

Chapter 7

The County Line

Only a surveyor's line separates the closeness between southwest St. Charles County and Warren County neighbors.

Let us travel down this line from Foristell to Dutzow and get acquainted with some of these neighbors.

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7.1

SCHMIDTS OF FORISTELL

Harold William Schmidt, a well known and long time resident of Foristell, came into the store this week and we talked at length about his family, his father's general store, and about the old town of Foristell.

Harold was born and raised in Foristell, worked in his father's store for 11 years, 1932 to 1943, and later accepted a position in "Contracts" at McDonnell Douglas in St. Louis. He retired from MDC Oct. 31, 1971 after 20 years of service.

Mr. Schmidt's first wife Hazel (nee Depping) died a few years ago. He has since remarried, and to one of his school day sweethearts. She was Bertha Preul, originally of Hawk Point. They are living in Kirkwood. Bertha has retired from teaching English for 41 years at Kirkwood Sr. High School. Both are active in the Kirkwood Road Christian Church, where Bertha sings in the choir and Harold is the organist.

Harold was intrigued with the familiar names of customers recorded in an old 1879 Foristell store ledger. Page after page revealed the names of fathers and grandfathers of boys and girls he grew up with. In tracing the Schmidt's Store in Foristell it is necessary to first go back to Frederick Blattner, an immigrant from Switzerland. In 1861, Mr. Blattner, a ship builder by trade and later a merchant in Hickory Grove Prairie, moved into Foristell and constructed the rock store building south of the Wabash R.R. tracks. It was then known as "The Blattner Store." It continued so until about 1888, at which time H. William Schmidt, known always as Bill, obtained a fourth interest in the Blattner Store. Bill was 25 years old at the time, and he had been clerking for H. T. Gerdeman in Cappeln. Young Bill Schmidt had very little money to invest, and so was hesitant in signing a note for some debt he may never be able to pay. Mr. Blattner's son William was the principal proprietor then and he assured Mr. Schmidt that his "word" was all that was necessary. So it was just a man's

good name and a hearty handshake that formed the partnership of "Blattner and Schmidt."

When the Blattners bowed out, John Schnatz came along, and the store became "Schnatz and Schmidt." Later it became "Schemmer and Schmidt." Finally in 1926 Bill bought out William Schemmer, and it continued as "Schmidt's Store" until 1943, when it ceased operation. H. William had been in the store for 55 years.

Harold's grandparents were both born in Germany. They came to America in the early 1800's and settled on a farm in the Foristell area, where they raised a family of six children. Henry, a blacksmith, was the oldest son. The other children were Henry William (Bill), Fritz, the father of Dr. Herbert H. Schmidt of Augusta, Wilhelming "Minnie" Paul, Emma Schiermeier, and George. Tragedy struck down the father of this early St. Charles County family at an early age when he was killed in an unfortunate logging accident. Many descendants of the H. Schmidt family still reside in the Foristell, Cappeln and New Melle area.

No. 114 DEC. 22, 1975

7.2

TEUQUE PRAIRIE

A prairie is an extensive tract of land, mostly level, destitute of trees, and covered with grass. Generally we think of the great prairies of the Northwest when referring to this type of land. However, there is an area approximately two miles square, just a few miles south of Foristell, on each side of the Warren-St. Charles County line that closely resembles a true prairie. Trees are very sparse, and virgin grass possibly predominated there before farms were established. People who farm the prairie, such as the Schnarres, discussed in last week's article, claim there is a noticeable difference in the soil where the original grassland appears to have ended, and where the once heavy forest land began.

This local area is known as "Teuque Prairie," so named because the historic Teuque Creek begins here as a tiny branch, and meanders down toward Femme Osage and Marthasville. The Boones, the Bryans, and other first families made this creek famous when they settled along its bank long ago.

Natives who live in and around the edge of Teuque Prairie identify themselves with it, and consequently have become very close to each other as friends and helpful neighbors. At one time during the 1920's there were enough young men on the prairie to even form a baseball team. They developed into a "pretty good bunch of ball players." They were well equipped in handsome matching uniforms, and they regularly played such teams as New Melle, Richmond, Femme Osage, Marthasville, Oakdale, and Concord Hill. The chief organizer was Virge Welch, and other members of the team were Clarence, Arley and Elmer Welge, Emil, Harry and Ervin Schiermeier, Bob Schmidt, Stanley and Ervin Paul, and Herbert and Ora Schnarre.

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7.1 & 7.2

7.3

FREDRICK SCHNARRE FAMILY

It was Fredrick Schnarre, an immigrant from Germany, who fixed a strong "Schnarre Family foothold" in America near the Warren-St. Charles County line, seven miles south of Foristell, and our area has benefited from this industrious, highly respected family ever since.

Fredrick was born in Wester Cappeln, Germany, May 12, 1833 to Eoerhardt William and Mary Elizabeth Schnarre. After receiving a good education in the German schools he learned a trade, which was customary for all boys at that time. Fredrick chose the carpentry trade, and when he reached that magic age of 21 years he set sail from Bremen for America. His mission was not only to find a new life for himself as a pioneer in a vast young, but free, country, but he was to send for the remainder of his family as soon as he had established some measure of success.

After two months at sea, in November 1854, Fredrick landed in New Orleans and proceeded to St. Louis where he worked as a carpenter until Spring 1855. He then followed the pattern of many young German immigrants of that day. That is, he migrated to the western section of St. Charles County. His first job for William Hurst in Schluensburg lasted only two weeks. William H. Gerdeman of Cappeln was his next employer. Mr. Gerdeman was also a native of Western Cappeln. (See "Cappeln Founder" in C. B. News Issue No. 88 dated June 16, 1975.) In just one year Fredrick had saved enough money to send for his parents and six brothers and sisters. They had been waiting anxiously, and this brave young man had not failed them. They all arrived safely in the Fall of 1855, and settled on a rented farm in Charrette Township, where they all lived together for 18 months.

Our young pioneer, still only in his twenties, continued to prosper at the carpentry trade. In 1857 he invested in 80 acres of land in Hickory Grove Township in War-



HENRY SCHNARRE

ren County. His family came to live on the new place, but within a few months both of his parents passed away. It is said that they simply died from homesickness for their native Germany.

On Feb. 27, 1859 Fredrick married Miss Mary Schroer. She too was born in Germany and had accompanied her father, Gerhardt Schroer, to America in 1836. They had settled in Femme Osage Township.

Young Mr. Schnarre grew to love the freedom of America, and he strongly supported the freedom voiced so eloquently by one Abe Lincoln on such historic occasions as the Lincoln-Douglas Debates, The House Divided Speech, etc., which he must have read word for word. Fredrick's first presidential ballot was cast for the Great Emancipator in November 1860.

Mr. Schnarre grew too in his skill as a carpenter, and his best known project was the construction of the present Femme Osage

E. & R. Church. In later years, however, he turned principally to farming and stock raising. The Schnarre farm in Hickory Grove Township, near the center of "Tueque Prairie," and where Tueque Creek begins as a small stream, grew to 800 acres as early as 1895. Fredrick's son, Henry J. Schnarre, and his wife Elizabeth (nee Gerdeman) continued to operate the big farm, and to raise a family of five girls: Irene, Flora, Pearl, Elnora and Viola, and two boys, Herbert and Ora. A seventh child, Frederick, died when only nine years old.

Henry's lifespan covered the period between March 2, 1863 and March 1, 1947, and throughout his lifetime he exercised the same steadfast characteristics as his pioneer father. In a recent conversation with Ora, and with Ora's wife Mildred (nee Becker), I learned of some interesting things about the late Henry Schnarre.

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One in particular concerns his interest in education. He and Elizabeth managed to send all of their six children through Central Wesleyan Academy in Warrenton during those early days. The annual dues, ranging from \$26 to \$100, was not enough to cover such luxuries as heat for dormitory rooms. So, to keep his girls warm he would cut many wagon loads of firewood and haul them to Warrenton by team during their school years. It was an all-day 20 mile trip. Henry served too on the school board until he was in his 80s.

Another story relating to his progressive nature concerns limestone for soil improvement. He was one of the first, if not the first, to spread lime on his crop lands in Warrar. County. Others laughed at him then "for filling his land up with rocks."

Henry's sons Herbert and Ora came along next in their father's footsteps. Herbert is now deceased, but Ora and his three boys, Keith, Bryan and Neal have formed a successful partnership in agriculture. They have specialized in raising registered Angus cattle. Ora operates a farm on Schnarre Road in St. Charles County near the homeplace in Warren County where Neal and his family reside. Keith and Bryan are both in Centralia, Mo. Bryan is the grain farmer, Keith and Neal manage the big Angus herd. Neal is also secretary of the East Central Angus Association. The Schnarre Brothers stage their own Production Sale of registered Angus cattle annually in February. Truly the Schnarres on Tueque Prairie deserve to be proud of their accomplishments and good citizenry over the past 120 years. They have developed an extensive "Family Tree History," the branches of which reach out and touch the lives of many well known families of this area.

No.113 DEC. 15, 1975

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Congratulations to Clarence Brakensiek for his long years of service with the County Highway Dept. No other man has been there longer than he has, and his certificate reads as follows: "Certificate Of Merit is hereby conferred upon Clemence Brakensiek of the St. Charles County Highway Dept. by the Missouri Association of Counties for service performed, to wit thirty-two years of dedicated service to St. Charles County. Conferred by Authority of the Board of Directors this 18th day of November 1975. Signed by the President and Executive Director."

No.113 DEC. 15, 1975

7.4

GLENN'S HOME AND BARN

On the corner of Highway "T" at the entrance to Lake Sherwood in the far western edge of St. Charles County, stand a rather unpretentious frame home, a stock barn and various outbuildings. It is the home of Glenn Luetkemeyer, a livestock and grain farmer basically, but as a specialty manages a small chicken farm of some 500 laying hens for egg production of the highest quality.

Glenn is a diligent worker, efficient, and applies the latest farming practices to his 110 acres of tillable land, and 37 acres of timber. He would have made some young lady a fine husband if he had not elected to remain a bachelor.

Of particular interest is Glenn's home and barn, both of which were constructed in 1842. These 135-year old structures can be numbered among the very oldest in the area, and Glenn is very proud that they have remained in the family over 100 years.

It was on Dec. 10, 1841 that the land was deeded over to John W. Knoepker by the U.S. Government, and soon thereafter the home and barn were built.

When a country home was built in this sparsely settled section of St. Charles County in pre-Civil War days it undoubtedly attracted considerable attention, and possibly Dr. Henry F. Brandt, whose office was a few miles west, may have made calls by horse and buggy as far as Cappelin, and on occasion he may have brought his five year old son, Henry, Jr., along.

On these trips young Henry and his dad could easily have witnessed the carpenters lay up the rock foundations, notch the heavy, hard, white oak logs, and fit them in place, pound in wooden pins to secure roof poles, and hammer in the square nails into 14-inch, rough-sawed, pine boards. As the 19th Century "Split Box" style home took shape they may have gone inside to watch hand split oak slats nailed against full size 2 x 4 oak studs for the plaster walls, or the masonry work on flues at either

end for wood burning stoves. For some reason a fireplace was not built into this early home.

Time passed, and young Henry Brandt, following in the footsteps of his father, became a medical doctor. He purchased property adjoining the Knoepker place, which is essentially in Cappelin, established his office there, and his reputation as both a faithful and talented country doctor spread far and wide. In the 1870's he acquired the Knoepker property, where Glenn, his grandson now lives. A brief history of the Brandt family follows:

The early settler Brandt, Dr. Henry F., was born in Germany Feb. 4, 1801. His medical office was located south of Wright City. His son, Dr. Henry Brandt, was born Oct. 18, 1836, and he married Miss Caroline Gerdeman of Cappelin. Their ten children were first Louise, then George. Emma was next. She married Gustave Luetkemeyer. They settled down to farming on the subject farm where their son Glenn carries on.

Benjamin was the fourth child and the third generation of doctors in the Brandt family. He remained to practice in his father's office for many years. Number five was Cora, then Alvin, and Adelia. Adelia, although over 80 years old, is still full of energy, and can relate many interesting stories of early days in Cappelin. She comes often to see how Glenn is doing with his household chores.

Eugene and Clarence are number 8 and 9, and finally comes Dr. Oliver Brandt, a retired dentist in Monett, Mo.

The memory of the Brandts in Cappelin, and the service they rendered to the community, will carry on for a long time to come.

No. 119 Nov. 12, 1975

7.5

SHERWOOD FAMILIES

Lake Sherwood in Warren County is so close to the western edge of St. Charles County that we tend to claim just a small part of that beautiful lake. It is developing into a fine residential area. Early development problems have been solved, miles of blacktop now afford pleasant driving up and down the rugged, heavily wooded hills, and residents have carefully nestled more than 100 homes into the terrain without disturbing the area's natural beauty. In fact, the plantings around these homes and private drives have now matured sufficiently to enhance the beauty of the natural landscape. Last week I drove into Sherwood to visit the Holtmeyer home and was happy to see how well everything is developing.

My visit with Mrs. Lucille (Schopp) Holtmeyer was most rewarding. Their modified Cape Cod, three level, high open ceiling home is in perfect harmony with the surroundings, and the interior has many, many interesting features. Lucille, as a young girl, would often come to this "wilderness area" with her mother from their home in Dutzow, to clean up the gravesite of her great-grandmother, Mrs. Amanda Schopp, buried here in 1872. The young lady pictured with this article is a daughter of Mrs. Schopp. She is Mrs. Amanda (Schopp) Licher, who passed away just three years ago at the age of 107.

Little did Lucille realize, as a girl, that she and her husband, Jerry R. Holtmeyer, would some day return, not just to tidy the lone grave of her beloved great-grandmother, but also to purchase a choice lakesite lot on Lake Sherwood's opening day in the late 1960's. Soon after purchasing their lot they decided upon their home plan, let out a contract to build the foundation and shell, and then proceeded to exercise their creative abilities by completing the home themselves. The end result is outstanding. Special features are the warmth of weathered siding and rustic



AMANDA [SCHOPP] LICHER

beams in the family room and in the unusual open stairway. This material is from the old Morhaus Hall in Marthasville. There is a large brick fireplace hearth in the family room shaped in a curve. The bricks for this were obtained from the Schaeffer farm in Dutzow. There is a unique mantle and fluted side members framing the formal living room hearth. These expertly restored and fitted pieces were first hauled out of a used lumber yard. Adding particularly to the clever use of materials are the picture window views of the glistening lake from every room in the home.

Lucille is a sentimental person, who cherishes her family's heritage. Consequently she has tastefully selected various furnishings and other objects throughout the home associated with family history.

Lucille's father was Hugo Schopp. He was born in German town, Mo., on June 7, 1881, and died March 20, 1972, at the age of 91. He was a tailor who made complete suits for local men in the Dutzow area. In 1910 he went into business with John Roesner in the present Steffens store building. Her mother was Theresa (Poepsel) Schopp of Dutzow. She was

an accomplished seamstress who provided wedding dresses for Dutzow brides. Their home in Dutzow was the neat frame dwelling on "T" across from the concrete bridge. The one thing Lucille remembers so well in her home town was the Katy train coming in daily at 7:00 a.m. and again at 7:00 p.m. It was the most exciting thing that ever happened and the girls seldom missed running down to meet it.

Grandparents on the father's side came over from Germany during the German immigration, and on the Schopp side she mentioned that John Schopp, a great-uncle, and son of the lady buried on the Lake Sherwood grounds, was instrumental in getting the road "TT" built.

The Poepsel family too can be traced back many centuries. Note the following translation from a German newspaper, quote: "Regarding a rare case; namely, that an estate remained more than 1000 years in the possession of the same family, is herewith recorded: — The estate of the mayor Poepsel existed in the parish boundary of Herzfeld, Circuit Beckum, along with 50 other farms in that parish, already at the time of St. Ida of

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Herzfeld, that is in the year 800." This can be seen from the book, "The History of 1000 Years of the Parish Herzfeld," which states "St. Ida had received these estates as gifts from her uncle, the Emperor Charles, the Great (Charlemagne)." Even the late sexton of Herzfeld, Theodore Poepsel, who died in 1851, was born on this Poepsel estate. This estate is therefore over 1000 years old and is today in the possession of the Poepsel family.

Lucille's husband, Jerome H. Holtmeyer, originally from Washington, Mo., is a store designer and sells store fixtures out of St. Louis. The Holtmeyers were married Aug. 26, 1945, at St. Vincent's Catholic Church in Dutzow, the family church for years. A honeymoon trip to California followed. They have two children: Diane (Holtmeyer) Voelkerding, a music major; and Mark, age 23, who is studying Plant Pathology. Mark selected his life's work after writing about the Lake Sherwood area where he developed a real desire to always be close to nature.

Sketches of other Sherwood families will continue in future issues. In the meantime always keep up with the goings on at Lake Sherwood by reading Marianna Finke's news column in the Wentzville UNION. Bill and Marianna Finke's home can be seen across the lake from the Holtmeyer home.

No. 216 APR. 10, 1978



New Melle

"From The Cracker Barrel News"

7.6

PETER'S STONE AGE MUSEUM

At last, after many trips to Dutzow, I stopped to visit Quentin Peters and his "Stone Age Museum." What he showed me is much more than one would expect, and his broad knowledge of each item he has collected is exceptional.

Mr. Peters, enthusiastic and spry at 70, has been collecting everything, and has thrown nothing away, nor sold anything, in more than 50 years of collecting. He is an avid reader of early American pioneer life, with special emphasis on the American Indian. He and Mrs. Peters are also members of the Greater St. Louis Archeological Society. Therefore, he speaks with some authority on the age of a certain primitive item, and how it was made and used.

The small building behind his trailer home is Quentin's Museum. Here one will find a store house of Indian stone artifacts, and hand-forged tools by the earliest blacksmiths. Mr. Peters hopes to soon build a museum for his treasures as the present space is completely filled and overflowing into the aisles. There is a showcase full of an extremely fine collection of arrow heads, rows and rows of ceremonial rock pieces shaped like animals and birds, a blue ribbon collection of stone serrated cutting tools that may be one of the finest in the country, a primitive display that attracted great numbers of people at the 1963 Illinois State Fair, scores of primitive hoes, axes, and other tools that were forged by blacksmiths here in the mid-19th century, a bear trap that Quentin is positive belonged to Daniel Boone, tax receipts that date back to 1848 where two slaves are listed at \$800, and on and on. What is most significant is that the majority of stone and iron items were found on his own farm.

We drove through his farm along the rocky creek to the far side where a group of old barns, and an uninhabited home stand. Here he stores most of his farm

equipment, tools, etc. One log barn may have been built as early as 1800, and may very well have been the barn used by our earliest pioneer to dry his deer hides, and to protect himself from hostile Indian attack. It is put together entirely with wooden pins, and its only means of entrance is through an opening 10 feet above the ground where a log chopped straight on one end, and diagonally on the other, could be swung open, or closed securely. There is a number of other features about this barn that warrant a thorough study. It was an interesting afternoon with Mr. Peters, and an edifying one, and I look forward to some day placing some of his artifacts on display in the Cracker Barrel to acquaint more of our people with the history that is to be found in our Callaway Hills and Femme Osage Valley.

No. 130 APR. 19, 1976

7.6

7.7

THE SCHWEISSGUTH FARM

Last Sunday we were invited to the beautifully restored J. H. W. Piepmeier home, near Dutzow, by its present owner, Albert Firestone. Other guests of the area included his neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hinnah and Alfred Schweissguth, and friends, John and Carol Eichling, Jack Miller, and Jim Rhodes, ^{Supt. of} Green House Skaws Gar. We, of course, talked considerably about the early history of the Piepmeier home that was built in 1855, and a special article on this home will appear in a later issue after further research is completed.

The visit was an opportunity to meet the Hinnahs and Mr. Schweissguth for the first time, and a later visit this week to their farm proved to be most interesting.

I drove into the rock drive off the country road one mile north of Dutzow, near the St. Charles-Warren County line, passed through the sparkling water of Lake Creek, noticed the lush stand of Sweet William and Johnny Jump-ups along the undisturbed banks, and pulled up in front of the yellow stone farm home. Immediately the work of an expert stone mason is apparent. I sat down in the comfortable home with the Hinnahs and Alfred, and we talked about Grandfather Henry Schweissguth and his son, Peter.

Henry Schweissguth was born in Germany in 1830, learned the stone mason trade at an early age, and possibly read some of Gotfried Duden's glowing reports of the beautiful country surrounding Dutzow, because at age 21 he sailed for America and built a log cabin along Lake Creek in the heart of Duden's hill country.

Although Henry was a skilled stone mason, he undoubtedly was too busy during his youth and middle age building structures for other people, and farming, to build a stone house for himself and his family. So, he remained in the log home until he was 70 years old. He then finally realized a lifelong dream; that of building a stone home to withstand the elements for ages.

Alfred Schweissguth lives here with his brother-in-law and sister, Arthur and Viola Hinnah. Mr. Hinnah, his brother, Gotlieb, and their father, George, were well known for their wheat threshing outfit before the combines erased the color of "threshing days." Since then Arthur and Alfred have devoted most of their time to farming the 143 acres. Alfred, now 80, was born in the log home where his father, Peter, was also born and raised. Viola, a few years younger, was born in the new home.

While strolling around outdoors, Alfred pointed to a distant hill where it is believed Gotfried Duden sat and wrote his famous historical accounts of these hills and valleys. Duden's cabin site is on the neighboring Muench farm. He walked to the fence encircling the home and observed the 8-inch square stone fence posts carved out by Peter. They extended deep into the ground and all were as perpendicular as the day they were set. Down below flows Lake Creek between narrow solid rock walls where Grandfather Schweissguth once operated a water powered sawmill. Wide sheathing boards were sawed here through the full length of logs by a drag saw. Behind us loomed the distant hill where the building stones were quarried.

Walking back across the front lawn where the log house was located, we dropped down hill to see the barn Henry built in 1886. Above the doorway is a long, narrow stone with the following carved letters, "Erbeut von H. Schweissguth und gebr L. Schweiszguth 1886." In English it says it was built by he and his wife, and the letter "z" in the family name is now replaced with an "s."

Alfred is proud, too, of the work his father did, mentioning specifically the solid rock bridge he built on the Charles Feldman farm near Dutzow, and the stone fence around the Muench Cemetery lot in Augusta. Years ago Alfred's brother, Theophil, operated a large ginseng farm on the home place, and later in 1928 his brothers, Bill and Ted, purchased the farm implement business in Dutzow from blacksmith Fritz Remus, and went on to become major dealers in John

Deere implements.

Upon leaving "The Duden Hills," or Lake Creek Valley where the Nagels, the Hinnahs, the Muenches, the Piepmeiers, and the Schweiszguths settled, there was a feeling of familiarity with these early families, and certainly a greater appreciation of their strengths.

The elder Mr. Schweissguth had taught his son, Peter, the art of stone masonry. Thus in 1900, father and son, together with the early stone mason of New Melle, J. H. Landwehr (Ref. Cracker Barrel News dated Jan. 3, 1976), and brothers, Franz, Herman and Gotlieb Berg, began work on the home. Plans were carefully drawn, and each stone was numbered on the plans, then each stone had to be quarried from a nearby hill, and cut exactly according to plan. This was a tedious and laborous task. Black powder was used instead of dynamite to blast to avoid any undue fracturing of the porous rock. Hand drills and other hand tools were then applied to shape the building stones. They knew nothing about concrete those days, and mortar for binding the stones together had to be made on the site by burning lime and mixing in sand. One year of hard work was needed to amass the supply of each piece of handmade building material, and another year was needed to erect the home.

The home stands today in excellent condition, and it has not only remained a fine homestead, but it also stands as a lasting memorial to the skill of these early craftsmen. Outstanding features include 18-inch thick solid stone walls, 10-inch by 10-inch stone window and door frames, massive stone blocks at corner, and the original tuck-pointing shows no sign of deterioration. Blocks at corners and framing openings have flat outside surfaces. All others have the rounded rough cut face known as the "Chicago front." Henry really wanted all stones to have the flat face but Landwehr convinced him it would take five years to do the job. It was a wise decision as Henry Schweissguth died at age 75.

No. 171 APR. 18, 1977

7.7

7.8

EARLY DUTZOW

We should all become better acquainted with the early history of Dutzow, a peaceful small town near the Missouri River bottoms in Warren County's Charette Township. Except for the Bank of Dutzow, which extends its long arm of service within a radius of many miles, the village has not changed significantly in the past several decades. However, it is well located for possible future growth. The MKT Railroad, and Highway 47 run along its south border, Highway 94 and County Road TT pass through it, and the expanding city of Washington is just across the river.

In years past, I remember Dutzow as a town of early 1900 freshly painted white homes, a busy town square, good baseball team, and horseshoe pitchers. It was necessary though to do some research, and to converse with the town's chief historian to learn something of Dutzow's early history.

Urban "Chick" Ruether, a lifetime "Dutzowian," and owner of the "Town and Country Nursery," and long time member of the Missouri State Historical Society, has spent many hours researching home town history. Chick's great-grandfather, Johan Heinrich Reuther, was among the early German immigrants, settling here in 1848 as an accomplished ~~carpenter~~ (German for carpenter). His grandfather Vincent was a local merchant, and his business became well known as "Reuther Bros. Garage," dealers in International Harvester equipment, in Chevrolets, and repair work. His father, Oscar, followed in the business. Chick, and his wife, Sophie (Koenig), have five children.

Mr. Reuther stressed the historical importance of the French trappers, the Daniel Boone family, and other Virginia pioneers, of Gottfried Duden and finally the German immigrants. Near Dutzow is the site of Charrette Village, the first white settlement of 1763, established by French trappers led by "Indian Phillips." Two miles west of

Dutzow off Highway 47 is the site of Flanders Callaway Fort where Daniel Boone became ill in the year of his death, 1820. To the north (.9 miles on TT from TT/94 junction) is the site of Gottfried Duden's log cabin. Unfortunately, nothing remains of the cabin, and although the famed Duden was a prolific writer he neglected to leave a description of his wilderness home he occupied for only two years. Duden came in May, 1824 with a Louis Eversman, traveled around on surveying trips with Nathan Boone, and gave Dutzow its name (meaning park or resort in German). Soon, however, he became bored due to the absence of culture in this wild, untamed country, and returned to his native Germany to write glowing reports about our land of unlimited opportunity. Thus he set off the great migration of German immigrants.

One soon to come was Baron von Bock, an aristocrat, who founded the town of Dutzow in 1832. Many other scholarly people followed. These were counts and barons, and skilled tradesmen. One can only imagine the wide differences that existed between these proud folks from central Europe and the Indian fighters and trappers they encountered.

Mr. Reuther also mentioned such early Dutzow families as the Muenches, Follenius, Simons, Bergs, Roesners, von Mertel, and the Voelkerdings. We talked about St. Vincents Catholic Church located high above Dutzow, overlooking the countryside. The parish was organized in 1837, and the original male members were Bartholemew Roesner, Herman and Hy. Dickhaus, Francis Kregel, Herman Struckhoff, Heller Roderick and Mr. Schmeucker. The present church was built in 1874 for \$17,000, and the congregation numbered 50 families in 1895.

Brief biographic sketches of Dutzow first settlers were noted in the old 1885 and 1895 references. Highlights are as follows.

Julius M. Nagel was born of German immigrant parents on their 90-acre farm near Dutzow in 1857. He attended Mound City Commercial College, taught

school three years, became interested in selling agricultural implements in 1844, carried on the business on his farm, and later opened a store in Dutzow.

August Muench was born in 1855 near Dutzow, and went on to become a leading Republican. His wife was Christina Scaaf, and her father built the first mill in this part of the state.

Judge Julius Muench was born in 1835 near Dutzow, received his education from his German immigrant father, became a wagon maker, farmer and wine grower; married Elizabeth Schaaf in 1860, daughter of Hy. Schaaf, a prominent miller in Augusta; was elected District Judge in 1888, and Presiding Judge in 1890.

Rev. Father John Bertens was born in Udenhout, Holland in 1835, came to America in 1866 and to Dutzow on March 9, 1878 as rector of St. Vincents, and not only went on to distinguish himself within the church, but in the entire community as well.

Herman Dickhaus came from an ancient German family, tracing back to tribal days. (Dickhaus in German means blockhouse in English.) The first family coined the name from the large blockhouse they were living in. Herman was born in Hanover in 1829 and came to America in 1835 with only five German thalers in his pocket. He became a highly respected citizen in the Dutzow area, and died in his comfortable homestead, a very well-to-do man, in 1884.

Judge August H. Dickhaus was born in St. Charles County in 1840 and came to Dutzow in 1849. His father fought with the German army during the Napoleonic wars and was at the siege of Moscow and the battle of Waterloo. Judge Dickhaus was elected Associate Judge of Warren County in 1882.

Martin Hobelman was born in Prussia in 1848, landed in America in 1852, and came to Dutzow in 1881 to establish a general store. He was also appointed Postmaster.

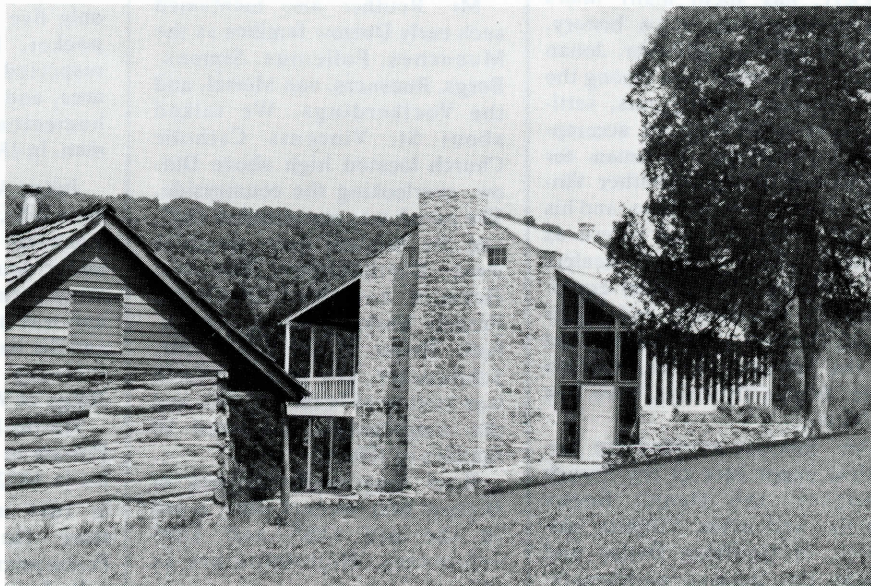
Prof. F. Frederick Peitz was born in Prussia near the Rhine in 1852, attended schools in Cologne, came to Dutzow in 1872 where he was in charge of the school for many years.

#153 11-22-76

Henry Schweissguth was born in Oberleiden, Germany in 1834, graduated from Art School in Alsfeld, Germany, came to America in 1857, worked as a stone cutter in New York, settled in the Dutzow area in 1853, married Miss Louise Berg, daughter of Gottlieb Berg, in 1859, and became an industrious and well-to-do farmer.

Upon leaving Dutzow I particularly noticed the old yellow stone barn 1.2 miles north of 94 on TT, and drove up to it. There, high above the ground is one end of this carefully constructed two story stone barn in an imbedded 18-inch by 36-inch stone block with the following inscriptions in beautiful old German script — "J. Muench, E. Muench, G. B. Schaaf 1873." The barn, although no longer in use, stands today as a landmark memorializing those early industrious German settlers.

No. 153 Nov. 22, 1976



*The Piepmeier Restored Home
See 5.14*

7.9

EMMAUS TODAY

For nearly a century people have driven down the Warrer County Road "D" to or from Marthasville through one of the most beautiful wooded valleys in America, and each time everyone would be impressed by the picturesque yellow limestone buildings, the arched stone bridge, and the photogenic church steeple peeking out of the oaks, maple and hickory high on top of a hill.

The people traveling down "D" were bound for, or were coming from, the nearby Daniel Boone historic sites, or they were folks from the city enjoying a scenic tour, or they were local folks on business, shopping, or visiting trips. Many stopped near the arched bridge to take a picture of the church, especially during the colorful Fall season. However, only a few paused to cross over the bridge and visit the friendly people who waved at each passing car. The writer was one of these "passer-bys" until Rev. James E. Rinne, Superintendent of the Marthasville Emmaus Home, invited me to tour the Home on Thursday, July 29, and to have lunch with him at the Washington Rotary Club. It was one of my most rewarding days, and a distinct pleasure to be with such an enthusiastic, and compassionate leader as Jim Rinne.

Rev. Rinne was born in Nebraska, and graduated from Eden Seminary-St. Louis in 1957. He served as the pastor of Ebenezer U.C. of C. in Augusta, Mo. until 1962, then accepted a pastorate in Baltimore, Md., where he stayed until he came to the Emmaus Home in 1966. Rev. Rinne, his wife Ruth, and their children, Mary, Susan and John, live in a comfortable residence on the grounds. The Marthasville Emmaus grounds, incidently, comprise 640 acres of scenic forested hills and valleys, four miles from the town of Marthasville.

Upon the retirement of Rev. John Ruhl in 1972, who had served diligently as the Admin-

istrator since 1941, and who still makes regular trips to the Home from his home in Marthasville, Rev. Rinne was appointed the Administrator.

We visited in his office before going on an extended tour, discussing first the early church history, how Emmaus became a reality, and what the principles and goals are.

It all began in 1817 when Frederick William III of Saxony (King of Prussia) joined the Holy Alliance after the close of the war with France in 1815, and declared to his people that "we are now Evangelicals," in celebration of the 300th Anniversary of the Reformation. From this group of Evangelicals, consisting of a blend of Lutheran and Reformed church pioneers, the migration to America began and formed the First Evangelical Church of North America. Out of this first church, located in Femme Osage, Mo., the first Evangelical Synod of the West was founded. The need for a seminary arose because there was enough Evangelical churches scattered throughout the country that needed trained ministers. The question was "Where should the Seminary be located?" The problem was solved when Heinrich Nienkamp, a local farmer, came forward with a gift offer of 23 acres, where the present Emmaus buildings now stand. Officers accepted the offer, in lieu of other suggested sites, primarily because there was an unlimited supply of firewood in the vicinity. Thus, in 1850 the Marthasville Seminary was formed, and it remained a seminary for 33 years, or until 1883, when it was moved to Normandy. Later, in 1926 it was moved to St. Louis County (Webster Groves) where it became known as the Eden Seminary. Today it is one of the major seminaries of the United Church of Christ.

Moving the Seminary, however, left four fine buildings vacant. The attractive yellow limestone buildings were too valuable to remain idle. It took the church leaders ten years to decide what to do with them. Finally, in 1892, in an important meeting in Augusta, the decision was made to use the buildings as

a home for epileptics and the feeble minded. The founders then called it "Das Emmaus Heim" — The Emmaus Home. The appropriate name, as many readers will recall, stems from the 24th Chapter of St. Luke where it reads how two followers recognized their Risen Lord on their way to the town called Emmaus.

Today the name remains the same, and the emphasis is on the home-like atmosphere that prevails, rather than an institution. It is a home for mentally retarded adults. Here, Rev. Rinne stresses the real meaning of the word "Retardation," explaining that it comes from the same root as the word "Ritardondo," which, as used in music, means "to slow up." He further stresses that at Emmaus a retarded condition, be it mild, moderate, severe, or profound, does not mean "can't." Rather, it means "can" at a different rate. Later I was to witness great strides that have been made in this direction.

The Administrator is deeply concerned about the stigma the public still has about the Emmaus Home, who regard it as a place full of people "unlike us," where they are forgotten, and where they regress rather than progress. The truth is quite the contrary.

At Emmaus today Rev. Rinne makes it clear that everyone on the staff does, as everyone of us on the outside should, regard mentally retarded persons as being "more like us than unlike us," and that capabilities are stressed, instead of handicaps. At this point in our discussion we touched upon the chief reason for the "Home's" existence, and Rev. Rinne summed it up this way, when he repeated the question so often asked by elderly parents — "Who is going to take care of my child when we can't? It was time now to begin the tour and to witness first hand how Emmaus today can so adequately answer that question.

We drove to the Sheltered Workshops, "Emmaus Enterprises, Inc." which operates under the guidelines of the U.S. Dept. of Labor and Missouri Dept. of Education. It is one of 47 sheltered workshops throughout

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the state. A standard time clock is near the door and a card for each worker. Each worker receives a pay check every week. A poster above the door reads, "As we all know, the mentally retarded can only make baskets, and other objects like computer assemblies, printed circuits, transformer duct spacers, high voltage insulation tubes and anti-locking brake sensors."

The small assembly plant of some 30 employees and their supervisors were busy assembling transformer spacers for Wagner Electric. There are 20 major transformer factories in the U.S. and Emmaus supplies, under contract, all of the wood and paper spacers for four of them. Everyone looked up and broke into a smile when the Administrator walked in. They love him dearly. One thing that is so impressive in the workshop is the assortment of ingenious jigs and fixtures for simplifying the operations, and for speeding up the learning process. Credit for this must go to Mr. Stan Wilke, who personally designed and built all of them. Mr. Wilke is Director of the Workshops.

As we moved from bench to bench and shook hands with the happy workers, I noticed that each had a box of golf tees and a pegboard. It is the accepted manner of counting the production units completed.

Another workshop for less capable residents merely involves the placement of thermometers properly in plastic containers. Supervisors must spend a month teaching these few operations, but eventual success for their patience means progress for one more individual who otherwise would have never performed any useful task.

Quarter Way Houses were the next to see. These have been one of the more recent innovations at Emmaus, and they are intended as living quarters for those who require only a minimum of care. They have proven extremely successful. The home vacated by Rev. Ruhl in 1972 has been converted into a comfortable Quarter Way House for eight persons, and for their "House Parents." Emmaus-Marthasville

now has three Quarter Way Houses of eight persons each, and a fourth one, thanks to the generosity of Faith U.C. of C. in Indianapolis, Ind. is under construction. The total gift will be \$60,000. These homes are beautifully furnished, and they provide for maximum freedom and progress. The majority of those living in the Quarter Way Houses enjoy regular Friday shopping trips to Washington, Mo., and recently some were treated to a bus trip to Nashville, Tenn. via the Great Smokey Mountains.

It was lunch time when we reached the spotless and clean smelling dormitories (built for the Seminary in 1852), so we visited around the dining tables and talked to the attendants who, along with the House Parents, are the key persons at Emmaus. Ages of residents range from 24 to 84, with the average age about 50. Residents today number 117. One lady has been at Emmaus since 1917, and another who had been a resident for 47 years, left on June 10 for Marthasville. She had progressed to the stage where she now has her own apartment and job. However, she is still part of the Emmaus family.

In contrast to this are two girls occupying one room who have been bed ridden for 40 years. In severe cases such as these it is hard for the average layman to recognize any expression of sadness or happiness; or whether they are pleased or displeased. Rev. Rinne, however, assured me that their special attendants can understand and are thanked daily for their excellent care.

"Respite Care" is also offered at Emmaus. Their care is short term for persons whose families are away on vacation, or for families who need a period of rest.

Residents come from 13 different states, and 10 different religions are represented. In fact, race, creed or religion has no influence on admission, and no one has ever been turned down due to insufficient family funds if the care required warranted admission.

Total cost for one person at Emmaus today is \$474.00 per month. The family is asked to

contribute \$340.00 per month, and the remainder comes from donations from churches, organizations, and individuals; from wills, bequests and legacies; from the Missouri Dept. of Mental Health Placement Funds, and from Supplement Security Income.

Emmaus today has a staff of 93, including a Director of Care Treatment Training, Psychologist, Special Education Teacher, Activities Director, a Registered Nurse, Social Worker, Physical Education Teacher, and a Sheltered Workshop Director. All are full time.

The next time you are driving down through that beautiful valley, on your way to or from Marthasville, take a few moments out and cross over the arched stone bridge. Rev. Jim Rinne and his secretarial staff will be happy to show you Emmaus Today.

No. 140 AUG. 16, 1976

7.10

SAVE THE CHAMPION CHINQUAPIN

Near us stands the mightiest chinquapin oak in the state of Missouri.

I first saw this monarch of colonial times in 1973 when on my way to another landmark, the Holstein Mill. This amazing giant of the chestnut oak family is located between Highway 94 and Charette Creek, not too far from the original site of the famous Fort Charette.

It is located approximately one mile south of Marthasville in rich farm land country. Just beyond is the tiny village of Peers.

It was summer, and the lovely foliage fluttered in the breeze as gaily as the aspens. This is typical of chinquapin oaks. Seeing this tree for the first time was an unforgettable site.

Today it is rare to find a chinquapin oak measuring over three feet at the trunk in diameter. The Warren County tree measures well over five feet in diameter, and its majestic spreading crown towers as high as those seen by our first Americans in the virgin mid-western primeval forest.

An unusual feature of the tree is an unbelievably large burl head, high above the ground measuring several feet in diameter and protruding about two feet from the trunk.

Certainly a slow growing hardwood tree of this species, with a trunk so huge, began its long life no later than the late 1600's when our first colonies were formed.

It may already have been nearly one century old when we were winning our independence from Great Britain. Osage Indians may have camped under its branches, and somehow, early pioneers spared the harvesting of such a desirable specimen.

This awesome figure that has been protected by one succeeding generation after another, appeared safe enough from any foreseeable harm, and healthy enough to withstand at least another 100 years of dominance.

To the surprise of everyone, however, it was learned that the State Highway Department had decided to relocate Highway 94, and replace an old bridge over Charette Creek with a new bridge.

The champion chinquapin was directly in the path of the proposed construction. Later in October 1974, thanks to the Warren County Historical Society, plus 600 signatures of concerned citizens, the highway officials decided to alter their plans and save the tree.

Now, four years later, the highway department has reversed the decision of 1974. The tree is again in the path of a relocated highway, and a new bridge. Once more we find a smooth, efficient curve on some engineer's drawing board claiming preference over a different set of values. A set of values that can only be understood by those of us who have a deep respect for our heritage, and for the protection of those things we have no moral right to destroy.

The great chinquapin oak, designated officially as the Missouri State Champion, must be saved for this generation, and for generations to come. We all must do everything possible to persuade the state highway officials to change their present plans.

* * *

Chinquapin oaks (*Quercus Muchlenbergii* Engelmann) are also known by such names as yellow, rock, chinkapin, and chestnut oak. Leaves are alternate, regularly toothed four to seven inches long, and one to five inches wide. The bark is thin, and broken into loose gray flakes. The wood is very heavy (53½ lbs/cult drywt), strong, very hard, close grained and durable.

Thus millions of cords were used for rail fences, barrel staves, fuel, and railroad ties. Unfortunately too, these trees preferred the rich bottom land soil where they were relentlessly pushed aside for agriculture. These combined uses, and conditions, have destroyed the fine stands of chinquapin oak throughout the Midwest.

(Ed.'s Note: This article was written before the long-standing oak was vandalized this past Sunday morning. Although experts say there is little chance the tree can be saved, Bill Schiermeier reports there is a possibility of an effort being made to restore the area landmark.)

No. 258 JAN. 24, 1979

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7.11

HOPEWELL ACADEMY

A few miles to the west of us, in Warren County, is a small settlement known in the early days as Hopewell Academy, so named because it was to be the site of the Academy that was later built in Warrenton. A thorough historical account of the town is reserved for a future article. However, a few brief remarks of early settlers are as follows:

John and Dora Bolm crossed the Atlantic in 1844 from their native Germany and settled in Warrenton. Louis Bolm, one of their eight children, was born in 1853. After completing his district school education, he entered Central Wesleyan College in Warrenton, and struck out on his own at the age of 25, first as a carpenter. In 1883 he married Miss Mary Kunze. Three years later he opened a general store in Hopewell Academy, where he remained in business four years before moving on to New Boston.

William Kunze, son of John and Caroline Kunze, was born in St. Charles County Dec. 18, 1840. His parents came to America from Germany in 1836. Young Will grew up with a great desire for an education, but had to content himself with local private tutoring. He was busily engaged in farm work at the outbreak of the Civil War. He soon enlisted in the Thirty-first Missouri Infantry, and was mustered in at Carondelet, becoming a part of the Fifteenth Army Corps commanded by General Logan. He fought in many major engagements, was wounded in the Battle of Atlanta, and was honorably discharged in 1865. On returning home from the war, Mr. Kunze became a clerk in a mercantile establishment in Hopewell Academy, and in 1867 he bought an interest in the Lipstadt Mills. In this same year he married Miss Caroline Rechers. In 1871 we find him in partnership with his brother-in-law, H. Holstein, and together they built the mills at Holstein which they operated successfully for 10 years. He served as Constable of Charrette Township in 1882. In 1883

William Kunze purchased a large tract of land near Holstein and did some farming. However, he soon went back into the merchandising business in Hopewell Academy, where in 1886 he was appointed Postmaster. Soon thereafter he erected a brick business house, 28 x 70 feet, and two stories high, at a cost of \$3,600. In this he had a large and well assorted stock of general merchandise, valued at from \$3,500 to \$4,000.

Other briefs from the old biographical record will follow in future issues. Readers are encouraged to send in additional historical information on early settlers in the Hopewell area.

No. 109 Nov. 10, 1975

7.12

PEERS BRIEFS

Hon. Charles E. Peers, born in Troy in 1844. He became a self-educated man, a Judge in Lincoln County, and a Judge of St. Louis Court of Appeals. Later he was an attorney for the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad. A M.K.&T. station was located in Peers. It be that the town was named after Judge Peers?

Casper Nieder came to America in 1867. He married Miss Fannie Sickmann in 1872. Casper first worked as a blacksmith in Franklin County, and then with an iron firm in St. Louis. He handled iron at Peers, "a new and arriving station on the M.K.&T. RR, and was one of the incorporators of the Hanneken Garden Plow Mfg. Co. of Peers, Mo.

Albert Zillgitt is named among the successful and prominent business men of Peers. Born in Germany in 1840, he came to America in 1865 as a skilled painter. He became an accomplished builder as well, and in the spring of 1894 he built his own home in Peers, where he also engaged in the lumber business.

"Mr. Zillgitt has erected some very pretty buildings in this place, which are of modern style and architecture, and add greatly to the appearance of the town." His wife was the former Miss Mollie Oberlach of Warren County.

John H. Hanneken has the honor of being the patentee of the

"Hanneken Garden Plow," a new and useful instrument which is gaining popularity all over the country. He is of German parentage, but was born in Franklin County in 1846. John was raised on a farm, learned the blacksmith trade, served in the Civil War, married Miss Elizabeth Narrup in 1873, and settled in Peers, Mo. Here he invented the Hanneken Plow in 1894. The shops were located in Peers. Then men were constantly employed, and after the first year a stock of 3000 plows were on hand. Nicholas Mebreuer was a partner in the company. His wife was the former Miss Mena Dickhaus of Marthasville.

Joseph Eckelkamp, a native of Germany, born in 1830, and came to America as an orphan. He first settled in St. Louis, then came to Concord Hill (or Peers) and embarked in the mercantile business in 1854. He married Miss Elizabeth Nauber the same year. The post office at Concord Hill was originally called Eckelkamp in honor of Mr. Eckelkamp. Later upon completion of the MK&T RR it was changed to Peers, and Joseph was appointed the Postmaster. He became president of the Hanneken Plow Co. in 1894. His son Louis followed him in the mercantile business in Peers a few years later and married Miss Mollie Oberlach of Warren County.

John H. Hanneken has the honor of being the patentee of the "Hanneken Garden Plow," a new and useful instrument which is gaining popularity all over the country. He is of German parentage, but was born in Franklin County in 1846. John was raised on a farm, learned the blacksmith trade, served in the Civil War, married Miss Elizabeth Narrup in 1873, and settled in Peers, Mo. Here he invented the Hanneken Plow in 1894. The shops were located in Peers. Then men were constantly employed, and after the first year a stock of 3000 plows were on hand. Nicholas Mebreuer was a partner in the company. His wife was the former Miss Mena Dickhaus of Marthasville.

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7.11 & 7.12

settled in St. Louis, then came to Concord Hill (or Peers) and embarked in the mercantile business in 1854. He married Miss Lizzie Glosemeyer, a popular young lady of Charrette Bottom.

Henry Massmann was born in 1841 in Warren County where his father was a prominent farmer. Henry married Miss Louisa Leirmann in 1864 after serving in the Missouri Militia. Mr. Massmann was the first citizen to locate in Peers. Here he opened a general store, carrying a large stock of dry goods, boots, shoes, clothing, groceries, and queensware.

No. 108 Nov. 12, 1975

in the small village of Peers
in Warren County, situated
on a hillside overlooking the
New River, stands the historic
old Hotel Peers Milling Company.
The building on the first floor stands
a stone course and contains the
has been in continuous use for
at least 100 years.

The Hotel Peers Milling Company
was on a county location that
paper was in 1877 when the
General Peers Milling Company
was organized into a partnership
with two men who owned the mill.
It was then Mr. Lightfoot
and Mr. Hunsbald.
The three partners soon after
bought from the mill machinery
and continued milling flour until
1902.

In the old mill, a large
power on the other side of the
power operating on the mill with
the mill. One of the power is
shown on the mill in 1902.
The power on the mill is 1877.
Carl has two sons, Guy and
Ricky. The mill will be in good
shape for many years to come.

Originally there were three
sets of 7500 mill stones. Two
have been disposed of and one
retained for grinding corn meal.
The stones are 30 inches in diameter.
The stationary bottom mill
is 12 inches thick and the rotating
top mill is 18 inches thick. It
weighs 600 pounds.
Powered first by steam, it is
now driven by an industrial gas-
oline engine. The four millstones
from local farmers is placed
into a hopper above the grinder
and discharged under the grain
stone bar which pulverizes the
stones against the lower stone.
The pulverized corn is conveyed
to the basement and elevated to
the third floor where a bolting
machine separates the cornmeal
from the bran and feed meal.
Finally, the white corn meal is
lowered into a paper bag to the
mill tank where it is stored by
hand.

Wimp 51.7
Hotel Peers Mill

labeled page 10 of 11 and 12
found in the mill building
on a card from the mill
made during the 1970s
The mill is located in the
New River valley
The mill is located in the
Peers area of Warren County
The mill is located in the
Peers area of Warren County
The mill is located in the
Peers area of Warren County

51.7

7.12

7.13 Holstein Mill

In the small village of Holstein in Warren County, situated on a Missouri River bluff near New Haven, stands the historic old Holstein Milling Company.

Inside on the first floor stands a stone corn meal grinder that has been in continuous use for at least 100 years.

Today Carl Brueggenjohn carries on a family tradition that began back in 1887 when his grandfather, August Brueggenjohn, entered into a partnership with two men who owned the mill at that time, Mr. Lightenberg and Mr. Huenefeld.

The three partners soon added modern flour milling machinery and continued milling flour until 1903.

In the mid 1920's, August bought out the other partners and began operating on his own with his son, Otto. Otto bought his father out in 1932 and Carl in turn bought out his father in 1955. Carl has two sons, Gary and Ricky. Thus, it would appear that the mill will be in good hands for many years to come.

Originally there were three sets of Flint stone burrs. Two have been disposed of and one retained for grinding corn meal. The burrs are 30 inches in diameter. The stationary bottom burr is 12 inches thick and the rotating top burr is 18 inches thick. It weighs 600 pounds.

Powered first by steam, it is now driven by an industrial gasoline engine. The pure white corn from local farmers is poured into a hopper above the grinder and channeled under the great stone burr which pulverizes the kernels against the lower stone.

The pulverized corn is funneled to the basement and elevated to the third floor where a bolting machine separates the corn meal from the bran and feed meal. Finally, the white corn meal is lowered into a hopper next to the mill itself where it is sacked by hand.

Labeled bags in 5, 10, and 25 pound increments are then weighed on a cast iron standard beam scale dating back to the 1870's.

Many people in the New Melle area bake corn bread twice each day and would not use any other brand of corn meal than that from the Holstein Milling Company

No. 5 Nov. 28, 1973