

## Chapter 5

# The Femme Osage Valley

The famed Femme Osage Valley is really the interior of Cracker Barrel country. It is the beautiful sparsely settled wooded hills and valleys south of New Melle, north of Augusta, east of the Warren Bounty Line, and west of Defiance. It's history comes to light in the following articles:

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The Gemme Osage Church  
Organized 1833

5.1  
*Vine Hill Telephone Exchange*

Just three miles south of New Melle on Highway "F" near the intersection of the Femme Osage-Cappeln gravel road and directly across from what is now known as Rehmeiers Creek stands a frame home built around an original two-room log cabin.

It was destined to become the headquarters of the Vine Hill Telephone Exchange, one of the very early telephone systems in our country. The home today is owned by Mrs. Hilda Rehmeier, daughter of Edward Holt who installed the exchange system 76 years ago. Mr. Rehmeier's son, Warren, and his wife reside on an adjoining farm.

It was a pleasure to visit with Warren and Mrs. Rehmeier and listen to the stories told to him by his parents and grandfather Holt, which he can readily recall. He also had much information on the Vine Hill School District to be discussed later.

The log cabin along the creek had already served as a cozy pioneer home for a generation before the inventor of the telephone, Alexander Graham Bell, was born. Mr. Bell was born in Scotland in 1847 and immigrated to the United States in 1871. Five years later, in 1876, he invented the telephone. Little did Mr. Holt realize at the time that he would be installing Bell's telephones in just 22 years from the patented date in a strictly rural area west of the Mississippi. When one considers how slowly new ideas progressed in those days, it was quite remarkable. It again shows the progressive spirit of New Melle area people at that time.

Neither did he realize that his own residence would become a long distance exchange for the Bell System through which four different lines would operate.

The four lines served by the Holt family and installed by Mr. Holt were (1) the Defiance line with its relay station in Hy Techemeier's home (now Priggie's farm), (2) the Vine Hill line stationed at the Femme Osage Paul and Neinhouser's store which is now being restored and

is being operated as a museum and antique shop by Mr. and Mrs. Harter, (3) the Cappeln line with its station in Dr. Brandt's home, and (4) the New Melle line with its switchboard in John Kessler's store, now the Cracker Barrel.

Mr. Rehmeier recalled a favorite family story: When the exchange system was finally completed, Dr. Muhm was selected to place the first call into Holt's main station from New Melle at a given time and Hilda was to receive the call. She became frightened and vowed not to have anything to do with "that thing." Nevertheless, when the call came in she answered but was wringing wet with perspiration when finished. In her words "it was worse than working."

The Holt family continued to receive and transmit calls around the clock for many years and until Continental took over. Actually, the period when calls of some distance had to be accomplished by a series of relay stations due to low electric power, when one's party had such numbers as two shorts and two longs, and when all the neighbors listened in, was a rather brief period. Possibly 30 to 40 years. Folks 50 years old or more remember using the oak box telephones. Now, they are collectors items. So are the brass insulators that were screwed onto wood brackets high up on native oak and cedar poles.

The conversation with the Rehmeiers drifted on to the onetime Vine Hill School District. The district was approximately two miles square with the Holt farm near the center. We drove a short distance down the Femme Osage Road and walked across a pasture to a lone two foot diameter tree standing near the edge of Rehmeiers Creek.

Here, Warren pointed out the foundation outline of the first Vine Hill Grammer School, a one-room log structure that was dismantled 75 years ago. Even the foundation stones were removed and used again in the foundation for a new school building one-half mile west. The "new school" where Warren and many of his neighbors attended, still stands and can be

seen from where we were. Vine Hill, by the way, got its name long ago when the surrounding area was covered with vineyards to supply local winemakers.

No. 43 AUG. 5, 1974

Recently I wrote about the Vine Hill Telephone Exchange. There are some additions and corrections that need to be made. While making a purchase at Wentzville Lumber last week, Warren Rehmeier came in. Mr. Rehmeier, as readers may recall, gave me the Vine Hill Telephone story from memory as told to him by his parents. Warren said that he had been catching it from all sides since the story was published because the Schluësburg and Matson lines had been omitted. The sub-station for the Schluësburg line was first at the Kohler residence, and last at Stanley Backhaus home. The station for the Matson line was in the General Store in Matson.

The various owners of this store were J. H. Schiermeier, Charles Haupt, and the Knoernschilds, but the writer does not know who was running the store when the line was installed.

The correction concerns Warren's mother, Mrs. Hilda Rehmeier whom I had the pleasure of meeting a few days ago. It was her mother who received Dr. Muhm's first call, and not Hilda.

\* Note Correction

## 5.2

### TERRITORIAL VILLAGE

Two miles south of New Melle on Highway "F" in the Femme Osage Valley, stands a massive barn and a beautiful old home. Both structures complement each other perfectly, and for nearly a century and a half these two yellow dolomite limestone buildings have commanded the attention of every passer by. When the barn was first constructed about 1830 to house a giant grist mill, and a short time later when the house was built, early settlers passing down the road on horseback, or in a wagon, must have gazed upon the two architectural gems in wonder. With other associated log and frame buildings the sight surely appeared like a small village in an unspoiled wilderness territory. Only 10 years had elapsed since Missouri had been declared the 24th state on Aug. 10, 1821. The land where the buildings were erected was part of the famous John Bryan Spanish Land Grant of 1801. The grist mill remained in operation until 1881, when it was converted into a stock barn.

In later years, and for decades, the property was known as "The Wessler Place." Vacant in recent years it soon fell prey to vandals. Worse yet, a group of irresponsible "non-paying tenants" inflicted more damage. Nevertheless, passers by still marveled at the picturesque buildings overlooking the Femme Osage Valley. Everyone hoped the buildings would be saved and eventually restored. Finally a man with vision, knowledge of 19th Century antiquities, and with a strong desire, became the new owner in November 1974. He is Dr. Robert Thomasson, M.D., of St. Louis County.

Dr. Thomasson, a general surgeon, was born in Bolivar where he graduated from the Bolivar High School. He then went on to Southwest Baptist College, then to Drury College in Springfield, and to Washington University Medical School in St. Louis where he received his degree in Medicine. At present Dr. Thomasson is on the staff at

Missouri Baptist, Christian Northwest, Deaconess, the State Sanitarium, and serves as the doctor for St. Louis Cordage Mills Co. His wife, Mary Louise, a radiologist, also a graduate of Washington University Medical School, is equally interested in the restoration work taking place. In fact, it is a family project, as their son Jeff, a student at Washington University, shares the same enthusiasm, and has devoted his entire summer vacation to the project.

The doctor's love for Missouri, and his appreciation for its rich history, were certainly kindled by the heritage left by his great-grandfather, Thomasson, who settled in Missouri Territory as early as 1818. About 1967 this interest developed into a genuine desire to pursue some worthwhile restoration effort. So, when he purchased the Wessler place in 1974 careful plans were laid, and historical facts researched. Consequently, at this early date passers by can detect many improvements made on the stone structures, and other log buildings being erected.

Last week when I pulled into the drive and parked under a giant Osage orange tree, which could be the largest and oldest tree of its kind in the county, the doctor, his son Jeff, and Jeff's friend Bob Schott, were high up fitting a long, hand hewn oak ceiling beam in place. Another friend, Claire Christopher, who had devoted many years to building mills and elevators, was directing the operation from the ground. They were all in the process of re-assembling the 1846 log structure (24 feet x 30 feet) that once housed the Frederick Wilhelm Borgmann Grist Mill near what is now the Holiday Ranch on the road leading to Marthasville. By careful advance planning the skeleton framework, composed entirely of heavy oak timbers, was being erected in two days. It rests on a rock foundation capped with bridge railroad ties. When the building is restored to its original state it will again house the Borgmann Mill. It too is undergoing restoration, and some day we may see corn ground there as it was done in

bucket."

The mill is being erected some 300 feet east of the stone home, and adjacent to the mill are two log homes partially restored. Both are historic old homes. One was moved from the Troy area where it was originally constructed between 1810 and 1815. The other is the Vogt home from Warrenton, constructed in 1852.

The story is told that Confederate soldiers once approached this house in an attempt to capture the young Vogt boy so he could not join the Union Army. They shot through the batten door, hitting the boy's father. He survived, the boy escaped, and later joined the Union forces. The same door, with the bullet holes intact, will soon swing again from the same log home entrance.

We look with expectation to the completion of this family project. It may not bear the name "Missouri Territorial Village," but it promises to be an attraction that passers by will gaze upon and appreciate all the more the pioneer days of our forefathers.

No. 14 3 SEPT. 8, 1976

## 5.3

### THE TECKEMEIER HOME

To add interest and historical significance to the "Teckemeier Home" on the Femme Osage, between New Melle and De-fiance, it is important to trace through early recorded history. (Present home of Albert and Esther Teckemeier Priggie.) Starting then in the late 1790's when much of our land west of St. Charles was under the authority of Spain, we find our noted pioneer Daniel Boone pulling up stakes from his home near Point Pleasant Va. (now West Va.), and moving his family to the Femme Osage Valley area in St. Charles County. The party consisted of Daniel and his wife Rebecca, their sons, Nathan and Daniel Morgan, and various relatives.

Daniel had lost most of his land holdings in Kentucky because of invalid titles, so when the Spanish government encouraged settlement of this new land, Daniel, as well as many other pioneering folks, were ready to seek a new home.

In 1803 all of the Boone family's vast land holdings in the Femme Osage Valley became part of the Louisiana Purchase and in 1814 Boone's claim to the land he occupied was confirmed by the U.S. Government in recognition of his services as an explorer and settler.

Boone's son Nathan built a large stone house along the Femme Osage Creek, Daniel built a log cabin nearby, and Flanders and Jemima Callaway, Boone's son-in-law and daughter, settled a short distance from Nathan on 800 arpens of land. This had been confirmed to them by the U.S. Government in 1809. The legal location is in Township 45, Range 2, East.

On March 27, 1813 Flanders and Jemima deeded the acreage, and a two-story log home they had built in 1800, over to their son John B. Callaway. The transaction was made in their presence and in the presence of Daniel Boone and Jesse Caton. Flanders Callaway died in 1823, three years after the death of our famous pioneer. There are a number of interesting aspects to

his will, especially how he named each of his slaves and how he provided for them.

In 1829 James Callaway conveyed his land over to Hayden Boone. Oaks, hackberry trees, stones, etc. were used in the abstract to describe certain boundaries.

As years passed, the original 800 acres were divided among different owners. It was on June 23, 1859 that Gerhardt Hy. Teckemeier purchased 92 acres of Callaway land near the aforementioned Callaway home where Boone in his declining years enjoyed visiting, and where Rev. John Mason Peck, a Baptist missionary, visited on Dec. 16, 1818 to try to get a profession of faith out of the old pioneer. The most he could get from Daniel, however, was "I always loved God ever since I could recollect."

The boundaries of the land purchased by Mr. Teckemeier was described in part as follows: "Beginning at a rock from which a honey locust 10 inches in diameter bears N. 69 degrees W. dist. 4 links thence N. 65 degrees W, 19 chain, to a stake from which a walnut 4 inch in dia. bears S. 71 degrees, etc., etc." The present Teckemeier home was not built until after Gehardt's death. He had intended to construct a brick home, but just shortly before he died he instructed his wife Louise to proceed with a frame home. The method of construction was far ahead of the times. Each piece was pre-cut in Washington, Mo., floated across the Missouri River on rafts, and erected on the present location. Today when remodeling work is done Mr. Priggie finds beams and 3 inch by 3 inch studding marked in Roman numerals.

After Louise and the boys operated the farm for a number of years, it was deeded over to Hy. G. Teckemeier, and later to his daughter Esther. So the farm has been owned and operated by direct descendants in the Teckemeier family for 117 years.

Directly in front of the home there once stood an "Osage Meeting House." On Aug. 25, 1841 two acres of land were given to designated trustees by the owner then, John Barricklow, for

the purpose of erecting and sustaining a public meeting house for all Christian denominations. The trustees were Charles M. Johnson, Isaac Darst, Thomas Montague, Jonathan Thomas and John Smith.

Charles M. Johnson, a doctor in St. Charles until the Civil War broke out, enlisted in the Confederate service, became a Captain, was captured and exchanged, and returned to his homeplace in 1865. His homeplace was the Boone Home his father bought from Nathan in 1835. Among the papers kept by Mr. and Mrs. Priggie was the doctor bill to G. H. Teckemeier dated Sept. 18, 1865. Another paper from the "Office Commissary of Exemptions," dated April 28, 1864 states "Henry Teckemeier, a citizen of St. Charles County, is hereby declared exempt from Militia service for the year 1864 by reason of physical disability."

Tax receipts on the Flanders Callaway survey for the 92 acres, and paid by Hy. Teckemeier, go back to 1861. Total tax comes to \$4.00 for both State and County. It is interesting to note a special space on the form for "Slave Value."

Readers who live in 19th century homes are encouraged to examine their abstract deeds and old wills. You may discover heretofore unknown stories of historical significance.

No. 125 MAR. 17, 1976

## 5.4

### SCHEMMER'S BARN

A letter received by Mrs. Esther Schemmer from a gentleman in California, who is writing a book on old historic barns in the U. S., prompted a visit to her farm in the Femme Osage Valley to see what there is about the barn that proved so interesting to him. I learned that Edna McElhiney Olson published an extensive article in 1961 on the barn and slave quarters now belonging to the Schemmer family.

Esther's 140 acre farm is located on Highway F, approximately four miles south of New Melle, and east of the Daniel Boone home two and one-half miles. Early history of the property goes back to 1809 when Flanders Callaway, on November 29, received a Spanish Land Grant from the Territorial Government of Louisiana. Four years later on March 3, Flanders Callaway, and his wife, Jemina Boone, gave the property to John Boone Callaway.

Various other owners were Abraham Darst, Chiles Ferney, John Knippenberg, James Bigelow, Jaspers Castio, George Keller, John Furn, Charles Staake, John Schemmer, August H. Schemmer in 1910, and finally Herbert and Esther Schemmer. Herbert, as many readers will recall, lost his life a few years ago in an unfortunate tractor and automobile accident.

It was Chiles E. Ferney, a tobacco grower from Virginia, who came to the Femme Osage Valley area in 1841 and established a tobacco plantation on the present Schemmer farm.

A 14-room, two-story residence on a stone foundation, a large hand hewn oak timber barn for curing tobacco, and a log cabin for his slaves, were constructed at this time. The Ferney home burned down in 1882 when it was owned by George Keller. He immediately built a new home only a few feet from the ruins of the original. It is the present Schemmer home and similar in design to the

Ferney home.

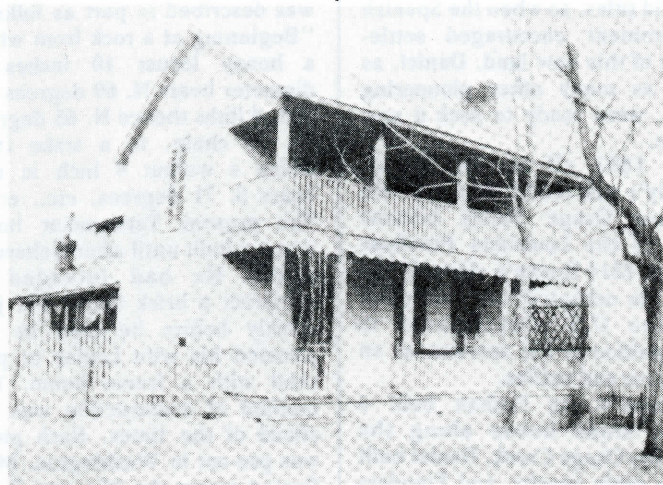
The barn still stands, although alterations were made through the years to make it more serviceable for stock and implements. Exceptionally large logs, two stories high, form the side walls. The heavy round logs must have been hoisted into position by Mr. Ferney's slaves. The slave quarters, with logs squared off to make a tighter fit, is in an excellent state of preservation, and Esther would like to restore it.

The whole property, in fact, could be developed into an interesting tourist attraction. The realization, too, that Daniel Boone himself may have visited

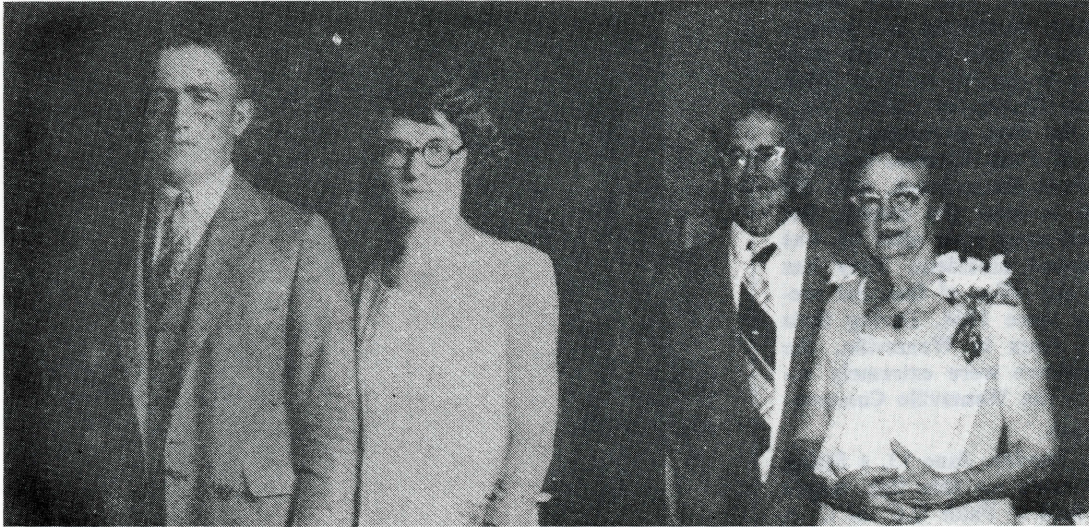
and hunted on the land when his relatives owned it adds further interest to the place.

Aug. the first of the Schemmer family, married the daughter of Charles Staake. They acquired the farm and later passed it on to their son, August H., who passed it on to son, Herbert, and daughter-in-law, Esther. (nee Græwe).

No. 62 DEC. 18, 1974



*Ferney Home  
now  
Schemmer's*



Mr. and Mrs. Tony Schemmer in 1926 and in 1976.

## 5.5

### SCHEMMER'S ANNIVERSARY

What is so rare as a day in June? Perhaps that familiar phrase was spoken by Tony Schemmer and Miss Lucinda Heuman fifty years ago on June 12, 1926, when they drove to the old Bethany Evangelical Church in Schluersburg to be pronounced man and wife by the Rev. Hoepner. Tony's brother, Oscar, and Cyn's sister, Ella, were along as Best Man and Maid of Honor.

Anthony (known by everyone as "Tony") was born Feb. 27, 1901, on a farm in the Femme Osage Valley. His parents were John and Mary (Luetkemeyer) Schemmer. Lucenda (affectionately shortened to "Cyn") was born near the Schemmer's farm two years later, on Sept. 30, 1903. Her parents were Theodore and Emma (Schiermeier) Heuman.

Both attended the German Evangelical Church. Tony attended Richmond School in Femme Osage Valley and Cyn attended Vine Hill School. Both remained on their parents' farms until their marriage. After their marriage they moved to New Melle and then to Wentzville on 8 West Maple, where they have lived since 1933. So, both are well known throughout the entire western section of St. Charles County.

What was it like in the world when Tony and Cyn were courting, and when they were first married? Well, it was the period of the flivvers, flag pole sitters, dance marathons, jazz, sheiks and flappers, prohibition and prosperity. Silent Calvin Coolidge was our President. Adolf Hitler and Rudolph Hess were beginning to poison millions of minds with their Mein Kampf. Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, and Harvey Firestone were exchanging ideas to improve our way of life as an industrialized country. Farm surpluses were a major problem. Cmdr. Richard Byrd flew over the North Pole, and Lindy in 1926 began planning his solo flight to Paris while flying the mail in and out of St. Louis. Women's fashions were boyish. They bobbed their hair, wore cloche hats, and rolled their stockings. It was the day of the raccoon-coated Joe Collegiate sheiks and knee-skirted flappers. They danced the Charleston, and held hands during the silent and early talkie movies starring Douglas Fairbanks and Mary Pickford, John Barrymore, Charlie Chaplin, Harold Lloyd, Gloria Swanson and Rudolph Valentino. Greta Garbo appeared in "The Torrent," Clara Bow was the "It girl," and Mae West, as Diamond Lil, charmed the men with her famous line, "Come up and see me some time." Jack Dempsey lost his title to Gene Tun-

ney, Bill Tilden led the U.S. to its seventh straight Davis Cup in 1926, and Helen Wills set the tennis pace for women. Bobby Jones popularized the sport of golf, Ed "Strangler" Lewis pinned every opponent when wrestling was the sport it was intended to be. Gertrude Ederle swam the English Channel, and Knute Rockne's Fighting Irish had no equal on the football field. In St. Louis, the old saying of "First in shoes, first in booze, and last in the big leagues," finally changed in 1926 when the Cardinals won their first pennant and World Series. The city went wild with joy when the great Rogers Hornsby and his cinderella team defeated the Yankees with Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig.

It was a wonderful time to be young and "just married," and Tony and Cyn participated in the life-style of that day happily together, as they have continued through the succeeding decades. They lived in New Melle for seven years where Tony was a garage mechanic. In 1933, he started driving a truck for National Petroleum in Wentzville. In two years, he was a partner there with Melvin Moritz and Edwin Wessler. Tony retired from the company 13 years ago after 30 years of service. His hobbies are fishing, hunting and gardening, and he has a keen interest in sports, especially baseball. Cyn worked 18 years in a gift shop in Wentzville. She is

an excellent cook, and enjoys quilting, crocheting and bridge. For years, both have been most active in church work at Faith United Church of Christ. Tony was the first permanent president of Faith Church, succeeding Fred Karrenbrock, who did much to start the church, but passed away soon after he was appointed president. Tony has held the office of financial secretary since 1964. During their early years in Wentzville, the Schemmers were extremely active in the Wentzville Community Club.

On Sunday, June 13, a fitting celebration for this fine couple was held at Faith U.C. of C. A crowd of 350 guests came to honor them, and to wish them many more happy years together. A buffet luncheon was served, and although they requested "Your presence only, not your gifts, please," the tables were filled with beautiful gifts and cards. The outpouring of such friendship warmed their hearts. Among the hundreds of pictures taken, there was one that included four Golden Wedding Couples in attendance. These were Arley and Olga Welge, Emmet and Alma Paul, Urban and Mrs. Amptman, Alice and Dan Hennecke and Tony and Cyn.

No. 136 JUN. 30, 1976



5.6

### EARLY SETTLEMENTS

A book entitled, "A History of Pioneer Families of Missouri," has been loaned to me by Mrs. Ursula Kelly, and it bears out again the important historical significance of the Femme Osage Creek area. Dr. and Mrs. Emmet Kelly live in the heart of this region and have, of course, appreciated its history for some time.

The book was first published in 1876, and written by William S. Bryan and Robert Rose. As co-authors, their backgrounds complement each other, thus insuring a reasonable accurate account of the book's contents.

William S. Bryan, a descendant of a notable Irish family, was a great-great grandson of the first William S. Bryan, who landed on the New England shores in the early 1600's. In 1800 the author's grandfather, Jonathan Bryan, settled on the Femme Osage Creek, and on January 8, 1846, the subject author was born near Augusta on a farm. At the time his book was published William S. was already a recognized editor of various books and papers, and an authority on history.

Little is known, however, of Robert Rose, except that he was a good-natured fellow with a roving disposition. Much of his time was spent recording stories he had heard first hand from old pioneers, as he rode from place to place on horseback. Old pioneers living then could easily remember life as it was in the early 1800's, and from stories handed down by their parents and grandparents, but could go back into the 1700's.

The book states that the first American settlements in the present State of Missouri were made in 1795 along the Femme Osage Creek. One must understand that the word "American" in the early books refers to white citizens of first U.S. colonies of North America, and these generally descended from the British Isles. St. Charles, as we all know, was settled earlier (about 1766), but this was a French settlement. To be fair in regards

to the 1795 Femme Osage Creek date the book adds that one John Dodge settled in St. Genevieve County as early as 1787, and that Dr. Jesse Bryan settled there in 1793. Also a John Moore came to Perry County in 1790, and a Baptist preacher ministered to scattered families there in 1794.

Nevertheless, it drives home, that the Femme Osage Creek area is truly an historical area, and it will be recognized even more so in years ahead.

Although the 500-page book is intended to cover the entire state, it was refreshing to note how much space was devoted to St. Charles County and especially to the Femme Osage area. Fifty pages alone is on the history of Daniel Boone, which contains anecdotes and adventures seldom told. Only a few pictures appear in the book, and among these old lithographs were found the stern face of Col. Nathan Boone, the print of the only sketch ever made of Daniel Boone, a sketch of Louis Howell and Mrs. Thomas Howell, the house in which Daniel Boone died (noted as the first stone dwelling house in Missouri), and an artist's sketch of Daniel Boone trying out the coffin he had made for himself.

Other items of local interest are accounts of the forts in Missouri with the statement that the Daniel Morgan Boone Fort in Darst Bottom was the largest and the strongest. In the brief biographies, Rev. Thomas is mentioned as the first pastor of the Dardenne Presbyterian Church, organized in 1819. There are accounts of Moses Bigelow who settled near Defiance; of David Darst who left Kentucky in 1798 and settled in what is now known as Darst Bottom; of the Bryan family that came with the Boones to Missouri; of James Fulkerson who also settled in Darst Bottom; of John Howell, who came to our area about 1800 to usher in the long line of prominent Howell descendants; of the early Keithley family; and of Dr. William G. McElhiney, whose son, Dr. Robert H. McElhiney, practiced medicine in New Melle in the late 1860's.

A chapter too is devoted to the German Immigration, which first began in 1833. They came in societies, or companies. The Berlin Society, for instance, settled in the vicinity of Augusta. Such familiar names as Seitz, Struckhoff, and Mallinckrodt, are listed. Gotfried Duden was the first German settler. He located in Femme Osage. The Gissen Society arrived in 1834 and here we find the familiar names of John Kessler, Gotleib Berg, Hy Becker, Jonathan Kunze and many others.

"A History of the Pioneer Families of Missouri" is a fine reference book in anyone's library, even if it was written 100 years ago.

No. 136 AUG. 12, 1976

5.6

## 5.7 "1833 Atlantic Crossing"

A brief diary, or sailing vessel log, (with first two pages pages torn off), was found by former area residents Charlotte and Carolyn Meyer of Eagle Fork Farms, Moscow Mills, Missouri.

These precious records were prepared by their great-grandfather Carl Friederich Meyer, who sailed to the foreboding shores of America from Hamburg, Germany in 1833 with his wife Agnes (Horst) Meyer, their daughter Louise, and with at least 170 other passengers. The passenger list is separated into 36 family groups. Ages are shown and only eighteen range from 35 to 61 years old. The remaining 149 are young couples and their children. Carl was 31 1/2, Agnes was 25 1/2 and Louise was just 1 1/4 years old.

Although the first pages were torn away we can assume that the departure date was late in July 1833. Carl penned a short sentence for each day, and some of the more interesting notations during the long two and one-half month voyage are as follows:

"Aug.11-Saw Helgoland light. Noise of the ship and groaning of passengers on approach to English Channel in severe storm.--Aug.20-Entered English Channel after four days of storms.--Aug.28-entered the Atlantic.--Aug.31-Sail tore in another bad storm.--Sept.5 Must go 200 miles to the trade winds.--Coffee and tea is sour, and hardtack is moldy.--Sept.15 Girl died of smallpox, and was buried at sea, leaving her aged blind father and small brothers alone in the world.--Sept.23 Conspiracy and grumbling among passengers. The captain "fired several times during the evening", and things quieted down.--Sept26 Complaints of body lice.--Oct.6 Saw mountains of Cuba off right hand.--Oct.10 At 10 PM steered north and entered Gulf of Mexico.--Oct.15 27 degrees, and should arrive at New Orleans in few days.--Oct.16 Pilot came out and got aboard."

The diary ends abruptly here, but from information learned by the Meyer sisters from their parents and grand-parents, Carl and his family, along with certain other family groups, took a steamboat and headed up the Mississippi River for St. Louis. They were in a joyous mood. They had safely crossed the treacherous Atlantic Ocean, and were now bound for their new home in Gottfried Duden's Femme Osage country. Disaster, however, struck near St. Genevieve when their steamboat caught fire and sunk. But for a few items all belongings were lost. The Meyers managed to save a large "Reisekoffer" (trunk) which included some cooking utensils.

It was now late October. They could go no farther until Spring, so the entire party camped on the river bank all winter. The hardships encountered during that winter are unknown, but some how they arrived in the Femme Osage area, and Carl bought land from Nathan Boone, directly across the Femme Osage Creek from the Boone home. Carl and his daughter Louise, are buried there on that farm.

A son of Carl and Agnes was born in 1834 in Femme Osage. He, the grand-father of Charlotte and Carolyn, told how Carl became an ardent follower of Gottfried Duden.

The Meyers moved to Eagle Fork in 1871.

No. 90 June 30, 1975



*The Boone home*

5.8

**SIMON STOCK  
OF FEMME OSAGE**

Simon Stock is another long forgotten resident of Femme Osage. Simon was born in Germany in 1835 and landed in St. Louis in 1856 with only fifty cents in his pocket. He first worked as a carpenter in Augusta, returned to St. Louis for a six month period, then returned again to our area. He married Fredericka Himah of Femme Osage in 1863. Throughout the Civil War Mr. Stock bought horses and mules for the Government. In 1864-65 Simon was a merchant in Femme Osage. The Simon Stock 40 acre farm was located in Township 45 Range 1, two miles south of Cappeln, or one half mile north of Femme Osage. His farm, and his store, appears in both the 1875 and 1905 St. Charles County Atlas. Mr. Stock too, was interested in the progress of Augusta where he owned many of the original lots.

No. 112 DEC. 3, 1975

5.8

**THE JOHNSONS**

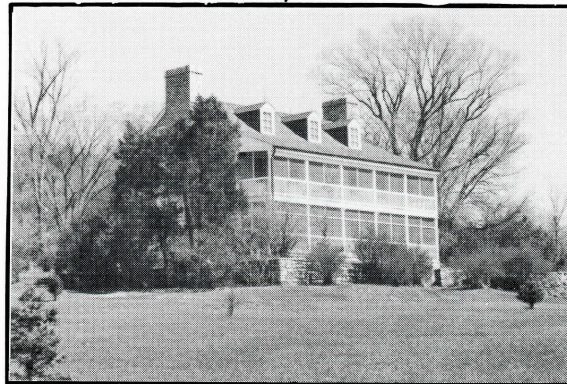
It was in 1835, 140 years ago, when Charles M. and Harriet D. Johnson, with their nine year old son, Charles M. Jr., decided to move to Missouri from their home in Rappahannock County, Va. Why they chose to re-settle in the Femme Osage Valley is not known. Perhaps they knew the frontier hero Daniel Boone, because history records that Mr. Johnson purchased the "Old Boone Home" from Daniel's son, Capt. Nathan Boone.

Charles Jr. attended college two years in St. Charles, and later graduated as an MD from the University of Pennsylvania with honors in 1850. Dr. Johnson began his practice of medicine in Warrensburg. He set up his office next in Troy. The doctor married Miss Martha Smith in 1856, and finally in 1861 we find Dr. Johnson practicing his profession around the vicinity of their "Boone" farm on the Femme Osage.

Here their son Samuel R. was born in 1864. Soon thereafter the Johnsons moved from our Femme Osage Valley to St. Charles, where son Samuel went on to become a well known surgeon, and where he also served as Coroner of St. Charles County. one day in 1834, boarded a small sailboat, and bid goodbye to their native Germany. Several weeks later they landed safely on the American shore and came directly to Femme Osage. Mr. Bierbaum, a carpenter, continued his trade in Femme Osage and possibly helped to construct some of the first homes there.

One of their sons, Herman H., a self-educated man, later became Judge Bierbaum of Warren County.

No. 112 DEC. 3, 1975



*The Boone Home*

## HILKER REUNION

By Bill Schiermeier

It had been a long time since the Hilker relatives had all come together for a reunion. Somehow, this year, 1978, one was arranged. It took place Saturday October 21, at St. Paul's Lutheran Hall in New Melle. It was a warm sunny day with autumn colors at their peak.

Although this was a Hilker Reunion, there was an equal number of Greiwees present, some Prieps, Wissmanns, and also the Rev. Dr. Elmer Knoernchild, well known announcer and minister at Station KFUD in Clayton. Of course, all were related.

Months ago, Ewald Greiwe of St. Charles started planning the reunion when he learned that Harold Hilker of California was coming to visit in the fall.

This popular southwest St. Charles county family got its start in America in 1847 when German-born Fred Hilker and Louise Roettger were married in Femme Osage. Later, a son Frederick married Emilie Wissmann, and their daughter Louise married John Greiwe, son of the Fritz Greiwe on the old Callaway Fork Road.

Now, going back to the first family, we find that Louise (Roettger) Hilker married John Knoernchild after her husband Fred's death. Thus we see briefly how the families that were present knit together.

There were boxes of early 1900 photographs on the tables. As usual, only a few were identified on the back, so it became quite a game among the young crowd to run to the older generation to learn who was who among their ancestors. One particular family photo taken in front of the Hilker home in 1913 showed the second generation couple and their family. Among the 17 people in the photo only four are living today, and they were present at the reunion.

There was Emma Hilker (Priep) from Florida. She is nearly 88 years old and made the trip especially for this affair. There was Esther (Greiwe) Schemmer of Defiance, and her two brothers, Ewald and Arthur Greiwe of St. Charles. Their brother Herbert was also present but not in the photo.

Marcella Greiwe is the family's historian, and Emma, even at 88 is still a great story teller of happenings long ago at the old homestead. So, Marcella was provided with plenty of material to add to her already bulging notebook.

The Hilker homeplace was located at the far end of Stub Road near the Femme Osage. It was known as "Hilker Hollow." Today only the foundation is standing.

Emma told story after story with hardly a break in between. They should have been taped. One concerned an old family trunk brought from Germany. It measured 3 feet by 3 feet by 7 feet long, with a rounded top, and there was always a fear that a child would crawl in, close the lid, and no one else would know of it. The trunk was sold at the Otto Hilker sale in the late 1920's with it full of family records.

At that time, only local people came to the rural auctions and the papers therefore, may still be in the vicinity. If anyone reading this has these papers please notify the family.

Emma also told a story of how her Grandmother Wissmann was accidentally shot by a turkey hunter when she was picking string beans in her garden. So the stories went throughout the afternoon.

Harold Hilker, son of the late William Hilker, is another story teller. He now lives in San Marino, Calif. However, in the 30's we were high school friends.

Here is part of his writing in my 1929 St. Charles high school Charlemo: "Dear Bill, This is the first year we have known, or gone to school together but this year has been full of happy events we had together. On the track field, and also in classes we had some "hot" times, especially in study hall. Remember the time we had at the Commercial Club party when Charley's old one hoss shay made kindling wood out of our neighbor's fence.

Under Harold's class picture in the 1930 book the editor wrote: "Be not simply good, but good for something." Well, Harold was a lot of fun, and plenty of good for something as all his friends and relations will agree. He went on to the University of Missouri, earned a degree in mechanical engineering, and enjoyed a very successful engineering career.

OCT. 21, 1978  
No. 248



**Family Photo** — A Hilker and Greiwe family photo taken in 1913. Pictured from left to right, front row: Emilie (Wissmann) Hilker, born in 1853, Amanda Hilker, Esther (Greiwe) Schemmer, Louise, Ewald, John, Edward, and Arthur Greiwe. Back row: Fred Hilker, Jr., Emil Greiwe, Helen Hilker, Otto Hilker, Dora Greiwe, Emma (Hilker) Priepe, Fred Priepe, Hanna Wissmann, and William Hilker.

# Cracker Barrel News

5.10

By Bill Schiermeier

Issue No. 181

PROFILE OF

HELENE C. BECKER

Mrs. Helene Catherine (Laumeier) Becker was born 93 years ago on October 18, 1884 on a farm in a sparsely settled section of Femme Osage Valley. She was the sixth child of a family of 13. Five of her brothers and sisters died before maturity, and three have lived well beyond the three score and ten.

Mrs. Becker lives with her daughter Esther Schiermeier in Cappeln and, when we talked about the early days at the remote Laumeier farm, she added that in three different years there were two deaths in the family each year. These were hard struggling years, and they were far removed from proper medical care.

They were even harder times for her German immigrant grandparents who had met on a sailing vessel around 1834. Possibly together, they searched for suitable land somewhere west of St. Louis, found it in the Femme Osage wilderness, and were married. It would be interesting to know how each of the early settlers learned of, chose, and acquired their particular homesite. The Laumeier stone house was built by stonemason Wm. Kronshage.

Grandfather Herman Hy. Laumeier was born in 1802 and died in 1864. His wife Anna Marie was born in 1801 and died in 1875. They had eight children. Helene's father, John Hy. Adolph Laumeier, was born in 1844, and her mother, Johanna Marie Sophia Niendieker, was born in 1856. John and Johanna were married in 1873 when Johanna was only 17 years old. John (or Henry) farmed the few tillable acres in the rich Femme Osage Valley floor and supplemented his income as a blacksmith for neighbors at his farm shop.

The family attended the historic Evangelical and Reformed Church in Femme Osage. Helene completed six grades through the Fourth Reader, which was considered a reasonably good education at that time. Each year she would attend the Vine Hill Public School six months and the German School four months. She was

confirmed in German, and her teacher throughout her school days was Bill Fuermann.

The Vine Hill school was three miles from the Laumeier home and Helene had to walk the distance to and fro each day. Water in a creek running through the farm would often be too high to walk across. Mrs. Becker remembers these instances when their faithful horse was always led to the shore to carry all the school children across. After his task was done he was given a gentle whack on the rump and sent back to the barn lot.

Miss Helene Laumeier was married August 15, 1911 to August Carl Becker. Mr. Becker was born in 1879 and died in 1967. He devoted his long life to his family and to farming near Femme Osage. The Becker's five children are Mildred, Homer, Esther, Eunice and Harvey. A large celebration in Femme Osage in 1961 marked their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Mrs. Becker now looks back with much satisfaction on many happy years. She recalls the countless house parties, the pleasant affairs at the Femme Osage church where she still remains a member of the Women's Fellowship Guild, the fresh fried sausage during the butchering periods, cooking with all the neighbor ladies for the threshing crews, and quilting for all her children and grandchildren. There are now 20 of her beautiful quilts gracing the homes of relations.

It is interesting to trace the location of old family homestead across the landscape and I find it best to first locate the property on either an 1875 or 1905 St. Charles County Atlas or Plat Book, where the property lines and original property owners are shown, and then locate the same property on the latest U.S. Topographical Survey Map, where the terrain can be easily defined.

The latest survey made in 1972 is really quite recent. If one is interested, all past property owners can be traced in the Recorder of Deeds Office in St. Charles.

The Herman Laumeier place was found to be two and one-half miles due south of New Melle in T.S. 45N Range E. The home is located in the southeast corner of Sec. 22 on 160 acres of both rugged hills and tillable creek valley land. The house is south of Femme Osage Creek and the Creek Road, and about three-fourths miles south of the Ridge Road (or Hickory Flat Road). The only other home then and now in Sec. 23 is the old F. Kraft home. Another Laumeier 80 acres was in Sec. 23 where no homes have ever been built. The Laumeier neighbors shown in the 1875 Atlas were Hy. Heuman, S. Holke, Louis Meyr, H. Groeman, Adolph Hinnah, H.H. Karrenbrock and F. Kraft.

No. 181 Jul. 13, 1977

# 5.11

## FOUNDERS DAY

In 1833, 145 years ago, an educated young man by the name of Herman Garlichs, responded to the pleas of early settlers in the Femme Osage valley to preach the Word of God to them and to instruct their children in ~~the~~ ~~the~~. In this humble, sparsely populated valley, tucked away in a beautiful wilderness, the Evangelical Church of North America was founded. Young Garlichs returned to his native Germany in 1835 to be properly ordained by the Evangelical Church of Bremen, and came back again to America in 1836 with his bride, and to a log cabin home in Femme Osage, where he continued to preach the Gospel until 1846. The congregation worshiped in a log church until the first stone church was built in 1841. A new church was built in 1887, and in the same year a small German parochial school was erected. Stones from the first church were used for the school. Rev. Casper H. Bode succeeded Rev. Garlichs, and served for 45 years. During his long tenure he was privileged to play a major role in two other historical events credited to the Femme Osage congregation; namely, the forming of Eden Seminary, the first of the Evangelical Synod, in 1850, and the establishment of the Emmaus Home, now a leading United Church of Christ home for retarded adults.

Therefore, with such a rich historical background serving as a model for generations that have passed, and for generations to come, it was fitting in this Bicentennial year to celebrate their Founders Day in a special way.

Months ago a Founders Day Committee, formed out of the Lay/Life and Work Committee of U.C. of C. churches in St. Charles, Warren and Lincoln counties, developed the program. Clarence Oberhellman was chosen Chairman. Raymond Freese, an active member of the committee, asked me to participate around the old school building where former pupils of the German School rocked away the afternoon hours. Their stories

of bygone days were a joy to various groups of strollers who came by to say hello. Among the elderly gentlemen were: H. O. Hedeman, 81, whose father was a doctor in Cappeln; George Freese, 91, told about his Ford dealership in Wentzville from 1914 to 1928, and how he promoted Model T sales by driving them back and forth over the Wabash RR ties. George came to Wentzville in a Hubmobile from the Moon Motor Company in St. Louis in 1914 where he worked as the first automobile mechanic. Bill Schweissguth of Dutzow came by and reminded Mr. Freese that he had purchased his first car, a Model 26 Ford, from him. Frank Schoppenhorst, 86, brought with him a chronological history of early churches he had recently prepared. The historical significance of this compilation is of considerable value. Frank lives on the old Lamme Place. Lamme married Frances, a granddaughter of Daniel Boone. Emmett Paul, 85, from the St. Charles-Warren County Line, kept the conversation lively with his fine sense of humor. Once when the oldsters were discussing the present day crime problem, he remarked, "Yes, it's getting so bad that if a man has a good hat these days he had better keep it on his head or someone will steal it."

Herman Hetlage, 90, came from Wright City where he still operates his farm. He talked mostly about the church and stated that he had been the Sunday School Superintendent at Immanuel E.&R. Church in Wright City for 50 years. Typical of a number of local citizens in attendance was Calvin Pieper, whom I met on the grounds. Calvin, 76, proudly told of his school and confirmation days. He would attend eight months in the public school "back in the woods," and two months in the summer at the German school each year. The older preachers would only confirm in German. Mr. Pieper's great-grandfather, Frederick Rahmeier, was born in 1795 in Wester-Kappeln, Germany, and came to America in 1833. He was one of nine charter members of the First Evangelical Church in N.A., which, of course,

was in Femme Osage. He and his wife, Emma, continue to live today in the 135-year old home place near Femme Osage.

A picnic atmosphere prevailed about the grounds. There were refreshment stands, rides for children, family picnic lunches, and some form of entertainment happening continuously on the outdoor stage.

Dr. Rudolph Schade of Chicago, Professor Emeritus of Elmhurst College, gave a stirring address in the late afternoon.

Finally, at 8 p.m. the peaceful valley began to echo with a caliber of music and song never experienced before. It began when the famed "Celebration Road Show," an exciting six-piece combination of modern popular music and traditional jazz musicians mounted the stage. The sweet, inspiring music that makes one laugh, and makes one cry, continued for nearly two hours.

Note the talent of these performers: Gary Miller, leader, a master on the trumpet and cornet, was a former parish minister of the U.C. of C., a professional football player, and an entertainer with a number of name bands. Jim Beebe, on the trombone, was a former member of the U.S. Marine Band. Ron Barron, the drummer, performed 14 years in the big Las Vegas casinos. Charles Hooks was a clarinetist with Pee Wee Hunt's 12th Street Rag, and has been a Professor of English Literature at the University of Michigan. Terry Grosskopf, on the bass and tuba, has a fine classical music background, and has toured Europe several times with American symphonies. Finally, Laurie Seaman, the attractive vocalist and pianist, was a vocalist with the Rare Earth rock group.

It was truly jazz at its finest, but all of the great songs were cleverly directed toward the evangelical church. The crowd loved it, as they clapped, stomped their feet, and sang along to such thrilling songs as — "Praise Ye The Lord," "Twelfth Street Rag," "When My Eyes Have Seen The Coming of The Lord," "How Can You Be a Beacon if Your Light Don't Shine."

No. 139 AUG. 4, 1976



5.12

### PONDE ROSA LAKES

Ponde Rosa Lakes, a recreational farm of 202 acres in Schluersburg, Missouri, has a variety of interesting installations for anyone to enjoy regardless of the season. There are four fishing lakes, spacious picnic and camping areas where electric outlets, restroom, shower facilities, etc., are provided. There is also a miniature 18-hole golf course and a floating swimming pool.

The visitor immediately realizes that all of the recreational facilities are located in an historical area, and owners Frank Jentsch (pronounced Yensch) and his son, Roy, are exceptionally well informed in local Femme Osage Valley history.

They have a fine appreciation of the pioneering effort that transpired here, and they enjoy talking about what they have done to convey this knowledge to others. Two century old log cabins have been restored. One is used for the headquarters, and one is a museum.

The museum is already crowded with hundreds of Indian artifacts found locally, and countless other primitive tools, household utensils and furnishings. Of particular interest is the pile of crude handmade axes, hoes, and even a lock with the English crown. All were found buried in the ground. Roy demonstrated the Reico Industries Coin Ranger, or metal detector, used to locate the treasures. Frank and his son hold a franchise to sell these detectors.

Mr. Jentsch is the thirteenth owner of the property. I was shown a land grant to William Petty, and to his wife, Melinda, who signed with an (X), dated August 19, 1833. Another land grant document dated October 1, 1835 bore the signature of President Andrew Jackson.

In 1837 the property was sold to James Watson for \$500. There are many aspects to the history of this property but they warrant further research. A future article will carry the story in more detail.

When you visit Ponde Rosa Lakes take time out to examine its history, and hike into the wooded hills that completely surround the recreational area. Nature trails are marked.

No. 62 DEC. 18, 1974

5.12

### JENTZSCH'S PONDE ROSA

On August 19, 1833, William and Melinda Petty had fulfilled all requirements and were successful in obtaining a U.S. Land Patent to a large acreage in Sec. 24, TS 45, Range 1 East, on the outskirts of present day Schluersburg. The grant was signed by President Andrew Jackson. The Pettys settled in this beautiful valley a few years earlier and constructed their log cabin home, possibly in the 1820's. James Watson became the second owner in 1839. Others followed. The Wulferkamper family had the property for 60 years. In all there were 12 owners before Frank Jentsch gained control in 1944, and no family could be more appreciative of the heritage left by early pioneers. Frank, his wife Pearl, son Roy, daughter-in-law Gearldine, granddaughter Jane, daughter Joyce, and son-in-law Don Schaege, all live on the Jentsch 202 acre farm fondly named "Ponde Rosa" by Frank. A heavy stand of multi-flora roses growing around the six acre lake suggested the name.

History abounds on the Jentsch farm. The Petty log cabin home built in the 1820's, then enlarged and framed over in the 1870's, is especially important. Frank mildly complains that he has always lived in an old home, but he is much too interested in the hardships, and primitive skills of early pioneers to be happy otherwise. His son Roy possesses the same enthusiasm. Both are skilled craftsmen themselves, and both can point out many historical features on their property. The log home, for instance, rests on a flawless stone foundation which had to be laid by an accomplished stone mason. Rocks, set in to form two foot square by ten inch deep shelves,

could not be explained. The log floor beams, however, were not chosen as carefully as the stones, as some were red oak, one was walnut, and one was even soft maple. Exposed door frames upstairs were hand hewn, and the roof sheathing overhead on the second floor are two-foot wide sycamore boards. Saw cuts prove they were sawed by hand where the massive logs were elevated onto a high support, and two men, one on the ground and one on top would proceed to saw through the entire length. We climbed through a log opening into the "new section," built in 1870, and noticed that similar appearing sheathing was sawed on a saw mill. The Jentschs could saw these planks themselves now if need be because in April 1976 they completed rebuilding a saw-mill large enough to take the giant oaks of old. The 50-inch blade, mounted on a 50-foot long track, and the adjustable log support is tractor powered. Jane started it up for a demonstration.

In 1949 a tornado swept through the property and destroyed an 18th century barn and machine shop, and other out-buildings, but did little damage to the home. It is the machine shop area where this metal detector has discovered numerous primitive tools. Those found three feet below the surface are in excellent condition. Logs from the first church in Femme Osage serve as basic material for a museum, and another log structure is about to be erected from a log home dismantled in New Melle. It was interesting too to hear that Frank's father, an iron artisan, installed the iron stair railings in St. Charles County Court House, and the tools he used are in the Jentsch workshop.

Frank Jentsch and his son Roy are farmers and strict conservationists. In 1971 they won the "St. Charles County Soil and Water Conservationist of the Year" award. They are better known, however, for their Recreation Farm named "Ponde Rosa Lakes." It is an accredited campground where hundreds of campers from all parts of the country come and go each season.

No. 136 JUL. 14, 1976

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### SCHLUESBURG THE BRELJE STORE

In the center of Femme Osage Township (now Boone TS) 45 North Range 1 East, is the village of Schluesburg. The small town on Brushy Fork stretches thinly, and about midway, along the old wagon road leading from Augusta to County Road F. Early German settlers in the 1840's were no doubt impressed with the hills and valleys along this route. The heavily forested, rugged terrain provided unparalleled beauty then, as it does now, and it was the ideal location for a few tradesmen to set up their businesses and live peaceful lives. The name they chose is possibly a derivation of the German word "schlucht," meaning gorge, or ravine, and surrounded by hills or mountains.

Some of the first pioneer immigrants that brought their wives and children into the valley were Ernst Bollman, proprietor of a grist mill; Hy Krueger, farmer and stock raiser; J. W. Schroer, blacksmith; R. Luetkemeyer, J. H. Brune, S. Holke, H. Heuman, Louis Gronemann, H. Bergstecker, and Hy Koplner and F. Lottie. Old business ads read "C. W. Tuepker, Dealer in General Merchandise, Schluesburg, Mo., and J. H. Piepmeier, Shoemaker and Post Master. Records show that Schluesburg had one of the original nineteen Post Office Stations in St. Charles County.

Residents of the area have been, and are today, generally of the Evangelical and Reformed faith. Their present church named "Bethany," after the small town near Bethlehem, where Mary and Martha lived, was built in the early 1900's. However, it replaced an older building on the same site, and the Bethany congregation has been in existence well over 100 years.

Saturday I drove over the old wagon road from Augusta, now a well maintained gravel road, and visited the town of Schluesburg. Raymond Mallinckrodt was sitting in the warm sun on the front steps of his 125 year old home that once belonged to John F.



Koenig. He apparently was waiting for someone to talk to, so we talked about the little village that once was a busy place, boasting a general store, blacksmith shop, harness shop, grist mill, post office and public school, and several frame homes. Today only the residents remain, plus of course, a fine church facility where services and many functions for the public are carried on throughout the year. Ray's wife, Alma, also remembered much about the town's history. We sat under the log rafted porch roof and discussed the 19th century Henry Brune home across the street, the C. W. Tuepker home to the right, and Piepmeier's Harness Shop farther down. A visit next was made with the Alvin Heumans. Al is the oldest citizen in town, and has lived here, or near the area, all of his life. He not only vividly recalls the past, but he brought out a number of interesting photographs. Two in particular are of the "Fritz von der Brelje Store," and the "Happy Glen" public school.

The Brelje Store, still standing but boarded up, is shown with this article. Pictured, left to right, are Orgain Fischer who lives in Schluesburg today, Henry Koenig, the blacksmith, Emil Fischer, Fritz von der Brelje, and August Fischer, father of the two Fischer boys. The Brelje store was a classic example of a small country store, in operation during the last quarter of the 19th century and

the first quarter of the 20th century, that carried a variety of all the essentials of the day. There was no effort made to stock the merchandise in any special manner, aisles were clogged with everything imaginable, a considerable portion of the floor area was covered over with flattened out tobacco tins, and cleanliness was not considered all too necessary. Al remembers the summer sausages hanging from a rack, and when a customer came in for a few pieces Mr. Brelje would clean the knife with a few swipes across his breeches, then "whack off" the required

No. 134 MAY 17, 1976

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By Bill Schiermeier  
Stoneledge Farm

Far into a beautiful and serene valley in the southwest corner of the old Femme Osage township, between the towns of Femme Osage and Dutzow, Missouri, is Stoneledge Farm. The present acreage molds into a huge natural amphitheatre, with heavily forested hills of cedar and hardwoods encircling the rich valley floor below. A rocky creek, carrying sparkling water through the valley, adds to its natural beauty.

Native Indians discovered this bit of paradise long before the white man came. It was an ideal location for a protected campsite, where wild game, flint for arrow and spear points, and a variety of plants, were abundant. We know these first Americans were here in numbers because of the artifacts found.

**Daniel Boone, and his wife Rebecca (Bryan), arrived in the locality with their family in 1798 from Point Pleasant, Virginia. In 1803 the region became part of the lands deeded over to Boone by the U.S. Government in recognition of his services as an explorer.**

Soon the old pioneer began sharing some of his holdings with his close relatives, and the particular tract that someday would be known as "Stoneledge Farm", became the property of Jonathan Bryan in 1817. A few years later it was passed on to Elijah Bryan.

In 1824, a German scholar by the name of Gottfried Duden settled on an adjoining tract of land, built a log cabin, went along with Nathan Boone on surveying trips, and undoubtedly walked up and down our subject valley many times. He only stayed in America until 1827, but it was long enough to write enthusiastic letters of the area, and have them published in Germany. The letters captured the imagination of adventurous Germans. Thus, Duden is credited with having started the great wave of German immigration here from 1832 to 1870.

J. H. W. Piepmeier was one of those German immigrants to settle in the Dutzow area, and in 1852 he purchased the property from the Bryans. Mr. Piepmeier immediately set to work to develop an efficient farm, complete with a vineyard, and constructed a beautiful two story rock home on the inner rim of the amphitheatre, enabling him to view all of his surrounding hills and fields.

Upon completion of the home in 1855, a massive stone was placed above the front entrance doorway with the following neatly cut inscription:

"NUR ZUR WOHNUNG KURZER TAGE DIENT — EUCH BEWOHNER DIESES HAUS UND — WEILBET JEDEN GLOCKEN SCHLAGE DER — TOD SCHON WIE DER RUFT HERAUS — DRUM BAUET EUCH IN DIESER ZEIT EIN — HAUS AUF FUR DIE EWIGKEIT. — J. H. W. PIEPMEIER — C. M. E. G. E. KNIPPENBERG — MR. H. ROHLFING 1855." Translated in English it reads, "Only as shelter for short days serves you residents of this house, and because with each stroke of the chime, death already calls you out, you should build a house at this time for eternity."

It appears from the records that the Piepmeiers lived here only a short while. Soon the house was sold to F. J. Dickhaus, also one of the first German immigrants then to Hy Dickhaus. Charles Linns was the next owner. H. W. Hinnah bought the property in 1875, and it remained the Hinnah homeplace for nearly one hundred years.

The stately three level, native yellow limestone home was built to withstand the test of time, however, few if any improvements had been made since the original construction.

Finally in 1972 Mr. Albert Firestone of Pennsylvania, after having searched throughout the east for a suitable place, became aware of the Piepmeier home. In recognizing its historical significance, its restoration possibilities, and its unique setting, he succeeded in purchasing the property from the Hinnahs. Mr. Firestone has a deep appreciation for the workmanship, and hardships, of our early settlers, and for conservation of our natural flora and fauna. So, he began at once to restore, and preserve.

Thus today, another handsome pre-Civil War home that had been designed and built by our first German craftsmen, stands as a memorial to their skills, carefully restored in exacting detail. Here is an outstanding example of 18 inch thick stone walls, of imposing fireplaces constructed on each end, of oak log roof rafters pegged together, of original wide board floors fastened with wooden pins, of hand hewn timbers, and root cellar windows with only wooden bars to keep out wild animals. A log cabin smoke house is nearby. Wildlife feel at home in their protected habitat on the outstretching, historic Boone landscape. It is even a common sight to see deer grazing peacefully and turkey gobblers strutting proudly as they go through the courting ritual.

The area was a wine center in the 19th century, and Mr. Firestone is bringing back the romance of vineyards, and wine production. His large scale winery is under construction and will be in operation in the near future.

Stoneledge Farm was so named because of a solid ribbon of stone ledges extending from the hills above the Lake Creek in the valley floor. Our early Americans, our Virginia pioneers, and our first German immigrants, would be proud to see their home today.

No. 177 JUN. 13, 1977

5.15

OKTOBERFEST

On Saturday evening, Oct. 22, 1977, an Oktoberfest Celebration was held at Stone-Ledge Farm near Dutzow. Host Albert Firestone had invited 147 guests, and when they approached the Duden hill country from the north and south the heavily forested hillsides of oaks, maple and hickory greeted them with their finest display of fall colors. The beauty of the private drive winding back into the valley along Lake Creek was enhanced by a heavy growth of native cedar edging those magnificent ascending hills. One guest, Christa Burry, originally from Berlin, Germany, and now from Marietta, Ga., compared the area with Little Bavaria.

Some guests arriving at Stone-Ledge were detained momentarily to allow Wagonmaster Ambrose Schulte to pass in his horse drawn carriage. Folks were being treated to pleasant rides down the road in much the same fashion as the first German immigrants traveled the same road in the mid-19th century. (See "Stone-Ledge Farm" in the Cracker Barrel News dated June 6, 1977, for story of this historical homestead.)

Upon our arrival we gathered with everyone else at the beautifully restored and furnished 1855 stone homeplace for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Later all moved across the lawn and natural stone ledge outcropping to Mr. Firestone's new winery where the party was held. Here the crowd was seated on a long "L" shaped line of tables beneath the high, open wood truss ceiling. Lighting within the trusswork, and walls decorated with hand woven tapestries, were most effective.

The building, designed specifically as a winery by the well

5.14 & 5.15

known architect, Ted Christner, is equivalent to four stories in height, and measures 50 feet by 50 feet square. The Oktoberfest was the opening event in the new winery, and all in attendance will long remember what a wonderful party it was. Perhaps it may be reminiscent of similar events in this wine producing center of the late 1800's.

The host, in his desire to have everyone become thoroughly acquainted with each other cleverly mixed assigned seating cards to the delight of all. Carol Eichling must be complimented on the attractive table settings. Jim Rhodes, Supt. at Shaws Garden, and caretaker for Mr. Firestone, used his expertise on the arrangement of plants and other decorations. He too is responsible for the fine landscaping of the Stone-Ledge grounds. Dinner wines were supplied by the famous Mt. Pleasant Winery in Augusta, and the delicious food was served by Ann Mantel Catering of Villa Ridge. Note the true Oktoberfest Menu — There were crab, chicken and shrimp appetizers; cucumber, green beans and red cabbage salads; wiener schnitzel, sauerbraten, ginger snap gravey, potato pancakes, sauerkraut, German breads and butters, German chocolate cake, tea and coffee.

Immediately following the dinner guests were entertained by the noted concert pianist Andre Anweier of Hartford, Conn. He was introduced by Mr. Firestone's lawyer, Walter Kozloski of Farmington, Conn.

Mr. Anweier, who studied at the Royal Conservatory in London and the Warsaw Conservatoire, and who on Oct. 12 made his Carnegie Hall debut as a concert pianist, thrilled the audience with a number of compositions by the great composer of music for the piano, Frederic Chopin.

Later, when the party was over, Andre informally delighted those who lingered with Viennese music and polkas.

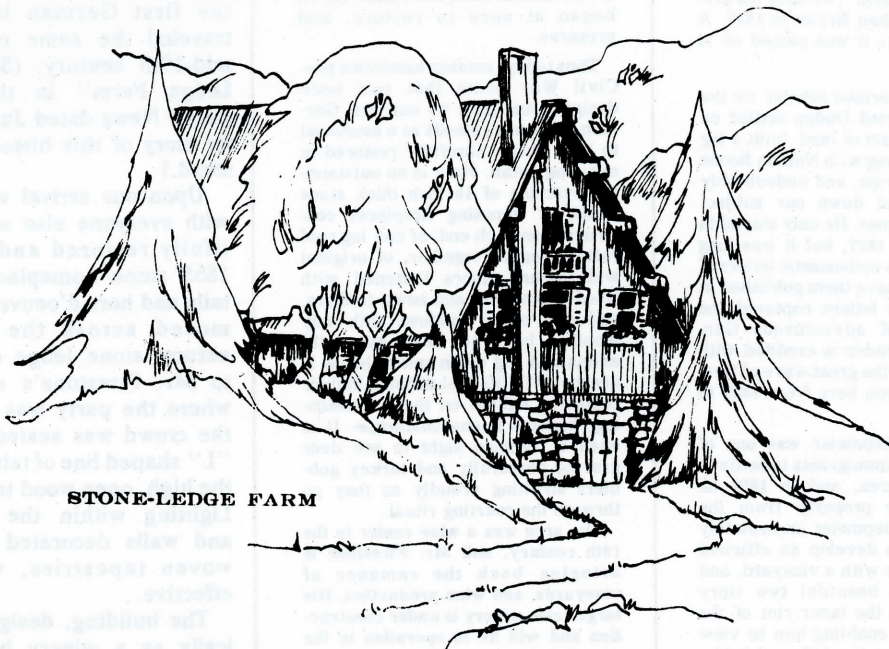
It is not possible here to list all who attended the Oktoberfest Celebration at the new winery. However, among the honored guests there was Mr. Firestone's charming sister, Nancy Kuehn, who flew in from Vienna, Va., for the occasion. Mrs. John S. Lahmann, well known St. Louis philanthropist, was present. Also present was Mrs. Dr. Arthur (Betty) Compton, wife of the famous physicist and educator. Mrs. Compton, now 86, was one of the belles of the party.

Mr. and Mrs. Whitney Harris were there. Mr. Harris, a prominent lawyer, is especially known for his work at the Nurnberg

Trials, & Mrs. Eugene

Fruend of St. Louis, who recently donated a 220-acre tract to Shaws Botanical Gardens at Grey Summit. The area is known as the Fruend Educational Center. Dr. Lilly Palmer Hanes and her husband were also present. Dr. Hanes is a well known St. Louis Radiologist, and her husband is a prominent cement contractor. Many other St. Louisians, and several couples from the local area, rounded out the guest list. Mr. Firestone is to be congratulated for so unselfishly sharing his beautiful and historic country estate with his friends and acquaintances.

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STONE-LEDGE FARM