

Chapter 3

North To Boon's Lick

Although history abounds north and northwest of New Melle only a few stories have been prepared for this first issue.

Principally, the area included stretches north to the Boonslick Trail along the route to Wentzville, and northwest following Foristell Road.

Articles included are:

- 3.1 The Schroeders
- 3.2 Dedicated Youth
- 3.3 The Massmann Farm
- 3.4 The Borgelts
- 3.5 Freese Family
- 3.6 Hy Abington's Log Cabin
- 3.7 Oakdale School
- 3.8 Profile - Dr. James Roy Jackson
- 3.9 The Leonard Welkers
- 3.10 Profile - Bernard H. Feldewert

The Schroeders

3.1

SCHROEDER FARM HOME

One mile north of New Melle on Route "Z" stands a fine old farm home where William and Elizabeth Schroeder raised their family of nine children. Their log home was built in 1887, and remodeled as we see it today in 1907. The original log portion remains as the living room section. Their son Ed continues to live here in the house where he was born.

No. APR. 7, 1976

Ed's elder brother William, who is 84 years old, came to visit from Steelville. He had many interesting stories to tell. Before the conversation began, however, I noticed that my late model Benrus self-winding watch had the wrong time. Bill was quick to snap open his beautiful gold, closed-face watch and give me the correct time to the minute.

It is the only watch he has ever owned and he purchased it in 1909 from Ed Rickmer's Jewelry Store and gunsmith shop in New Melle. The jewelry store was located a few hundred feet north of original New Melle in the settlement known as Pauldingville.

Bill Schroeder started working in Charles Meier's general store on September 9, 1907 as a clerk for \$10 per month plus room, board and wash. They worked 12 hour days, six days per week. He also painted buggies here on the second floor. Buggies were pulled up and rolled down a ramp by hand.

Times were bad in 1907 and money was short. Some days only a nickel was rung up on the cash register and that was from Ed Karrenbrock who had a weakness for bananas. He would come in daily and purchase three for a nickel. All other business was by barter and charge with once a year settlements.

After four years, he and Omar Niederjohn started a butcher shop

in the home where Mrs. Seper now lives. After an unprofitable two years, Bill worked as a clerk in Arnold Hoefner's store and served as Assistant Postmaster. After four years at this, he became interested in raising white faced cattle. To start, he bought a heifer and cow. Both were pregnant. The heifer had her calf but the cow died. So, to recoup a portion of his loss, he skinned the cow, then took the calf and skinned it. He still has those skinning knives.

About this time in 1918, he scattered some Tom Watson and rattlesnake seeds around the base of an old straw pile. To his surprise, a bumper crop resulted and wagon loads full were hauled out.

While working for Arnold Hoefner, he roomed in the big red brick house across the street where the Burts now live. Later he lived on the "poor farm" where Harry Angel now resides, (so named because the land was so poor). In 1920 Mr. Schroeder left his home town and signed a contract with Mutual Life of New York after getting the inspiration to sell insurance. It proved a good move. He went on to become one of their leading salesmen, being on the "first 50" list seven times and has been as high as fifth from the top in all U.S. and Canada. Bill has served 54 years with his company and is the oldest man out of the St. Louis office.

Approximately one mile north of New Melle on County Road Z, stands a fine old farm home where William Schroeder and his wife Elizabeth (nee Klippel) raised their large family of nine children. William and Elizabeth were married in 1883 and set up housekeeping in a log cabin directly across the street from the Schroeder home. Here they stayed until Bill, with the help of pioneer neighbors, built their new home in 1887. It too was a log house and remained so until 1907 when it was replaced by a frame house as we see it today.

The Schroeder children were Harry, Anna, Bill, Laura (Almeling), Ben, Edward, Frank and Bertha. All are living today except Harry, Anna and Ben. Edward is the only one that re-

mained a New Melle citizen. He lives alone in the family home today.

No. 22 MAR. 18, 1974

3.1

SCHROEDER'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

On May 23, 1948, Alvin Schroeder of New Melle and Elsie Koenig of Wentzville were married by the Rev. A. Miessler at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wentzville. Harvey Thieman was best man and Elsie's sister Alma (Bornhop) was maid of honor. On Sunday afternoon the Schroeders celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary at a reception in the Immanuel Lutheran Hall, attended by many friends and relatives.

Alvin, a life long resident of the New Melle community, was born and raised on the Schroeder farm homeplace one mile north of town, and a few hundred yards east of Highway Z.

Alvin's grandfather, a German immigrant, settled here in the late 1800's, and lived in a log house which is still standing near the present farm home where his father, John G. Schroeder, was born. John married Louise Oberdick, and the couple continued to live on the Schroeder homeplace.

Alvin was both a farmer and an employe for a number of years at Karrenbrock's New Melle Creamery. He was christened and confirmed at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in New Melle by the Rev. Robert Falke, attended its first parochial school when it stood just east of the cemetery, and completed the eighth grade in the new school adjacent to the church. The "new school" is now the pastoral study and church office.

Elsie has a similar background. Her great-grandparents, Heinrich F. Koenig, Sr., and Mary Witkeotter, were born in Germany. Heinrich came from Buer and Mary came from Melle. They immigrated to America in 1872. Her grandparents, Herman Koenig and Elvina (nee Busdieker) of New Melle settled on the Koenig farm, located near the north edge of Wentzville. Elsie's parents were Harry Koenig and Martha (Pfau).

Tragedy struck the Koenig family on July 7, 1915, when a tornado destroyed their home and killed Mrs. Koenig. Elsie was still a baby, and Alma was only six weeks old. The wind picked up Alma and carried her several

yards, and their uncle Ernst Koenig was blown into an apple tree.

Elsie was christened and confirmed at Immanuel, and attended Immanuel Parochial School. Both are now active members of St. Paul's, and have retired to the comfortable home once occupied by Mrs. Elizabeth Almeling in the southern part of town. We wish them many more happy years together.



*The Ed Schroeder Home
north of New Melle*



DEDICATED YOUTH

We need only to look beyond the daily news to see an overwhelming wave of young people dedicated to a life of service for the good of mankind... These young folks who some day will be our Nation's leaders are all around us, and none are more dedicated than 19-year-old Debbie Brown, and her 18-year-old brother, Gary.

Debbie's and Gary's parents are Billie Dean and Rose Ellen Brown. Mr. Brown is a technical data engineer with McDonnell Douglas in the product support department, and Rose Ellen operates a popular beauty shop from her home. The Browns live on Point Prairie Road, two miles north of New Melle.

When Deborah Jean was 14 she served as a "Candy Stripper" at St. Joseph Hospital in St. Charles in radiology. She decided then on a career in nursing. Later at Wentzville High School she took college preparatory courses, made the honor roll, and went out for track and football. I chided this delightful young lady that she must have thought it necessary to build up her muscles for the rigors of nursing to participate in such sports. In High School she also excelled in Art, and at home pursued her hobby in sewing.

After graduating from High School Debbie worked for for a while at the Marlene Nursing Home as a nurse's aid.

When it came time to enroll in a nursing school she chose Maryville College in St. Louis County. This fine school, founded in 1872 as a girls' finishing school, is now a Coed Liberal Arts school, career oriented. Nursing was added when it took over the St. John's Hospital Nursing School.

On Saturday, May 6, after two and one-half years of intensive training, Debbie walked up to the center of the beautiful St. Louis Priory on Mason Road at the baccalaureate convocation to be pinned as a registered nurse. She received her diploma at the commencement exercises at Powell Hall Sunday evening.

Miss Brown must take her State Board exam July 11 and 12 in Columbia. Her assignment as a registered nurse will be at Incarnate Word Hospital in South St. Louis.

Debbie's brother Gary Dean has always wanted to be a pilot in service to his country. An answer to his dream came through the Wentzville Lions Club who selected him last summer to attend Boys State. His counselor there was a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md. Gary thrilled to the possibility of some day being a midshipman at Annapolis where so many great Navy men had received their training. The Academy was established in 1845.



Gary, as a student at Wentzville High School, was president of the National Honor Society, and secretary of the Science Club. In October, last year, he applied for admission into the Naval Academy to Rep. Harold Volkmer, U.S. Congressman of Missouri's 9th District. On December 13 confirmation was received. Some 1650 young men are chosen each year, which averages only about 33 per state.

Gary likes to hunt and fish. His specialty is hunting with a bow and arrow, which netted him a deer during the recent hunting season. Recently he was selected as a Student Rotarian at assigned Wentzville Rotary meetings.

When our local "Midshipman" enters Annapolis this summer he will major in Aerospace Engineering, and will strive for a lifetime career as a military officer. In mentioning to him that he may be flying one of McDonnell's F-18s some day he quickly corrected the "maybe" to "will be."

Close friends of the Browns, Homer and Lois Fannin of St. Peters will soon be transferred to Maryland by MDC. They are looking forward to many visits with Gary there. Homer is a maintainability engineer on the Navy F-18 fighter. The Browns will be taking Gary to the Academy in a few weeks. Debbie will go along and will try to forget about that state board exam while sight-seeing in and around the nation's capitol.

No. 220 MAY 8, 1978

New Melle

"From The Cracker Barrel News"

3.3

THE MASSMANN FARM

In the early part of our century the "general farm" of modest acreage was prevalent throughout the country. The farmer, his faithful wife, and their children became exceedingly proficient at growing a variety of crops; feeding and caring for a host of domestic fowl and animals; tending a large garden; butchering and curing meat; baking, cooking and canning everything for the table; sewing, patching and darning; chopping wood for the heating stoves; sawing boards and hewing timbers for a new shed or barn, and countless other chores that required particular skills.

The successful farm family would manage his complex world with time enough remaining for an active church and social life. In those days there was a close tie between neighbors, and when emergencies arose, all would help each other. It was necessary to farm this way for survival, and the wisest, and most industrious farmers were rewarded with a good life in most respects.

In recent years there has been a great change in our economy, and habits of everyday living. Most farmers found it necessary to specialize in one or two main commodities in order to make a profit. Thus untold thousands of "general farms" were merged into large specialized farms, or the owners just ceased to be diversified. It is a kind of rural America that we all regret passing. (Nov. 16, 1977)

So, when one visits a truly successful "general farm" today, that is almost a carbon copy of the story book farm of yesterday, a good feeling wells within us.

The farm of Erwin and Norma Massmann, and their son Wendell, on the Forstell Road, a short distance north of New Melle, is such a farm. A gravel drive leading up to their home of four generations winds through a

grassy meadow, crosses a clear water stream, and skirts a small grove of oaks which is as clean of brush and branches as a city park. A few hundred white Leghorn chickens in the barn lot outside the fenced in lawn adds much to the pleasant farm scene. The farm is laid out on a knoll with the land dropping away into rolling fields and forests affording very pleasing panoramic views in all directions. Norma was baking bread, and I dare say the cellar shelves and kitchen cabinets were well stocked with home canned fruits and vegetables.

The four of us sat in comfortable fine old rockers in the "sitting room," heated by a glowing wood fire, and talked about family history. The earliest record known of the Erwin Massmann Farm is a deed dated December 3, 1841 made out to John Clowers, who paid \$200 to the Receivers Office in St. Louis for 160 acres. This comes to \$1.25 per acre. Then on December 28, 1853, Rudolph Hy. Meier, grandfather of Mrs. Massmann, bought the farm for \$1,500. Mr. and Mrs. Meier were blessed with 10 children, the youngest of which was Norma's mother, who married John J. Holt. In 1901 Mr. and Mrs. Holt bought the farm from Mrs. Rudolph Meier, now a widow, and the other heirs, for \$1,800. After an untimely death of Mr. Holt, Lydia Meier Holt married Fritz L. Wenke on August 29, 1907. To this union, Norma, their only child, was born.

The exact date when the home was built is not known but the nearby large barn was built in 1877, and a portion of the present home, constructed of logs, preceded the barn by several years. The log portion was torn down in 1919 and a new living room was added. The Wenke's continued farming until 1938 when Erwin Massmann married Norma and took over the management. Fritz Wenke passed away in 1940. Mrs. Wenke lived with the Massmanns

until her death in 1959.

The Massmanns have one daughter, Wilma, now Mrs. Raymond W. Schroeder, and as mentioned earlier, their son Wendell who is active in farming at home.

In touring the rooms on both floors, Mrs. Massmann's spotless housekeeping is evident everywhere, fine old family furniture is placed effectively in the freshly painted rooms, and her beautiful homemade quilts cover all the beds. Erwin's handiwork as a carpenter is also quite evident wherever the house needed to be improved. They "make do" as much as possible, and are not encumbered too much by all that is modern, but they did not hesitate to install electricity when REA came through, or a modern bathroom when a deep well was dug in 1954.

Wendell, a very talented, and hard working young man, has not only relieved his father of much work, but has put into practice all that he learned so well in FFA activities.

We first walked over to the pig enclosures, located a few hundred yards from their home. Thirty Hampshires came running to the fence at Wendell's call. He feeds them automatically from feeders he built himself. Nearby is a 1100 bushel capacity rodent and moisture proof grain bin half filled with wheat. An expansive new steel shed with a high ceiling, and finely crushed rock on the floor, houses all of the farm machinery. Here in neatly arranged rows are two Allis Chalmers tractors, a new Chevey pick-up, an elevator, cornpicker, combine, blade for grading, brush hogger, hay rake, carryall, hay bailer, plows, cultivator, corn sheller and planter, a 6 ft. by 12 ft. wagon bed, a sprayer, hog and cow feeders. Wendell built a number of these items.

Certain items, like the wagon bed, he built while still attending high school. Just imagine what it takes to operate a diversified

3.3

farm. We passed two wood piles carefully stacked where there is enough fire wood to last a couple of seasons. In the workshop another feeder is in the process of being welded together. Here there is a place for every necessary tool or fastener, and everything is in its place.

A bit of nostalgia is even in the pump house where a precious old 19th century painting, painted directly on wall boards form part of the wall. The boards were carefully removed from the former home of John Meier in New Melle. It was an interesting visit, and as one starts down the drive the church steeple in New Melle is visible peeking out of the tree tops. Without fail, the Massmanns head for that goal every Sunday morning to worship.

No. 58 Nov. 18, 1974

The farm is a beautiful one, with a large barn and a well equipped workshop. The house is a two-story brick building with a large porch. The garden is well kept and there are many trees and shrubs. The view from the house is beautiful. The farm is a good example of a well kept farm. The house is a beautiful one, with a large barn and a well equipped workshop. The garden is well kept and there are many trees and shrubs. The view from the house is beautiful. The farm is a good example of a well kept farm.

New Melle
From The Center Hotel

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The Cracker Barrel News

The Borgelts 3.4

Issue No. 101

Our story principally concerns the life and deeds of Ben Borgelt of New Melle, who at the age of 80 years passed away in 1961. Let us go back a number of years, however, before we start talking about the Judge.

On November 7, 1837, President Martin van Buren signed a Land Grant over to John W. Price consisting of an 80 acre piece of land in the SE Qtr. of the NW Qtr. of the NE Qtr. of the SW Qtr. of Sec. 15 in T.S. 46 Range One East in St. Charles County. Or, simply it is three miles north of New Melle. It is believed that Mr. Price came to the area as a farmer from Virginia.

The old 1875 atlas shows that Oglesby Young was a later owner of this and several adjoining acres. Mr. Young next sold it to William Owens. During this period John Hy. Borgelt, who was born on the "old Schwede place" in 1851, and his wife Fredericka (nee Jungermann), who was born in Germany in 1854, moved their family from the Wentzville area to a farm west, and next to the aforementioned farm. It too was a part of the Young estate. John Hy. had struggled through his early pioneering days without a father, who succumbed to the cholera epidemic in 1852 when John was only one year old.

Here on this newly acquired farm John and Fredericka raised a family of seven children. They were Julius, Benjamin, Ida Wilmar, Nettie Schlueter, Otto, Walter, and Edgar.

Benjamin, of course, became quite attached to the neighboring "Price property". He, and his brothers, possibly roamed every foot of it during boyhood days. So when the opportunity arose he purchased it from the Owens family, and it became known as the Ben Borgelt homeplace.

Ben was born May 11, 1881. He was destined to enjoy an interesting long life, and was to become a man whom our community should be justly proud. At the age of 23 he was a buyer for the famous Cottage Restaurant during the 1904 St. Louis Worlds Fair.

October 25, 1905 he married Ella Schlueter. The young couple then moved to the farm where Ben soon developed a keen interest in owning and training the finest Missouri mules in the state. He followed this so extensively that he became one of the principal suppliers of mules for the U.S. Army in World War I. One of his mule barns stood on the site of Wentzville's first four year High School, and another was located on the present site of Rauch Lumber Co. in St. Charles.

Also during the War, in 1918, Mr. Borgelt became the U.S. Food Administrator for the Missouri Division. For these services he received a special U.S. Govt. citation for his patriotic activities and distinguished service.

In 1938 citizen Ben Borgelt became Judge Borgelt, being elected St. Charles County Judge of the Western District. He served with distinction until 1944. From 1944 through 1946 he was County Republican Committee Chairman, and then State Representative from 1946 to 1948. For many years he was also Director of the Montgomery School District. He died March 19, 1961. His wife passed away three years later at the age of 78. The Borgelt's children are Mrs. Mildred Balston, who now lives on the homeplace, and Harvey. Harvey's wife is the former Marie Aulbert.

Mildred visited the store and supplied much of the above information on her father, and after some coaxing I found out a few things about herself. She has served as the principal secretary and office manager for a number of noted attorneys in St. Louis representing such corporations as SW Bell Telephone, Frisco Railway, Uregas, and then Hensiek Contracting in Wentzville. She has been successful in Real Estate, serving a Director on the East Central Missouri Real Estate Board. She was also a Republican Committee Woman, Vice Chairman of the 9th Con-

gressional Dist., and very active in Republican and Business Women's Clubs. You will find her accomplishments listed in "Who's Who In the Mid-West". We offer our congratulations.

Before closing this article something should be said about Ben's younger brother Walter. Many will remember Walter Borgelt first as a clerk in A.C. Hoefner's General Store in New Melle, but then he went on to become the County Clerk of St. Charles county. Following this civic service he became associated with the First National Bank of St. Charles, where he held a high position for 30 years, or until his death. His son, Pershing, followed in his father's footsteps as County Clerk for a number of years.

SEPT. 24, 1975



Mr. and Mrs. Ben Borgelt

3.4

3.4



St. Charles County Court--1938

The St. Charles county clerk in 1938 was Earl C. Gray. Judge Ben Borgelt is the man third from the left. He was the judge of the western district. Judge Herman Sandhaus was judge of the eastern district.

3.5

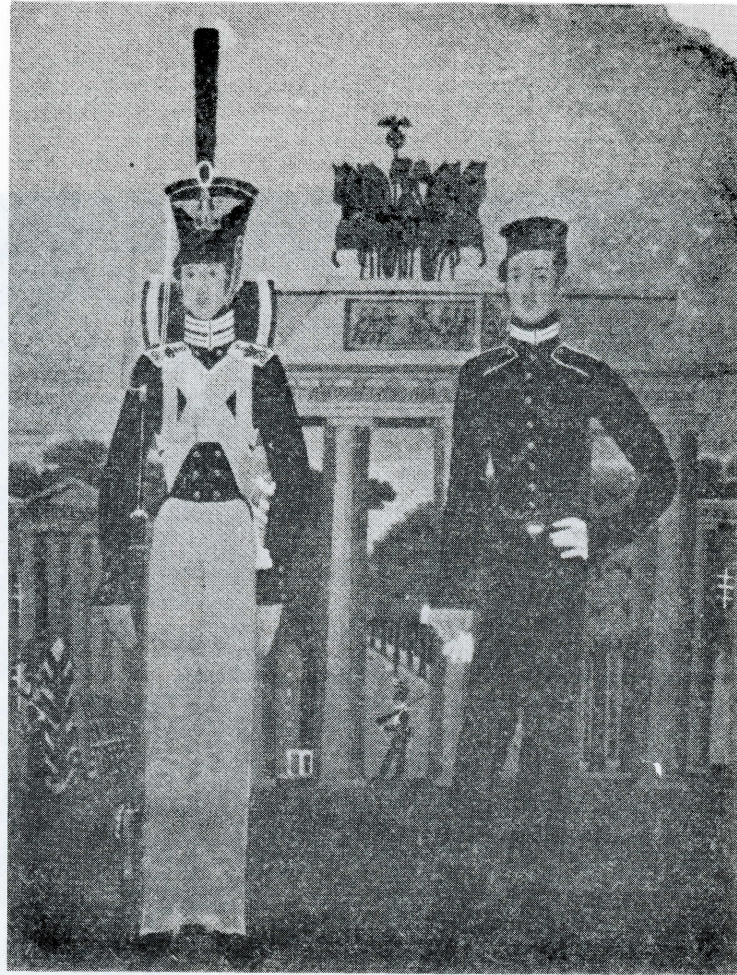
FREESE FAMILY

When history of German families is studied it so often is learned that their start in America began with an enterprising young man who became disillusioned with repeated revolutionary uprisings in Germany, successive wars between Prussia and Austria from 1756 to 1866, and in the limited opportunities for an average man to prosper beyond a bare subsistence.

Karl William Freese, born at Kreis, Tiechenburg, Kappeln, Prussia in 1815, and later forced to serve as a member of Emperor Alexander Grenadier Guard Regiment, 1st Company, Berlin Garrison in 1838, under the rulership of Frederick William III, was one of these young men who emigrated to America at the first opportunity. Karl had married Miss Catherina Margaret Rahmeier from his home town of Kappeln where she was born September 20, 1816.

In 1840 their chance came to board a sailing vessel at Bremen bound for New York. They arrived safely after a six-week voyage, and continued westward to St. Louis where they remained a few weeks. They proceeded next to St. Charles County where Karl acquired a tract of farm land in Township 46 North Range 1 East, Section 21. The property is midway between New Melle and County Road T. Here Karl and Margaret settled down to farm life. Three of their six known children were Henry, William and August. William remained on the original farm, and the other two boys acquired farms nearby. The oldest died in infancy in Germany. William was the fourth child.

The pioneer family endured many hardships, and Karl died at the early age of 42. A story is told through the years that he came in out of a hot hay field, drank cold milk and died. Margaret carried on with the help of her three sons, and remained on the homeplace until her death in 1893. Her grave is in the St. John's Cemetery in Cappeln. Brief biographies of two of their sons, Henry and William, are given in the "Portrait and Bio-



WILLIAM FREESE AS A GRENADIER

graphical Record of St. Charles, Lincoln, and Warren Counties" published in 1895. August is not listed apparently because he died at an early age.

William was born July 15, 1850 and remained on his father Karl's farm until his death in 1929. He married Miss Elise Nieweg in 1876. Her parents also emigrated to America from Germany in 1840. Their children were John William, Herman Henry and Edward Benjamin.

Mrs. Sonny (Alice) Millitor, granddaughter of William Freese, and daughter of Benjamin, resides near the pioneer farm that Karl and Margaret chose to sustain them 145 years ago. She is keenly interested in her family's history, and someday her efforts in research will be a treasure to both present and future generations.

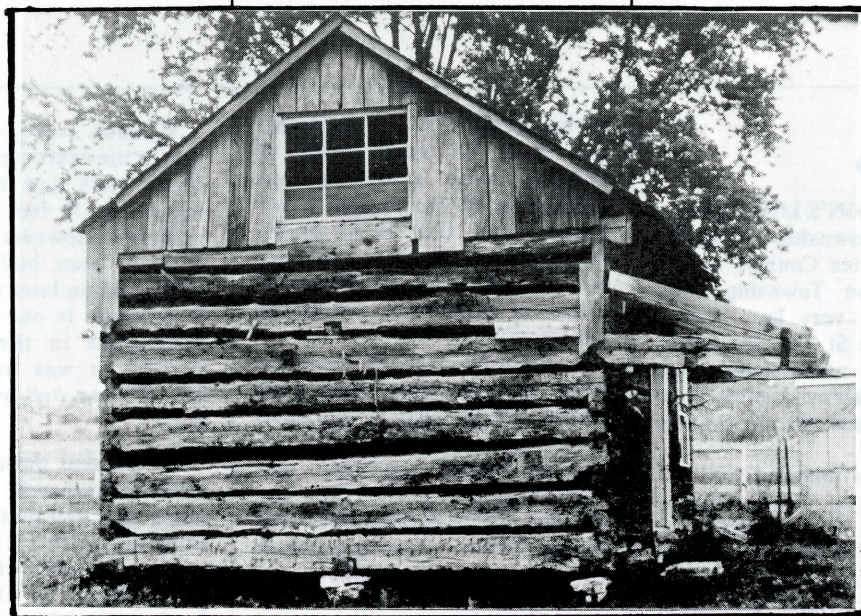
Henry was born in 1853, received a common school education, and at the age of 28 married Miss Sophia Berlekamp of Callaway Township. Their family of six sons and two daughters included William, Frederic, August, Theodore, Johanna, Herman, Hellena, and Edwin. Herman, a retired farmer, and well known in the New Melle community, has remained on his father's homeplace. He was born April 28, 1887, and is married to the former Miss Lydia Gieseman. They had two children, Raymond and Mabel. Herman not only was a lifetime successful farmer, but he was also deeply interested in the town of New Melle, where he helped to establish the New Melle Mecantile Company. He remained president of its Board of Directors for more than 25

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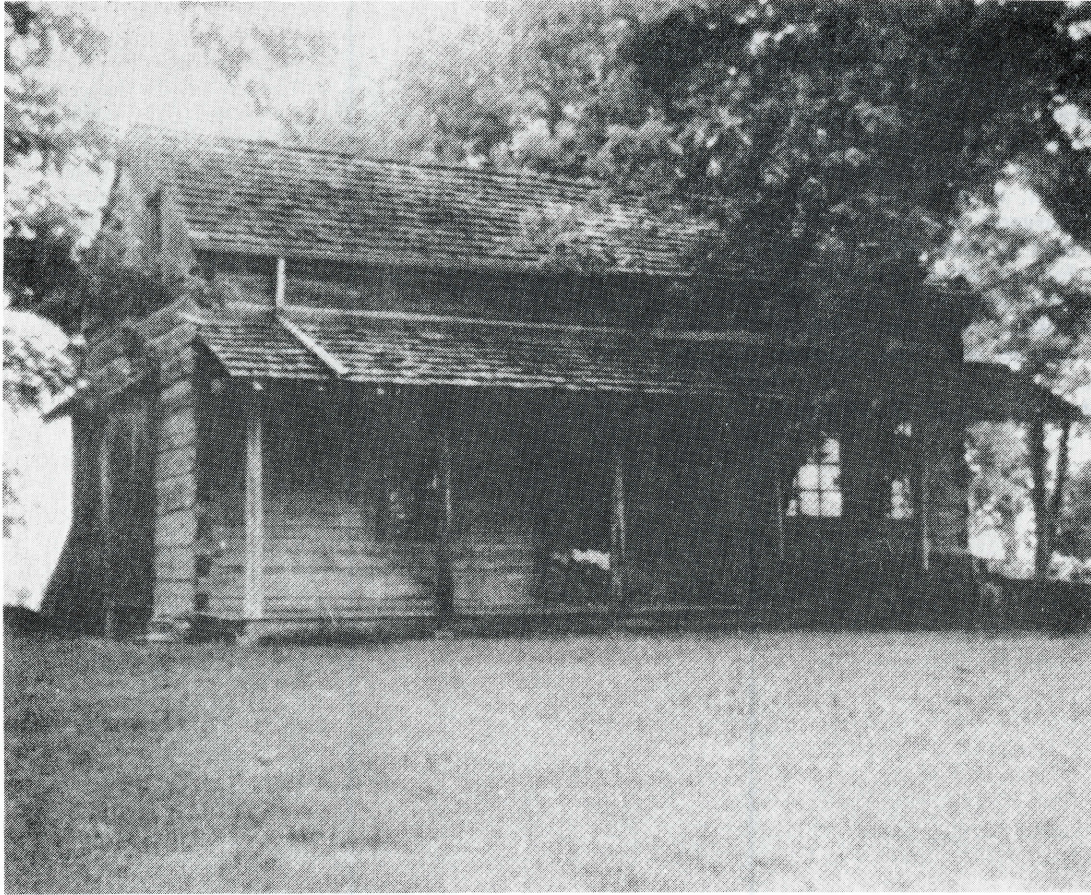
years. His son Raymond and family live next door to the Herman Freese's. Raymond, however, commutes every day to St. Louis University where he is Chairman of the Mathematics Department. Ray is now President of the Mercantile Board.

August, a third son of Karl and Margaret, was born in 1853 and died in 1889. His wife was the former Miss Wilhelmina Paul who lived to 94 years old. (1856-1950). Their two children are George and Dina Brakensiek.

No. 116 JAN. 5, 1976



*Fritz Nieweg
Cabin on
Morrison Lane*



3.6

HY ABINGTON'S LOG CABIN

Cahaway Township in southwest St. Charles County, now a part of Boone Township, was settled in the very late 1700's, second only to St. Charles Township, and its name honors the famous Callaway family who came to Missouri with the Boones and Bryans.

The Howells followed within a year or two in 1800. History records that Joseph Baugh, a descendant of a Jamestown colonist, came in 1816, and Hy Abington, of Scotch ancestry, arrived from Virginia soon thereafter.

Pioneer Abington was born in 1768. He was approximately 52 when he came to Missouri with his wife Elizabeth and family. They settled down near the west line of St. Charles County, south

of the present town of Foristell, and near the south edge of Peruque Creek, a few hundred yards west of the present Point Prairie Road. (Sec 33 TS 47 N, Range 1 East). Hy Abington's log cabin home, now in advanced stages of restoration, stands at this location.

On Saturday, Nov. 18, I saw the cabin for the first time, and visited with the owners who have formed a unique partnership to just do things together, not necessarily for profit. They are Jim and Carol Walsh, Dave and Jackie Kuhn, Dave's brother Steve, and his wife Marilyn, and Dorothy Kuhn, whose husband Don (deceased) was also a partner.

Jim is an electrical engineer at Emerson Electric. Dave, a teacher, is head of the Retailing Dept. at Meramec Jr. College. Steve is also a teacher in the St. Louis County Special School District.

Without more extensive research the exact construction date of the story and one-half cabin, measuring 18 feet by 33 feet, is unknown. However, it is believed to have been built as early as 1820, and no later than 1840. So, it certainly is one of the oldest structures in the area. Very possibly it was built by Henry himself, assisted by his sons and slaves.

The present owners have very carefully removed the ship-lap siding that had protected any log deterioration over a long period of years, especially when it served as the home of the Giesmann family. Now the massive hand-hewed oak timbers have been treated, spaces between have been rechinked, and cedar shakes cover the original shingles.

We climbed a ladder to the loft. Exposed are Roman numeral-numbered pole roof rafters, and wide roughly sawed sheathing

boards. The boards may have been laborously sawed by hand. Jim pointed out the wooden pegs driven through the pole rafters where they butted together at the peak without use of the standard horizontal ridge pole.

When the cabin was first examined for restoration it was noticed that the roof line was perfectly true. A beautiful stone fireplace, 5 feet by 5 feet, has been added on the east end by Mr. Walsh.

Although Henry Abington could only sign his name on legal papers with an X, he was considered a prominent farmer, represented his country in the State Legislature three years, and left his mark as a pioneer of St. Charles County. Mr. Walsh and the Kuhn brothers are to be commended for saving one more county historic site.

The property west of the cabin site is owned by Dr. James Roy Jackson, and he has the abstract of the Abington properties. It states that Hy Abington recorded the property in 1837.

In 1844 it passed from the Abington family to George A. W. Johnson, to Eliza J. Owens in 1845, to W. W. McRoberts in 1905, to James Hunsel in 1919, to the Citizens Bank in Wentzville in 1933, and purchased by Dr. and Mrs. Jackson, also in 1933.

Henry's Will, prepared by him in 1842 when he was 74, stipulates how his modest estate was to be divided between his wife and children. A total of 120 acres are involved and only one slave girl named Sally is mentioned among his possessions. There are other pieces of information though that indicate that he was a rather large land owner, and that he had a number of slaves during a period in his life.

Near the cabin, on property owned by Mr. and Mrs. Lauer, is an Abington family cemetery containing a few Abington gravesites. Henry and Elizabeth are not included. The tiny cemetery is protected by an ornate wrought iron fence, and framed by cedar trees, two of which may be over 200 years old.

The Abingtons came to us as settlers in an uncharted wilderness 178 years ago. Now, at least in this vicinity, their name is extinct. In reflecting upon this I was prompted to examine my father's earliest general store ledger, and there found a number of entries.

A Robert Abington came into the Schatz & Schiermeier Store regularly throughout 1878 to buy \$65.82 worth of merchandise, and pay for it with produce, oats, wheat, and ham. O. P. Abington also came in 1878 and bartered with eggs. Nat was another 1878 customer. Also the names of Joseph, Mrs. Karen Abington, and William H. appear. William H. Abington was a son of Henry, and is buried in the cemetery mentioned above.

#250 29 NOV 1978



Students attending the Oakdale School in 1903 pose for this picture in front of the one-room school house. The small girl sitting to the left of her teacher later became Mrs. Lizzie Nieweg, a teacher herself. The school taught students from the New Melle area when they were able to come. This included many new immigrant children who had to put out extra effort working with a strange language.

3.7

OAKDALE SCHOOL

School Districts, one by one, were established in our area in the mid 1800's as soon as sufficient immigrants and other families from the East settled on farms and small towns. One-room grammar schools set up in the center of the districts, where all eight grades were taught by a single teacher, became the only educational institution for the vast majority of students. Occasionally, each graduating class may have a candidate or so to go to a local college. Girls especially went on to become teachers.

By the late 1940's, or in only one century, this grand Americana chapter has passed entirely from the mid-western scene. Those who have photos of these early school days should carefully preserve them, and identify the children and teachers.

The Oakdale School, once located on the corner of Morrison Lane and Schnarre Road near New Melle, was a typical one-

room grammar school. I am acquainted with only a few details concerning this school, however, the 1903 picture accompanying this article was taken from an original once belonging to the little girl sitting next to her teacher on the left. She was Miss Lizzie Nieweg (later Mrs. Almeling). Shortly before her death in 1976 she presented the picture to my wife. (Read "Profile-Elizabeth Almeling in the issue of April 21, 1975, Cracker Barrel News.) Miss Nieweg was one of those bright young girls who went on to become a teacher herself.

JUNE 7, 1978 No. 224

3.7

Profile - Dr. James Roy Jackson 3.8

By Bill Schiermeier

Forty-six years ago when James Roy Jackson was still a young man, and very active in many endeavours, he, and his wife Margaret Lee Boydston, purchased a farm about three miles west of Wentzville on Jackson Road, near Point Prairie Road. They used it regularly as a retreat from the busy city, and chose it as their permanent home 15 years later.

Folks in the area may not know Roy as well as they should. It was my pleasure to meet Roy just two years ago, and each time we get together, especially at Tuesday's Rotary luncheons, I learn more about his remarkable background. It is a privilege to write a few words about Dr. Jackson.

Roy was born August 14, 1892, to James Jackson Sr. and Bella (LaRue) Jackson near Troy, Mo. His father, born in 1851 (died 1916) was but six weeks old when his grandparents, Samuel Jackson (b 1817-d 1905), and Jane Robinson (b 1817-d 1897), came to this country on a sailing ship from Ireland.

They sailed into Port New Orleans after being six months enroute on a stormy sea. People were looking for free land in the 1850's, so Samuel and Jane, with their family, continued up the Mississippi river to St. Louis, and then to Lincoln county where they staked out their New World home.

Roy's roots in this section of Missouri were also established very early by his mother's parents. Grandfather LaRue migrated from Kentucky to Missouri about 1840 and settled on Sugar Creek in Lincoln county near Grandfather Jackson.

Although Roy has lived on a farm for many years, as did his ancestors, he distinguished himself as a scholar and educator. Roy was married to Margaret Boydston in 1917, and entered World War I service, also in 1917, as a cadet. He served in the U. S. Army as a second lieutenant in the Air Service (Aeronautics), and was discharged at that level.

During the next two years he organized and operated a suburban bank in Fort Worth, Texas.

From 1921 to 1923 he headed the Department of Commerce at Centenary College, Shreveport, Louisiana. Then, in 1923, he returned to the University of Chicago, having enrolled there during the summer in 1916, where in that same year he received his Bachelors Degree (in education), his Masters in business administration in 1924, and his Doctor of Philosophy in economics in 1927.

During this period Roy served as lecturer at the School of Commerce-University of Chicago, and from 1926-28 he headed the Department of Business Administration at Evansville, Indiana College. The University of Chicago, by the way, ranks among the highest ranking graduate schools in America.

Dr. Jackson went on to distinguish himself as a financial expert. From 1928 to 1942 he served as professor and head of the Department of Finance in the School of Commerce at St. Louis University. During much of this time he also was Director of the Investment Analysis



Dr. Roy Jackson

Bureau in St. Louis.

When our country needed his services in World War II he responded as he did in World War I. He entered as a captain in the Air Corps in 1942, and retired as Major, in 1946. A certificate of commendation as chief of the Replacement Factor Branch, Material Control Division — office Chief of Ordnance Pentagon was recieved in 1945.

Finally, for a period of 10 years, 1948 to 1958, Dr. Jackson was Dean of the School of Business at the Air Force Institute of Technology — Air University Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio., and retired as Dean Emeritus in 1958.

A number of Dr. Jackson's articles were published in the *Journal of Business-University of Chicago on Stocks and Investments*. He is author of "common and Preferred Stock Comparisons", "Land of the Free", and in 1955 he wrote "National Debt Problem" for the *Commercial and Financial Chronicle*, the oldest financial journal still published. Dr. Jackson is also quoted in no less than 10 leading text books in the field of investments, which establishes him as a recognized authority.

Roy is a member of the American Economics Association, Financial Analysis Society, a Mason, an Odd Fellow, a member of the Missouri Athletic Club of St. Louis, and a Rotarian. He joined Rotary in Evansville, Ind. in 1926, continued with the St. Louis Club from 1929 to 1976, and is now a member of the Westzville Rotary Club. At age 86 he is the first to arrive at the Southern Air where the club meets each Tuesday. His attendance is near perfect, and when it is his turn to handle the program he is the principal speaker. Recently Roy spoke on the subject of "Money".

Perhaps the greatest recognition for his accomplishments came in 1959 when he and his life's work were listed in Marquis' "Who's Who". Marquis is the original Who's Who in America, and the most authoritative.

In 1933 Roy and Margaret purchased the 80-acre farm mentioned earlier, that had been deeded over to Hy. A. Abington, Sr. originally on January 3, 1837. Henry Abington was one of the area's first settlers and a slave holder. The original home of hewed log construction had only 2 rooms, one above the other. The Jacksons were careful to preserve this portion as they enlarged, and remodeled. They have 2 daughters Jeannette (Mrs. George Hanke), and Francis Irene (Mrs. Ralph Kampschmidt).

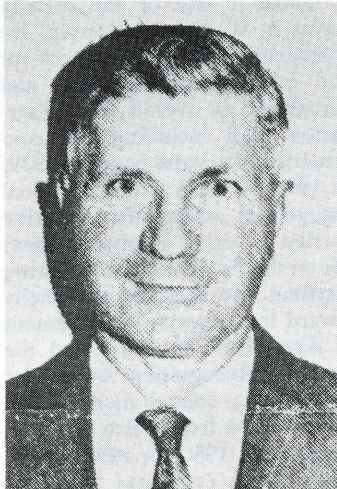
In 1951 Roy visited the Episcopal Church in Ireland where his father was christened. It is in the county of Moneghan, Tallollen Parish, not far from Belfast. Here he succeeded in tracing through family names, dates and occupations.

On his mother's side, Roy has succeeded in going back five generations to Isaac LaRue, who with his brother, came from France and fought in

the Revolutionary War. The LaRues settled in Hodgeville, Kentucky near the Lincolns, and the family has handed down a story that one of the LaRue women assisted as mid-wife at the birth of Abraham Lincoln. Roy showed me a book "Six Generations of LaRues and Allied Families" by Otis Mather. The LaRues and Lincolns could have been close friends. Roy believes that his Grandfather LaRue first walked from Kentucky to Missouri over the same trail blazed through the wilderness by Daniel Boone. Then after staking out his land he walked back to bring his family to Missouri in wagons.

No.232 July 31, 1978

3.9
The Leonard Welkers



Welker Honored For 40 Years Service With ASCS

by Bill Schiermeier

Leonard Welker, lifelong New Melle farmer, conservationist, civic and church leader, was honored Wednesday, Dec. 13, by the St. Charles County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee, and the office staff, for having completed over 40 years of continuous part time employment in field work out of the St. Charles County ASC office.

The affair was a surprise party and dinner at Pio's Restaurant in St. Charles where Leonard was presented with a 40-year Department of Agriculture service pin and an engraved desk set.

Welker began his work with the St. Charles County office in September of 1936 when only 17. Since that time he has served in many different capacities.

His duties at the present time are checking compliance on farms that participate in various farm programs such as the "set aside program," the storage of grain under the "loan and grain reserve program," and the "disaster program" where he appraises the low yield crops in the field. Other special duties are often directed to Welker by the office manager or committee.

Members of the ASC committee, accompanied by their wives, were Herbert Wappelhorst, Alfred Kolkmeier and Martin Orf. Also present were office staff members Mrs. Ethel Nolle and her husband John, Miss Devon Scharnhorst, Miss Joyce Willenbrock, Miss Elvera Hackmann, the county office manager, and Leonard and his wife Esther.

Welker has always become deeply involved in those things he considered worthwhile, and in which he believed. Consequently, he has devoted his life to service, as well as being a successful farmer. He has served on the Cuivre River Electric Coop Board of Directors since November of 1947 as secretary-treasurer, is on the St. Charles County Farm Bureau Board, and served on the St. Charles County Zoning Commission from August of 1962 until he retired from that position in August of 1977. He was chairman of this commission from 1966 to 1977.

Welker is a lifelong member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in New Melle, and was married there to the former Miss Esther Massmann in 1947. He joined the Voters Assembly in 1948, and has served in some capacity ever since. Welker is not only a past president of the congregation, but is also the president-elect for next year.

No. 254 DEC. 27, 1978

3.10

Profile -

BERNARD H. FELDEWERT

My opportunity to meet "Mr. Ben" Feldewert for the first time came just a few weeks ago. Ben, who is now 87 years old, has devoted his long life to making history, yet he was participating in an historical society meeting where the principal goal concerned preserving history.

Our initial conversation was of the days long ago when he played a big brass horn in the Josephville Band under the direction of Professor La Banca, who for many years led the locally famous St. Charles Military Band. Mr. Feldewert told me that year after year their band would enter in competition in New Melle with other bands and would always take the top prize. His loudest competitor on the brass horn, and close friend at the time, was Charley Holt. Not being aware of his long list of accomplishments, I had expected to hear more about the history of New Melle during our next visit. Instead, I was overwhelmed with the part Mr. Ben has played in the shaping of our country, especially in the agricultural field.

It is difficult for Mr. Feldewert to move around like he used to due to an arthritic condition, however, he has comfortably surrounded himself with a library of award plaques and certificates of appreciation, of photos and news clippings, letters from friends, and other memorabilia in his historic farm home. The home is located on Feldewert Road near Josephville. What can be written about this man who already has had so much said about him? Perhaps it would be well to summarize the events together as we trace through the decades together.

Ben's grandfather, Franz Feldewert of Erwitte, Kreis County, Lipstadt, and his wife and eight children arrived in New Orleans in 1852. These enterprising German immigrants had spent 13 grueling weeks in a sailboat crossing the Atlantic. The future father of our subject Franz (or Frank), age 13, was among the group. In later years Ben learned

from his father how grandfather Feldewert had the presence of mind to take plenty of "kumfel" (once a popular cordial in Russia and Germany) along to ward off seasickness.

He told how they bought a wagon and team of horses in St. Louis and rode up to the Josephville area where they had purchased an 160-acre farm almost sight unseen with only five acres of cleared land; how his grandfather believed he was a wealthy man because each sizable tree in Germany was then worth \$100; and how it hurt him to spend long winters cutting and burning fine hardwood timber just to clear the land for crops.

As Ben's father crossed the ocean with his parents, so did his mother, Catherine, cross over with her parents. She was a St. Louis girl when they met. The young couple settled on the Feldewert farm, and Bernard H. was born July 25, 1893. This farm had been part of a 640-acre Spanish Land Grant on the "waters of the Peruque." David Conrad had obtained the grant in 1806. He sold it all in 1819 to Richard Lowe for \$1 per acre, and Lowe in turn sold it to Ephraim Kile. The Kile family came from Kentucky with their slaves. They are all buried nearby in a family cemetery surrounded by a rock wall.

Once during Ben's boyhood days he walked to the neighboring Kile log farm house with one dozen geese eggs for setting. The large farm house consisted of two, two-story log sections separated by a dog trot passageway. The Kiles and their black people, who had been their slaves, lived together, and when he opened the door he found two elderly women with long skirts and sunbonnets preparing stew in a kettle over an open fire. A Negro mammy was cleaning, and a black boy was sleeping on the floor near the fireplace. Young Ben possibly recognized the historical significance of this scene because he vowed that someday he himself would live in this 1837 pioneer home.

It was meant to be, as Ben's father and brothers purchased this property of 210 acres in 1921, and it was conveyed over to Ben

and his wife, Louise, in 1934. Mr. Ben was now the sole owner of a fine piece of land, and he resolved to make it one of the leading farms in St. Charles County. He constructed his first terraces for soil conservation in 1937, and completed an overall soil conservation plan including the construction of several ponds in 1939. In 1942 his farm gained national recognition when Life Magazine carried a series of photos about life on the Feldewert Farm during wartime. He received the Shelly Award for Superior Achievement in Agriculture in 1947, and the National Recognition Award for outstanding contribution to soil conservation from Farm & Home Register in 1950. In 1952 the St. Louis Globe Democrat Soil Conservation District Award was received, and in the same year he was recognized by the St. Charles Hot Stove League for his work with Little League baseball. An Appreciation Award from Missouri Association of Soil Conservation Districts came in 1958, and in 1959 Mr. Feldewert was awarded Honorary Membership in the above Missouri Association. A Certificate of Merit in conservation, and a trip to Litchfield, Ariz., from Good Year Life Co. was awarded in 1962. In 1963 the Long Stride Golden Step Award was presented to him by the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce, and in 1967 he received the Conservation Award from the Conservation Federation of Missouri and the National Wildlife Association.

Mr. Feldewert did not give all his attention to his farm, by any means. A review of the following long lists of organizations served will attest to his leadership abilities and willingness to faithfully serve his fellowman:

President of Josephville Band 1915 to 1927; Director of St. Joseph Dramatic Club 1919 to 1932; Secretary Treasurer St. Joseph School 1933 to 1961; Committeeman on the ASCS Farm Program 1936 to 1962; Chairman of the St. Charles County Soil Improvement Association 1939 to 1966; Chairman of St. Charles Soil and Water Conservation District 1944 to 1970; Helped organize and served

3.10

as Board Member of Cuivre River Electric Co-op, Inc. 1942 to 1946; President of Federal Land Bank of St. Charles 1947 to 1968; Member of the Board of Education of Fort Zumwalt School District 1949 to 1968; Board Member and on Loan Committee of Production Credit Association 1948 to 1956, President and Board Member of St. Charles County Extension 1939 to 1945; Organizer and President of St. Joseph's Athletic Association 1950 to 1962; Board Member and President of St. Charles County School Board 1956 to 1973; Director of St. Charles Fair Grounds Association 1956 to 1969; Member of St. Charles Selective Service Board 1962 to 1968; Charter Member of Wentzville American Legion Post and Life Member; President of Missouri Association of Soil & Water Conservancy District 1950 to 1952; President of Perdue Creek Water & Wildlife Protective Association 1970 to 1973. He served also in the U.S. Army in World War I.

Mr. Feldewert, although a life-long Democrat, always voted for "the best man," however, there are no Republicans in this illustrious list of notables who knew him well: Clarence Cannon, Stuart Symington, Warren Hearnes and William Hungate. He was also a personal friend of Paul Bernard, Kmox-tv Farm Reporter, and a number of high officials in the Soil Conservation Programs.

Upon Mr. Feldewert's retirement in 1970 he received a number of highly complimentary letters from influential men who knew him and worked with him. The letters are generous with such phrases as: "A man of distinctive intellectual ability," "a social pioneer," "sense of humor," "joy of living," "interest in everything and everybody," "ability to build and guide an organization," "the ability to instill enthusiasm," "an interest in getting things done," "true believer in American democracy," "you do not preach religion — you live it," "your spirit of fairness and understanding of human beings," "toastmaster and raconteur," "and the love you have for your family and home." #172 4/25/77