw. He has hunted big game in various hunting territories and on one occasion shot a 360 pound mule deer at long range. It was an all day job to haul the prize into

camp. Its life-like mounted head hangs in the rathskellar.

There were skills, too, in other activities. Once he bowled a 279 game. In still another field, that of music, where he was not formally trained, he has composed songs and can play any tune on the harmonica after hearing it but once. This "Miracle Man," as he is sometimes referred to, has also an uncanny ability to recite poems he has written years ago, passages from the Bible, etc., all word for word without a hitch.

William Fred John Fienup rates two full columns in the "Who's Who of Missouri." He is in the "Who's Who in America," where all of his accomplishments, family and New Melle birthplace are listed. Last, but not least, he is in the "Blue Book of England."

How, one may ask, can anyone excel in so many ways, even at the age of 85. Read what he conveyed to me about this and you will understand.

"Man's brain is of two parts, an active, creative brain and a storage brain. If one thinks and creates good thoughts it stores good thoughts. On the contrary, if one thinks bad thoughts, bad thoughts are stored. Therefore, never contaminate your brain with bad, or negative things.

"Learn to master the art of learning." He forms a habit of reminding himself of this by using the fingers of his left hand. The thumb is "Desire," the index finger is "Observation," the third is the ability to recognize those things that are good or bad for us, fourth is training our mind to remember, and the little finger is "Practice, Practice, Practice."

"Fear and worry are the great destroyers of everything we set out to do." Mr. Fienup, a wonderful Christian man, truly shows that he never worries or harbors any fears.

It was indeed a rewarding experience to visit with "W.F.J." and his charming and devoted wife, Bert. Upon leaving I suggested he write an autobiography. He replied that he is still much too active and not old enough to settle down to that.

No. 83 MAY 12, 1975

250

Wm. F. J. Fienup

Mr. Bill Fienup, born in New Melle December 16, 1890, educated as a boy at the German Lutheran school in New Melle, president of the R. C. Can Company for many years, inventor, self-styled poet and composer, champion skeet shooter, noted philanthropist, listed in the "Who's Who" in Missouri, America, and in the Blue Book of England, a wonderful family man, a faithful Christian gentleman, and a life long friend of New Melle, is dead at the age of 86 years. — Read "Meet Wm. F. J. Fienup" in the Cracker Barrel News No. 83, dated May 12, 1975.

Mr. Fienup died Monday, June 26, 1978, and was buried from St. John's U.C. of C. in Chesterfield near his beautiful home on the bluffs overlooking the Missouri River. A song he had composed, entitled "Gracious God We Come To Thee", was sung by the choir at the funeral. Also a benediction he had written, entitled "My God and I" was read by Pastor Norton.

Survivors include his wife, Bertha, sons Raymond and Wilbur, his sister, Mary, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, other relatives and friends.

One of his last poems was a tribute to his sister Mary who celebrated her 100th birthday on Sunday, October 9 last year at St. Paul's Lutheran Church hall where it was read to a large gathering of relatives and friends. It reads as follows:

When we've reached the age of ten

We'll have learned to use a pen.

As we move along to twenty
We'll have education plenty.

When we reach the age of thirty

We may still be somewhat flirty.

And at middle age of forty
We may still enjoy a party.

Should we reach the age of fifty

We must be a wee bit thrifty,
To take care of us at sixty

No matter where from here to Dixie.

Should we reach three score and ten,

They say, we've had it up to then.

Some of us may get to eighty,
Where we'll find life some what weighty

And if not beneath a pine tree
We may even get to ninety
But we've often sat and wondered

How folks get to be a hundred,
Yet, here is our sister Mary
Quite alert, no loads to carry
All her muscles still a moving
While her health is still improving

May the good keep on blessing
All years left, to keep us guessing

And may her lovely disposition

Keep her in the best condition.

No.228 JUL.3,1978

**"THE TOWN WHERE
I WAS BORN"**

On top of a ridge, each side a valley/
There lies a town they call New Melle./
The rainfall that this town delivers/
Flows not in one, but two great rivers/
The German named the town the same/
As the place from whence they came./
A came./ A bit (12½c) an acre is paid/
For land they bought, and where they stayed./
The time was in the early days/
Of eighteen hundred, with rough ways/
They cleared the land so they could raise/
Wheat, oats, and corn, millet and maize./
They built their homes from logs and mud/
And made their soap to get the suds./
They raised some sheep to get the wool/
And spinning wheels were always full./
They knitted sox, and gloves, and caps/
And made syrup from Maple sap./
They planted fruit trees by the score/
Made jam and cider more and more./
They gathered honey from wild bees/
They found in forest in the trees./
They ground the grain to make their bread/
And from corn shucks they made their bed./
They cradled wheat they tied by hand/
They had the knack, as one observes/
The use of greens and roots and herbs./
They cut down trees to make fence rails/
And other uses in details./
But best of all worked as a team/
To get things done that needed steam./
It was a self sustaining bunch/
To say the least — that is my hunch./

Bill Fienup

No.109 Nov.12,1975

2.51

THE SCHLUETER FAMILY

The Schlueter family, once very prominent in long ago New Melle days, have all but disappeared from our town. However, that original family that lived in a modest brick home in the center of town (now owned by Mildred Brakensiek and her mother), is endeared in the hearts of many descendants and friends living today.

August Schlueter, born in 1848, and his wife Christina (nee Moellering) born in 1860, settled in New Melle about 1880 and raised a family of 12 children. The entire family of 14 is pictured in a priceless group photo taken 70 years ago.

It was a warm, summer afternoon when the visiting, roving photographer came to the Schlueter home. Everyone dressed in their finest, and they chose the familiar lawn swing as the principal prop. Seated in the swing with the parents are the three youngest children, Erna (Rueter) born 1900; Ewald, born 1903; and Werschard, born 1906. The older

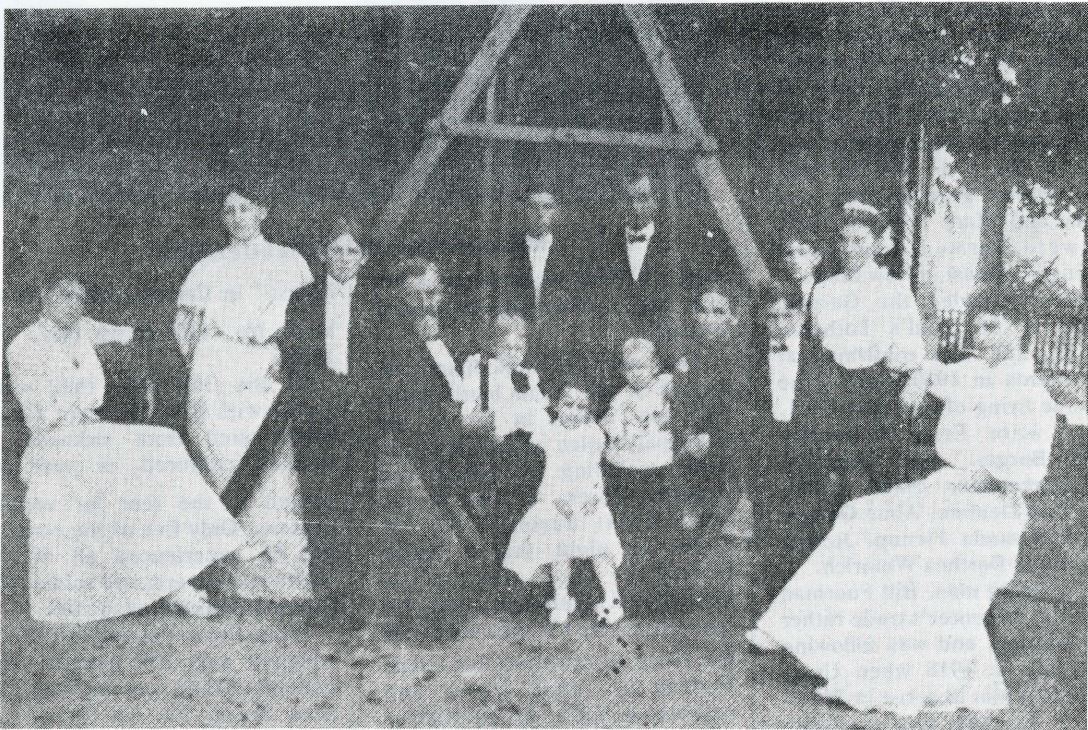
girls are Alma (Freese), born 1881; Meta (Borgelt), born 1883; Etha (Borgelt), born 1888. The Dena (Borgstede) born 1888. The four boys standing are, Edwin, born 1880; Walter, born 1889, owner of the Schlueter Store in Defiance for many years; Alvin, born 1892; Martin, born 1894; and Harry, born 1897. All have passed away except Edwin, the eldest, and Harry and Erna.

August was employed at the Karrenbrock Flour Mill. He died in 1926. His wife Christina was not only a devoted housewife and mother but found time to always care for the Lutheran minister's children. She died in 1940.

As mentioned before, Edwin, the eldest, is still living, as is his wife Nettie, the daughter of John Henry and Fredericka Borgelt, discussed in a recent Cracker Barrel News issue. Edwin, now 95, and Nettie were married in 1904. They had six children: Ray of Springfield, Mo.; Alice Haneberry of Sullivan; Earl, deceased; Elvera Morgan, deceased; Wilbert of St. Charles; and Melvin of Cincinnati. Nettie not only raised a large family of her own, but also

raised nine orphan boys, all of which became successful men. A few days ago Mrs. Nettie Schlueter visited the store in New Melle. Her niece, Mrs. Mildren Bolston, had been driving her around to familiar places of long ago.

NOV. 12, 1975 #108



THE SCHLUETER FAMILY [see text].

2.51

2.52

THE WILLIAM FUERMANS

It was a pleasant experience to visit with Mr. and Mrs. William Fuerman of New Melle in their modest frame home they have occupied throughout the 59 years of their happy married life. The home is in the French Town section, and is one of the original New Melle homes. It had been enlarged in the 1800's around an existing one-room log home.

Bill Fuerman was born Dec. 15, 1893, near Foristell. His parents were Fred and Ann (Aufdermarck) Fuerman. Both were born in St. Charles County; however, their parents were born in Germany.

Bill's parents moved around considerably within the vicinity. From Foristell they moved to Dutzow for three years, then to a farm on the Femme Osage Creek four miles south of New Melle, next to a farm on Dardenne Creek north of New Melle, and finally to the old Landwehr place west of town. Bill was living on the Dardenne Creek farm when he courted his future bride, Adelia Brockmann.

Caroline Marie Adelia Brockmann was born June 30, 1896, to Wilhelm and Elizabeth (nee Schwede) Brockmann. Dardenne Creek ran through the center of their 200-acre farm, first settled by her German immigrant grandparents, the J. H. Brockmanns. Her maternal grandparents were Henry and Mary Schwede, who too were German immigrants settling northeast of New Melle.

Adelia attended the German School at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, and was confirmed at that church in 1910. She is the only one living of her class of 11. There were Ernst Schwede, Edgar Borgeit, Otto Thieman, Paul Berkemeier, Esther Schroder, Alma Demien, Alma Geiger, Adelia Amanda Fienup, Johana Greiwe and Dorthea Weinrich.

As a young man, Bill Fuerman chose the carpenter's trade rather than farming, and was following that trade in 1918 when Uncle Sam called him to serve in World War I. He was sent to Camp Funston, trained for 30 days, and shipped overseas as an infantry-



MR. and MRS. WILLIAM FUERMAN

man, "fit" for combat duty in the U.S. Army. His company totaled 365 men.

They were all immediately assigned to the major battle zone. Bill saw action in all of the principal battles on the Western Front including St. Mihiel and Argonne Forest. It was at the Metz Front during a vicious attack at night that a bullet pierced the upper crown of his helmet, and another shattered his gas mask, tore his shirt nearly off, but failed to penetrate his chest. Nearby his good friend and neighbor at home, Arnold Niederjohn, was killed the same night. (Ref. "The Thieman Brothers" and "St. Mihiel and Argonne

Forest" in Cracker Barrel News Issue No. 110 dated Nov. 17, 1975.)

Of the 365 men that went across with Bill, 300 were either killed, died from sickness or wounds, captured, or were returned to the rear for various reasons. Only five of the remaining 65 experienced all of the battle maneuvers, and soldier Bill Fuerman was one of the five.

When the war ended in 1919 he weighed only 150 pounds. The general said he was too skinny to send home. So, he stayed six months and gained 50 pounds before returning home.

#242

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Upon his return home E. F. Wilhelm Fuerman and Caroline Odelia Brockmann were married by the Rev. Falke at the Lutheran Church on Dec. 4, 1919. Their best man was Frank Brockmann.

Maid of honor was Lissie Brockmann.

As a young man, the John H. Kessler General Store became an attraction. He began working for Mr. Kessler until the store was taken over by the New Melle Mercantile Co. in 1921, and continued as the store's manager until 1932.

At this time Bill switched over to his carpentry trade as a general contractor, assisted by his sons. Together they built several homes and shops in the community, including the Lutheran Hall. Church members pitched in to furnish free labor on this project.

The Fuermans celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1969. They are the oldest living couple in New Melle and are looking forward to their 60th anniversary next year. They have four children — Leonard of O'Fallon, Wilbert of St. Louis County, Ann Knornschild of Quincy, Ill., and Eugene of St. Charles. All three of their boys served in World War II, Leonard for four years, and Wilbert and Eugene two years each.

#242 SEPT. 18, 1978

[Faint, mirrored text from the reverse side of the page, including the name 'William H. Stra' and other illegible words.]

2.52

A Profile

William H. Stratman

2.53

When the need arises to identify photos of days long ago, or when some historic link is needed to complete a story, then the keen memories of such senior citizens as Bill Stratman can always be called upon. Bill has helped out in this way many times, and now it's time to tell a few things about his own life.

When visiting Mr. Stratman at his home on Peters Street in New Melle, the kitchen table soon became covered with old pictures and deeds. One 1895 picture, in particular, that of his birthplace along the Callaway Creek, points out quite clearly the rural pioneering life into which he was born in the year of 1892.

Pictured in front of the house is his mother, Amelia (Schnarre) Stratman, an invalid for many years before her death; his brother, Albert (nicknamed Shorty because he was so tall); William H. himself, age three, in wide bottom homespun pants; his sister, Dina (Mrs. Brinkman); and his sister, Mary.

Other members of the family not pictured are his father, George, brothers, Edward and Henry, and sister, Dora (Mrs. Ed Tieman). Father Stratman, a carpenter by trade, passed away in 1942 at the age of 85 years. His brother, Henry, will be 92 in August and lives in Quincy, Ill.

The age of this pioneer home is not known exactly, but it had served the family well for a number of years before the family photo was made. Then too, the standard framed home in the picture was originally a simple one room log cabin.

Here young Bill Stratman spent the days of his youth. He attended the Cappeln school, but

due to the long distance, and "rough times" it was not possible for him to finish all eight grades. Nevertheless, he learned quickly all of the skills associated with a farm, and his father taught him the carpenter's trade. It is evident in talking to him that he has always been a consistent reader.

In 1919, at the age of 27, Bill married Miss Hattie Niederjohn at the Cappeln St. Johns Church. The young couple moved to what is now the Floyd Dickherber farm approximately three miles southwest of New Melle.

Among the treasures on the table was a deed to the old farm house dated November 23, 1839. Even at that time the house was quite old. The 1839 deed reads, "Received from George Buschmann of St. Charles the sum of \$50.-SE Qtr. of SW Qtr. of Sec. 28 in TS 46, Range 1 east — \$1.25/acre.

A tax receipt to John F. Deucher, the next owner, is dated December 12, 1855. Land value was \$90 and Pers. Prop. was \$45. The state tax came to 27 cents and county tax was set at 41 cents.

The next owner was Mr. Nieweg (Ralph's grandfather), followed by Mrs. Herman Niederjohn, and later the William H. Stratmans.

As a young married man, Bill, with his his brothers, operated a threshing outfit and a saw mill. As time passed though his skill as a carpenter developed and it became his principal trade until retirement.

In 1942 the Stratmans moved into New Melle in the house built by his father, where they lived together until October 1970 when Hattie died. They had no children and Bill has lived alone since.

I asked Bill about his transportation vehicles down through the years. He replied that first it was horse and buggy, then in 1923 purchased a Model T from

George Freeze. A Model A followed and from then on it was Chevrolets.

Mr. Stratman, a lifetime member of St. Johns Church, was baptized, confirmed, and married there. He has traveled some out of the area to such places as New Orleans, Michigan, and once to Florida.

He remembers being left behind when his father and brother Ed took off for the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904, and how excited they were when they returned telling about seeing their first automobile.

Today, Bill Stratman at age 83, remains active, caring for his property, reading the newspapers, watching television, visiting his many friends and relatives, and playing pinochle. He fondly recalled those happy boyhood days when the family on cold winter evenings would gather around the kitchen table for their favorite game of "Pitch."

Bill Stratman, a quiet, unassuming man, with a lovable disposition, is truly an asset to our community, and we look forward to his daily trips to the Post Office and to the Cracker Barrel for a few grocery items and Red Dot cigar.

#82 5 (75

STRATMAN REUNION

Family strife, resulting in tragic endings, may make sensational headlines, but family reunions stand out as indicators of family solidarity, of love and devotion, and indicators of deep respect of their own ancestral heritage. They occur often in our southwest county from the river bottoms to the prairie, and down through the hills from the New

2.53



Birthplace Of William Stratman

THE ABOVE HOME was located on the Callaway Creek Road southeast of New Melle. Pictured in front of the century old home are, L-R, Mrs. Amelia [Schnarre] Stratman and children, Albert, William H., Dina [nee Brinkman] and Mary. Dora [Mrs. Ed Lieman], Ed and Henry and their father, George Stratman, are not pictured.

Melle to Augusta communities, where family ties remain so strong.

The Stratman family, descendants of Casper and Amelia (Schnarre) Stratman, and their sons George, Henry, Fred and Charles, held their family reunion on Sunday, Oct. 1, at St. Ann's City Park, with approximately 100 people present.

Representing the oldest generation were William H. Stratman, who fondly is Uncle Bill to friends as well as relatives, and Mrs. Dora Stratman Thiemann. Bill is 85 and Dora is 81. Both reside in New Melle, and both are children of George Stratman. Their brother Henry, now 95 years old, was unable to attend. He lives in Quincy, Ill. (Ref. Profile — William H. Stratman in Cracker

Barrel News Issue No. 82 dated May 7, 1975). Also among the oldsters were Olie Stratman Boston, 89 year old daughter of Henry, Sr., and Ann Stratman, 70 plus, daughter of Charles.

Another Stratman reunion is planned for next year in September at St. John's Church Hall in Cappeln. Planned too, is a pilgrimage to the old homestead on the Callaway Creek southeast of New Melle.

No. 246 OCT. 9, 1978

2.54

Profile-Arley Welge

No one in the New Melle area better known than Arley Welge, and no one has taken more away from the area, or brought so much into the area, as he has. When Arley came to New Melle August 1, 1923 he set up a trucking business next door to the mill, purchased a Model T truck, and began buying up eggs and poultry from the farms. Now, 52 years later, he is still in the trucking business, only more so.

Over this long span of years his mode of operation has changed very little, in so far as the trucking business is concerned. It has been a one truck, one man business from the beginning. Model T trucks, and subsequent later models were, of course, periodically replaced by still later models, and eggs, which was a mainstay for a long time, were replaced by cattle and hogs. On his return trips he has always brought back a variety of merchandise from his favorite wholesale houses.

Today Mr. Welge, who is a few years beyond the normal retirement age, makes from two to four trips each week to the East St. Louis Stockyards, and to "Produce Row," over a most familiar route. Regardless of the weather, he is ready to leave with a full load of stock at 7 a.m. and proceeds out 'D' through the Busch Wildlife Area to Highway 94, and onto Highway 40. Along "D" he has witnessed the construction of almost every house board by board, and watched all of the families grow up inch by inch. His familiarity with step by step development all the way into St. Louis along Route 40 is unsurpassed. It is unique for a man residing 50 miles from the heart of a major city to have the opportunity to observe its daily changes throughout a half century.

Mr. Welge was a constant observer of a great historic and progressive city tapering off to a second rate town in the 20's, then to smoke ridden depths in the depression years, and finally to see it again emerge as a leading beautiful and exciting metropolis with its unequaled Gateway Arch, Busch Stadium, the Convention Center, and countless modern banks, hotels and office buildings, and too, the Poplar Street Bridge, which he uses each trip to wind himself into the Stockyards.

As soon as his stock is unloaded he goes to nearby "Joe's" tavern and restaurant for an appetizer and a man size breakfast. It is a routine that never changes, and many of the other early morning customers from various parts of rural Missouri and Illinois hail him as he strides in with "Hi Arley, how's New Melle these

days". On the return trip he never fails to stop at "Johnson Produce Co." on Produce Row where he has always traded. Riding along as a passenger is certainly an interesting experience.

There are other things though in the full life led by Mr. Welge, most important of which was his marriage to Miss Olga Hemeyer June 2, 1926. They have raised a fine family and will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary next year.

In 1931 he bought half interest in the Paul and Joerling General Store from Florence Joerling. It then became the Paul and Welge Store. He bought the Paul interest out in 1950, and sold the store business January 1, 1970. Arley has been a Uregas representative since 1952.

He was the first Fire Chief of New Melle, and one of the first members of the New Melle Community Club. Arley has worked hard for his party in local politics, and the Welge's are both hard-working, faithful members of the Frieden's U. C. of C. In recreation he is a regular bowler, and even sponsors the team he bowls with.

No. 102 OCT. 1, 1975

2.55

WELGE ANNIVERSARY

New Melle's popular and well known couple, Arley and Olga (Homeyer) Welge, were married in the home of the bride's parents, Herman and Katherine (Spohrer) Homeyer, in Slater, Mo., on June 2, 1926. Their best man and maid of honor were Edwin Niederjohn and Olivia (Meyer) Taderman, and their groomsmen and bridesmaid were Elmer Welge and Hulda Homeyer. It was a happy day for them, and they have been a devoted couple ever since.

Arley was born on a farm west of New Melle on April 1, 1902, to August and Emma (Paul) Welge. One year later, Olga was born in Pershing, Mo., on May 21, 1903.

In 1931 the Welges moved to New Melle and bought the Paul and Joerling Grocery Store. The store, incidentally, was built in the same year they were married. The couple have always led active lives in business, community, and church affairs, so it is understandable why they are endeared to the community. Mrs. Welge attended Central Wesleyan College at Warrenton, and she taught three lower grades, three years in the New

Melle Public School. As years passed, her busy life included the normal devoted duties of a housewife and mother, assisting in the store, and getting involved in work for the church. (The Welges are members of Frieden's United Church of Christ in New Melle.) Her "spare time" was occupied with a number of other interests. Due to her love for flowers she would, year after year, surround herself with a blooming garden, and her specialty was raising African violets. She also became an expert at knitting, and making hook rugs. One more hobby that is evident in the Welge household is her weakness for salt and pepper shakers. Olga's personal collection numbers in the hundreds of pairs.

The Cracker Barrel News of Oct. 1, 1975 (Issue No. 102) has already referred to Arley's many activities and business interests. In reviewing these briefly we find him starting a trucking business in 1923 with a Model T truck, and continuing in the trucking business up to the present time, a span of 53 years. His trips to St. Louis, and to E. St. Louis number well over 10,000.

Arley has found time in his busy life to own and operate the Paul and Welge Store (later the Welge Store between the years of 1931 and 1970. He has been a representative for Uregas since 1952, and he manages a little farm. For the community Arley's name goes down as the first Fire Chief of New Melle, a Charter Member of the Community Club, where he has worked diligently for years. Politically, he lines himself up with the Republican Party, and he has worked hard throughout his lifetime fulfilling various assignments to get the best man in office.

The church too has benefited from his willing hands, and faithful attendance. In sports, Arley is a Cardinal baseball fan, and an avid bowler. Every Tuesday evening he continues to bowl on his own sponsored bowling team.

Arley and Olga are the parents of Myron August, who died in 1959, and another son, Wayne

2.54 & 2.55

of New Melle. They have three-grandchildren, Mellissa, Scott and Brian.

The Welges have constantly shared their blessings with their family, their relatives, and their friends. On Saturday, June 5, it was no exception when an invited crowd of 575 assembled at the Community Club to wish them many more years of wedded bliss. Food and drink were abundant, friends were happily visiting each other once again, and dancing to the easy music of earlier days continued until 11 p.m. Music for the waltzes and polkas was furnished by Mrs. Amptmann, her daughter, and two granddaughters, by Buddy Molitor, Warren Nieweg, and Mr. Grubbenhoff of St. Paul.

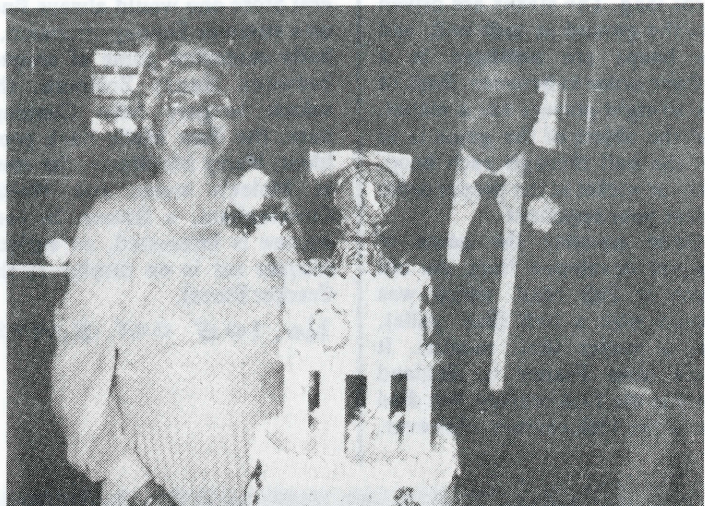
Friends and relations came from Kansas, Kansas City, Jefferson City, and from other parts of Illinois and Missouri. A cousin, age 84, came from Hickman, Neb., and 14 of Olga's original 23 pupils attended. Alberta Rosner from St. Louis was their flower girl.

At home they are still going through the huge stack of greeting cards, and beautiful gifts occupy all available space. In prodding Arley about the invitations requesting the omission of gifts, he replied that apparently everyone did not read the fine print. However, they were all deeply appreciated.

NO. 135 JUNE 16, 1976



Mr. and Mrs. Arley Welge, 1926



Mr. and Mrs. Arley Welge, 1976

2.56

CROQUET

What has happened to the once popular lawn game of croquet? Many readers no older than 60 years should remember when every household had a croquet set, and when every gathering of friends and relatives on a warm summer afternoon featured a game of croquet. The set consisted of six or eight wooden mallets, a like number of wooden balls four inches in diameter, two stakes painted in bright colors, and 10 hoops, or arches, slightly wider than the ball diameter. The American form of croquet, known as Roque, is played on a level grass court, 30 yards wide and 40 yards long. The stakes are driven into the ground at each end, and the hoops are arranged in a definite order in between. Each of two to eight players has a mallet, and the object of the game is to get the ball through each hoop, arch, or wicket in the proper order before your opponent.

Quite possibly the game of croquet developed from the old game of Pall Mall, which was played with a ball (Ital. palla), and a mallet (Ital. maglia). It came from France to England early in the 17th century, but died out in the 18th century. However,

during that period it became so popular in England that a well known street in London was named Pall Mall. It also became a popular street name in many other English towns.

It was about 1850 when croquet was first introduced. Croquet means to "crack," from the French croquer. Soon the game was a favorite across America, and the crack of a mallet against a wooden ball, or the crack of a ball against another ball, was a familiar front lawn sound, until the 1920's.

In New Melle no group played croquet more consistently than the four men pictured in the candid 1900 photo accompanying this article. Here on a green opposite John H. Kessler's General Store one would always find, on a summer Sunday afternoon, a hotly contested game of croquet between Henry Zollman, the saloon keeper; John Cunningham, the New Melle bank president; Harry McElheny, the clerk at Meier's store; and Walker Cunningham, a farmer. In case anyone is interested, an antique croquet set is on display at the Cracker Barrel.

No. 105 OCT. 15, 1975

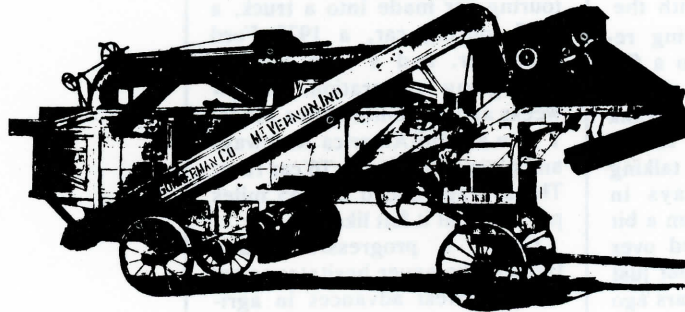


2.56

New Melle

"From The Cracker Barrel News"

Keck-Gonnerman Junior Separator



THE SCHIERMEIER-HOEFELMANN
THRESHING CO.

2.57 *Old Machinery Show*

The above title with "and other Schinanigans" added, and the following ad, may soon appear in certain antique farm machinery periodicals. — "Tired of progress? Bored with up-to-date harvest methods, and machinery that is reliable? Want to cut profits, and spend longer, hotter days in the field? If so, you need your harvest handled by the Schiermeier-Hoefelmann Threshing Co. They guarantee that nothing will work right, and all will go wrong. With our company hauling your grain, you are guaranteed to lose your crop. These boys know the hazards of mistakes as they make more mistakes than anyone in the business. With one choking up and breaking belts on the Keck-Gonnerman Separator, and the other storing your grain in their rotting grain bed, or getting bogged down in the middle of the road with a broken axle on the Model T truck, your farming worries will be over as the bank repossesses your farm."

In this day of modern, efficient farm machinery, where every operation is carefully planned for maximum profits with the least effort, one may wonder what these two young men are up to.

Well, they are dead serious in their plans to provide for the New Melle area an exhibit of restored antique farm machinery, and to hopefully develop this into an annual show, featuring a complete old time threshing outfit in operation during the harvest season. There would also be antique cars and talent shows of various descriptions.

It is an ambitious undertaking, but Gerry Schiermeier, a fourth generation farmer on a Centennial Farm near the Warren County line, and Jim Hoefelmann, a man with many talents residing outside of New Melle, have the necessary creative ability, along with the desire to restore perfectly the machinery of former years, to make the endeavor a success. It could develop into a wonderful civic contribution. In discussing the strange operation with them they emphasized that it would be all for fun and no profit; that they loved "messing around with old junk," and it was time anyway to clean out the ditches. They feel too that the community needs a good base from which everyone who wishes can display their own creative accomplishments.

Gerry and Jim have already staged one successful threshing show with their restored Keck-

Gonnerman Separator. On July 8 a crowd of 50 neighbors and other friends gathered on the farm to witness a spectacle for the first time for many that was so much of the American scene a half century ago. Others present were reliving the past. Among those present were former owners of the separator, Alven Hemann and Vernon Fuermann. Earlier in the year five acres of wheat had been cut and bound into bundles using an old fashioned wheat binder. So, on threshing day two bundle wagons were pulled up to the separator; a tractor, serving as the power source instead of a steam engine, was moved into position for aligning the drive belt; Jim pulled in with his Model T truck loaded with cold drinks and snacks; another truck backed into position to catch the grain; the long chute for blowing the straw was swung around and pointed into an open area where a giant straw pile, now long rotted away, once stood; men, as of old, stationed themselves at strategic points; and the attractive ladies in shorts and pant suits, instead of long flowing skirts and bonnets, sat nearby to watch. Everything was in readiness, the tractor was started, and a thousand wheels in the separator began to turn. One man on the bundle wagon ram-

med his pitchfork into a bundle and pitched it into the hopper, and then a rope broke.

Times had not really changed. For a few anxious moments there was flurry of action with repairmen running back and forth to the machine shop. Finally the belt was repaired and all went smoothly the remainder of the afternoon. It was truly a fun day with the children especially enjoying reducing the straw stack to a flat pile. During the course of the afternoon I came upon Frank Stevener, Hugo Meyer, Ernest Ellermann and Ervin Paul talking about the threshing days in English. Upon chiding them a bit they immediately switched over to German and it flowed out just as smoothly as it did 50 years ago when the German language was spoken by the majority of people in this locality.

Let us get better acquainted now with the two young fellows who made this day possible. Jim and Gerry have been close friends ever since they attended the Lutheran School together in New Melle, and they have repeatedly worked together on many projects. Both have attractive, pleasant and understanding wives who cooperate fully with their husbands' eccentricities. Often both couples, Gerry and Joyce and Jim and Kathy, will take off in a restored Model T to attend some antique car or machinery show. Jim, a natural artist, has a wide reputation as a cake decorator. He works at IGA where he bakes and decorates cakes for all occasions, but not one has ever surpassed the cake he recently completed for the McCormick Place in Chicago. The cake was four feet in diameter at the base, and 12 feet tall. The icing, depicting the likeness of all the past U.S. Presidents, weighed 300 pounds. The cake cost \$5,000 and Jim personally delivered it to its destination in Chicago.

Once Jim watched the art of glass blowing at Silver Dollar City. He could not rest until he tried it himself. He purchased \$700 worth of equipment, and soon mastered the art. Eventually he sold his entire inventory, however many of his exquisite figures in glass can be found today in fine St. Louis shops and

homes.

He plays the drums, and once he and Gerry formed a band. Jim is an expert wood worker, and a cartoonist, but his chief hobby at the moment is the restoration of antique cars. His inventory at present consists of a 1918 Model T Huxter Ford truck, a 1921 touring car made into a truck, a 1922 touring car, a 1923 Ford Speedster, and a 1926 Ford is undergoing restoration. A few weeks ago Jim entered in a Model T race at Mid-America Raceways and placed fifth in the 16 car race. The average speed was 45 miles per hour but it felt like 100.

Gerry, a progressive young farmer who never hesitates to try out the latest advances in agriculture, has been a model builder all his life. Before entering the Navy he built a huge boat in a barn and powered it with a Cadillac engine. During his four years in the Navy he was assigned to a cruise ship ferrying personnel to Europe where he served as the Social Director. It was his duty to keep the musical equipment, wiring, etc. in perfect shape at all times. Gerry has also done excellent work as a custom car builder.

No. 142 SEPT. 1, 1976

2.57

OLD MACHINERY SHOW

Billed as an Antique Auto and Machinery Show, the event at the Lutheran Park in New Melle last Saturday and Sunday was all of that and much more. It was a grand country picnic in the beautiful wooded acreage in the west end of town that has laid rather dormant for a number of years.

Two young fellows, Gerry Schiermeier and Jim Hoefelmann, and their wives, boldly committed themselves to a public display of antique automobiles and farm machinery months ago. It was their first attempt at promoting such an operation, and it was the first show of its kind in the New Melle area.

They launched their program with limited funds and limited experience, however, they were well versed in old machinery designs and in their restoration. They had a strong desire to give our area a fine professional craft show. The young promoters carefully advertised and planned. They pleaded for exhibitors, and invited the neighborhood to participate. The result was most rewarding. One week prior to the deafening steam whistle heralding the opening, preparatory work was in progress. Al Auping had manicured the grounds, Bob Adeleman installed the electrical work (the only 20th century part of the show), and scores of others were erecting stands, fences, etc.

By show time Saturday morning the spectacle unfolded. A giant flea market, and arts and crafts booths stretched for two blocks around the southwest rim. The entertainment platform where the famed Happy Tappers and Janet Glaser's Puppet Show performed, and some 150 gasoline and steam powered engines continued the half circle. To the north stood Jerry's "Keck-Gonnermann Indiana Special" wheat threshing separator. The bundle wagons had been brought in, as were two big wood burning steam engines to power the separator. All were in readiness for several old time wheat threshing exhibitions.

Forming the inner circle to the east was the long line of shining antique automobiles. Over 100 of these classic examples of early horseless carriages arrived. It was beyond all expectations and consequently it is believed to have been the largest assembly of early cars this year in the State of Missouri. Included in this array was the 1911 Hudson once owned by the famous comedian, W. C. Fields, and which appeared in 59 movies.

In the center were the craftsmen busy at their special skills. Also in the center were the food stands. Here the Lutheran Ladies Aid served beef, pie and coffee; the Youth Group served soft drinks; the Veterans of Foreign Wars had delicious fish; the New Melle Ball Team had pork steaks; and the Cancer Society dished out gallons and gallons of ice cream. There was activity everywhere for all ages, and the happy crowd, varying from 2000 to 4000 people, thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

The puff-puff of scores of gasoline and steam powered engines, plus the toot-toot of steam locomotives, provided all the music that was necessary. These nostalgic sounds had not been heard by many senior citizens for years, and had never been heard before by many of the youngsters. The show also provided innumerable opportunities to visit with interesting people from all walks of life.

Dr. Bailey for instance, was there in railroad engineer's overalls, cap and neckerchief, with his one-quarter scale steam engine linked to the coal car. His repeated trips around the grounds delighted the children as they piled on for a free ride. Dr. Bailey is a well known eye specialist on the staff of several hospitals in St. Louis. His country home is on the bluffs midway between Washington and New Haven.

Ray Koirtyhann from Washington, Mo., was at the "Schnitzelbank" seemingly shaping nammer handles with an antique draw knife. His reply to the question, "What are you making?" was "A mess." His homemade German "Schnitzel" (to cut) "bank" (bench), or in

English, "Shaving Horse," was authentic in every detail. Ray, appearing as a perfect double for Abe Lincoln, taught boys and girls eighth grade earth science.

Lyle Hartmann of Florissant, a 15-year-old blacksmith, displayed amazing skill at fashioning horse-shoes, giant fish hooks, and other souvenirs. Lyle started his "trade" last year, and is gradually building up his equipment.

Wood carver, painter of old barns, proprietor of Log Cabin Antiques in St. Charles, and authority on restoration work, John Frank, set up shop to chip away on a big wooden rooster. John is especially skilled and widely known for his Lincoln Head carvings.

Another craftsman on the grounds was glassblower Al Wooten. Al is a professional laboratory glass blower at Monsanto Chemical Co. As a hobby he creates exquisite birds, ships, etc.

I moved around to the area displaying antique engines and read such signs as "Rider Ericsson 1890 Hot Air Pumping Engine — Rated 500 gallons/hr., 50 ft. high, 2½ lbs. fuel/hr. — Jack and Virginia Flota, Laddonia, Mo."

There was a 1915 Illinois engine, the oldest of four remaining in existence of 68 engines built by the company. The owner is Len Bruns of Florissant.

Another was a 1900 Peerless owned by Lee Elmore of St. Charles. The parade continued on and on, and one wished for a deeper understanding of each of these rare pieces of human engineering. All were in motion, puffing out of phase puffs; pumping water and operating age old washing machines.

The gas tractor display included a 1918 Waterloo Boy owned by Emmet and Doc Drewell of Labadie, Mo.; a 1931 Case, Model L, owned by Bill Thoroughmann of Washington; an English Fordson belonged to Jerry Mueller of Gilmore; a 1941 John Deere B with buck saw, owned by Richard Molitor of New Melle; and an old McCormick Deering.

No. 186 AUG. 10, 1977

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2.58

THE BAR

The classic old 1900 picture that accompanies today's New Melle column describes better than words how a few pleasant moments were passed each day in the early days by some of our leading citizens.

Leaning against the bar in striped shirt and overalls is Arnold Dieckman posing with a jug of Kimmel, an old reliable German liquor that would cure all ills. Next is Gettleib Berg, the bartender. Jo L. Kessler, in white shirt, handle bar mustache, and with trousers held up securely by both belt and suspenders, stands firmly with a shot glass in his right hand. Behind John is the blacksmith, Earnest Kamphoefner, perfectly content with a glass of beer.

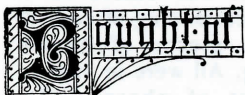
No. 97 AUG. 20 1975



Just passing a little time.

New Melle, St. Charles Co., Mo. *Nov. 16* 1883

Mrs. Schatz & Schiermeier



HENRY RENKEL,

— MANUFACTURER AND DEALER IN —

FLOUR, CORN MEAL, BRAN, ETC.

ALSO, LUMBER.

THE HIGHEST MARKET PRICE PAID FOR GRAIN, OR TAKEN IN EXCHANGE FOR FLOUR.

<i>10 lbs. Flour</i>	<i>2.50</i>	<i>25 00</i>
<i>12 1/2 " "</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>15 00</i>
		<i>40 00</i>
<i>Paid 4/28th/83</i>		

2.58

2.59

NEW MELLE TOUR

The Best of Two Worlds is once again open to the public and thousands of visitors will be coming there throughout the summer to enjoy their picnicking, boating, swimming, fishing, and other recreational facilities. An added attraction this year is an authentic pioneer covered wagon and two giant Belgian horses. These two Belgian horses, one at 1900 pounds and one at 2200 pounds, are to pull wagon loads of guests into New Melle on repeated routine tours. The following tour, therefore, has been prepared for interest, and for an acquaintance with the places they will see.

We shall begin then at the Best of Two Worlds entrance on Foristell Road, one mile north of the heart of New Melle, and note particularly the farm house one quarter mile on the opposite hill. It is the Massmann Farm. It is one of the few successful "general farms" in rural Missouri today, and the charm of self-sufficient farm life is retained, but with modern equipment, as it began here in the mid-1800's.

Uphill now to the intersection of Foristell Road and County Road "Z" is Warnekey's Tavern. F. W. Braucksecker came here from Germany in 1859 as a carpenter and joiner. The Braucksecker family operated this establishment until the early 1900's. This is approximately the north edge of Frenchtown-New Melle, so named by the German community because blacksmith Hy Meier hired a lone Frenchman as his experienced wagon maker.

The remains of Hy Meier's blacksmith shop is on the left, next to his son John's pretentious three-story white frame home built in 1897. Ceilings in the two front parlors display recessed molded wood and stenciled panels.

Ed Rickmers, dealer in watches, jewelry and optical goods, a general repairman and a leading 19th century citizen, built the square block type home on the right in 1880. His first and smaller home next door was built a generation earlier. It sits back

from the street to accommodate his shop once located in front.

The light green home belonged to John Schemmer. Mr. Schemmer started working in Karrenbrock's Creamery in 1908 as a boy and continued on a seven-day per week schedule until his retirement in 1968 without any vacations. His hours were from 4 a.m. to 7 p.m.

At the turn on left is Reinhold Eich's 1857 home. Clapboards now cover the original logs. Mr. Eich came from Saxony as a shoe cobbler and accomplished musician. Here he raised his family of five children and retired at 50 years of age because he felt he was too old to continue working.

The first public school in New Melle was organized in 1860. The first public school building stands next to the Eich home.

The Gunshop is a remodeled 19th century home. It joins the New Melle Community Club. This club was organized in 1948 to provide recreational facilities for the community and it has fulfilled that purpose well over the years. Today it boasts one of the finest rural halls for dances, parties, weddings, etc., a sheltered picnic and dance area, playgrounds, and a fine baseball diamond equipped with the latest flood lighting for night baseball and with complete refreshment stand facilities. The club sponsors a number of Khoury and softball teams, and games are played almost every night throughout the summer. It also sponsors the New Melle Festival and parade the third weekend in July.

The trim McElhinney home in an oak grove closes out the Frenchtown section.

Now pull the reins into the first street. It leads into the original 700 foot by 1300 foot rectangular section of old New Melle as laid out in 1848. The town is one of the first five in St. Charles County. It was settled almost entirely by German immigrants who came from Melle, Westphalia, in the province of Hanover. Thus, the name New Melle. It was a bustling community from 1875 to 1925, when general stores, blacksmith shops, mills, creameries, etc., flourished, and when most of the houses standing today were built.

Proceeding now on to Mill Street are the onetime Charles E. Meier properties. The successful merchant and church organist built the stately two-story frame house on the right, and the onetime typical general store stands just ahead. South on Mill Street is the salt boy style home built in 1870, and later occupied by Dr. Oscar Muhm. Across the street on the left is the old bank building that closed its doors when the Great Depression hit it in 1930. The first creamery, now converted into a bungalow, is on the northeast corner of Mill Street and Peters Street, and across the street on the northwest corner is the 1870 Ruether home constructed first of hand hewn timbers and mud bricks. Mrs. Edna Welge, now in her 80's, lifetime citizen, and still an expert quilter, lives here.

Dan's Country Meats was, in the 19th century, the Berg Hotel and Saloon. The Berg framed-over log home stands next door. On the right is the block long "Market Square" where the Kesslers established their home and business. The framed over log home sits back from the street and is possibly the oldest house in town. John Kessler once operated a blacksmith shop in the present large front lawn and nearby in John Kessler's General Store. The original part of the store was constructed in 1871, and it replaced his old wagon and tin shop. The store was greatly enlarged in 1888. Many of the fine furnishings of former years have disappeared, but basically the atmosphere of 19th century merchandising remains amid the modern merchandise. Now referred to as "The Cracker Barrel," the store has been in operation since it opened in 1871.

The mill across from the store also has a long history. It was once oxen powered. Steam power followed, then gasoline engines were installed, and finally electricity.

Continue south on Mill Street and cross carefully over County Road "D." New owners are working on the 1926 Paul and Joerling Store on the corner. The second floor was once the scene of country dances every Saturday night. August Auping's Wagon

2.59

Shop was opened on the adjoining lot in 1871. It was recently moved one block east.

Blacksmith Fritz Kamphoefner built the charming brick home in 1871. Note the weathered oak summer kitchen in the rear. In the same year early settler Conrad Weinrich built the white brick home. He was a wine maker, and as one would expect, the home has a deep wine cellar. In 1904 the Deutache Evangelische Friedens Fermeinde of New Melle was formed, and Friedens (U.C. of C.) Church on the corner of Mill Street and "the County Road" was opened in 1905. Years before it was the site of the Meyer Store, and it stands on the highest point above sea level in St. Charles County.

Proceed west. The first house on the right is the birthplace of retired Probate Judge of St. Charles County Webster Karrenbrock, who recently was named "Man of the Year" of St. Charles. The small house next door was "The Hat Shop," and the large pre-Civil War brick home belonged to merchant and postmaster A. C. Hoefner. A number of Civil War stories are associated with this place.

On the corner at Schuetzen Street is Herman Sudbrock's home of the 1880's. His shoe shop is adjacent to the home. Unusual features of the properties are the fluted columns, metal work around the porch, and wood trim. Across is the Giesmann home. It too is one of the original structures.

Notice now the Old Stone Church Graveyard. Many of the first Lutheran settlers are buried in this cemetery in unmarked graves and a number of mass grave contain the remains of cholera victims in 1850. Across to the south can be seen the only stone house in New Melle which was built about 1858.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church congregation was formed in 1844. It predates the Missouri Synod by three years. The Stone Church, an historic landmark, was completed in 1858 and it stands directly over the ridge separating two great watersheds. When it rains, water on the south side flows into the Missouri River watershed and into the Missis-

sippi River watershed on the north side. The church houses an historic century-old Pheffer organ. It is in excellent condition, and has been in constant use since it was installed.

The eight-acre church land across the street is the site of the annual Antique Machinery and Auto Show, held on the last weekend in July.

Ernest Sudbrock, the local carpenter who built many of the area homes and church steeples, built his own home next to the parsonage. A distinctive feature is the cupola. He delighted in climbing up there to survey the countryside.

On now to the Daniel Boone Consolidated Grade School, an ideal place to turn the wagon around and return back to Schuetzen Street. Turn left on Schuetzen Street and notice the small brick home where August Schlueter settled in 1880 and raised his large family of 12 children. Proceed across "D" with caution to Peters Street. First on the right is another original New Melle home built by Miller George W. Karrenbrock. On the opposite side is the Peniel Methodist Church built in 1864. German Methodists were prominent in town during the early days. The neatly tended Methodist Cemetery is located on the south edge of town.

The Edward Karrenbrock frame home and his 19th century Creamery can be seen to the left as you make the turn onto Peters Street. Continue across Mill Street to County Road "Z." You have pulled up next to the New Melle Volunteer Fire Department. To the south is the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, and west of the church is George Broeker's large home. Mr. Broeker, at the turn of the century, operated a livery and daily, and drove a horse-drawn "taxi" to and from Wentzville.

Turn left onto "Z" and return to the Best of Two Worlds to complete the tour.

No. 173 MAY 18, 1977