



# Concordia, Missouri

## A

# Centennial History

1860-1960



by

Harry R. Voigt

1960

Centennial Committee  
Concordia, Missouri

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Professor at St. Paul's College

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## FOREWORD

People have asked the question, "Why is Concordia celebrating a centennial in 1960?" When we look at the chronology of events, we see only one significant event recorded for 1860, namely, the coming of Pastor Biltz. The town fathers felt that this date was significant enough for a celebration. Rev. Biltz was the outstanding figure in the early days of the settlement. Through his guidance, advice, and leadership a community grew, a persecuted people took courage, a town was named, and an institution of higher learning was founded. So today we have his picture on the centennial emblem, and we pause to retell the events that took place during and after his service to this community.

Compiling and recording the history of Concordia has been an enjoyable work. Many people helped in it. It is possible that when people see what has been done, more will come forward with material that up to this time has lain dormant. It is not too late to add to this fund of material for if it doesn't come into this edition, it will help some research worker in the future.

For the sake of balance and brevity, it was impossible to include all of the information that some organizations submitted. May they forgive the compiler for condensing some of their material.

It is regrettable that this history had to be compiled in a few weeks time even when other duties were pressing. The author and compiler realizes all too well that it lacks finish in many respects. His apologies to the critical reader are herewith tendered.

The writer would like to make the following pleas for the history of the future:

1. Let people keep scrap books of clippings from the "Concordian", but let them be sure to date these clippings. Undated clippings have little value.
2. Let people keep journals. One need not write daily in them as in a diary, but once a week or once a month post them up with facts, dates, and opinions. This is also good advice for secretaries of organizations. Minutes are very bare and plague the research person because of their lack of material.
3. Let high school and college students of history, economics, and sociology, write on themes that pertain to their local community. Each student of history at some time should be required to write up his family history from as far back as he can trace it. Old property abstracts are extremely valuable in gathering history.
4. Keep accurate records of genealogies. In the appendix will be found an ancestor chart which will be helpful. The blank booklet called OUR FAMILY HISTORY by Helen Strain Shannon of Kansas City is excellent for recording family history. It can be obtained from the Baptist Book Store, 1019 Grand Ave., Kansas City, Mo.



5. Check this HISTORY OF CONCORDIA to see if you can enlarge on any of the facts. Report to the author what you can add. He will make these and any facts he finds available in the libraries of the community.
6. It is hoped that this history will furnish the seed for more writing about Concordia. We have an interesting history. There is material here for the poet, the novelist, the dramatist, and the short story writer.
7. Let interested persons look into topics for further research. The whole area has not been covered. Further research should be done on old St. Louis Street as it was in 1862. Abstracts to titles of property along this street could be searched, and a lengthy and worthwhile paper on the neglected cemeteries of Freedom Township would make a nice piece of research. Complete military rosters of the soldiers in each war would be another task.
8. Let more people join the LAFAYETTE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY. Its purpose is to arouse interest in the history of this county. At present there are about one hundred fifty members, eleven of whom come from Concordia. The undersigned is secretary of this society, and will gladly take your membership, or send your dollar to Mr. Leo Wollenman in Corder, the treasurer.
9. Churches and civic organizations should appoint historians, who would organize a file of all programs and news clippings about the organizations. These should be kept in a fireproof vault.
10. John Ryland Wallace, our County Historical Society's historian, urges all auctioneers to be on the watch for old books and records that may appear on sales and call them to the attention of the society.
11. Help your public library build up a collection of historical materials. Remember that history is made today also, and the things that happen today will be of interest to people a hundred years from now.

It has been a very rewarding experience for the author to make many acquaintances and renew old friendships in this labor of love. Concordia is a congenial and friendly town. It is a good place in which to live.

The name of Concordia means "harmony." As each one strives to live up to that name, and as each one sees the good in his neighbor and emphasizes the qualities of charity, and above all implores the blessings of the Heavenly Father upon this community, Concordia will continue to look to the future with confidence.

Harry R. Voigt

Librarian at St. Paul's College  
September 1, 1960

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## CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

- 1819 First settlement in what is now Lafayette County.
- 1820 Missouri becomes a state. Nov. 16 Legislature creates Lillard County, part of which was later made into Lafayette County.
- 1822 First session of county court at Mt. Vernon (on Tabo Creek  $\frac{3}{4}$  mi. from Missouri River).
- 1830 Freedom Township was organized.
- 1838 Land Grant to Charles Womack, Friedrich Dierking, Friedrich Frerking, and Friedrich Thieman in Freedom Township.
- 1840 First baptism in St. Paul's Lutheran Congregation on May 1: Marie Dorothea Louise Oetting, born Feb. 13, 1840.
- 1844 Log cabin church built by St. Paul's Congregation. Their first church.
- 1845 Henry D. Bruns Land Grant.
- 1847 First road built in what is now Freedom Township.
- 1851 German Baptist Church organized.
- 1851 On July 30 Post Office established at Cook's Store.. Mordecai M. Cook, Postmaster.
- 1856 Henry Flandermeyer and Lewis Bergman erect a grist mill "before 1856", costing about \$3000.00.
- 1858 Fredrick Henricks starts a blacksmith shop.
- 1859 St. Paul's Lutheran Congregation builds new brick church north of town.
- 1859 Henry and August Brockhoff build a 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  story store 25 x 40 ft. on St. Louis Street.
- 1859 April 27 Mrs. Cristena Cook becomes post mistress of Cook's Store.
- 1860 Freedom Township surveyed by Franklin Mock.  
First hotel built and conducted by Henry Meinecke on corner of St. Louis and Boggs (8th). (Year unknown).
- 1860 On Jubilate Sunday F. Julius Biltz was installed as pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Congregation. He had previously served in Cumberland, Maryland.
- 1861 General Price brings war to Lafayette County.
- 1862 Oct. 5 Bushwhacker raid at Vogt's baptism. Three shot to death; three more seriously wounded. All members of St. Paul's Church.
- 1862 Baptists build church south of town.
- 1863 July 13 four young men shot and killed by 35 bushwhackers who came from across Davis Creek. Raid was supposedly led by W. T. Anderson (Bloody Bill)
- 1864 Oct. 10 twenty-four (or twenty-six) men of Concordia killed in fight with 120 or more bushwhackers west of Holy Cross Lutheran Church near Emma.
- 1864 Dec. 26 Rev. Biltz organizes Holy Cross Church at Emma with 7 families.



- 1865 Emma, under Biltz's guidance, erects log cabin to serve as church and school.
- 1865 May 17 name of Concordia approved by Post Master General, William Dennison, and Rev. Julius Biltz was appointed post master.  
Hackman and Detert build a store (year unknown).
- 1868 Joint stock company of six men survey and lay out town plat.
- 1870 Post Office established in city limits. August Hackman, post master.
- 1871 Railroad completed through Concordia.
- 1872 Methodists hold first religious service in town.
- 1872 Evangelical Bethel Church organized.
- 1872-1874 Buiding boom due to railroad.
- 1873 April 11 Savings Bank organized. Its first home was on southwest corner of Main and Boggs.
- 1873 German Baptists build church in Concordia.
- 1874 Dr. Rush, a pyromaniac, hanged.
- 1874 First public school built, a brick building costing \$1300. Wm. F. Walkenhorst taught 50 pupils the first term at \$50 per month.
- 1875 Grasshopper plague.
- 1877 The Town of Concordia is incorporated.
- 1878 Savings Bank robbed of \$4169.00.
- 1880 Missouri THALBOTE (newspaper) moved from Lexington to Concordia.
- 1880 Concordia Library Society organized. Eighteen members.
- 1880 Population U. S. Census showed 391 people in Cncordia.
- 1881 Dr. F. L. Flanders, the first physician in town, moves to Kansas City.
- 1881 Another population count taken, showing 550 inhabitants.
- 1881 CONCORDIA MUSIKCHOR (band) organized. Teacher W. Wilk, director.
- 1883 Rev. Andrew Baepler called as first instructor of St. Paul's College.
- 1883 Special census on July 2 shows that Concordia has 576 inhabitants.
- 1884 Jan. 3 Rev. Baepler begins instructions at St. Paul's College with three students.
- 1884 Evangelical and Reformed Church built. Town donates clock for steeple. Clock tolled the hours faithfully till 1960.
- 1886 Board of Health Ordinance.
- 1888 Ordinance to establish a calaboose on lots 1 and 2 of block H.
- 1891 Farmers Bank organized.
- 1891 Fire wipes out half of business district on Main Street, north of 8th.
- 1891 Concordia Creamery Co. organized.

- 1893 The newspaper, CONCORDIAN, was established. THALBOTE moved to Higginsville.
- 1898 Wooden water tank built; water mains laid down Main, 2nd. to 10th. streets. Hose cart bought to fight fires.
- 1899 Water meters installed.
- 1901 Farmers Bank organized with capital of \$30,000..
- 1901 First long distance telephone in Concordia. One phone in Braecklein's Drug Store.
- 1903 Ordinance No. 115 grants franchise to telephone company.
- 1905 In May St. Paul's Lutheran Congregation dedicates new church on Main St.
- 1907 A corporation of 20 men provide South Park for the town.
- 1908 Town grants Louis Runge and Edwin M. Runge a franchise to operate "Electric Works" on Sept. 21, 1908.
- 1909 Railroad siding built across Gordon and Bismark streets to the Concordia Mill and Elevator Co.
- 1909 Another fire in business district destroys several stores.
- 1912 Revised Ordinances of the City of Concordia published.
- 1912 Topsy Oetting opens restaurant and pool hall. Operates restaurant to 1953; pool hall till 1960.
- 1916 City Hall built on 6th St., with jail underneath.
- 1917 June 7 first oiling of streets. Same day men registered for draft.
- 1918 Influenza epidemic.
- 1919 Typhoid epidemic.
- 1920 Ed. H. Lohman Post of American Legion organized.
- 1922 Steel water tank of 75,000 gallon capacity built next to city hall.
- 1924 War Memorial statue unveiled in Central Park.
- 1925 East and west concrete slab highway finished through Concordia. (State No. 2; later U. S. 40).
- 1925 St. Paul's College dedicates Kaepfel Gymnasium and Biltz Hall.
- 1926 Town buys the first motorized fire truck.
- 1927 The Savings Bank closed and reorganized.
- 1929 Farmers Bank and Savings Bank consolidate.
- 1931 The consolidated Farmers Bank failed.
- 1931 Natural gas piped into Concordia.
- 1932 End of passenger train service on Lexington Branch.
- 1932 July, Concordia Bank opens.
- 1936 WPA builds sewers (finished 1940).
- 1947 Civic Club buys South Park from corporation.
- 1951 New Highway "slab" north of the old one is completed.
- 1953 Baepfer Hall (administration building) and Brust Hall (dormitory) built at St. Paul's College.
- 1958 June 13, tornado damages St. Paul's Lutheran Church.
- 1959 Bond issue voted for new water system.
- 1959 Dial telephone system installed.



- 1959 Weiss Gymnasium and Moeller Hall built at St. Paul's College.  
 1960 June 2, Dr. Barbara Moore, transcontinental walker, was guest of our city.  
 1960 Evangelical and Reformed Congregation builds new church.  
 1960 City adds new 400,000 gallon water tank.

## THE BEGINNING

Who were the first people to set foot on the land that now is encircled by the city limits of Concordia? That cannot definitely be determined. It can be assumed that Indians might have wandered across this place in their search for game, but there is no evidence that this site was frequented by them.

When we ask who were the first white people in Lafayette County, Young's History answers that Gilead Rupe settled two and a half miles south of the site of Lexington either in 1815 or 1819 and Dr. Buck built the first house in Lexington in 1822 or 1823. Circuit court was held there March 17, 1823.

In the "Concordian" of February 18, 1915 we read the following:

History tells that the Louisiana Territory was bought from France in 1803, and just the other day we learned that the place where Concordia is now located, or partly located, was sold by the United States to Allen Wormack Nov. 3, 1837; Allen Wormack transferred it to Abner Evans in Oct. 1840; from Abner A. Evans it came to R. T. Evans in 1842; Robert T. Evans sold it to H. Stuenkel in 1845. H. Stuenkel finally conveyed (sic) the land in 1871. Louis Stuenkel of near this city, a son of Conrad Stuenkel, sold 40 acres on part of which the St. Paul's College now stands.

Tradition and church histories say that the first German who ventured into this territory was Heinrich Dierking, known to the older generations as "Troester" Dierking. He settled either in 1838 or 1839 near the present site of Concordia. St. Paul's Congregation's Ninetieth Anniversary History says:

The fertile prairies of Lafayette County and the rich, well-wooded creek bottoms pleased this German pioneer. His letters to his kin in Hanover soon brought them to his neighborhood. All of them came to seek improvement of economic conditions.

Young (p. 52) says that Conrad Stuenkel took up land in Freedom Township in 1840 and 1847 "according to the original entry in the recorder's office." A descendent of his, Alvin Stuenkel, provided the writer with a short biography written by Conrad Stuenkel himself in German. It follows in translation:

Conrad Diderich Friderich Stuenkel was born Dec. 18, 1811 in Mettel Kirch Spiels Basse Amts Neustadt Konigreich Hannover. There was I raised by my parents and sent to church and school till I was 14 years old. Then off and on I was home or away till I was 16 years old. Then I went to Basse where I learned the trade of a blacksmith till I was 19 yr. old. Then I volunteered in the 6th Cavalry Regiment and served till 1837.

The 11th of August I journeyed to Hamburg and took ship for the United States and landed in New York Sept. 29, 1837. I stayed there till March 4, 1838. After that I went to St. Louis and stayed six weeks. Then from St. Louis I went on to the state of Illinois where I stayed till 1840. After that I went back to St. Louis where I became acquainted with Catherine Marie Dorateae Gerberding born in Eoenhen (?) and raised in Meize. We were married Feb. 15, 1840 (My wife was born July 26, 1815.) Then we journeyed to . . . Mosury (Missouri?) where we arrived on March 7, 1840. On the 10th of January, 1841 the Heavenly Father granted us the gift of a daughter whom we named Caroline and the Heavenly Father took her again in death Feb. 2, 1841.

In a short biography in the 1881 "History of Lafayette County" (p. 576) we read that he was elected judge of the county court for a term of six years. It is noteworthy that this modest God-fearing man, in his own writing which he left for posterity, said nothing of his accomplishments or his worldly gains but in simple faith accepted the dispensations of the Lord. His farm joined the city of Concordia on the north.

From 1840 to 1860 the early settlers prospered even though it was hard to wrest a living from the tough prairie land. Their first houses were log houses. Timber was plentiful along the creek bottom. We can imagine them helping each other in the usual ways that pioneers were forced to help each other or perish. The winter supply of food had to be salted away. New Prairie land had to be broken with crude plows pulled by oxen. We can assume that some of them trapped wild animals for their pelts which brought ready cash. Because of a lack of money, each household supplied all the needs it could by home manufacture. Sheep were raised for the wool they provided, from which women spun yarn and wove cloth. Wheat had a ready market, and they copied their English neighbors in raising hemp, which also had a ready cash market at the river ports.

Richard Lindemann, student of history and graduate of St. Paul's College (Class 1933) found the following description of the landscape in a paper (name and dates unknown):

The line of demarcation between the prairie and the timber was sharply defined. Prairie fires every spring burned the dry grass to the edge of the timber. All the timber regions and all creeks were covered with a heavy undergrowth of green peavines and weeds ten feet high, so dense that the ground never froze in winter. The top of the vines were killed by frost and fell over in mat. Underneath, the vines continued green all winter long and thus stopped the prairie fire. The soil was loose and held water like a sponge. Rain water did not rush down the hills but was held by the grass, roots and soil. Creeks were bank full.

Many of the original German settlers bought land directly from the government for a dollar and a quarter or less an acre, and then they proceeded to buy more land from their English-speaking neighbors. According to Lindemann, in 1834 there were thirty taxable people in Freedom Township.



Lindemann also found the names of the following persons as "early inhabitants of the Town of Freedom": Dr. Davis, Nat and Wm. Davis, David Mock, Jacob Phillip, George and Dave Welborn, Brooks Wellington, John Walker, James Atterberry, Don Greenwood, Joe Johnson, and Noah Rigg.

Jackson Patrick came very early (1830), had many slaves and bloodhounds. Fletcher Patrick, Miles Patrick, and Preston Patrick, all brothers, came in from Kentucky. Miles Patrick sold a slave woman to pioneer Francis H. Walkenhorst for ten dollars. It seems that the Patricks moved elsewhere when the thick German immigration started.

History records the grasshopper plague of 1875: "Three acres of corn were eaten up in three hours; tobacco plants also. The roadbed was covered in places to a foot in depth. Train wheels stopped on grasshopper grease."

In 1826 Tom and Chris Mulkey settled a short piece west of the spot that later became Cook's Store, and it is said that one morning Chris killed five deer before sunrise. Bears, panthers, elk, and wolves were plentiful. "A panther killed a hog weighing 150 lbs. and covered it with grass." (1881 History p. 419).

While this little community in the southeastern part of Lafayette County was keeping to itself and prospering in its own small way, the towns along the river front. Waverly, Dover, Lexington, and Wellington were booming ports on the Missouri River. This was the day of the river steamboats and wagon trains on the Santa Fe Trail sixteen miles to the north. Somehow it seems that the hard-working German farmer of Freedom Township was content to build his home, enlarge his holdings, and raise a family. A few of them did take off for the gold fields in 1849 but most of them had found what they had wanted, namely, good land and plenty of it, and they were content to work with their own hands to improve it.

The town of "Freedom" was laid out in 1860 by Franklin Mock on Section 9, township 48, range 25, and the plat was put on record. It had two stores, a gristmill, a blacksmith shop, a Christian Church, and several houses. When the railroad came (1871), the business enterprises moved three miles north to Aullville, and Freedom passed out of existence. (1881 History p. 429).

The first business in Concordia was that of a gristmill built by Henry Flandermeyer and Lewis Bergmann, costing \$3,000 (1881 History p. 423). This burned in 1859. The next building erected was a blacksmith shop, built and operated by Fredrich Henricks in 1858. During the same year Heinrich and August Brockhoff put up the first dry goods store, consisting of a frame building 25 x 40 feet and one and a half stories high. Hackman and Detert built the second general merchandise store. Henry Meinecke put up and operated the first hotel on what is now the corner of St. Louis and Boggs (8th) streets. These were the principal houses built upon the town site before the town was organized. Mrs. Biltz in her letter of



Sept. 4, 1861, speaks of two stores, namely, Brockhoffs and Moellers .

This first settlement was about three fourths of a mile south of the St. Paul's Lutheran Church and about two and a half miles east of Cook's Store.

**COOK'S STORE AND THE STAGE COACH LINE.** A stage coach pulled by four horses came twice a week over the old stage road built in 1847 between Sedalia (or Georgetown) and Lexington and continued its service to about 1875. Sedalia for a while was the western terminus of the railroad and Lexington was an important river town. It seems that this road was state maintained and it also seems that there was a bridge over Blackwater (a bridge burned during the Civil War). Reports vary, but it seems that the coach went up one day and came back the next and probably didn't make more than two trips each way during the week. About every twelve miles there was a relay station where fresh horses were hitched up. One of these relay stations was Cook's Store, about two and a half miles west of St. Louis street (In 1960 the Gust Holsten farm). The road ran through Dunksburg and crossed Davis Creek at Marriot's Ford, near what later became Aullville. The coach carried mail and presumably also passengers. The coming of the coach was announced by the driver blowing a large tin horn. It seems that as early as 1843 there was also a road leading from Marriot's Ford south through the town of Freedom. (Lindemann from his studies was able to construct a map which he gave to the writer).

Mordacai M. Cook was born in Kentucky in the year 1817. In 1850 he erected his store on the stage coach road. It seems that shortly thereafter he married a daughter of David Mock, who lived in the town of Freedom, which was three miles to the west. At his store July 30, 1851 a United States Post Office came into being and was recorded in Washington, D. C. as "Cook's Store." This place continued as the U.S. Post Office of this community until Rev. Julius Biltz took it over in Concordia May 17, 1865. It seems that Mr. Cook wanted to call his place "Castle" but the official records call it "Cook's Store." In 1867 he sold out to a Mr. Rane and went to Brownsville (Sweet Springs) in Saline County. He later returned and became the justice of peace in Aullville. (1881 History p. 584).

Post Office information was obtained by present postmaster, Elmer Sagehorn from Postmaster General's office in Washington, D. C.

**EARLY SETTLERS.** The 1881 "History of Lafayette County", Missouri, gives many biographies of prominent people who settled in Freedom township. Following had Concordia addresses: Dr. F. Braecklein (b. 1835), Henry Thieman (b. 1843), J. Kroencke (b. 1841), Dr. E. A. Taylor (b. 1834), Emil F. Ninas (b. 1842) Dr. A. P. Reed (b. 1844), Lewis A. Oetting (b. 1858), Albert Althoff (b. 1845), H. F. Meinecke (b. 1856), J. H. Powell (b. 1845), J. W. Meyer (b. 1855), D. H. Smith (b. 1859), Gustav Wahrenbrock (b.



1849), Rev. F. J. Biltz (b. 1825), Conrad Stunkle (b. 1811), Rev. John Meyer (b. 1832), W. F. Walkenhorst (b. 1844), John D. Kuester (b. 1820), Frederick Cook (b. 1846), Henry Deuchler (b. 1849), Miss Lucy Johnson, Rev. W. Gaertner (b. 1846), John S. Klingenberg (b. 1850), C. W. Kemmerly (b. 1848), C. P. Uphaus (b. 1824), William Rowe (b. 1808), Lewis S. Stout (b. 1835), William B. Taggart (b. 1846), William Hillans (b. 1846), John Buttner (b. 1831), Henry Koppenbrink (b. 1845), John Walkenhorst (b. 1848), Rev. C. Schoemaker (b. 1818), H. C. Bruns (b. 1848), Rev. H. P. Wille (b. 1843), Henry Wehrs (b. 1841), Henry Miller, Esq. (b. 1833), A. H. Dankenbring (b. 1845), Henry Dierking (b. 1849), Ferdinand Erdman (b. 1833), Fritz Strosberg (b. 1834), John Kresse (b. 1854).

It is interesting to note that few of the German names have been anglicised. The name Stunkle dropped the umlaut. Schoemaker could originally have been Schumacher. The early emigrants who settled in the Carolinas and other coastal states before the Revolutionary War quickly anglicised their names; Schmidt became Smith, Rauch became Rowe or Smoke, Klein became Cline, Koch became Cook. It is said that the English magistrates in regarding names on legal papers transcribed them into the anglicised form, and in so doing they did future generations of English speaking people a favor.

Professor Andrew Baepler was born in Baltimore, Maryland, July 28, 1850, and was the son of Henry and Catherine Baepler, natives of Germany. He served congregations in Missouri, Arkansas, Alabama, and Texas as pastor, and was the first instructor at St. Paul's College. His first wife was Josephine Axe of Dallas, Tex. children of this marriage were Carl and Otto. After her death he married Sophia Birkner of Brooklyn, N. Y., and this union was blessed with the following children: Louise, Edwin, Hugo, Walter, and Frederick.

George Frederick Brackmann, born in Hanover, Germany November 25, 1830 came to this vicinity in 1841. In 1855 he married Dora Meinecke. In the year of his marriage he raised two and one tons of hemp on five acres which he sold to Joe Shelby at Waverly at one hundred fifteen dollars per ton. During the Civil War Mr. Brackmann served four months in the militia, and on October 10, 1864, guerrillas looted and burned his home. On this day also his sixteen-year old son, William, was shot and killed by bushwhackers.

August E. Bruns born in Lafayette Co. January 16, 1852, opened a saddle and harness shop in Concordia in 1872, and continued it for 43 years. His handmade harness had a reputation hundreds of miles around. In 1875 he married Louise Kueck and this marriage was blessed with the following children: Henry, deceased; Flora, wife of Otto Roepe; Eleanora, wife of Teacher J. Wukasch; Rosa, wife of Rev. R. Jesse; Ida, Laura, and Louise. Mr. Bruns' grandfather gave one acre of ground for the old brick Lutheran church at the north edge of town.

H. C. Bruns was born in Lafayette County February 8, 1848. In 1871 he was married to Wilhelmina Lentz, a native of Germany. By 1881 they had three children, Mary, Alvine, and Ida. During the Civil War he belonged to the home guards in Capt. Pepper's Company and was one of the party that was attacked by the bushwhackers in their raid of October 10, 1864. He escaped by dismounting and crawling under a corn crib.

John J. Bredehoeft, Jr. was born in Hanover, Germany September 19, 1867 and in 1884 came to America. In 1888 he was united in marriage to Laura Walkenhorst, daughter of Otto Walkenhorst, the old justice of peace at Concordia. Their children are Hugo and Olga. Mr. Bredehoeft worked in the **Thalbote** office and also in the **Concordian** office. He bought the **Concordian** in March 1896. Besides editing the home town paper, he also conducted the band.

Henry Ficken was born in Hanover, Germany, in 1843. He was for many years cashier of the Savings Bank, served as mayor of the town and also served on the school board.

Henry Henning was born in Freedom Township October 3, 1861, the son of Charles and Mary Henning, both of whom were born in Germany. Henry was known in this community for the fine German coach horses he raised on his farm. In 1884 he was married to Maggie Brandt, daughter of Claus and Allie (Schroeder) Brandt. Their marriage was blessed with the following thirteen children all of which were living in 1910: Henry, August, Edward, Leonard, John, Louis, Fred, Teddy, Ralph, Millie, Minnie, Allie, and Sophia.

Thees Hinck, born 1858 in Germany, came to America 1875, followed by his brother Claus in 1879. In 1880 Thees married Mary Becker, the daughter of Henry and Geshe (Dittmere) Becker. The 1881 History records that they had the following children: Anna, John, a Lutheran minister, Henry, Albert, August, Lena, William, Bertha and Theodore. (Young p. 831).

CLAUS HOLSTEN 1839-1916. In the spring of 1858 at the age of 18 years Claus Holsten came to America from Hanover Germany and chose Freedom Township for his home. Here he "broke hemp" and farmed. When the Civil War broke out, he went with about sixty others from the Concordia neighborhood to Boonville during the latter part of June 1861 to enlist in the U. S. Army. General Nathaniel Lyon was in command of the army from St. Louis. The General defeated the Confederates at Boonville. At Boonville the boys were organized into a company with Fred W. Becker and in September 1861 were sent to Lexington to become part of Col. Mulligan's force, which was forced to surrender after a three days' battle. Mr. Holsten reinlisted in February 1862 and became a member of Co. K, 3th Regiment, Mo. S. M. and served until the end of the war. He took part in the battles at Independence, Jefferson City, Blue Mills, Westport, and Newtonis.

In May 1867 he married Miss Dorothea Kuecker, who in 1901, preceded him in death. The union was blessed with sev-



en children, one of whom died in infancy. Those living at the time of Mr. Holsten's death were: George J.; Martin; Mrs. Elsie Brackman; Christine, wife of John Cordes; William; Martha, Mrs. Ed Stuenkel, and Elise, all of near Concordia, and twenty-one grandchildren. (Contributed by Jul. Holsten, a grandson).

John S. Klingenberg, born December 26, 1850 near Concordia, was the son of Herman and Katharine (Bruyenes) Klingenberg and was in the elevator business. In 1909 he shipped 114 cars of grain, mainly wheat and thirty cars of flour and feed. He was elected to the county court and was re-elected three times. In 1873 he married Mathilda Koenig. Their children: Albert, George, a partner with his father in the elevator; Jesse and Adelia.

J. Kroencke was born in Hanover, Germany December 4, 1851 and came to the United States when he was thirteen years old. He lived in Benton County until the Civil War, when he enlisted in the Home Guards under Col. Cook, Company B. His first wife was Sophie Brockman (died 1870) and his second wife was Sophia Frerking. In 1869 he opened a dry goods store in Concordia, "there being only one other in the place." He was vice-president of the Savings Bank and was a member of the first board of trustees of the town.

John P. Lohofener, born February 11, 1845 in Prussia, came to the United States in 1865 and to Concordia in 1869. The next year he started a store and was in the store business, except for short intervals, for 40 years.

John H. Powell was born in Findlay, Ohio, October 26, 1845. He was married at Concordia to Fannie L. Smith. The children of this marriage were: Lillian, Smith, Gertrude, Mabel, Irvin, Annetta, and Lawrence. Mr. Powell was the first depot agent in Concordia, and he was succeeded by his son, Lawrence.

Henry W. Thieman was born in Hanover, Germany, October 29, 1843. In 1845 he came with his family to the United States, coming directly to Lafayette County. In 1870 he was married to Mary Rihkop. A son, Warner, is still living in 1960. In 1861 Henry W. enlisted in the Horse Guards, Col. Grover's Regt., Capt Becker's Company. He was captured in the first battle of Lexington and paroled. In 1864 he reenlisted in the 45th Mo. Vol. Infantry, under Col. Wear and mustered out in 1865. In 1866 he was elected constable of Freedom Township and served two years. In 1870 he served as assistant U. S. Marshal, taking the census of Freedom, Davis and Washington townships. In the fall of the same year he was elected justice of the peace. He was also president of the Savings Bank.

John H. Walkenhorst was born in Lafayette County April 24, 1848. He was married to Amelia Stoll, a native of Germany, in 1873. They had three children (1881), namely: Julius W., John M., and Horace. In 1880 he raised 700 bushels of wheat on thirty acres two miles southwest of Concordia.

W. F. Walkenhorst was born in Lafayette County August 23, 1844. In 1861 he enlisted in Company C enrolled in the state militia, Major Henry Neill commanding. In 1862 he reenlisted in Co. B., M.S.M., 7th regiment, commanded by Col. Phillips. He entered as private and was promoted to first corporal and then to bugler. He was engaged in the following battles: Lexington, Independence, Blues, Westport, Mines Creek and Marshall. In 1870 he was married to Hannah Kuester. They had six children, four of whom were living in 1881. Isabella, Emma, Alberta, and Ida.

Julius Vogt, Jr., was born in Concordia, August 30, 1862, son of Julius and Maria (Noerper) Vogt, both natives of Germany. His father, a blacksmith, came to America in 1852 and spent fifty years at the forge in Concordia. In 1878 father and son started a hardware shop and in 1892 Julius, Jr., became owner. He was president of the Concordia Milling Co. for three years, secretary of the Concordia Mutual Fire Insurance Co., and postmaster from 1892 to 1896. In 1884 Mr. Vogt was married to Magdalena Baepler, the daughter of Henry and Katherine Baepler. This marriage was blessed with the following children: Irene, George, Clara, Gustave, Esther, and Therese.

Adolph Runge showed the writer some tax receipts of Henry D. Bruns of the early days that are interesting. For 140 acres Mr. Bruns paid a total of \$4.85 county and state taxes in 1853; the next year the tax was \$7.55 on the same acreage. On a three hundred acre piece of land in 1856 he paid \$12.36; and in 1860 on the same acreage the tax was \$16.80.

In the presidential election of 1860, two hundred fourteen people of Freedom Township voted, and only eleven (11) of them voted for Lincoln.

The German immigrant of the mid-nineteenth century was extremely proud of his German background. The only parallel we have to that is the Missouri Virginians, who are fanatically proud of their Virginia background. This is a kind of parochialism or sectionalism that has done much harm. It is said that when some people bragged to Will Rogers that their ancestors had come over on the Mayflower, he, who was part American Indian, replied, "Yes, and my ancestors were standing on the shore waiting for them."

The German language question was fought out in the Lutheran, the Evangelical-Reformed, the Baptist, and the Methodist Churches. The Lutherans held on to it the longest of all. The story goes that some people were arguing about which language was the correct one to use in worship services, and one person who was stumping for the German language came up with what he thought was a trump of an argument, saying, "Didn't God say in the Bible, 'Adam, wo bist du?'" Many oldtimers bragged about the "Mutter-sprache" when they had not even read a single one of the great masters of German literature, and their fanatical adherence to their idealized image kept their children from the chance of



delving into the great works of the English and American writers.

Does this generation do well to throw out the German language altogether and ask for French to be taught in the local high school? Why must we ride the swinging pendulum of popular opinion from one zenith to another? We can well be proud of our German heritage provided we truly use it to benefit others.

These early settlers were hardy people. They had few of the comforts we have today, and yet we today are enjoying what we have because of them. The Indian was no problem for them, but they had other problems. The tough prairie sod with man-high grass had to be made into farmland. This was no easy task. Then there was the problem of drainage. Before the Davis drainage ditch was made about 1910, other methods of drainage were tried. Mr. Ed. M. Runge tells that as a boy in the Hamm School, their teacher let them go to the window to see a huge drainage plow pass by pulled by forty yoke (80) of oxen by which the farmers tried to drain the Davis Bottoms.

Had these forebears settled here at any other time than the time of strife in the Civil War period, they might have become integrated more quickly: their history might have been different. Having hostile neighbors, they became clannish. They associated with the English speaking people in so far as they were forced to do so in their business, but they never felt that they had the same ideals. The German farmer and business man believed in the God-given command of working hard with his own hands. Sometimes he went too far in that direction, attributing all success to his own efforts. He had learned from the immigrants who had come to the United States from Germany two hundred years before him, that the person who wished to get ahead by the labor of his own hands, could not compete with slave labor. Most of the German immigrants of the mid-nineteenth century had settled in the north, in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan, but the Lafayette County immigrant was living in a county that in 1860 had six thousand slaves, which was more than any other county in the State of Missouri.

We sometimes wonder why this German settlement did not capitalize on its German customs, abilities, and industries like the Germans of some other regions did. The Amana Colony in Iowa is renowned for its woolens, its furniture, and its refrigerators. The settlement at Herman, Missouri, is known far and wide for its Maifest. The Michigan Germans near Frankenmuth have a famous restaurant specializing in German cooking which attracts crowds from a hundred miles around. It is possible that if our fathers not settled in this strife-stricken area, their history might have been different.

We honor these people who came before us, who tamed the wild prairie into well-drained and fenced farm land, who established business enterprises, who built churches and schools. They

had faith in God, they performed great deeds. Yet if history is to teach us anything, it is to teach us how to benefit from their mistakes. Therefore, any analysis of the progress of our ancestors is not meant to detract from their honor; its purpose is to alert us to the fact that we also are humans, who in trying to solve our immediate problems may fail to look ahead and plan well for the future. Viewing the accomplishments of the past generation should give us courage to face the future. In facing a dangerous and uncertain future, they kept their faith, they used the resources they had in the best way they knew how, and they, with God's help, survived and prospered. Their resources were the soil, the timber, the water, and the strength of their bodies and their minds. Our resources, thanks to them and a kind Providence, are much greater. To a large extent the mind of man has replaced the brawn of a former day. We are living in a more complex world, a world where the neglect of what Jaques Barzun calls "the house of intellect," may spell defeat quicker than the early frontiersman's neglect of the cleaning of his weapon.

Young's History describes the character of the Lafayette County Germans well in the following words:

There is little need for the crusaders of race suicide to preach to our rural German citizens. Strong, healthy, and thrifty, these hardy men acquire in their lifetime property enough for the support of large families and live almost the lives of patriarchs, surrounded by their children. Their families are such as would satisfy Roosevelt in size, their numbers are not decreasing, and certainly there are no other citizens of this country whose increase is more desirable, for there are none better than those of German descent. (Young p. 807)

## FRANZ JULIUS BILTZ 1825 - 1908

Pastor Franz Julius Biltz was born July 24, 1825, in Mittel-Frohna, Konigreich Sachsen, Germany. His mother died when Franz was two, and his father died when Franz was twelve. His half-sister, Louise Volker (later Mrs. Adolph Bergt) took him along to America the following year. His guardian tried to stop him from going and even notified the police of his disappearance. But he successfully hid out until sailing time and got aboard ship without being discovered. They sailed on the good ship "Olbers" with Pastor Martin Stephan and Otto Herman Walther, and landed at New Orleans and eventually came to the Perry County settlement in the southeastern part of Missouri.

In 1839 this group of settlers opened a ministerial preparatory school in a log cabin in Altenburg, a few miles away from Frohna where he had settled. So it was natural that he became one of the first students. In 1847 he made a trip to Chicago to attend, as guest, a meeting of Lutherans who founded the Missouri Synod of the Lutheran Church.



In 1848 he graduated from the Lutheran Seminary in Altenburg and was given a call to a country congregation, not far away, in Cape Girardeau County. This settlement was then called Dissen (Post Office was called Apple Creek), and was later called by its present name of Friedheim. On March 12, 1848, he was ordained and installed into the holy ministry by pastors C. F. Gruber and G. H. Lober. On September 23, 1849, he married Marie v. Wurmb, the daughter of Theobald v. Wurmb, a former missionary to Africa. The records show that Marie, together with three other girls, had been a student at the log cabin seminary in Perry County. In 1854 he was called to a congregation in Cumberland, Maryland, a town of about seven thousand inhabitants. In one of his letters he remarks that employment was slack and the people were complaining. But, he adds, this might be God's way of showing mankind that we have no abiding habitation here on earth but should look to the life to come.

Much of his correspondence during these years was with a cousin in Germany who was trying to help him obtain his inheritance. It seems that the lawyer who had the matter in hand was subject to procrastination, but in the end Pastor Biltz was sent a complete and accurate accounting and received his share. We are told, however, by a report written by a later pastor of his hometown church in Germany, that, had young Biltz remained in Germany he would have fallen heir to a very large house and to a hosiery mill, for the Biltz family owned a hosiery mill and held very lucrative franchises for the sale of their products.

In May 1860, Rev. Biltz accepted a call to St. Paul's Congregation in Lafayette County, Missouri, near Cook's Store. His salary was to be \$300 a year, plus free dwelling and free firewood. For forty-one years he labored here in the vineyard of the Lord, keeping his flock together and giving them comfort and hope in the midst of their trials and tribulations during the Civil War. In his home, in 1865, he took over the job of postmaster and named his post office "Concordia", the name of his eldest sister who had died before he was born.

Through his determined spirit under God's divine guidance, he founded congregations in Emma, Alma, Norborne, and Independence, Missouri, and established St. Paul's College in Concordia. For seventeen years, 1875-1891, he was president of the Western District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. At that time the Western District extended from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean.

On July 10, 1891, his dear wife, with whom he had lived for forty-one years, was called to her heavenly home.

On February 27, 1898, St. Paul's Congregation celebrated his fiftieth anniversary in the holy ministry in a most festive manner, as all who have read the booklet published on the occasion will testify.

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In the congregation meeting of September, 1901, Pastor Biltz resigned from the ministry. On November 19, 1908, His Heavenly Father called him home. Of the thirteen children born to Rev. and Mrs. Biltz, five outlived him, two sons and three daughters.

His grandson, Francis J. Biltz, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, was a guest at our centennial celebration.



CONCORDIA IN THE CIVIL WAR

## CONCORDIA IN THE CIVIL WAR

By Gilbert Knipmeyer\*

The first Germans to establish their homes in the Concordia area arrived about the year 1840. Although some German speaking residents may have settled in this community somewhat earlier, it was not until the beginning of the decade preceding the middle of last century that they came in increasing numbers to this section of western Missouri.

A little cross-roads store and stage station provided trading and travelling facilities as well as a postoffice. The place was called Cook's Store and was situated about two miles west of the present site of Concordia. 1.

At the close of the war the postoffice had been transferred to the German settlement and called Concordia. It was so named by the Reverend F. J. Biltz, spiritual leader and a man of great ability and influence among the Germans in other affairs as well. His own residence, for example, served as the office for the mails, and he became the first postmaster of the village. The name Concordia was given in gratitude for the peace that had finally come to the settlement after the losses and misery of four years of Civil War.

When Missouri joined the Union in 1821 and became the twenty-third state, it experienced a rapid settlement of people from the older states of the south and east. The largest numbers came from Kentucky, Virginia, Tennessee, and other slave-holding states. Many of the settlers brought their slaves with them and they generally established their homes on the fertile lands of the counties bordering the Missouri River as far west as the Kansas line. Many more without slaves of their own also made homes on the virgin soils of the area and likewise believed that slavery was the proper condition of the Negro. Even those who had come from the states of the north were not always hostile to the circumstances in which the black man was placed at the same time maintaining a strong attachment to the Union.

By 1860, Lafayette County contained a greater number of slaves than any other in the state. It ranked fourth in population, exceeded only by the counties of St. Louis, Buchanan, Jackson, in the order named. Among the cities, Lexington, also ranked fourth, its population one hundred years ago being very nearly the same as today. The total for the county numbered 20,098, of which 13,724 were counted as free white (some free Negroes were included). The remainder, 6,374, or almost one-third of the inhabitants of the county, were Negro and slave. 2

\*Editorial Note: Mr. Knipmeyer, formerly of Alma, Mo., is the grandson of Gustave Wahrenbrock, who was killed by bushwhackers on October 10, 1861. At present he is Archivist in the office of the Adjutant-General in Jefferson City. Through many years of study of the war records in his charge, he has become an authority in the field in which he writes.

1. Foundation stones on the site of old Cook's Store may still be observed among the buildings on the farm of Mr. Gus Holsten, formerly the Ernest Wahrenbrock farm.

2. Missouri Historical Review, Vol. 35 (January, 1941) p. 234.



The border troubles of the 1850's had sharply divided the pro-slavery and anti-slavery groups then resident in the Territory of Kansas and western Missouri. The enmity between the two sides was far more advanced than elsewhere in the country when the bombardment of Fort Sumter in April, 1861, opened the War Between the States. The Germans of Concordia were among the groups outstanding for their opposition to slavery and their loyalty to the Union was well known. Surrounded by so many of opposing views, the hostility toward them was accentuated by strange and foreign ways of life as well as language that multiplied the difficulties of understanding and reconciliation.

Some of the earliest and most important battles of the war took place in western Missouri. The first occurred near Boonville, June 17, 1861. It was little more than a skirmish and a few lives were lost, but it was effective in furthering the control of the loyal forces over most of the State. Within a few months two more battles were fought; at Wilson's Creek (also called Oak Hills) near Springfield on August 10th, and the siege of Lexington, ending in surrender on September 20, 1861. In both contests the Southerners were victorious and this part of the State remained for a time under the control of their army.

The Germans of Concordia were situated at the cross-roads of the marching armies of both sides, indeed almost surrounded by them and in the midst of the region where these battles had been fought. A few residents of the settlement had been members of the Home Guards at Lexington when the garrison surrendered, but they were soon paroled and returned home. In other respects the late conflicts did not immediately affect the Concordians.

One of the officers at the Battle of Wilson's Creek was Colonel Edwin W. Price. The father had been a political leader of the State for many years and in war he had become the beloved commander of all Missourians who were fighting for the South. The son was likewise a popular and efficient officer. From Springfield Colonel Price marched with a few regiments to Marshall, Missouri to form the nucleus of a consolidated force made up of a large body of recruits that had crossed over the river from North Missouri. During the stay at Marshall, Colonel Price received orders to move his troops so as to form a junction with his father's large army then marching leisurely from Springfield towards Lexington. Taking a southwestwardly direction from Marshall, Colonel Price's troops marched by way of Concordia, arriving there early on the morning of August 22, 1861.

This was the first visit of the organized army of the enemy and was highly unwelcome, but the commander appeared to be kindly disposed towards the residents of Concordia and the results were not very disastrous. There were to be three more attacks on the community in the course of the war all carried out by guerrilla bands instead of the regular Southern army.



The correspondence of the Reverend F. J. Biltz provides a detailed first hand account of what happened in this and later raids.<sup>3</sup> On this occasion the pastor writes that he was standing on his porch when the troops approached. A company of the Home Guards had lately been called to Lexington, while others had been discharged from the service and returned home. The absence of an armed militia doubtless saved it from bloodshed and defeat as it would have been no match for the large force of the enemy. The pastor and several other men were taken prisoners while more were given time to conceal themselves. The officers gave assurances that the prisoners would be released and were urged to go about their business, exacting only the promise that none should take up arms against the South. The behavior of the men was rough, brutal and profane but there was no bloodshed. On the other hand the conduct of the officers was said to be formal and polite. As the main army departed small parties remained behind searching the homes and farms in the neighborhood for powder, fire-arms, horses, mules and livestock of other kinds. Merchandise from Brockhoff's store was also taken valued at two thousand dollars to be paid for, they said, when the South was victorious.

In this connection, the letter of Rev. Biltz makes reference to one Blume, not otherwise identified, who had been charged with improper conduct toward his English neighbors. When captured he was strung up several times till blue in the face but later released. Local tradition and reference to another incident is noted in a Higginsville paper years later concerning a resident of Saline County named Grissom, who was charged with having stolen some merchandise from a business man in Concordia. Some militia with Captain Frederick Bruns in command, in searching the Grissom home, found the articles. The wife of the accused declared they had been purchased in Sedalia, also in part received as a gift. The officer, nevertheless, insisted that the accused be taken to Lexington. On this errand the accused man was shot and his body was found in the Davis bottoms, presumably murdered by the militia. The lawless act further embittered the feelings of the non-Germans towards the people of Concordia.<sup>4</sup>

The career of Colonel Price in the Southern army soon came to an end. After promotion to the rank of brigadier-general late in the fall of 1861, he was commissioned by the Confederate authorities in Virginia to recruit men in the north of Missouri for the armies in the South. While carrying out this assignment, he was captured at Warsaw, Missouri, in February, 1862. He was taken to St. Louis as a prisoner and after a short time released on parole. Young Price then returned to his home in Chariton County to await exchange. Here he determined to quit the war, and when exchanged with a similar ranking Union officer (this was Gen. Benjamin

3. The letters of Rev. F. J. Biltz are printed in the Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly, St. Louis, Mo. Vol. VI, No. 2 (July, 1933) pp. 41-52.

4. Letter of Rev. Biltz and article cited above in C.H.I.Q., p. 49-50.



S. Prentiss, who had been taken prisoner at the battle of Shiloh and also a resident of north Missouri after the war) Price set out on his journey south to resign his commission. He stopped in Jefferson City to visit Governor Gamble and inform him of the decision. The Governor interceded with the Union authorities in St. Louis and Washington, where eventually a full pardon was issued to Brigadier-General Edwin W. Price, signed by President Lincoln. He returned to his home a loyal citizen, even assisting Union officers with information regarding disloyal men and guerrillas.<sup>5</sup>

After the expulsion of General Sterling Price's army from the State early in 1862 many of his followers refused to continue the fight and returned home. As members of the Missouri State Guard under Price, they had been soldiers of an organized army; at home they were without leaders or any organization. Most of the loyal Federal regiments had been drawn away from the State into the distant South. The Home Guards had disbanded late in the year and by the summer of 1862 many regiments of the Enrolled Missouri Militia had taken their place. Numerous were the men who now took the oath of allegiance and loyalty that had formerly served under Price. By the thousands these men then enlisted in the regiments of the EMM though the sympathies of many continued with the South and much disloyalty appeared in the Union Militia. The great activity of the guerrillas and other irregular troops at this time throughout the State, and particularly in western Missouri, attests the unreliability of many of the one hundred regiments of the EMM.

It was in the autumn of 1862, that the guerrillas made the first of their three attacks on Concordia. On October 5th, the date that has become memorable in the Civil War history of Concordia, there was a double baptism, double in more than one sense, since it was the twin sons of Mr. and Mrs. Julius Vogt who were baptized that evening in addition to another little girl, the daughter of the Kuecker family, earlier in the afternoon. It had been a rainy day and some delay had ensued before the ceremony at the Vogt home. Again the correspondence of the Biltz family gives a detailed account of the events that followed. Pastor Biltz relates that the baptismal party, after the ceremony, was sitting around the table partaking of the evening meal. Then there sounded a sudden and unexpected alarm. A mob of sixty shouting and cursing men surrounded the house, the children crying and the women, hysterical with fear, urging their men to flee. For most of the men it was too late, though one fled out of the door, was shot and wounded but managed to get away to a place of concealment. This was Henry Roepe, whose son survives at this date and lives in Concordia.

5. The defection of Edwin W. Price from the Southern army is not generally known, but a complete and authentic account is printed in the War of the Rebellion, Official Records, Series II, Vol. 1, pp. 642-643 and 742.



Eleven men were captured and taken prisoners, including Rev. Biltz. Plundering of the home and other houses by the mob commenced and continued for an hour or two. The prisoners were forced to mount horses and the plunder was loaded and carried away on horseback. The mob then rode away in the night with their prisoners. The first halt was on a spot now occupied by the railroad station where three were ordered to dismount, then taken aside and shot. These were Henry Brockhoff, Henry Hartman, and a third identified as the "Wagonmaker." Brockhoff was instantly killed; Hartman died five days later from his wounds. The third was slightly wounded and was able to make his way back. After a short halt the party galloped rapidly some distance farther, this time stopping on the Brinkhoff farm. There Christian Oetting was ordered to dismount and was killed with a bullet. Some distance farther Julius Vogt and Casper Westerhaus were ordered to dismount. Both were shot, but only wounded and were able to make their way to the Rodekrohr home, where the family gave assistance and the two revived so as to be able to return to their home. The feeble and elderly Henry Frerking was given his freedom, likewise Fritz Stuenkel, for whom one of the guerrillas had interceded. The last of the prisoners were forced to gallop rapidly in the direction of the Casper Uphaus farm, where they halted. Then ordered to dismount, the three pleaded and prayed that their lives might be spared. The mob said something about revenge, that some wrong had been committed. One of the guerrillas interceded for their lives and they were released. Rev. Biltz, Henry Oetting, and Louis Mehl returned unhurt to their homes. The toll was three dead and four that had been shot but recovered from their wounds. It was near midnight before the men returned to their homes which had been further plundered in their absence. Rev. Biltz writes that the Sunday nearest the date to this tragic day had been his thirteenth wedding anniversary. The twin boys, Julius and Fred Vogt, passed safely but unmindful of the sadness of this eventful night and grew up to become useful and distinguished citizens in the community and the state.<sup>6</sup>

The third attack, second one by guerrillas, occurred on July 13, 1863. A brief reference to this affair is found in the Official Records. A loyal citizen of Lexington writes that upon his arrival home from a boat trip to Kansas City, he heard news of the murder of four men, one girl, and nine wounded in Freedom Township in the German settlement. The death of a girl and the wounded have not been verified by other sources, but these casualties may have taken place elsewhere in the county.

The guerrillas had come from the north, crossed the Davis Creek, and carried a Union flag and wore the uniform of Union Soldiers. The victims were forced to stand in line, then starting to run, they were all shot and killed. The four, Conrad Bruns, Louis Fiene, Dietrich Karsten, and William Scharnhorst, had been

6. Rev. Biltz correspondence cited above.



members of Company B, 71st Regiment of the Enrolled Missouri Militia. The regiment had been raised in Lafayette and Saline counties and Companies B and C contained a number of Concordia men. The four slain men had enrolled at Lexington on August 9, 1862 and were discharged from service December 12, 1862. Each had served for a period of 125 days in the militia at Lexington. The enemy had known of their service in the militia the previous year and for unknown reasons had marked them for death.<sup>7</sup>

The war was in its fourth year and six months before the end. Concordia was destined to pass through one more raid and the worst to be experienced at the hands of the guerrillas. Since the expulsion of Price's army from the State the enemy had looked forward to a campaign that would reclaim Missouri for the Confederacy. After a wait of more than two and a half years the opportunity came in the fall of 1864. With the cooperation of President Jefferson Davis and other Confederate authorities the army under General Sterling Price, after intense preparation, started from its base in Arkansas for the invasion of Missouri. Not only was it hoped that the campaign would result in conquering the State for the South, the national election in the autumn was expected to turn against President Lincoln.

General Rosecranz was in command of all Union forces in the State, but, as we have seen, many of the regiments at his command were known to be unreliable and organizations in Federal service were nearly all fighting in the deep South under Grant, Sherman, Thomas and other commanders. General Rosecranz did all that was possible, perhaps, under the conditions existing in the State which was favorable to the advance of an army from the South.

It crossed the line in southeast Missouri about the middle of September and soon arrived at Ironton, where Gen. Price's army met its first resistance. A small Union garrison in the stronghold of Fort Davidson near Pilot Knob had held up the advance of the enemy several days. The delay there is sometimes considered to have saved St. Louis from capture. The enemy approached that city but soon decided to turn away, moving westward as they came up to the river near Washington. On the day of the battle of Pilot Knob, September 27, there also occurred in north Missouri at Centralia the so-called massacre by a large force of guerrillas who had become very active as soon as the Southern army entered the State. Quantrill, the Todds, "Bloody Bill" Anderson, Dave Pool and other leaders had headed the band in their bloody victory at Centralia. A few days later the band was cooperating with the army of General Price, who entered into arrangements to provide a screen for his army on both flanks as it moved westward. The smaller guerrilla party crossed the river near Boonville, thus keeping itself and the river on the northern flank. A larger party,

7. Service records of the 71st Regiment Enrolled Missouri Militia in the Adjutant's General's office, Jefferson City.



estimated variously between 120 and 200 guerrillas, had crossed at Rocheport in boats swimming their horses behind, then headed towards Sedalia. Soon they were on their way towards Sweet Springs, then called Brownsville. Here they separated into small groups while engaged in looking for breakfast and preparing for the march to Concordia. The main army was in the vicinity of Marshall moving toward Kansas along the course of the river forming its northern flank.

One of the guerrillas has left a record of the day's events.<sup>8</sup> It was Monday, October 10, 1864. The guerrilla and a companion, Dave Poole, had been provided with food and a bottle of whiskey by a friendly lady of the town. Then the two headed for Concordia, leading an advance guard of twenty with the large body some distance behind. When the leaders had arrived in the vicinity of Emma and a spot near where the Lutheran church stands, the road skirted a thicket and a cornfield. A friendly citizen having given notice of the presence of the large guerrilla band, some of the militia had hurriedly left their homes, in the direction of the enemy and secreted themselves in the brush near the roadway. Some shots in the direction of the riders disclosed the presence of the militia in the brush. It was quickly surrounded, at the same time the entire band under Captain Todd came up and all engaged in finding the men who were concealed. They were driven out and in attempting to escape were all killed. The advance guard then continued toward Concordia, observing a small group of mounted militia. These were mounted on farm animals, for the most part poorly armed and equipped and greatly outnumbered by the guerrillas. The best mounted escaped, others were overtaken by the fleet horses of the enemy, the best the country afforded and armed with the best weapons. Few of the militia escaped, some were killed in the act of dismounting and were pursued on foot. One Henry Dedeke did escape after shooting a guerrilla and then found safety in the brush.

The enemy had suffered very little and after some marauding in the community continued westward as a screen for the main army until they reached the Kansas line, where they met with defeat and were driven south into Arkansas. Some of the guerrillas were killed in the battle along the border, the rest scattered and continued their forays in that part of the state.

Concordia emerged from the day's slaughter with twenty-six dead. The number may possibly not be quite exact as the records sometimes conflict.

After almost one hundred years it is impossible to comprehend the tragedy and suffering of the people of Concordia. In misery, terror, and death no other community in Missouri exceeded and in Kansas no other suffered so much with the possible exception of Lawrence.

(End of Mr. Knipmeyer's article).

<sup>8</sup> Three Years With Quantrell, by John McCorkle. *Armstrong, Mo.* (1914) p. 119-122.



## CONCORDIA CASUALTIES IN THE GUERRILLA RAIDS OF THE CIVIL WAR PERIOD

- Sept. 18, 1862 (date of burial)  
Heinrich Steinbrueck  
Heinrich Eickhoff  
These two men were killed at Wellington, but were brought back to Concordia and buried in St. Paul's Cemetery.
- Oct. 5, 1862  
Joh. Heinrich Otto Brockhoff  
Heinrich Hartmann (died 5 days later)  
Christian Oetting
- July 13, 1863  
Lewis Fiene  
Wm. Scharnhorst  
D. Karston  
Conrad Bruns
- Aug. 4, 1863  
August Brockhoff (see Young p. 601)  
Brockhoff was killed accidentally. While hiding under a building, he poked at a vicious dog with the butt of his gun, and it discharged accidentally and killed him.
- Aug. 23, 1864  
Friedrich Ehlers and a thirteen year old boy were shot to death in their home. Name of boy is unknown. A Heinrich Ehlers, aged 34 and buried in St. John's Cemetery apparently also killed on this day. William Kuecker is also reported to have been killed this day.
- Sept. 3, 1864  
Herman Brinkhoff, aged 44 years, was killed in an engagement between Federal troops, who were coming through, and civil guards who mutually believed they were facing bushwhackers.
- October 10, 1864  
Wm. Bodenstab (St. John's) 18 yrs. old.  
Wilhelm Brackman, son of Joh. Heinrich. (St. Paul's) 16 yrs. old.  
Friedrich D. Brackman (St. Paul's) 57 yrs. old.  
Friedrich Bruns (St. Paul's) 35 yrs. old.  
Heinrich Bruns (St. Paul's) 39 yrs. old. (or 36?)  
D. Carsons  
Fritz Dittmer (St. Paul's) 27 yrs. old.  
(H) Fr. Dickenhorst (St. John's) 52 yrs. old.  
Heinrich Dierking (St. John's) 59 yrs. old.  
H. Diers (Deus?) (St. John's)  
Fr. Dreper  
Dietrich Dreyer  
Heinrich Freitag  
Fritz Grottmann  
Henry Grottmann  
Peter H. Heerman (St. John's) 65 yrs. old.  
Henry Meins  
Joh. Friedrich Meyer (St. Paul's) 40 yrs. old.  
Wm. Paper

Capt. Geo. Pepper  
 Judge Wm. Prigmore  
 Henry Reiter  
 Bernhard Rippert (St. Paul's) 24 yrs. old.  
 Conr. Schornhorst (St. John's) 57 yrs. old.  
 Lieut. Louis Stunkel (St. Paul's) 43 yrs. old.  
 Gustave Wahrenbrock  
 Fred F. Walkenhorst  
 Herman Wolters, son of Juergen (St. Paul's) 49 yrs. old.  
 Henry Vrede (Wrede?) (St. John's) 72 yrs. old.

Probable casualties

Henry Brandt, July 4, 1864  
 George H. Brockman, Oct. 30, 1863  
 Henry Brockman, Oct. 20, 1864  
 August Bruns, March 13, 1862  
 Christian H. Ehlers, Aug. 29, 1861  
 Louis Walter, Aug. 16, 1864

The above roster of casualties has been taken chiefly from the 1881 "History of Lafayette County" pp. 413, 426 and 427; Young's "History of Lafayette County", pp. 357, and 595. The Rev. Oscar Hellman checked the church records of St. Paul's and Rev. Paul W. Kasper checked the church records of St. John's for the writer. The name of Brunkhorst was obtained in conversation with Harry (Dick) Oetting. It is commonly reported that twenty-four were killed on the Oct. 10, 1864 massacre while the above list has twenty-nine names. It can be rightly assumed that the "twenty-four" were those who were in the running battle east of town and the rest were murdered in their homes. Mr. Kulpmeier's research also turned up a few names not found in the sources mentioned here.

## BUSHWHACKERS STORIES

The following story appears in a letter sent to the writer by Emil Deke, director of the Concordia Municipal Band, who lives south of town on a farm which was passed by the old stage coach road:

In 1862-65 Henry Deke and Herman Kueck, Sr., bought hemp in Concordia and then hauled it to Dresden, Mo. On one trip home from Dresden, they were attacked by bushwhackers. They surrounded their wagon and demanded their money. Herman Kueck took his pistol and fired several shots at them and then jumped into the brush. In so doing he sprained his ankle, but he hid all night in the brush. Henry Deke jumped over into the timber and got lost during the night. Fritz Frerking, who was also with Deke and Kueck, made his escape somehow and notified the Home Guard. The next morning the Home Guard came out to fetch them safely home.

It was at this time that they brought home a wagon load of store goods, and this store later turned into the Deke and Bergman Store.

Several days before the battle of Lexington, which was fought Sept. 18, 19, 20, 1861, Col. Mulligan's army camped one night south of Concordia while General Price's army was moving along north of the Missouri River.

Mrs. Adolph Runge relates the following story:

The bushwhackers were robbing and killing men whenever it pleased them. Old Grandmother Kammeyer saw them coming and quickly shoved her husband into an opening in the floor in front of a fire place and closed the lid and put a rug over it and her spinning wheel and kept busy spinning yarn when the men came in and asked for the man of



house. She told them he was not in the house. So they finally left.

Mrs. Runge explained that the Kammeyer house is the one now owned by Mark Adams. Mrs. Runge's letter continues:

Another incident happened in my Grandpa Bruns' house now occupied by Wilbert Riesterer west of town. They were awakened by a yelling mob. Grandpa in his excitement could not find his socks in the dark. (They had only a light from oil or grease). So Grandmother Bruns had to go out to see what they wanted. They told her to fetch them some light, and she said that she had to go to the cellar first and get some more lard. (Outdoor cellar). The man who followed her had a bloody hand, and said he had just killed a man. They did not ask anymore and drove away. They were drunk.

One story was told us by our mother which happened at that time too on the farm where Henry Hensick now lives. It happened in the old brick house which still stands there. It was Grandfather Bruns' home. (Not related to my grandfather). In that brick house there was an opening into the attic where a man could not stand upright. There the grandfather crouched for three days and nights. The bushwhackers were waiting outside for him to return home if he was not at home. They fed him just in moments when they weren't watched. So that time he was saved but later lost his life with the others who were shot near Emma on Oct. 10.

The writer remembers stories related by Mrs. Bruns of Higginsville in 1931. At that time she was over eighty years old and as a child had lived northeast of Concordia. She related that the bushwhackers burned many houses and in some cases tied the occupants of the houses in their beds and burned them up with their houses.

Henry Lampe tells the story that in the "Freund House" on St. Louis St. next to the tracks there is still a trapdoor in the floor, covering a space where the man of the house hid from the bushwhackers. The house at the time was a saddlery. As a child Henry had lived there.

Tradition also has it that when Vogt and Westerhaus were shot down on the fearful night of Oct. 5, 1862, although badly wounded, they feigned death, and when the raiders had ridden off, Vogt called to Westerhaus, "Westerhaus are you dead?" The reply came back, "No; are you?"

One father and son were riding over the prairie when they saw some bushwhackers in the distance. They quickly dismounted and hid in the tall prairie grass, lying very still so that the movement of the grass would not reveal them. The bushwhackers stole their horses. Some time later the father and son were shopping in Alma, and there the son saw his pony saddled and tied to a hitching post. "Look that's my pony," the son shouted. "Quiet, quiet!" the father cautioned. They quickly finished their business and went home. Thus they were cowed by the fear of their neighbors from the north.

Julius Vogt, Sr., in the bushwhacker raid of October 5, 1862 received two shots, one in the thigh and one in the shoulder. One of his would-be murderers walked over and kicked him, and said, "The son-of-a-bitch isn't dead. I'll shoot him again." And he did. Even though it was dark, the profile of this man's face was indelibly impressed on Vogt's mind. Imagine his feelings when some years later he saw this same man, an itinerant photographer, taking pictures on the streets of Concordia.

Interview with Mrs. Kessner (aged 88) that throws more light on the October 5, 1862 raid. Christian Oetting was her grandfather and Henry Oetting, his son, was her father.

Christian Oetting had received a letter notifying him that back taxes were due on their farm. This they wanted to clear up, so they wrote a letter to Lexington and rode to Cook's Store on that fateful Sunday afternoon of Oct. 5, 1862 to mail it. Here they were urged by Mr. Cook to stay for supper. They at first declined, but because they didn't wish to offend their English neighbors, they accepted the invitation. While they were sitting at the table, the house was surrounded by bushwhackers. Christian Oetting and his son Henry (and presumably another German who was there) were taken captive, and were led away to the village where there was a baptism at Vogt's. The continuation of this account can be read in Mrs. Biltz's letter. Traditionally, the belief is that Mr. Cook tipped off the bushwhackers. The Oettings were not put on their own good horses, but on some old nags as they rode back to the settlement. Christian Oetting was killed that night together with son-in-law J. Heinrich Brockhoff and one other. Heinrich Oetting, who was riding on the same horse with one of the bushwhackers, pleaded for his life and was permitted to slip off the horse and escape. He ran to a house near by, but was unable to tell the terrible news, so frightened was he.

One of the men at Vogt's baptism successfully hid himself in a workshop and escaped.

Another account of the October 5, 1862 incident is found in a letter written by Pastor Biltz's wife, Marie Wurmb Biltz, dated October 6, 1862, the day after the raid. Translation of the letter follows:

Dear Parents!

Oh where shall I begin to relate to you the terrible happenings of the past night? I feel compelled to write you immediately. First of all thank God with me; for my Biltz was lost and is found again; he was dead and is alive again. Oh thank Him, thank our God. Had He not sent His angel, I would now be a widow. Oh, the godless bushwhackers have again committed murder. What will happen to us? We are in fear and dread, and almost on the verge of despair. Yet as disturbed as I am, I shall try to describe to you our terrible plight. Last night, Sunday, we were all at the Bank, as the place is called where there are two stores and several dwellings, celebrating a baptism at Vogts. As we were happily sitting at the table, a man called out, "Soldiers are coming!" Before we could even think, we heard crying and



shouting; the whole house was encircled, and a bunch of cursing armed men stormed into the house. What a tumult! The many children cried out, and the women shouted to their men to run. One, Mr. Roepe, tried to jump out of the door but was shot down; he stumbled into the cellar badly wounded. Vogt, Moeller, Biltz and others were immediately taken captive. Now the plundering began. Anything that they had use of was taken. They took the men along into the stores where they continued their plundering. I asked, "What do you want with our men?" They answered, "As you have done to us, so we will do to you." Ah, they were not humans, they were devils in the form of men—nothing but cursing and beating. "Make the children be quiet or we will shoot them down. You damned Union people. We'll let no one live." And so on they shouted. Those who couldn't speak well with them were knocked aside with their gun butts. I asked again and again as other raiders came in, "Oh you surely will not harm my husband." Alas, we begged and pleaded all. One said, "Shut up, nothing will happen to you." At this another one laughed and uttered a terrible curse. I continued my pleading: "Oh, please don't hurt my husband." Who is your husband was always asked. "The preacher, the big man, is my husband." We were always hoping for the best. After they had packed their horses with as much plunder as they could carry, the command was given, "Forward!" Mrs. Vogt and I ventured to go to the store, but we found that our men were gone.

Suddenly we heard several shots. We went further. There we saw a man swaying toward us. "Hartman, is that you?" "Alas, I'm shot. Over there lie others." We looked and cried, "Oh, those are our men! The one in the middle of the road is surely dead." He was shot in the face. I fell over him and thought it was my Biltz, but as I looked at his shirt, I saw it wasn't. It was Mr. Brockhoff. The other one we didn't find. We ran further and filled the prairie with our cry of woe.

We came to the next farm. There we saw our next-door neighbor, Fred Stuenkel, panting and laved with sweat. "Oh, where are our men?" He replied, "They had me along too, but I have escaped through a miracle." "Was the Pastor with them?" He said he couldn't tell in a crowd of sixty people at night, but said, "Oh, you poor women, get ahold of yourselves — your men are all dead! I saw Vogt fall, and you can be sure they will not let the Pastor live."

We cried, "Look for them!" O God, what a lamentation and crying! We ran back; no comforting passage from God's word came to my mind. My mind seemed blank except for the one verse from Papa's letter that I had received that same morning: "Not one hair shall fall from our heads without His will." The children were crying. If only a stone could have cried out in sympathy, "Your good father is dead!"

Suddenly we saw Vogt coming slowly toward us. "I am not yet dead, but I have two bad wounds. They still had the Pastor when they shot me."

The other one who was shot with Vogt was dead. That is the way they did it, always told two to dismount and shot them down; then they went on a little piece and repeated the same thing, till at last Biltz and another man on the same horse were the last ones left. They saw how it had happened to the others, and resigned to die, they tried to comfort each other. Now they were also given the command, "Dis-

mount!". Biltz dismounted and stood before them. Then one of them said, "Don't shoot him; he is a good man." Another shook hands with him and said, "I have promised your wife that nothing would happen to you. Now run." The other man did not want to dismount and begged to be taken along. They released this man later.

Meanwhile I lay outside on my knees with the children. I knew no comfort; I saw nothing but chastening. We all prayed aloud, overly loud. Everyone complained and cried:—"Alas, our Pastor is dead." But then he came without having a hair on his head crimped. Thank, Oh thank our God.

We now have two dead and five wounded and of those one will very likely soon die—all of them fathers of families. Biltz was completely unclothed. He had had his best clothes on, his only decent coat, his watch, a little money, and other things. They offered him an old ragged coat, but when he declined to put it on, they forced him at the point of a gun to do so. Oh, how happy we were to get home again and didn't complain about the fact that our house was plundered. They didn't take everything. My beautiful tea cups, all silver and other spoons, all kinds of clothing belonging to me and the children, wool coats and the like, my two good dresses and the children's they did not find. And they left us the feather beds. God be thanked. He hears my prayer. But what we must still await, only God knows.

The same evening that they were here they came to an American named Mr. Braden, shot and killed him and forced his wife to set the house on fire. He however shot back at them and hit their leader, who was later found by the militia lying in a house badly wounded. The militia didn't find this band, and as soon as our soldiers are gone, they will be here again. Biltz will also write, but he is terribly disturbed. May God strengthen him so that he will be able to speak at the burial of the two men who were killed. All around you hear complaining and crying: What will happen to us next. Oh, how dear to us now is the comfort of God's Word. On the same day that all this happened Biltz had preached a funeral sermon and we had sung the hymn, "Who Knows How Near My End May Be," without having any inkling of what was to come. But many said that they had a feeling of an unexplainable anxiety. Oh, may the Lord stand by us and do unto us according to His mercy! When you can, let the relatives in Perry County know how it goes with us. Pray, pray for us! That is the plea of

Your Marie

NOTE: Marie von Wurmb Biltz was a talented, well educated woman. She was the daughter of a missionary, and was born in Johannesburg, South Africa. She was probably the only woman in the house during the raid who could speak the English language. Tradition in some families has it that one of the raiders asked her to play the organ for them, and she complied, and upon that the officer promised to spare her husband. This, however, seems unlikely.

Another story says that Pastor Biltz had attended a sick man, an Englishman, who lived north of town, and that the raider who spared the Pastor's life, was a friend of this man who had been ministered to by Pastor Biltz.



The Civil War was noted for lawless bands of men, known as bushwhackers and guerrillas, who did not enter either army, but kept up a constant annoyance by their semi-organized efforts and general sympathy and aid to the Confederacy. Among these bands were men without patriotism or character, and who devastated the country, killing innocent people, and burning the houses and farm buildings largely for plunder . . . It would take a good sized volume to mention the many operations and bloody crimes perpetrated by the bushwhackers in Missouri . . . (Young p. 127).

On June 23, 1862, General Schofield, the Union commander issued the following general order No. 2, a part of which reads as follows:

The sum of five thousand dollars for every soldier or union citizen killed; from one thousand dollars to five thousand dollars for every wounded person; and full value of all property destroyed or stolen by guerrillas, will be assessed and collected from the rebel sympathizers residing in the vicinity of the place where the act is committed. (Young p. 127).

This order was impossible to carry out, for Young says, "At that day, not one third of the population of this county was on the side of the Union cause, and the workings of the above orders in such a community can scarcely be imagined. At every man's door stood glaring and scowling grim-visaged warfare."

Mrs. Henry Kessner, a niece of J. Heinrich Brockhoff who was killed by bushwhackers on October 5, 1862, told the writer that the shooting was done mostly by fifteen year old boys. It cannot be assumed, however, that this was generally the case; as was seen in another chapter, many of the aggressors were hardened military men under the command of officers.

The writer remembers hearing the Rev. J. H. C. Kaepfel, president of St. Paul's College, in one of his chapel talks (ca. 1924) using an illustration from bushwhacker times to show how God provided for His own. Rev. Biltz had been hiding under a hay stack for a week while his place was watched by bushwhackers awaiting his return. Even as ravens fed Elijah of Bible days, so a hen came and laid her daily egg which Pastor Biltz used for his nourishment.

Fourteen year old John Kammeyer was driving cows to water at Davis Creek near the Fuchs Bridge. A man wearing two shiny pistols and riding a beautiful slick horse met him and asked him if he was from the "settlement", meaning Concordia. John replied that he was. The man asked if there had been any robbing and shooting going on there, and John replied that there had been a great deal of it. Then the man asked if he had ever heard of Dave Poole, and John replied he had, and that Dave Poole was one of the bad bushwhackers. Thereupon the man answered, "You can go home and tell your folks that you have just talked to Dave Poole." (This story is told by Alvin Kammeyer, son of the boy who talked to Dave Poole).

Fifteen year old H. C. Bruns of the Home Guards in Captain Pepper's Company saved his life in the overwhelming bushwhack-

er attack on October 10, 1864 by dismounting and crawling under a corncrib. He held his gun in readiness, determined to sell his life dearly should they discover him. On the other side of some bushes he heard the bushwhackers arguing over who should shoot 49 year old Herman Wolters who had been captured. A youthful voice, that sounded like that of a fifteen year old boy, said, "Aw let me shoot him, I haven't shot anyone today yet." (In part related by Ed. Runge and in part found in the 1881 History, p. 608).

Two men in their sixties and seventies told the writer the following story which happened long years after Civil War days. A certain Mr. B . . . L . . . from north of Davis would come to town with his farm wagon and load up on supplies and at the same time load himself up on spirits in the several saloons of the town. Then he would go around bragging that he was a bushwhacker. As a final bit of celebration, he would race his team down Main Street, reins and whip in one hand, spurning curses at the "Dutch" and giving out the rebel yell, he would race out of town.

This man truly was a bushwhacker in the full sense of the word. His military record on file in the Adjutant-General's Office in Jefferson City, reveals that he had been a member of the Confederate Army, and that he had deserted just before the Battle of Pea Ridge. He came back to his home near Concordia and engaged in guerrilla activities.

The usual method employed by the settlers to warn the community of the approach of bushwhackers, was the blowing of a large cow horn.

It should be mentioned to the casual reader that it was not only the Germans, nor only the Concordia community, that suffered. Professor Brownley, in his "Ghosts of the Confederacy", describes the guerrilla activities in the western part of our county and in adjoining Jackson County.

McCorkle has several accounts of raids on Concordia. On page 71 he says:

In a few days, we went with Captain Todd down on the Sni and joined Quantrell. Dave Poole took forty of us with him and went down in what was known as the Dutch Settlement in Lafayette County, near Concordia. There was stationed there a company of Dutch militia, who had a fort or blockhouse near the town, and, whenever strangers were seen in that neighborhood, they would blow the dinner horns and ring the bells all running for the blockhouse. Having only side-arms with us, we let them alone, and securing a number of extra good horses, we returned to the Sni. In a few days we went over to Olathe, Kansas . . . .

Above story was contributed by Thomas Hooper, P. O. Box 199, Maryville, Mo. Mr. Hooper has recently published a book on the massacre at Centralia, Mo., which took place just a few days before the last raid on Concordia. Some of the Guerrillas participated in both raids.



POST CIVIL  
WAR PERIOD

## THE POST-CIVIL WAR PERIOD

PIONEER DAYS OF CONCORDIA. The following recollections written by Miss Martha Johannssen were read by the Rev. Max Opp at her funeral services.

On July 4, 1866, I came, with my parents, Claus and Elizabeth Johannssen, to what is now Concordia, Mo. We came from Indianapolis, Ind., quite a city at that time, to a place with half a dozen houses and a few vacant store buildings, a mill, a blacksmith shop, a tailor shop, a saddle shop and a hemphouse. We had no grocery store and had to wait until some good farmer was going to Lexington, Dresden, or Knob Noster with some eggs, butter and meat. They passed through and asked if someone would be in need of groceries, and we would give them a slip of paper on which people wrote their wants. It would take three days to make the trip to Lexington and back with their ox teams and wagon. Later in the fall men came to look for a location to start a store. They were Hackmann and Detert, and before long we had a store where we could buy our needs; they began business in one of the vacant store buildings. The next spring they put up a large department store known as the Detert store. From that time on this place took a new aspect as one after another of the stores appeared, the Sodemann tinshop, Gieseke butcher shop, Steljes tailor shop, Thiemann hardware store, etc., and it began to look as though we could live here. My father was the first shoemaker.

Every Saturday the stage coach would come through here and bring the mail. Pastor Biltz was the first postmaster.

After that they surveyed and built the Lexington Branch railroad. Then came the first saloon. The workmen on the railroad were mostly Irishmen and Swedes and would often fight, in fact so often that the bartender would sweep the blood out of the place with a broom.

After the train was running, we got our postoffice and a drug store, and Rev. Biltz gave the town the name "Concordia."

The three oldest pioneers of Concordia living at this time (1938) are Henry Walkenhorst, Sr., Julius Vogt, Jr., and Mrs. Martin Ehlers. They were born here.

There were some churches around here in the country; the Lutheran north, the Evangelical east, the Baptist south, the Methodist west about 2½ miles. The last-named church (1843) was taken down, loaded on a flat car and rebuilt here in 1872, the first church in Concordia.

Then our business district was moved from St. Louis street two blocks west to Schiller (now Main) Street. In 1909 we had quite a fire and some business houses became prey to the flames.

Miss Johannssen saw the body of Lincoln in his casket and the funeral train. (From the "Concordian", 1938. A clipping without date.)



The hardiness of the pioneers is seen in a clipping from the "Concordian" on Feb. 3, 1917, saved by Mrs. Richard B. Borgstadt which describes the coming in 1867 of her grandfather, M. W. Summers, who was born in Ireland, but had lived in Pennsylvania for a while. The account reads:

He and his cousin left Dresden on the 23rd day of February and walked the distance in one day. It was a cold day and they faced a blizzard all the way. Stopped with Henry Meineke who lived on St. Louis St.

The distance from Dresden to Concordia is twenty miles as the crow flies. Dresden at that time was the closest railroad point to Concordia. When the article was written (1917), Mr. Summers was seventy-one years old, and he had lived here fifty years.

Up to 1868 the little settlement just grew up around the corner of the county road that led to the east and the road that is now know as St. Louis Street. The post office of Concordia, where Rev. Biltz was postmaster, was just west of the present St. Paul's Cemetery three quarters of a mile away. It seems that the little settlement on the corner had called itself "Humboldt" after the great German scientist and geographer, Alexander von Humboldt. Gradually houses were built toward the north. Many of the original houses are still standing. It was Mr. Joseph Wukasch's hope to write up the history of this early St. Louis Street settlement, but sickness in the family prevented him from doing so. The abstracts of titles of these properties must contain some interesting history.

In the year 1868 Concordia was laid out by a joint stock company composed of Major George P. Gordon, Henry Detert, Colonel George S. Rathburn, Herman Uphaus and Henry Westerhaus. Rathburn and Gordon were Confederate Army officers. Major Gordon lived five miles north of Concordia. His granddaughter, Mrs. Lutie Gordon Jordon, of Waverly, is an acquaintance of the writer and has told him that Major Gordon always loved Concordia and his German friends there. Gordon Street was named after him. Colonel Rathburn had been a teacher in the Wellington Academy and after the war a lawyer in Lexington. The other men have German names, and were, no doubt, land owners in this vicinity.

The drawing of the first plat can be seen in the "Atlas of Lafayette County" of 1877. Since this first plat, many additions have been added so that now the city limits of Concordia includes three or four times as much land as the original city contained.

## WHEN THE RAILROAD CAME TO CONCORDIA

The railroad from Sedalia to Myrick, running through Concordia, was completed in May of 1871. It took twelve years of planning and labor to achieve this.

"The Missouri Pacific branch freight line from Sedalia to Myrick, known as the Lexington Subdivision, was originally incorporated under the general laws of Missouri on December 9, 1859 as the Lexington and St. Louis Railroad Company by a group of railroad promoters of Pettis and Lafayette Counties."

"... the Lexington and St. Louis was completed in May, 1871..." (1)

(1) From a report sent by the Mo. Pac. R. R. Co. to S. M. Chapin, agent for the railroad at Concordia, Mo., May 1960.

Apparently it reached Concordia from Sedalia before May of 1871. Some of the old timers remember a turntable where the roadbed crosses St. Louis Street, and it is said that the train turned around there. It is possible that Concordia children went down to see the train a year before the line was completed to Myrick.

The early history of the branch line tells that it floundered through many difficulties with construction, with poor quality of ties and masonry, and with finances. In December of 1877 it became part of the Missouri Pacific System.

Old timers also remember that the depot was situated in the middle of Main St. (Schiller then) and that traffic had to go around it. Later it was moved to the west side of the street.

Passenger traffic declined because of bus transportation on the new cross-state highway which was completed in 1925, and in 1932 passenger trains were discontinued on the Lexington Branch line. For about a year a combination baggage and passenger car powered by a gasoline motor and termed the "Doodle Bug" took care of the traffic.

### RAILROAD TIME TABLE

1923

#### West Bound

Passenger No. 647	7:57 A. M.
Passenger No. 645	4:47 P. M.
Local freight 697 runs Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 11:05 A. M.	

#### East Bound

Passenger No. 646	10:25 A. M.
Passenger No. 648	7:43 P. M.
Local freight 698 runs Tuesday.	

The passenger trains at their best consisted of a steam locomotive and three cars, a baggage car, a "smoker," and a passenger car. The "smoker" was intended for men only where they could smoke without offending the ladies. Occasionally, if the passenger car was filled and a lady desired a seat, the conductor



would approach her with, "Mam, I'm sorry there are no more seats, but if you wouldn't be offended, I could find you a seat in the 'smoker.'" Depending upon how much lady like feelings she had, she would say "Yes" or "No." Toward the end of its career, when traffic was dwindling, the train didn't pull a "smoker."

Train time was noted by everyone. To the business man it meant a deadline for getting off belated letters, to the retired it meant a break in the day and an excuse to go to town and see if any mail came on it, to the farmer who hitched his horses nearby, it meant running out and holding their bridles so that they would not run off in fright.

## CONCORDIA IN 1876

By W. F. Walkenhorst

Concordia is situated on the Lexington and St. Louis Railroad, about four miles from the southeast corner of Lafayette County on a high, healthy, and beautiful spot. Up to the time of the building of this railroad, there were but a few houses where Concordia now stands; but within one year after the railroad was completed, it seemed that the town sprang up as if by magic, and, in that short time there were erected five stores, two furniture stores, two saddle shops, two blacksmith shops, two wagon makers' shops, two shoe shops, one tinner shop, one bank, one livery stable, two hotels, several grain houses, three churches and dwelling houses in proportion. Just at the time, however, when everything seemed to indicate that Concordia would make a place of importance, she was visited by an uncalled for disaster, in the shape of an incendiary, who in the course of a few months, laid in ashes three stores, one hotel, two dwelling houses, and one saloon. These disasters, as one might naturally suppose, proved a great drawback to Concordia; citizens became disheartened; building ceased; capitalists were afraid to invest in the town, and it seemed that Concordia was doomed to go to destruction. In the fall of 1874 this incendiary (who proved to be a citizen of Concordia by the name of J. Rush) was discovered, and taken out of town by the enraged citizens and hanged to a tree until he was dead. This transaction stopped the burning of Concordia, and matters began to look better until the grasshoppers, in 1875, visited this county. This did a great deal of harm, yet regardless of all adverse circumstances Concordia has been building up gradually and has now 400 inhabitants, six dry goods and grocery stores, two drug stores, one bank, three hotels, two saddle shops, three blacksmith shops, two wagon shops, one good mill and numerous graineries and hemp hackle shops, three churches, one commodious brick school house, several saloons and mechanics of all kinds to meet the want of their respective callings. There will also be erected this fall a large brick mill and other buildings. There are also very nice dwelling houses in Concordia, and it wears the aspect of a beautiful and healthy town; the future prospects are better than they

ever have been, and in a few years Concordia will stand among the first inland towns of the west. The business that is done in Concordia is vast; one firm alone shipped over six hundred car loads of corn from Concordia to St. Louis in the last six months, while wheat, cattle, hogs, hemp and other articles were shipped in proportion. The surrounding county is very thickly settled, and the land highly cultivated, and where a few years ago was seen a beautiful county diversified with belts of timber, running streams and rolling prairies, today are fields of golden wheat. The people around Concordia, as well as in the town, are mostly Germans of industrious and economical habits, and they are happy and contented in their avocations. The land is very productive and capable of yielding forty bushels of wheat and as high as eighty bushels of corn to the acre. (From W. H. Chiles' History of Lafayette County".)

**THE HANGING OF DR. RUSH.** During the building boom of the early seventies, Concordia became alarmed over a number of mysterious fires of suspicious origin. In the course of a few months three stores, one hotel, two dwelling houses, and one saloon were laid to ashes. These had been set on fire by a respected citizen and pillar of the church, Dr. J. Rush. He was one of the nightwatchmen of the community and quite naturally, knowing the habits of the other watches, he would perpetrate his misdeeds only on those nights when off duty. One evening at prayer meeting he publicly prayed that God might soon cause the criminal to be apprehended. The next day his prayer was answered.

A lady living at 710 St. Louis Street heard a noise at her door during the night, and wishing to know the cause of it, she investigated. To her surprise she saw an opening in the door and inflammable material heaped inside ready to be set on fire. The firebug was chased away, but he left tracks in the mud. The next day citizens followed these tracks to the home of Dr. Rush. His home was in the 1000 block on St. Louis Street, on the west side of the street facing the county road that leads off to Emma.

In the attic of this house they found crockery, glass jars, women's clothing and other things, goods that had been stolen from the houses that had been set on fire. But Dr. Rush was not around.

Searching parties were sent out in all directions. Wesley Walkenhorst, engineer at the mill, and Dines Price, his colored fireman, rode out toward Peavine Creek. While searching along the creek they heard the neigh of a horse at some distance. On searching for the horse, they found it tied but no one near by. Suddenly a peculiar heap of leaves attracted their attention, and under these leaves they found Dr. Rush.

He was brought to town, and an angry mob, many of whom were drunk, marched him down the street with a rope around his neck. The Methodist minister came out of his house and pleaded with the mob. Mr. Runge, father of Ed. Runge, and a Mr. Lentz



attempted to interfere, but when someone in the crowd shouted, "Let's hang them too," they hastily departed. Rush was taken down to Panther Creek (evidently near what now is South Park) and was hanged on a Locust tree. This happened in the fall of 1874. (This account was obtained from the papers of the late Prof. Schoede, from Mr. Ed. Runge, and from W. F. Walkenhorst, the supplement of W. H. Chiles' "History of Lafayette County", 1876, and from the "Concordian", April 27, 1933).

In 1875 came the grasshopper plague and the next year the merchants complained of poor business.

The "Atlas of Lafayette County" of 1877 gives the following statistics for Freedom Township from the 1870 census:

Total population	2559
Native	1907
Foreign	652
White	2365
Colored	196
Vote for electors in 1876	574

Regarding Concordia, the following is said: "It is a place of considerable enterprise and its population, principally German, contains several good business houses, two steam flouring mills, a bank and four churches, viz: Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist North, and Presbyterian." (p. 67) The population at this time was not given, but the population of Aullville was given as four hundred inhabitants.

The same source lists the following business men of Concordia for the year 1877:

Bruns, A. E. ....	Saddler	Came to Co. in 1852	Born in Mo.
Bartman, F. & Bro. ....	Merchant	Came to Co. in 1857	Born in Ger.
Brockman, Claus ....	Lumber	Came to Co. in 1860	Born in Ger.
Braecklein, Francis ....	Physician	Came to Co. in 1873	Born in Ger.
Cook, F. C. ....	Merchant	Came to Co. in 1873	Born in Mo.
Fieken, Henry ....	Cashier	Came to Co. in 1866	Born in Ger.
Lohofner, Jno. H. ....	Grain dealer	Came to Co. in 1869	Born in Ger.
Meyer, John F. ....	Miller	Came to Co. in 1844	Born in Ger.
Ninas, Emil F. ....	Druggist	Came to Co. in 1851	Born in Ger.
Stuenkel, H. F. ....	Merchant	Came to Co. in 1849	Born in Co.
Thieman, Henry W. ....	Merchant	Came to Co. in 1845	Born in Ger.
Taylor, Earnest August ....	Physician	Came to Co. in 1844	Born in N.J.
Walkenhorst, Otto ....	Merchant	Came to Co. in 1857	Born in Ger.
Wahrenbrock, Gustav ....	Lumber	Came to Co. in 1849	Born in Co.
Walkenhorst, J. W. ....	Livery	Came to Co. in 1850	Born in Co.

In 1874 the first school house was built of brick at a cost of \$1,300. The fifty pupils were taught by Wm. F. Walkenhorst at a salary of fifty dollars a month.

On January 3, 1877, the town was incorporated and John Smith was its first mayor.

The U.S. Census of 1880 gave the count as three hundred ninety-one (391) inhabitants. A year later, however, the residents through an unofficial count stated that the town had a population of between six and seven hundred.

In 1881, Concordia had the following business firms:

5 dry goods stores	4 saloons
5 groceries	2 butchers
2 lumber dealers	1 barber
3 blacksmiths	1 livery stable
2 shoemakers	2 drug stores
1 harness and saddlery shop	3 hardware and agricultural implements
1 bank	3 hotels
2 boot and shoe shops	4 physicians
2 furniture dealers	1 millinery
2 flouring mills	

The farmers reported that they were raising from twenty to twenty-seven bushels of wheat per acre.

**BANK ROBBERY.** On August 29, 1878 the Concordia Savings Bank was robbed of \$4,169.00. Mr. Henry Ficken, the Cashier, had just returned from lunch at 1:30 and was seated at his desk. Three men entered. One remained at the door and the other two advanced to the counter. One laid a five dollar bill down and requested change. As Mr. Ficken turned to comply with his request, he was seized from behind by the other of the pair who had jumped over the counter. A revolver was pressed to his head, and he was commanded to open the money drawer. The robbers removed the contents and then forced Mr. Ficken to open the safe, the contents of which they put into a flour sack. Threatening with their revolvers they backed away and hurriedly made their exit to where their accomplice had their horses in waiting. They rode to the south and when not far out of town met many coming home from a picnic. They boasted to the crowd that they had robbed the bank and hurried on by the throng in gleeful triumph. Searching parties were at once sent out and the country scoured, and later a party of detectives was put on their trail and much money spent, but all to no purpose. They were never captured. Young says that it is quite well established that the three robbers were McCoy, Cummins, and Miller of the James gang. (Young pp. 358 and 545).

Concordia has often been described as a clean town of well-kept homes with their gardens and orchards in back and their flowers in the front yard. This is still true in 1960. But the reader who might be reading this in 2060 should get a better picture of the evolution of the dwelling places of Concordia.

The first settlers in the village needed much room. A map made about 1877 showed that the size of each inhabitant's land holding was to a large extent in acres rather than in lots. Each home to be complete needed a hen yard, a pig sty, a barn and lot for the horses and cows, a vineyard, a garden, and an orchard. Almost everyone made his own supply of wine, and many still do today. The people of Concordia were connoisseurs when it came to judging the quality of wine. The old folks would not think of serving anything but the best to their guests, and it was a very



common practice to offer a visitor, who just stopped in to chat, a glass of wine.

The homes were mostly two story frame buildings without basement, but most of them had their summer kitchen. The summer kitchen was usually detached from the house by a latticed or screened walkway. Sometimes there was a grape arbor covering the walkway between house and summer kitchen. The summer kitchen was the place where the summer meals were prepared so that the house would not become heated from the "range" or wood burning cooking stove. When kerosene stoves came into use, the function of the summer kitchen declined.

Sometimes the grape arbor was built past the summer kitchen all the way to the privy. The privy was usually a two-seater, but some had accommodations for the little folks also. Here the Sears, Roebuck and Montgomery Ward catalogs provided reading material for the patrons.

Each family usually did its own butchering of hogs and some even had smoke houses in which the meat was smoked. The old recipes of seasoning and smoking meat were handed down from generation to generation and the fine quality of ham and bacon is something to be remembered. Some of the old timers like Mr. Martin Oehlschlaeger, sausage maker at Alewel's, can still produce a meat product that can bring a sparkle to a gourmet's eye.

Gradually the properties became smaller. When cars came, the barns were converted into garages and the lot for the horses was not needed. Many began to buy their milk and butter from farmers living at the edge of town. Pig sties became a public nuisance because of their smell, and a town ordinance outlawed them. Chicken houses passed out of existence too when "Secco" proved he could sell eggs cheaper than the city man could produce them. So as it gradually took less and less room to live, people divided their properties and sold parts of them.

**EARLY STREETS AND COUNTRY ROADS.** MUD roads and MUD streets were what we had fifty to seventy years ago. That was the time when all road travel was done by horses, buggies and wagons. Our roads were so muddy at times that a team of horses or mules could not pull a wagon through the mud. Sometimes the farmers would take the two rear wheels off a farm wagon and hitch two or four horses to them and drive to town to get some groceries, flour or food.

Some would ride to town on horseback and carry their groceries home that way. One farmer needed some repair on a roof at home, so he carried a bunch of shingles on his back, riding the horse.

There were many days when we could not cross the streets except at the cross walks. Talking about the cross walks—there was another job for the city marshal, he had to carry a shovel and clear the mud off the cross walks. At that time we had no school bus, and the children had to walk miles and miles in or aside the

dirt or mud roads. Some children rode to school on horseback and the horses had to stand at the hitching rack all day till it was time to go home.

In 1909 Concordia citizens had only a few automobiles and auto repair work had to be done by the people themselves. It was said that to start a garage you needed only a monkey wrench and a screw driver.

Runge Bros. started auto repairing in a barn at the back end of the lot behind the light plant.

Later they built the large garage north of the light plant building. They sold cars to our people and to demonstrate the power of the car they had to drive to Hamburger Hill northwest of town, to show that the car could climb that hill in high gear.

Later the garage was sold to Harry Oetting, who operated it for many years. It was known then as Dick's Garage.

## COLUMBUS DAY CELEBRATION 1892

Mayor Henry Ficken's proclamation for Columbus Day, October 21, 1892, the quadri-centennial of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus, read in part as follows:

Whereas by an act of Congress, approved June 29, 1892, it was recommended that the people of the United States observe in all their localities the 400th anniversary of the Discovery of America. . .

I recommend that all citizens cease their usual avocations to the extent possible, and that all business be suspended from 1 o'clock p.m. to 5 o'clock p.m. and that all participate in the public exercises that will appropriately do honor to the memory of Christopher Columbus. . .

In this celebration let the schools play a prominent part, that the youth may be imbued with patriotic sentiments and taught the privileges and responsibilities of American citizenship. . .

The executive committee for the day was composed of the following: Wm. H. Bartman, Wm. Sodemann, H. Ficken, Dr. H. F. Becker, Wm. F. Walkenhorst. Officers of the parade and ceremonies, were the following: Master of Ceremonies, Dr. H. F. Becker; Grand Marshal, John S. Klingenberg; Marshal's Aids, F. H. Kueck, H. H. Ficken, L. G. Mehl, H. H. Brinkoetter, Anton Thoreson, Jul. H. Defert, S. D. Fox, C. H. Bauer.

The procession started from the city hall at 1:00 o'clock and paraded up and down half a dozen streets till it finally ended on Orange Street in front of the college. Here a program was held of songs, music by the band, reading of poems, and the address of the day delivered by Prof. J. H. Kaepfel. There were also flag raising ceremonies during the day, and in the parade, besides a large flag in front of each group, each child was to be provided with an individual flag.



The order of the parade was as follows:

1. Concordia Cornet Band.
2. G. A. R. Post.
3. Concordia Public School, lower room, Float, Miss M. A. Perdue.
4. Concordia Public School, upper room, Prof. Wm. F. Walkenhorst.
5. St. Paul's College Students.
6. Alma Public School, Prof. G. W. Marquis.
7. Ebenezer Public School, Float, Prof. W. M. Malone.
8. Parochial School, Prof. W. Wilk, Concordia.
9. County Line Public School, Prof. James McCluney.
10. Oak Ridge Band.
11. Public Schools, Float, Profs. Barnett and Thieman of Wiley and Kessner schools.
12. Parochial School, Prof. F. Koch, Concordia.
13. Public School, Prof H. W. Hoemann.
14. Walkenhorst and Oak Ridge Public Schools, Float, Prof. Geo. M. Amick and Miss Lydia Stosberg.
15. Parochial School, Prof. A. H. C. Hafemeister.
16. Public School, Float, Prof. S. I. Arthur.
17. Parochial School, Prof. Rudolf Peters.
18. Public School, Prof. J. S. Hudson.
19. Mock's Public School, Miss Lydia Perdue.
20. Parochial School, Prof. H. Hamm.
21. Eureka No. 2 Public School, Prof. Thomas Bishop.
22. Eureka No. 1 Public School, Prof. John K. Byers.
23. Public Vehicles.

THE AUTOMOBILE AGE



## 1910 BUSINESS INTERESTS

(Young p. 356)

Banks — The Concordia Savings and the Farmers Bank.  
Bakery — C. F. Schmidt.  
Blacksmiths — E. L. Thieman, Max Doblle, Walter Roepe,  
Wm. Everett.  
Brick and Tile Works — Henry Bosselmann.  
Concrete Works — Louis Hinck.  
Creamery — Concordia Creamery.  
Drugs — Alfred Kroencke, Dr. F. Schreiman, Dr. F. D. Lieser.  
Doctors — F. Schreiman, J. A. Schneider, Otto Oetting, F. D. Lieser.  
Dentists — W. A. Gruebel, G. F. Scholle.  
Harness Shops — A. E. Bruns, F. H. Brackmann.  
Elevators — John S. Klingenberg & Son, Concordia Elevator Co.  
Hardware — Concordia Mercantile Co., Sodemann Hardware Co.  
Hotel — Central by William Deke.  
Furniture — Daniel Schlapper, E. Bergman.  
General Dealers — Concordia Mercantile Co., Meyer, Kroencke and Holsten; A. H. Deke, J. P. Lohofener, Bergman Department Store.  
Grocers — M. Tieman and Co., Martin Miller, John Lohmann, F. W. Petering and Son.  
Jewelers — Henry Beissenherz, F. H. Freese.  
Lumber — George Duensing.  
Livestock — M. Tieman and Co., H. Mahnken and Son, Fritz Lampe.  
Livery Barn — Henry Franz.  
Mills — Concordia Milling and Elevator Co.  
Marble Works — Herman Weinberg.  
Millinery — Minnie Tegeler, Alpers Sisters, Mary Kronsbein.  
Meat Market — William Gieseke Bros.  
Newspaper — The "Concordian", J. J. Bredehoeft, editor and proprietor.  
Produce — Concordia Produce Co.  
Photographer — Abraham Davis.  
Shoemaker — H. Schumacher.  
Electric Lighting Plant — Runge Brothers.

## CONCORDIANS LOVE TO PLAY

During the first three decades of this century baseball was the leading sport in Concordia. Baseball and band can probably be credited with having a more unifying influence on the citizens of the town in those days than anything else. Everyone was proud of Concordia's ball team and Concordia's band.

Some of Concordia's greatest players are still living but have long ago hung up their gloves. Today they reminisce over the great games of thirty, forty or fifty years ago.

In 1905 the Concordia Merchants defeated the prominent Kansas City Athletics for the semi-pro championship of the state by a score of 7-0. A triple play, the only one in the history of Concordia's teams, was made in this game by short stop, Fred Cassing. Kansas City had the bases loaded. Cassing caught a drive batted by catcher Butterfield, stepped on second and threw to first. Fans gave a banquet for the team and presented each player with a gold medal.

In one season during the Concordia Street Fair, the Missouri Valley League All Stars, playing under the name of Walton Eagles, were defeated by the Concordia team in twelve innings. In this particular game, August Brockman, better known as "Secco", fanned twenty-four batters and only five men handled the ball, namely, pitcher, catcher, first baseman, short stop and left fielder. The left fielder, Theo. Hoeman, made the last put-out on a sensational one handed catch.

In the Inter-County League, Concordia won several pennants and never lost in a pennant race. In 1907 three professional ball players lived in Concordia, namely, Harry Suter, left hand pitcher with the Chicago White Sox, Roy St. John, a Chicago Cub player, and Jack Meyer, catcher with Oklahoma City in the Texas League. At one time five Concordia players played with an all-salaried team, the Jefferson City Semi-Pros, namely Jack Meyer—catcher, "Secco" Brockman—pitcher, Slugger Brockman—center field, Peck Heisterberg—right field, and Roy St. John—short stop. One season "Secco" Brockman won twenty-two consecutive games, and defeated the St. Louis Browns by a score of 4-3. He was Governor Hadley's favorite pitcher. "Secco" Brockman died in 1960 at the age of eighty-four. His Concordia Produce Company still has the name "Secco" on his office door even though it has been closed since he retired two years ago. This same venerable man had the distinction of playing the drums in the Concordia Municipal Band for seventy-two years.

On a Fourth of July game with Knob Noster, the Concordia team won the game 2-0 when Ben Kueck hit a Texas Leaguer and came home on it, bringing runner Delmar Doblle in ahead of him. The fielders couldn't find the ball because it had lodged in a hole in the rough field.



With the coming of other amusements and fast automobile transportation that carried people to amusements far away, the love for Sunday afternoon baseball declined. The "depression" years gave it the death blow. From 1932-1938 there was no organized ball in Concordia. From 1938-1949 Concordia had a team in a soft ball league. Today there is a revival in baseball in the junior leagues sponsored by civic organizations. The Lions Club sponsors the Midgets (ages 8-12), and the Civic Club sponsors the Juniors (ages 13-15) and the Youth League (ages 16-18), in South Park, Concordia has a beautiful lighted and fenced ball park in which uniformed youngsters play league ball.

**BASKETBALL.** With the building of gymnasiums in Concordia in the 20's basket ball came into its own as a major fall and winter sport. Great rivalry exists between the Concordia Public High School Orioles and the St. Paul's College High School Blue Jays.

**CROQUET AND ROQUE.** In the depression days of the 30's, two croquet courts gave nightly entertainment to young and old who belonged to the league. Games were played with neighboring towns.

**BOWLING.** In 1958 a group of citizens invested money in opening up an eight lane (six lanes first year) bowling alley. It proved an immediate success.

**FISHING AND HUNTING.** Blackwater River to the south and Davis Creek to the north have provided channel cat and several other species of catfish, and carp fishing for hundreds. A favorite method is night fishing with dozens of short bank lines baited with crawfish. About 1910 Davis Creek was straightened out by digging a six foot deep channel, which was about ten feet wide at the top. Today, fifty years later, it is a hundred feet wide at the top and ten to fifteen feet deep. Blackwater was also straightened out around 1910. Horseshoe Lake, south of Concordia, a favorite fishing and picnicking spot on "old" Blackwater, was filled in by the 1935 floods when Blackwater rose out of its banks twenty-eight or thirty times.

One authentic story tells of a "river" catfish weighing forty-nine and a half pounds that was caught by hand (when such method was legal) at the "yellow banks" near the Porter Farm. This happened in the horse and buggy days. The following men took part in this fishing trip: Henry Hinck, "Slugger" Brockman, Frank Barglage, Fred Cassing, Wm. Carter, and Jake Steffens. Fred Cassing said that thirty minutes after this big fish was pulled out of the water, a great thunderstorm broke, bringing with it hail that damaged all the crops in the Dunksburg area. Otto Brackman reports that he saw a catfish caught in the Blackwater that weighed sixty-eight pounds and hearing of one that weighed eighty.

The cotton tail rabbit is the chief game animal of this area. It was shot by the thousands for market during the 20's, 30's and 40's. "Secco" Brockman's Concordia Produce Company bought them for five to ten cents a piece and shipped thousands of barrels of rabbits to St. Louis market. It is said that farmers would bring rabbits in by wagonloads and sell them to "Secco." The Concordia area also supplied many live rabbits for stocking in eastern states. These brought from ninety cents to a dollar and a half a piece. Otto Brackman reports that in one year he personally caught one thousand forty-five live rabbits in box traps, and each of his three partners did almost as well. These were shipped to eastern states and also to Canada.

The bobwhite quail as a game bird has been declining for many years. Fox squirrels are hunted by many hunters. In recent years deer, which have become plentiful all over the state, have been seen around Concordia, and a number of hunters go to Knob Noster Park and the Ozarks to hunt them. Some hunt wild ducks yet, but this sport is declining.

(Information in this chapter was obtained in writing and through conversation with Fred Cassing, John Cassing, Otto Brackman and others).

**GO-KART CLUB.** Concordia in 1959 also became a participant in the Go-Kart craze that seems to be sweeping the country. In their little 42 inch long carts powered by motors taken from old chain saws they puncture the summer night with their racket. Races are held every Friday night on the club's track south of Panther Creek. During the Street Fair they race on Main street. Almost every town has a track. The young fellows invest two hundred to five hundred dollars each in their "Kart" and equipment. Vernon Fricke is president of the local club.

**CHAUTAUQUA.** In the first two decades of the century culture came to Concordia in the form of drama and music through the Chautauqua companies. These companies would come to town for five days a year and in a large tent on St. Paul's College Campus, and later in Central Park, draw good crowds at \$1.50 to \$2.00 per season ticket. "Mr. Yankie, field superintendent of the Vawter Chautauqua System said that Concordia was one of the best small Chautauqua towns on their circuit," ("Concordian", May 6, 1915). In the winter similar companies would come and present performances of music and drama. This was called "Lyceum." A favorite company that came to Concordia and surrounding towns for many years in the twenties and thirties was the Allen Brothers Tent Show. They presented five or six plays during their week's stay.

**MOVIES.** "Secco" Brockman, besides his many other accomplishments, is known for bringing the cinema to Concordia. He



showed his picture shows upstairs in a building in the 500 block (west side) of Main Street. Piano music was furnished by talented local girls. First movies were shown in 1909.

Later THE LYRIC came into existence in the 700 block (south end on east side of street upstairs). Here "Secco" put up the first electric light sign in town. It had the word "Lyric" on it. When the Lyric presented its last show on August 30, 1959 it closed after 27 years and 3 months of continuous operation by Paul (Gimme) Oetting.

"STREET FAIR" OR FALL FESTIVAL. The first "street fair" was held October 18, 1899. (Concordian, Oct. 12, 1899). It seems that at first it was a market day to which farmers brought their produce to sell. Later it became a three day festival. In 1918 there was no fair because so many young men had gone to war. There was always entertainment connected with it. A carnival would be procured, and the merry-go-round and the Ferris wheel were attractions for the kiddies and young people. In later years such stomach turners as the Octopus and the Tilt-a-whirl became favorites. All the products of the farm were exhibited and committees judged the exhibitions. Ribbons and prizes of two or three dollars were awarded to winners. The "Concordian" of October 28, 1915 states:

. . . 500 entries in ladies' fancy work.

Automobile parade was real good. Following paraded decorated autos: Klingenberg's, M. Holsten, Blanke and Kroencke, H. Dohrman, W. Gerken, H. Bamman, Bergman Brothers, Duensings, Herman Alewel, George Cordes, and one little Klingenberg. Herein also farmers took active part. The K. K. K. (Koncordia Komical Krew) parade was comical and there is where the funmakers had their big inning.

The Ernestville Band appeared. . .

In the horse and buggy days, there were horse shows. Now there are exhibitions of skill in handling tractors and midget auto races.

Two evenings are devoted to parades. On one evening there is the parade of decorated floats. Some groups spend hundreds of hours in decorating the floats with blankets and figures made of paper flowers. Of late years there have been many floats proclaiming religious themes emphasizing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. A prize of twenty-five dollars is awarded the winning float.

The K. K. K. parade features comical tableaux. In some years some of these had become vulgar, but now the committee exercises censorship over them.

In the days when baseball was popular in Concordia, there were also baseball games during fair time.

One feature that attracts the largest crowds is the selection and crowning of the Dairy Queen," a practice begun in 1949. Following are the names of the winners:

1949	Byonda Hemme	1955	Rosa Lee Borgstadt
1950	Betty Ann Hickman	1956	Carol Alewel
1951	Morley Ann Lohman	1957	Barbara Engler
1952	Bonnie Beissenherz	1958	Jeraldine Kuecker
1953	Virginia Buck	1959	Shirley Rutherford
1954	Wanda Johnson	1960	

## ON THE MAIN STREET OF AMERICA

The year 1924 was an important year for the town of Concordia and for St. Paul's College. In this year the grading for "the highway" took place and it also is the year in which two new buildings, Kaepfel Gymnasium and Biltz Hall, were erected on the the College Campus. The highway grading equipment was also used to level down some hills and make an athletic field for the college.

The grading of the highway was a tremendous task in 1924 when horsepower was actually supplied by horses and mules. A highway construction camp was set up west of Concordia just west of where the Lexington Branch Railroad crosses the highway. There were possibly a hundred workers, and as many horses and mules were sheltered and fed. There were no diesel powered earth movers such as we see on highway construction jobs today. The grader was a huge machine powered by ten horses or mules in front and four hitched to the rear to push. The blade that cut the earth was the shape of a disk. The earth traveled up a conveyor belt and was dropped into dump wagons which were pulled along side by three horses. Hardboiled "mule skimmers" were watched by officers of the Humane Society and reprimanded when they urged their animals past the limit of endurance. Even so, horses foundered in the summer heat, were unhitched and led aside spraddle legged and panting for breath till they dropped over dead.

When the slab was completed in 1925 it became a road for the young bloods to test out the speed of their cars. This writer remembers being invited to take a ride with Ernest Runge in his aunt Mary's new Baby Overland. The excelerator was pressed to the floor and the needle finally quivered up to forty-five miles an hour. Our faces were tense with excitement and our hearts were pounding. Sane drivers stayed within the thirties, the braver sped into the forties, and some sped at fifty and sixty. One traveler boasted that he often drove the 260 miles from Kansas City to St. Louis in five hours (probably stretching it) in his 1927 Model A Ford. One day this writer helped pick him up from the middle of the highway stone dead. He had taken his last fast ride. The highway soon became known as "Bloody Forty." It seemed that traffic deaths made more of an impression on people at the time when they were not yet so commonplace as they are today.



As cars became speedier, an extra three feet of slab was added to each side of the original eighteen foot slab, and later (in the 40's) a new twenty-four foot slab was laid north of the old in most areas. Today some parts of the highway between Kansas City and St. Louis are dual lane (two lanes each way) but the section passing Concordia has not yet been graded for the four lanes.

## TELEPHONE SERVICE

Telephones came to Concordia about the beginning of the 20th Century. The first phones were private lines installed by business men from their stores to their homes. Mr. J. Wukasch says that in 1901 the Bell Telephone Co. had one phone in town and this in the Dr. Braeklein Drug Store where August Detert worked, August Detert and Fritz Kueck started the telephone company. Prof. A. H. Schoede was secretary of the company.

On June 1, 1903, the Board of Aldermen approved an ordinance granting a franchise to the Concordia Telephone Company to erect, maintain and operate a telephone system within the corporate limits of the town. August Detert, the druggist, and Fritz Kueck were given this franchise. For awhile the switch was located in Central Drug Store. The operator of the switch board was called "Central", and that may account for the name of the store. Mr. Detert told the writer that the first year they had thirty subscribers.

The telephone company grew rapidly and as years went by rural telephone associations were formed. These rural lines were hooked into the town system. Most of them used bare wires hooked on crooked hedge poles. The wires would sag and as the tall wet weeds along the road rubbed against them, they became partially grounded. Also the dry cell batteries would become weak. People had to shout into the phones and some developed "telephone voices." The result was a very inefficient system, but because of its cheapness, it continued in use till 1959. The central switchboard for many years was located in an upstairs room on Main Street.

In 1958 Mr. Earl C. Ewer came to Concordia from North Carolina and bought out the telephone company. He instituted some modern practices which were not readily accepted by the public. No longer could anyone pay \$1.50 and use the telephone for advertising purposes. The so called "line calls" were handy, but some thought them a nuisance. For example, some one would lose a dog. For \$1.50 he could call "Central" and have her ring all the phones in the system and give a message like this: "Mr. Jones has lost his white and liver colored bird dog while hunting near Peavine Creek. Anyone finding same please return it to Mr. Jones for reward. Thank you." Another practice that was discontinued was the practice of informing "Central" where to find you in case someone called. Doctors would leave notices with "Central" telling where they would be if anyone wished their services. Under-

takers would tell "Central" where they could be found on a Sunday afternoon.

Opposition to the new telephone company continued to grow and when Mr. Ewer obtained a government loan of \$500,000 to begin the work, a group of people tried to form a separate company. The dispute even reached the front page of the "Kansas City Star" and "Times". The work on the new system, however, continued, and in June 1959 the switch was made to the dial system. A beautiful air conditioned telephone office was built on South Main in the 900 block, the lines were installed overhead in town and underground in the country, the opposition died out and a year later there were more phones than ever before. A directory issued June 1, 1960 lists 995 phones. Mr. Ewer sold the telephone company to Southwest Dial, Inc., in June 1960 and has moved to San Mateo, California. The fine efficient telephone service that Concordia has today is a monument to the man who brought it to town and fought to see it completed.

## HISTORY OF LIGHTS AND LIGHTING IN CONCORDIA

By Edwin M. Runge

Lamps for lighting in stores, streets and houses were done by coal oil or kerosene lamps. Early settlers used lard lamps.

The street lamps were set on poles near the sidewalks, and the city marshal or the helper had to go around to clean and refill the lamps every day and then go around to light the lamps before dark, and then later in the night he had to go to all the lamps and blow them out.

Later some gas lamps were used in the stores and houses, and that was much better than the old kerosene lamps.

In 1907 St. Paul's College installed a dynamo and engine in the heating plant to furnish electric light for the college. The dynamo was bought in St. Louis from the World's Fair supplies in the fall of 1907. Ed. Runge was hired to run the heating and lighting plant at the college till the spring of 1908.

Louis Runge had been working as engineer in the Concordia Creamery for a few years. Then in 1908 the two brothers worked on an idea to get electric lighting for the city of Concordia and in the fall of 1908, the city of Concordia voted to give them a franchise to build the light plant and the right to build lines all over the city.

The building for the plant was at 515 Main St. There the engine and generator were installed, a 40 horse power Otto gasoline engine, single cylinder 14 X 13 in. with two fly wheels, each weighing 4750 lbs. During the winter of 1908-1909 some houses and stores were wired for lights and also some street lights were put up. The street lights were used only during the dark of the moon and were turned off before midnight.



The plant was run for lighting only from dusk till 11 o'clock at night and then in the morning from 5 till daylight. The dynamo was a 30 kilowatt 110 and 220 volt direct current machine. The price charged for the current was 17 cents per K. W. with a minimum charge of \$1.50 per month. Some of our people did not want to pay the \$1.50 per month in summer and asked to have their service stopped during the summer and then came back in fall for more service. Some users turned on all the lights they had in the house and when their bill ran over the \$1.50 they kicked about the cost and some called the Runge Bros. "daylight robbers".

To operate the engine and the plant, the gasoline had to be hauled here from Sweet Springs by horses and wagon by the Standard Oil Co. The roads at the time were not paved or graveled and often during the winter it took four horses to pull the oil wagon.

The light plant was first run for the city on April 1, 1909, and as was stated before, it was run from dusk till 11 P. M. and from 5 A. M. till daylight. If someone had a card party and wanted light after 11 o'clock they would call the light plant, and they would get lighting till 12 P. M. for \$1.00 for the hour.

Later some of our people got electric washing machines and electric irons, and then the plant had to operate on Monday and Tuesday for that service. Later some electric fans were used, and then the plant had to run for daylight service.

After operating the Concordia Light Plant for seven years, the Warrensburg Light Heat & Power Co. came and offered to sell the electric current to our light plant at the edge of town or to buy the light plant and the wiring over town, and so the Runge sold out to the Morrison & McCall Co., and lines were built here from Warrensburg and the system was changed to alternating current. It was agreed that the new owners would not do any wiring in the buildings in our town but take care of the current supply only.

Electricity is such a great servant and helper that all of us feel that we would not like to do without it, and we feel this greatly when for some reason the current is shut off even for a little while.

## CONCORDIA IN 1933

In 1933 Oscar Cornelius Nussmann wrote a paper of one hundred sixty-three pages, as partial fulfillment of the requirements for obtaining his Master's Degree at the University of Missouri, and entitled it, "The Town of Concordia Missouri, as a Study in Cultural Conflict". He tried to prove a theory that he had read about in a book entitled "Fundamentals of Social Psychology" by Emory S. Bogardus (Century Co., 1924). The theory was that every community's growth is the result of some conflict. While one must conclude that his points are far overdrawn, nevertheless, he has done a service to the historian by compiling many facts.

Commenting on the one hundred percent white population of Concordia, Nussmann says that before 1884, there was even a Negro Church in Concordia (p. 26), and "In their attitude toward the Negro, the people of Concordia inconsistently mix solicitude and aversion." (p. 29). It might be stated at this point that it is true even in 1960 that there are no Negroes living in Concordia, but there were one or two from the country attending the public grade school, and St. Paul's College in recent years has had one or two Negro students a year. In years long past there were one or two Negro men living and working in town. It is said that the last one living here was a porter in a hotel, and he got so lonesome for fellowship with his own race that he left.

In 1933 Nussmann found seventy-nine business concerns when the town had a population of 931. The list follows:

1 apiary	1 lumber company
1 bakery	3 meat markets
1 bank	2 millinery shops
4 barber shops	1 newspaper
1 beauty shop	2 photographers
2 blacksmiths	1 pool hall
1 creamery	1 power and light company
1 drug store	1 printing company
3 drygoods stores	1 produce company
1 electric shop	1 tailor
3 elevator and milling companies	2 tinshops and plumbing
2 furniture and undertaking	1 real estate office
11 garages	2 restaurants
3 groceries	1 telephone exchange
3 hardware stores	1 theatre
2 hatcheries	1 variety store
1 hotel	3 dentists
1 ice company	1 oculist
2 insurance companies	6 doctors and chiropractors
1 jewelry shop	1 veterinarian
1 leather and shoe shop	

Nussmann also comments that there were no chain stores "because of German loyalty to relatives."

He found three hundred thirty-three (333) dwelling places in the town (p. 91) in 1933 and classified them according to the religion of their inhabitants as follows: Catholic, 1, Baptist 24, Methodist 34½, Evangelical 66½, Lutheran 189. For some unexplainable reason this leaves eighteen unaccounted for.

He also found eighty foreign born whites or seven per cent of the population which he said was three times that of the state. "There are thirty-two more women than men among the 1139 inhabitants of Concordia. In contrast, the county and the state have more men than women." (p. 22).

Nussmann commented on the exodus of young people who left the town to find work elsewhere. He said that Concordia had a larger per cent of upper age group than the county or the state in 1930. "The population of Concordia may be described as senile." (p. 20).



The "Depression" had its effect on Concordia too. A number of businesses closed. The Works Progress Administration kept the library open six days a week. Sewers were also built by the W. P. A.

"The common speech was Hanoverian or Westphalian Low German. The Hanoverian type has persisted to the present day," wrote O. C. Nussmann in 1933. The people of Concordia really used two kinds of German in every day life. In parochial school up to about the time of World War 1, in their confirmation instruction, and in their church services, they used the High German, the classical German that Luther crystalized when he translated the Bible. On the streets, in the business houses, in their homes, barns, fields, and at play, they used their own particular brand of Low German. Today (1960) one seldom hears the German spoken on the streets, but when friends get together to have a little fun at pinochle or pitch, or to joke a bit in the stores, it is a mark of congeniality to break into a few sentences of the good old Low German or "Plattdeetsch" as it is called. Most natives over fifty years old can still converse in it. It is easy to pick up, and it has a catching beauty in it, and has boundless facility in expression. It will soon be gone. The high school pupil of today can't even understand it.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church still holds two German services a month for the old folks. These are additional services to the regular two services each Sunday, and they will probably cease when it will be impossible to get someone to preach in that language. Even people in their eighties and nineties speak the English language well.

## THE WATER SYSTEM

In 1898 a wooden water tank was built and water mains were laid from Second St. and Main to Tenth St. and Main in order to give the business district fire protection. In 1893 there had been a disastrous fire which wiped out several business establishments on Main St. from Eighth St. north (on the east side) up to the two story brick building now occupied by the Western Auto Store, but then housing the Bruns Saddlery Shop and an upstairs meeting hall. This fire is described by Town Clerk, Al Schlapper, as destroying half of the then existing business district.

In 1922 a new water tank was installed, standing on 85 ft. high steel girders and reaching an overall height of 114 ft. This 75,000 gallon tank standing at the corner of Sixth St. and Gordon next to the city hall serves the town. There are 550 water meters to be read each month. During the past dry years, many farmers came to town with their tanks, put quarter dollars into the automatic vending valve to fill them and hauled the water home to their thirsting cattle. Cost of the water to them was \$1.25 per thousand gallons.

Today three wells, each five hundred seventy-five (575) feet deep, supply the town with water. No. 1 well was drilled in 1898, No. 2 in 1946, and No. 3 in 1951. Pumps on each well have a capacity of fifty gallons per minute. The water comes out of St. Peter Sand which underlies Concordia at a depth of 475 to 550 feet. There is a much more abundant supply of water found at nine hundred feet but it is not of such good quality as that found in the St. Peter Sand. The St. Peter Sand is said to run north and south "clear across the state and way up into Iowa."

**SEWAGE DISPOSAL.** In 1960 there are two sewage disposal plants, one north of town and one south of town. The town recently bought a one hundred twenty acre farm north of the north disposal plant, and the plans are at present to build a thirty acre lagoon which will take care of the disposal problem for many years to come.

**THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.** In 1898 the town procured a hose cart which was housed in the "Fire House" with a bell on top at the location now occupied by the Burlington Garment Factory on Main St. next to the railroad track. If a fire alarm was called in to "Central" (the telephone office), the girl on duty would push a button and the siren would sound. The first volunteer fireman to arrive with his car would hook the hose cart on and away he would go. Later he could collect his dollar for his services. There was also a hook and ladder wagon.

In 1926 the town bought its first fire truck, a Dodge, from Jul. Holsten. In 1956 a new truck was purchased. About 1950, the Rural Fire Truck Association bought a truck to be used for rural fires. Finding it hard to maintain it themselves, they turned it over to the city.

**IMPROVEMENTS IN 1960.** On May 19, 1959 a bond issue of \$353,000.00 was voted for a new water system in Concordia. It passed eight to one. In the fall and winter of 1959 the Chapman and Wegener Company of Higginsville, Mo., laid the water mains. Cost of installing these mains was \$13,270.60. The cost of the pipes, which were bought from Alabama Pipe Co. of Anniston, Alabama was \$30,571.47. A new tank (stand pipe) holding 400,000 gallons was built in the spring of 1960 on the highest elevation in town. The elevation at ground level there is 805 feet and the tank rises 104 feet above that. The lowest ground level elevation in town is down at South Park where it is recorded at 735 feet. The tank was built by the Pittsburg-Des Moines Company of De Moines, Iowa at a cost of \$43,570.

The next step in the plans calls for the construction of a dam on Peavine Creek south of town west of Highway J and near the County CC road which goes to Ernestville. This dam would bring about a lake of 145 acres which would supply the city with water,



and Concordia would no longer depend on wells.

The well water of Concordia contains a natural fluoride which is very beneficial to the teeth. A study of this was made by Dr. Herbert H. Scholle, and Dr. C. E. Presnell, dentists, and the results published in the state journal of dentistry.

## CONCORDIA WATER SUPPLY A SOURCE OF DENTAL HEALTH

By H. H. Scholle, D.D.S.

Probably the oldest known human ailment is dental caries, commonly referred to as tooth decay. From the beginning of recorded time much effort, thought, research, and money have been devoted to the control and prevention of dental caries and their resultant effects such as loss of teeth, malformed jaws and distorted facial boney structure. Tooth infection, as the result of dental caries, either directly or through insidious action affects vital organs of various parts of the human body.

In the last 25 years a method has been found by which dental caries can be reduced. This method is known as Fluoridation. It is a process by which flourine in the form of sodium fluoride or the compound sodium silico-fluoride is artificially added to drinking water, as is the case in some more fortunate communities. This is true also of Concordia, Missouri, where fluorine is found naturally in the water supply.

The process of fluoridating water has national approval of the American Dental Association, The American Public Health Service, The National Research Council, and The American Medical Association.

Fluoridation is no longer in the realm of guess work. It has been proven that children getting water with sufficient fluorine from birth through their early teens have  $\frac{2}{3}$  less decay than they would otherwise have. The older the child when he encounters fluorine the less benefit he gets, but whatever the degree of benefit, it appears to be permanent. Obviously, fluorine treatment does not cut decay completely out of the picture. A child born in a properly fluoridated community must still practice proper tooth care and correct dental hygiene.

Thousands of communities and cities in the United States and many foreign countries have instituted fluoridation. The United States government has placed it in all military camps.

As stated before, in some communities the water naturally contains fluorine in dental health giving proportions, and Concordia, Missouri, is one of these fortunate communities.

Dr. G. F. Scholle began practicing dentistry in Concordia in 1900. Over a period of years he noticed a lessening of dental caries among his patients of this town, especially in young patients and children. At first he attributed this condition to better nutrition and dental hygiene. However investigation failed to substantiate

fully this theory. Later Dr. H. H. Scholle suspected that lessening of caries incidence in this community might be due to fluorine in the drinking water. A long series of clinical observations and chemical tests were instituted starting in 1935. With the help of the Missouri State Dental Department and Federal agencies, records of water tests were kept and clinical observations of school children's examinations and other dental records computed.

Finally in 1952 all information was compiled and presented in an article entitled, **A Study of Fluorosis at Concordia, Missouri**, published in the Journal of the Missouri State Dental Association, Sept., 1952.

This article showed: 1. a yearly analysis of fluorine in the Concordia water supply; 2. an analytical record of decay, missing and filled teeth compiled according to age; 3. distribution of severity of fluorosis by age groups; 4. determination of index of endemic fluorosis; 5. a comparison of Concordia with four other communities in the United States showing the relation between fluoride domestic waters of various concentrations and the degree of severity of dental fluorosis. The conclusions were: 1. Concordia has one of the lowest dental caries incidence in the state of Missouri. 2. In spite of its comparative high fluoride content it has a low fluorosis index.

It is hoped by the author of this article if and when Concordia, Missouri changes its water supply from its present deep well system to its proposed surface water system, the city officials and the people of Concordia will institute artificial fluoridation; thereby retaining their low incidence to dental decay and the resultant reduction of dental expenses.

## CONCORDIA'S PARKS

Concordia boasts two parks, Central Park and South Park. Central Park is at Seventh and Gordon and bordered on the North by the railroad. It is about a quarter of a block in size. The town leases the ground from the Railroad for one dollar per year. The Railroad offered this ground for a park in Feb. 1909. In this park is a band stand, a flag pole, and two statues erected by popular subscription. The one dedicated to the soldiers of World War I and the Spanish American veterans was unveiled in 1923. The other, a statue of liberty, was put up through the efforts of the Boy Scouts in 1950. In Central Park are held the bi-weekly Saturday evening band concerts, and here also the Dairy Queen is crowned at the Street Fair. The place is also remembered for the delicious barbecues given by the business men prior to street fairs.

In 1907 a corporation of twenty stockholders put up one hundred dollars a piece to provide a recreational area for the growing city. They built South Park at the south end of Main St. It contained three features, a band stand, a refreshment stand, and a lake for boating. The carpenters that built the stand were Henry Schlapper and Herman Henning. Herman slipped off the roof one



morning when it was covered with frost and broke his leg. His sons, Henry and Fritz, then helped to finish the stand. South Park was the only recreational park for miles around, and it is said that some churches brought their members to Concordia by train to hold picnics there. On September 2, 1947 the Park Company received a certificate of dissolution and the park was sold to the Concordia Civic Club for \$1500.00. The Civic Club deeded it to the town. It now has a fine shelter and rest rooms, furnished by the Civic Club and here also is the Junior League Ball Park.

THE WORLD WARS



## THE WORLD WARS

In the service of their country in war, Concordians ranked among the foremost both in service at home and over seas. In World War I one hundred thirty-five men were in the armed forces. Of these, three did not return. Edward H. Lohman was killed in action in France. Arthur W. Beerman died of influenza in Germany after the Armistice while serving in the army of occupation, and Wm. Kronsbein died in Camp Funsten in Kansas.

Soldiers were trained in a hurry in 1918. On July 4th., 1918 Edward Lohman left Concordia for the county seat to be inducted, on September 4th., he finished his training and was shipped to Europe. On October 10., he was killed in action.

The following one hundred thirty-five men served in the armed Forces of the United States in World War I:

Hugo Baepler	Alfred Fuchs
Emil Bartles	Arthur Fuchs
Arthur F. Bartman	J. Wm. Green
Gustav H. Becker	Allen Gruebbel
Arthur W. Beerman	Ed. C. Hartman
Ernest Boeschen	Fred W. Heins
Otto H. Bohlman	Henry W. Hensiek
H. H. Bollman	Geo. E. Hewitt
Richard Borgstadt	Paul Hewitt
Hy. J. Bosselman	Dr. R. W. Hillriegel
Alvin H. Brackman	Louis J. Hinck
Joe. Brackman	Wm. A. Hinck
Arthur J. Brackman	Jul. H. Holsten
Chas. H. Bratton	Herbert Huels
J. T. Bratton	Dr. E. L. Joannston
Jerome Bratton	Hy. J. Kammeyer
Wm. H. Brinkoetter	John Karl
Wm. A. Brockhoff	Jul. H. Kessner
Arthur D. Brockman	Alvin Kirchhoff
Edwin Brockman	Hugo Kirchhoff
Lawrence Brockman	John L. Klingenberg
Wm. J. Brunkhorst	Wm. H. Klingenberg
Walter Brust	F. C. Knipmeyer
Edward Busch	Chas. C. Kobs
John Buschman	Edwin Kroencke
Herman G. Cassing	Leo H. Kroencke
Wm. A. Cook	Edw. F. Kronsbein
Ben H. Cordsen	Wm. Kronsbein
Henry N. Cordsen	Ben Kueck
Walter Cordsen	R. D. Kueck
Al. J. Damman, Sr.	Wallace H. Kuhlman
Louis G. Dieckman	Chas. H. Kurts
Alvin Driver	Emery Lange
Albert J. Duensing	Fred H. Lange
Ed. H. Evert	Harry Lange
Henry L. Finke	Roy F. Lieser
Alex Frerking	Arthur Lohman
Ed F. Frerking	Edw. Lohman
Irvin Frerking	Wm. H. Lohman
Paul G. Frerking	Alvin Luedeman
Paul W. Frerking	Sam J. Luetjen
LeRoy Froeschle	John L. Martens

Hy. E. Martens	Walter Schuets
Otto H. Marth	Calvin H. Schumacher
John F. Matthews	John Schumacher
Adolf Meyer	Hugo H. Sodemann
Hy. J. W. Meyer	Wm. Somfleth
Edwin L. Meyer	Henry F. Somfleth
Wm. C. Miller	Arthur Stahl
Henry Nuelle	Adolf Stuenkel
Hy. Oberhellman	Ernest Stuenkel
Gustav H. Oetting	Henry Stuenkel
Harry Oetting	Geo. Stumpenhaus
Jul. H. Oetting	Walter J. Sylvester
Alfred O. Petering	David Temming
Irvin Petering	Joe Temming
Jul. M. Pregge	Wm. A. Temming
John F. Rabe	Ben Thieman
Ed. J. Rehkop	Louis H. Thieman
Martin Schick	Geo. H. Vogt
Al. H. Schlapper	Gus A. Vogt
Frank L. Schmidt	Edward Welch
Otto R. Schmidt	Clarence Westerhaus
Otto J. Schmidt	John L. White
Albert Schroeder	Louis Wiekling
Alfred E. Schroeder	Cobus A. Wilde
August Schuette	Henry Wille
Louis Schuets	Albert Wodrich

Marie Kammeyer joined the Red Cross in April 1917 and the next month sailed for France, where she served in an army field hospital near Rouen for twenty-three months. She states that her hospital was a tent and the patients were mostly British soldiers. Today, Marie is Mrs. Alvin Stockhaus of Cleveland, Ohio.

**WORLD WAR II AND THE KOREAN CONFLICT.** It is estimated that three hundred and fifty men and women of Concordia and vicinity joined the armed forces of the United States and served their country in these two conflicts. In trying to obtain correct and complete lists it was impossible to separate those who joined after the wars from those who served during the wars, and it became evident that even the lists we had were incomplete. Therefore no list is included in this history.

Norbert Scholle Concordia's only Harvard graduate, was the highest ranking officer to come from Concordia. He became a Lieut. Colonel in the Medical Corps.

The following ten men from the Concordia area gave the supreme sacrifice in WORLD WAR II or in the KOREAN CONFLICT:

Eddie Bargfrede  
 Henry Bargfrede, Jr.  
 Carl Dotson  
 Edward Green  
 Edgar Heidorn  
 Vernon Henning  
 Norbert Meyer  
 Arnold Oetting  
 Elmer Pape  
 George D. Starkebaum



BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

## OLD TIMERS ON MAIN STREET, PAST AND PRESENT

The oldest business on Main Street at the present time is the Scholle Dentist Office. Although Dr. Herbert Scholle has been in it only since 1930, when he came in to work along side of his father, the office which was first on South Main, was opened by his father, Dr. G. F. Scholle, in 1900. He practiced dentistry on Main St. continuously for fifty-four years.

The man who has been in business the longest in Concordia is Ed. M. Runge. He started in the electrical business with his brother Louis in 1908. He tells about the first car he and his brother bought for their business in 1910, and he likes to show you a picture of it, a hard wheeler with a chain drive. It is said that when Dr. Lieser saw it for the first time, he remarked, "What's gettin' into dem fellers?"

The Bergmans were in the store business for sixty-eight years at the same location at 522 Main. It was known as Bergman's Department Store and was first run by the father, Adolph, who passed away in 1908, and then his sons, Ernest and Theodore ran the business. In the early years furniture was sold as well as groceries and dry goods. In later years only groceries and dry goods were sold. From 1952 to 1959 the store was owned and operated by William Klingenberg. He sold out when the Flandermeyer Brothers, Norbert and Harold, bought the property and put in their line of electrical appliances.

The Concordia Insurance Company, which has been doing business for ninety-one years in Concordia, is written up elsewhere in this chapter.

The Lissack doctor's office has been in the same location since Dr. Henry Lissack opened up practice there in 1909. He practiced there till 1942. In 1920, his son, Dr. Edmund Lissack, went into partnership with his father, and since that time the establishment has been known as the Lissack Clinic.

Ted Roepe was in the jewelry business from 1914 to 1959 after working for three years in the same business for another man.

Allie Grace has been a popular barber on Main Street since 1927. Alfred Schlickelmann, who passed away recently, barbered for over thirty-two years, and his father, Herman Schlickelmann, was a barber on Main Street for forty years.

The Sodemann Hardware and the Concordia Produce Business, both establishments of long standing, are written up elsewhere in this history. John Lohofener was in the General Store Business for forty years, 1878-1918. Emil G. Frerking, A. G. Voigt, and F. C. Voigt, in a partnership known as Frerking and Voigt Bros., were in the furniture and undertaking business on Main Street from 1922 to 1959. A. G. Voigt, however, had retired some years earlier.



Henry Rohman has been in the grocery business over thirty years.

Herman Alewel's harness shop is also a business of long standing. Many years ago A. E. Bruns was the renowned harness maker of Concordia for 43 years.

Mr. Ernest J. Meyer, father of Mrs. Floyd Nowlin, was a tailor in Concordia from 1876 to 1902. His record book shows that he made suits for Dr. Schneider, Daniel Wahrenbrock, Joe Elling, Jul. Driver, Fritz Klosterman, Arthur Wahrenbrock, Chas. Schilling, Dr. G. F. Scholle, Henry Lohman, Arthur Kroencke, Wm. Strimpel, August Brockman, Wm. Sodemann, Sr., E. Duensing, Henry A. Angelbeck, Wm. Kroencke, Henry Baepler, and others. Three piece suits ranged from fifteen to seventy-five dollars.

Louis Dierker started his dry goods business in Concordia in 1925 and is still in partnership today with his son Herbert in the same business. Previous to 1925 the name of Meyer, Kroencke, and Holsten was above this store for fifty years or more. The store was originally begun by Mr. J. Kroencke in 1869. (1881 History p. 571).

Christ Oetting closed his men's clothing store in 1937 after almost fifty years of business. E. H. "Topsy" Oetting was in the restaurant business forty-one years and in the pool hall business forty-eight years.

In this chapter you will read accounts of various business enterprises written in most parts by the people who are connected with them at present. Just as from small acorns mighty oaks have grown, so from small beginnings some rather sizeable institutions have grown in our community. We think of them as still growing. May they have a bright and glorious future.

From the March 12, 1959 Concordian we quote the major payrolls of the town:

Insurance Company	36,214.31
Farmers Co-op.	60,887.70
Tri Foods	97,559.28
St. Paul's College	111,969.99
Creamery Company	148,541.93
Creamery Milk Haulers	225,164.04
Total	680,337.25

## MILL AND ELEVATOR BUSINESS IN THE PAST

In 1856 Henry Flandermeyer and Lewis Bergman set up a grist mill presumably north of the county road and near St. Louis St. It was powered either by oxen or horses. The little deadend street north of the county road is today still called Mill Street.

Later the Baeplers brought a steam mill to Concordia from California, Missouri. In 1874 the mill stood between sixth and sev-

enth on Orange Street. It seems that mills were particularly subject to fires, and all traces of the first mills are gone.

The Concordia Mill and Elevator business was one of the largest business concerns in Concordia during the booming twenties. Elmer Sagehorn who was manager of the business says that in some years they grossed two and a half million dollars worth of business. Their fine flour was shipped in hundreds of carloads a year to Arkansas, Tennessee, and many other states. Wheat to feed the mill was shipped in from the Dakotas and other western states. The siding on the railroad was built in 1909 to accommodate this mill. The mill closed about 1934.

In 1880 John S. Klingenberg went into the mill and elevator business in Concordia. In 1908 he took his son, George, into partnership with him. "His business has been large, he having shipped one hundred and fourteen cars in 1909, mainly of wheat, and shipped in thirty cars of flour and feed." (Young p. 604). These men were also in the grain and feed business in Aullville. In the twenties the Klingenberg Mill and Elevator Co. shipped out hundreds of carloads of wheat a month during the harvest season. Corn was shipped in to make feed for livestock.

The properties of the Concordia Mill and Elevator, the Klingenberg Elevator, and the Concordia Produce Company are now owned by the Farmers' Co-op.

## CONCORDIA PRODUCE COMPANY

In 1898 A. F. Brockman began a "sack office" which rented out sacks for elevators. There he acquired the nickname of "Sacko", which gradually became "Secco." He worked at this trade for about two years and then added a small poultry business in 1901. At the same time he did paper hanging.

He built up his small business until he was receiving eggs from all of the surrounding towns by the truckloads. When his business was at its height in the 1920's he had two railroad cars with his brand name marked on each side of them, "A F B EXTRAS." Sometimes as many as five carloads a week would be shipped to the eastern seaboard. Most of them were sold to the Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company.

Mr. Brockman was the first automobile dealer in Concordia. He had the Ford agency, and he sold the first car to Bill Deke in 1909. This versatile man at one time also had a restaurant and a butcher shop. His athletic and musical attainments are related elsewhere in this history. (Information contributed by his son, Roy Brockman, and others).



## BANKING

On Feb. 24, 1873, the first meeting was held for the purpose of organizing the Savings Bank in Concordia. The first meeting consisted largely of discussion of preliminary plans and on March 4 another meeting was held at which time Dr. Flanders, Henry Roepe, and J. H. Lohofener were appointed a committee to draft the by-laws and rules of the association. By April 11, 1873, they were ready to elect officers.

J. H. Lohofener was chosen president, Peter Uphaus elected vice president and Dr. F. L. Flanders was elected as cashier. The first board of directors consisted of Dr. F. L. Flanders, H. H. Lohofener, Henry Elling, E. F. Ninas, Wm. Sodemann, Sr., Henry Roepe, H. H. Elling, Henry Meinecke, and W. F. Frerking. The first building occupied by the bank was at the south-west corner of Schiller and Boggs (Main at 8th), for which \$100.00 a year rent was paid.

The first statement of resources and liabilities showed total resources of \$13,354.09.

At this time the town of Concordia consisted of approximately 100 to 150 inhabitants.

THE FARMERS BANK OF CONCORDIA was organized in 1891. W. A. Brackman was cashier of the bank at its organization. In 1909 the Board of Directors were the following: J. P. Lohofener, President; W. A. Brackman, cashier; Louis Scharnhorst, Ernest Wahrenbrock, and A. H. Deke, directors. There were also others, but their names have been lost.

In December 1929 the Concordia Savings Bank and the Farmers Bank of Concordia consolidated into what was known as the Bank of Concordia. In December 1931 the Bank of Concordia failed and was subsequently liquidated.

On July 2, 1932 the Concordia Bank opened for business with \$10,000.00 in deposits. These deposits now total over \$2,000,000.00.

When the Concordia Bank opened for business in 1932 the board of directors consisted of the following: G. A. Sievers, President; Miss E. E. Sievers, vice-president; J. D. Freund, cashier; J. A. Siemon and Hal. R. Lebrecht.

The present directors of the Concordia Bank are: J. G. Hoover, chairman of the board; Louis Dierker, president; Edwin A. Pape, Theo. H. Henning and James Perdew, vice presidents; Otto Brackman, cashier and secretary and R. M. Kroencke, ass't. cashier.

Personnel active in the bank are: Otto Brackman, Cashier, R. M. Kroencke, ass't. cashier, Minerva Bohlman, teller, Linda Stuenkel, Joan Shisler, and Carol Driver, book-keepers.

In April 1959 the employees and directors of the bank presented Otto Brackman with a gift of a beautiful "over and under" shotgun in appreciation for fifty years of faithful service to the bank.

## HISTORY OF THE SODEMANN HARDWARE COMPANY

By Hugo H. Sodemann

William Johann Heinrich Sodemann, Sr., was born in Schleswig, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, on October 3, 1843 and came to America at the age of 22 years, after serving his time as an apprentice learning the tinsmith trade. It was the year 1865 when he came to America and first went to Detroit, Mich., and stayed there for two months. He then went to St. Louis, Mo., where he stayed until the year 1869 and then went to Concordia, Mo., to make this his home. As a tinsmith and sheet metal worker he opened a tin shop on St. Louis Street. This was the main street at that time, but not long afterwards the business places were moved to Schiller Street, which is now our Main Street. A tinsmith by trade, he soon made his own merchandise that he was going to sell. This consisted of coffee pots, coffee boilers, all sizes of cooking pots, tea kettles, wash boilers, milk buckets, milk strainers, all sizes of tin buckets with covers, sprinkling cans, tin fruit cans, sheet iron stoves, stove pipes and elbows, smoke stacks, coal hods, and many other items. He also did lots of outside work, such as guttering houses, putting on tin roofs and lightning rods. Besides the things he made, he also carried a nice line of cast iron cook and heating stoves. On February 14, 1871, he was married to Miss Crecencia Neuner. He was one of the 69 citizens who petitioned the County Court in 1877 to make Concordia a town. He was a member of the first board of trustees for the town. After seven years of happy married life, his wife passed away, leaving him with four small children, namely: Marie, Dora, William, Jr., and Christian, the latter died at the tender age of 18 months. In the year 1879, Mr. Sodemann made a trip to his home town in Schleswig, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. While there he was married to Miss Wilhelmina Christine Gaeth. She was born on March 30, 1852 and was 27 years old when she came to America with her husband to make this her home. This happy union was blessed with eight children, namely: Chris. Anna, Henry, Hattie, Hugo A., who died shortly afterward; Theckla, Hugo H. and Richard, who died at the age of 4 years during the diptheria epidemic. Mr. Sodemann was one of the few persons who took the first steps in March 1878 to organize the Evangelical Bethel Congregation. It was in the year 1904 when he put in a full line of hardware in connection with his tin shop. During all the former years, Mr. Sodemann, Sr., used a horse and spring wagon for conveying his tools, ladders, and tin material to all of his jobs and also for delivering stoves. His first horse was called Nancy, which he kept until she was getting too old and not of much use anymore. He gave the horse to a man by the name of Mr. Reigh with the understanding that he would be very kind to the horse, which was always so faithful to him. Then another



horse was bought by the name of Bell. This horse was used for quite a number of years. It was sold on account of getting too old. Then another horse was bought by the name of Dick.

Several years afterwards when Mr. Sodemann was getting older right along, he decided to sell his business to his son, William C. Sodemann and a man by the name of Mr. Louis Edgar of Sweet Springs, Mo. The business was then called the Sodemann Hardware Company. However, this partnership did not last very long when Mr. William C. Sodemann bought Mr. Louis Edgar's share in the business, thereby becoming the sole owner of the Sodemann Hardware Company. At about this time the horse, Dick, was getting too old, so a team of black ponies was bought and used until the year 1915 when they were sold and a Model T Ford coupe automobile was bought and made into a truck. Four years before this automobile was bought Mr. William Sodemann, Sr., took sick and passed away in the year 1911, at the age of 67 years and 8 months. It was about this time when hot air furnaces were starting to be used as heating units and grew into a big business. On July 12, 1916 Mr. William C. Sodemann, Jr., took sick and passed away. His wife operated the store under the management of Mr. Hugo H. Sodemann, a brother to her husband who up to that time had been working in the tin shop as a sheet metal worker. This went on for several years until Hugo was called upon to serve in the U. S. Army in the first World War in 1918. Then his brother-in-law, Mr. Herman Schlapper, was made manager of the store until Hugo H. was discharged from the army in the year 1919. It was at this time that Hugo H. Sodemann and Herman Schlapper formed a partnership and bought the business from Mrs. William C. Sodemann, Jr. This partnership went on until the year 1922, when Hugo H. Sodemann purchased the interest that Herman Schlapper had in the business and thereby became the sole owner of the Sodemann Hardware Company. Hugo H. Sodemann carried on this business for thirty-two more years. He then sold the business to Mr. Elmer H. Frerking on October 23, 1954 and he took possession on November 1, 1954. It was a very successful business for all the Sodemanns. Thus the name Sodemann Hardware Company came to an end after serving the public for a period of 85 years. However, the business kept on going but under another name. It now was called Frerking Hardware. Mr. Frerking conducted this business with the help of his wife and Stanley Paul, his youngest son. For 5 years and 5 months everything went along fine, but on March 29, 1960, Mr. Frerking took seriously ill and passed away. This was quite a shock to all the people in Concordia and vicinity. Mr. Frerking was a good business man, well liked by all who knew him, and he took great interest in his Church and all civic affairs. The business will be carried on by Mrs. Elmer H. Frerking and her sons.

So the business started in 1869 by Mr. William Sodemann, Sr., is still being carried on but under a new name and ownership.

## HISTORY OF THE CONCORDIA CREAMERY COMPANY

By Willard Stuenkel

As we celebrate the centennial of this fair city of Concordia and look back on its one hundred years of growth and history, we realize that many of the things we now take for granted were the results of much time, money and effort put forth by people who settled here one hundred years ago and believed in the future of this community and did everything in their power to make Concordia what it is today.

As the old history books unfold, and as the minutes of meetings and organizations' records are pulled out of forgotten and dirty storage places, we see that every industry, every church, and everything that is here in Concordia today—did not just happen—it took work, hard work, time and patience.

So it was with Concordia Creamery which, too, is part of this community and has added much to the growth of this community. Back in the early 90's Concordia, being imbedded in the rich agricultural plains in the bread basket of America, found itself short of market facilities for the commodities and produce that came from the farms in this area. So in the years 1891 and 1892 men with vision put forth an effort to build a creamery here in Concordia and although records do not show who called the meetings, or who was responsible, it would be my guess that the first officers elected included most of the men who were responsible. After these men had sold \$100.00 worth of stock to 55 farmers and business men they called the first annual stockholders meeting on Oct. 13, 1892 and decided to organize and build the Concordia Creamery Co.

Nine directors were elected and they were: L. C. Stuenkel, L. Scharnhorst, H. Brackman, W. H. Bruns, J. W. Klingenberg, Hy. Frerking, Sr., D. Rehkop, L. Brackman and A. Bergman.

Mr. L. S. Stuenkel was elected the first president and Mr. A. Bergman, the first secretary.

At the same meeting a building committee was elected and they were: G. F. Brockman, H. W. Thieman, and H. H. Brinkoter. The building committee and the board were instructed to purchase land and to start building immediately. Land was purchased from Mr. C. Eickhoff for \$200.00 on Oct. 20, 1892 and building started soon afterward. An option for the equipment, including cheese equipment, was taken for \$4500.00 on Oct. 29, 1892 and the option was exercised before the first of the year. Later it was decided not to make cheese so all the cheese equipment was traded in on different creamery equipment for \$2500.00.

Mr. J. E. Wilson was hired as the first buttermaker on January 1, 1893 and with the new building nearing completion and the equipment on its way, the new company was almost ready to begin operation. On March 1, 1893 the creamery was opened for busi-



ness and was paying \$1.00 per cwt. for milk regardless of test and the milk was separated at the plant. Skim milk was sold back to the patrons at 3c per can. By December 1893 the creamery was receiving 5,000 pounds of milk per day and on February 1, 1894 milk was purchased on a butterfat basis.

In March of 1894 the creamery was incorporated under the laws of the State of Missouri.

The second buttermaker, Mr. M. Miller, was hired in December of 1894 to replace Mr. Wilson who resigned. Volume was picking up and the first sizeable addition was built in April 1900.

Mr. Wm. A. H. Oetting, long associated with the creamery, was hired as engineer on July 23, 1901 and Mr. Miller continued as buttermaker until November of 1903 when Mr. J. A. Ahrens was hired as buttermaker. He continued with the creamery until April 1, 1905 when Mr. Oetting was hired as buttermaker.

In October 1905 a new creamery was built, and although this building has been expanded and was remodeled many times, it still is part of the creamery today.

Farmers in the neighborhood of Ernestville and Aullville banded together and organized a skimming station and sold their cream to the Concordia Creamery, and a group from Cole Camp, Mo. did the same thing, shipping their cream by rail. These operations started in 1907.

Electric light was installed in the creamery in November of 1912 for \$12.00 per year without a meter. In 1914 the creamery built a sizable warehouse of frame construction and also in 1914 Mr. Gust. Heerman was hired as engineer. In February 1921 an ice house was built at the creamery despite the fact that there had been much discussion about building a refrigeration plant.

In March 1923 Mr. Ed. Pape started his employment at the creamery and in November of the same year an office addition was built to the creamery. In February 1925 the creamery volume had grown to the point where Mr. Oetting needed an assistant buttermaker in addition to the engineer and other help and Mr. H. E. Phelps was hired for this position. In August 1926 the creamery deep well was dug by Mr. Clay Calhoun. It went to a depth of 486 feet and furnished water for the creamery up to two years ago. The water tower was completed in February 1927.

Walter Reith, still engaged at the creamery, started working here in the year 1926.

From the first day of its operation until November 1927 all checks issued by the creamery were either mailed from or picked up at Bergman's store as Mr. A. Bergman was secretary of the company. This was now turned over to the employees and the checks were issued from the creamery office.

Since the organization of the creamery, business matters were handled entirely by the board of directors, and the secretary of the board received a salary for doing the book work and issuing of the checks. The buttermaker did have authority over his men

but did not act in the capacity of a manager. A slight change from this policy occurred in May 1929 when Mr. Wm. A. H. Oetting was named secretary-treasurer of the company, and he took over some of the responsibility which heretofore had been that of the directors only.

The first cream route was started by the creamery in January 1930 and it was operated by Mr. H. C. Schnakenberg.

In March 1931 Mr. Wm. A. H. Oetting was named the first manager of the creamery and Mr. Ed. Pape was named secretary-treasurer. The first vacations since its organization were granted the employees in 1933. In March 1936 Mr. Wm. Oetting resigned and Mr. Ed. Pape became the new manager.

In January 1939 the first committees were appointed to look into the matter of reorganization and to change the present company from a stock company to a patron-owned corporation when the charter expired in March 1944. In January 1941 it was decided to make cheese at the creamery and the cheese factory was built in the summer of 1941. Mr. Alvin Kyte was hired as the first cheesemaker.

In May 1943 a stockholders' meeting was called and accepted the recommendation of a committee to change the present company to a corporation cooperative, and this became effective in March 1944.

In April 1949 Mr. Ed. Pape resigned as manager and Willard Stuenkel was hired to take his place.

The creamery is now going into its 68th year. During that time the following men have served as president: Louis Stuenkel, W. H. Bruns, Henry Frerking, Louis Brackman, J. W. Klingenberg, Martin Brackman, John Bruns, Martin Beerman, and W. C. Edwards.

The creamery and board were served by the following in the capacity of secretary of the board: Adolph Bergman, Ernest Bergman, John Bruns, Adolph Oetting and Wm. Stuenkel.

Present board members are: W. C. Edwards, president; Harry Wehrs, vice president; Wm. Stuenkel, secretary; Harry Dabler, Wm. Cordes, Raymond Brockman, Leonard Bell, Ed. Rehkop, and Omar Oetting.

The creamery has always taken pride in the quality of its products and has through the years been recognized as a blue ribbon winner on its products wherever they were exhibited.

Some of the early winnings were:

Grand Sweepstakes at Louisiana, Mo. 1898  
Grand Sweepstakes at Brookfield, Mo. 1899  
1st place St. Louis Fair 1898  
2nd place St. Louis Fair 1901  
1st place Sedalia State Fair 1902

All through the years it has added blue ribbons and trophies to its trophy case. Some of the latest trophies were won in 1957 and



1958 when trophies for every class of butter exhibited in Missouri State Fair and the Ozark Empire Fair were awarded to Concordia Creamery.

From a humble and small beginning it has grown continuously and is at the present time operating in 18 counties, and has reached a volume of sales that have topped 3 million dollars the past 3 years.

The creamery presently employs 55 people. In 1959 it had a payroll of over \$150,000. In addition it requires the services of 25 contract haulers.

The Concordia Creamery is proud to have been a part of this community for so many years and looks forward to the future growth of both its own operation and the growth of Concordia.

## WALNUT BRANCH DAIRY FARM AND MILK SKIMMING STATION

Mr. William H. Bruns, a farmer living about 3½ miles west of Concordia, Mo., operated a milk station in connection with his farm. This was about the year 1895. This farm was called "Walnut Branch Dairy Farm" because Mr. Bruns planted about 50 walnut trees around a well which was his source of water supply for the creamery. The creamery was a frame building with steps leading from the ground floor to the next floor, then another six or eight steps to the top floor where the milk was delivered to a platform on the east side of the building. A steam turbine was used in connection with a Sharples cream separator. The farmers living in this area around the Walnut Branch Dairy Farm brought their milk to this station to have the cream separated from the milk. Then Mr. Bruns would take the cream to the Concordia Creamery Co., which was organized in the year 1891-1892. The price of the milk and cream could not be remembered. Helping Mr. Bruns was his son, John, who had taken a course at the University in Columbia, Mo. He would weigh the milk and take out a sample for testing. The farmer would receive pay according to the test of butter fat in the milk. These tubes were kept in a cabinet made for this purpose close by the scale. Four or five ten-gallon cans of cream were delivered every day to the Concordia Creamery Co. However, in winter there wasn't quite that much. At times there were as many as 10 to 12 wagons with milk waiting to be waited upon. Just to mention a few of the farmers who took their milk to the Bruns milk station are: Ernest Dreyer, Ernest Wahrenbrock, Peter Steinman, Jim Holteamp, Claus Lorenz, Martin Holsten, and many others. The cream was kept cool by hanging in the well until it could be delivered to the Concordia Creamery Co. Mr. W. H. Bruns was one of the first nine directors of the Concordia Creamery Co. and also served as president in later years. His son, John, also served as president. No information was to be had on how long Mr. Bruns had this milk skimming station.

Mr. W. H. Bruns was born in the year 1842 and passed away in the year 1919.

There were several more milk skimming stations around the Concordia area, but not much information could be found. However there was a skimming station in Ernestville, managed by Mr. Wm. Fiene. There was another milk station south of Concordia which was managed by Mr. John Dittmer. However he took his cream to Sweet Springs, Mo.

This information was received from Mrs. W. G. Roepe, a daughter of Mr. W. H. Bruns, now living in Oklahoma City 12, Oklahoma, and Mr. Wm. A. H. Oetting, one time butter maker in the Concordia Creamery Co.

## TRI FOODS COMPANY

Tri Foods Company, manufacturer of condensed and dried animal foods, has become a major industry in Concordia. The company was organized by three men from three states on August 13, 1946, with Glen Laabs as the supervisor. Starting with only three employees, the company has grown until now there are 31 employees and the annual payroll exceeds \$100,000.00. One of the original employees is still with the company.

The company's building space has also increased since it began. Starting with only 1600 square feet of floor space in 1946, the company now occupies three buildings with a combined floor space of 15,000 square feet.

Tri Foods Company collects raw whey and buttermilk in tank trailers from the creameries in this area, the raw material coming from Concordia, Emma, Alma, Windsor, and Blue Springs.

The volume of this material during July 1, 1960, was ten times greater than during the first month of the company's operation in 1946, and the production of the finished product now averages 33,000 pounds per day, or about one million pounds per month.

The raw ingredients — the whey and buttermilk — are condensed or dried into animal foods, the principal products made for feeding poultry, hogs, and calves. The whey is also dried and sold to other companies to use in their feeds.

The Tri Foods Company products are delivered in trailer-truck units, the sales area going as far north as Minnesota, west to Denver, east to Pennsylvania, and south as far as Mexico, with three cars of dried whey going to Mexico in 1959.

Tri Foods Company also has a division — 20th Century Plastic Wrap Sealer Company — which manufactures a cheese sealing machine and a cheese dicing machine and stapler. Over 200 of the 20th Century Plastic Wrap Sealers have been sold, and some have been exported to South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada.



The present officers of the company are: Glen C. Laabs, manager; David Johnson, assistant manager and sales manager; Harry Viebrock, plant superintendent; and Walter Stuermer, maintenance superintendent.

## CONCORDIA INSURANCE COMPANY

By Leslie B. Kueck

This year marks the 91st anniversary of the establishment of the Concordia Farmers Mutual Insurance Company.

In the course of the last ninety-one years there have been established many business houses and firms in Concordia and in the territory where this company now operates. Many, many have come and gone . . . in fact, only a few remain which were organized or established ninety-one years ago. Without a doubt, it is one of the oldest, if not THE OLDEST FIRM EXISTING IN CONCORDIA TODAY.

In the year 1869, a group of farmers, in the community which is now Concordia and its trade territory, having the vigor, courage and initiative required for success, set out to organize what is today known as the Concordia Farmers Mutual Insurance Co. This organization took place only a few years after the end of the Civil War, when the sufferings resulting from it had not yet ceased, and, when along with their own personal problems and difficulties, the political and racial strife had not entirely subsided. The organization of this business venture, during these trying times, took a great deal of courage and determination.

The company, at the time it was organized, was known as "The Aid Association." Later, at the time of its incorporation in 1930, it became known as the "Freedom Farmers Insurance Company." The officers were: President, Ed. J. M. Buck, vice president, H. W. Temple, Higginsville, Mo.; secretary, Otto W. Oetting. In 1938 the name was changed to the "Concordia Farmers Mutual Insurance Co.", with the same officers as in 1930.

The old records of the company disclose that the purpose of the organization was: "This association is organized for the purpose of aiding members who suffer losses by fire or lightning on their dwellings or household goods so that it may be easier for them to bear the loss." It may be assumed that the pioneers who founded this company were Christian men as their purpose "Bear ye one another's burdens" indicates. Another indication that these men were Christian is the fact that no certificate or evidence of insurance was given the member during the first sixty-one years of business. A man's word was better than all his worldly possessions. In spite of the fact that there were no written contracts which were binding on both parties, the company had no disputes nor difficulties with members which led to lawsuits. Even to date, the company has never had to resort to court action to settle a claim.

Another interesting point in the history of this company is that all the old records are written in German, and, for quite some period of time, only those with a good understanding of the German language were permitted to be members.

Some of the charter members were: Clemens Riesterer; Friedrich Stuenkel, Dietrich Oetting, Heinrich D. Bruns, Friedrich Haesemeyer, Wilhelm Walter, Wilhelm Schlue, Christopher Bredehoeft, Friedrich Dedeke, Friedrich Brackmann, John Rodekohr, J. H. Brackmann, Heinrich Franke, Heinrich Henke, John Harms, Heinrich Gerberding, Heinrich Steinkuehler, Herrman Fricke, Heinrich Gieseke, Heinrich Duensing, George Kuecker, O. G. Frerking, Christopher Freitag, Heinrich Dankenbring, Clause Wolters, August Meyer, Friedrich Heidorn, Friederich Beerman, Dietrich Luetjen, Henry Westerhouse, H. C. Meyer, Ernst Koenig, H. H. Uphaus, Wm. Oehlschlaeger, Heinrich Beerman, Heinrich Stuenkel, John Fuehring, Heinrich Elling, Heinrich Lohman, Conrad Stuenkel, Heinrich Gieselman, C. H. Walkenhorst, Heinrich Wehrs, Peter Uphaus, Heinrich Grodheer, Friedrich Stuermer, Wm. Frerking, Claus Holsten, Heinrich Roepe. The first president of the company was Heinrich Roepe, the father of Mr. Gustav Roepe who lives in Concordia. The first secretary was Henry Miller, known as "Squire" Miller.

There are very meager records concerning the company's first twenty years of operation and evidently a few of them were lost, destroyed or misplaced. So, it is difficult to acquire pertinent information concerning dates, volume of insurance, coverages written, charter members, officers, etc. Very good records have been kept since 1930.

As nearly as we can tell, the company wrote only fire and lightning insurance only on dwelling and furniture properties in the first years of operation, but soon thereafter they began accepting other buildings and as early as 1893 they began insuring against loss by windstorm. In 1909 the company organized a branch organization for the purpose of insuring grain, livestock, implements, etc., but in 1915 the main organization and the branch organization were united and in the same year the company began insuring automobiles against fire loss, but only while they were in the shed. However, the practice of insuring automobiles was discontinued in 1931. It was not until the end of 1930 that the company began issuing some evidence to a member as to the amounts of insurance he carried with the company. Prior to 1930, it was just an oral agreement between members and a representative of the company as to the liability of each. When the loss occurred, a representative of the company contacted each of the members and informed them of their pro-rata share of the loss and the constitution provided that each member was HONOR-BOUND to contribute his share within twenty days. The funds so collected were then given the member who sustained the loss.



In the early years of the company's operation, the company records were kept in the home or business place of the secretary. In 1931 they rented an office building, which is now occupied by Runge Electric. A short time later, date not definitely known, the office was moved to rented quarters which were formerly the Concordia Savings Bank. This building was purchased in 1939 and the office still remains in that building. In 1954 the building was entirely remodeled and at the present time it is one of the best equipped offices in Concordia.

The company has grown on conservative, but sound, practices, and this is evidenced by its present volume of over \$67,000,000 insurance in force and 7,500 outstanding policies. Especially in recent years, the company has grown tremendously in volume of insurance and in services rendered its policyholders. Volume has increased by nearly 50% in the last two years, and over the past ten year period the records show over 300% increase. The management attributes this fine increase to increased sales activity in all of the seven county area—Lafayette and adjoining counties—some of which had not been touched by C.F.M. agents, and also to increased services and coverages which have been well received by its membership.

The company has established an enviable record of low cost protection, which for equal coverage in the rural areas, is unmatched in the state. Savings to the members during the last ten years is estimated to be in excess of 2½ million dollars or a financial savings of over 50% for each members on his insurance cost. If these savings were reflected over the ninety-one years the company has been in business, they would run into a very sizeable amount.

C.F.M. will continue to grow in size and in service to its membership, as the present management has pledged to keep abreast of the rapidly changing rural and urban economy and to continue to provide the best possible protection at the least possible cost, consistent with good business practices. Recently, the company made arrangements to write Multiple-Life insurance as a further service to its thousands of members.

The following are the present officers of the Concordia Farmers Mutual Insurance Co.:

President: Otto H. Pinkepank of Sweet Springs, Mo.

Vice Pres.: Allen M. Jarman of Higginsville, Mo.

Sec'y-Treas.: Leslie B. Kueck of Concordia, Mo.

Ass't. Sec'y.: Harlan L. Henning of Concordia, Mo.

## BURLINGTON MANUFACTURING COMPANY

Burlington Manufacturing Company started the plant in Concordia, Mo. in September 1949. Mr. Harry Kabaker, president of Burlington Manufacturing Company, purchased the plant from Harry Garrison, owner of Brookfield Garrison Manufacturing Company of Warrensburg, Mo. In so doing they acquired 30 to 35 experienced sewing machine operators.

For the first six months or so Burlington centered their attention on the pants line. Soon after the shirt unit and jacket unit were placed in operation. The total production at first amounted to around 1800 units per day for all the lines.

Expansions and additions through the years were made possible through the splendid cooperation of the Concordia Development Company.

Burlington manufactures union made work clothing. These garments are made of regular twills as well as wash and wear. Our garments are sold throughout the United States, from small retail dealers to large chain stores, Montgomery Ward and Company being the largest of our chain store customers.

The present production has increased to 1200 units per day on the pant line, 700 units per day on the shirt line and 200 units per day on the jacket line. This includes regular as well as blanket lined jackets.

The majority of labor comes from Concordia and surrounding areas. To date we have approximately 65% of our original employees. Present employment runs around 110.

Wade Williams was the first plant manager. He was employed in Concordia until June 1952, at which time he was transferred to another plant in Miami, Oklahoma. Lawrence Stewart replaced Mr. Williams from 1952 to 1954.

At present Holmes Kueck is plant manager. Mrs. Nora Mahnken is in charge of the floor, and Roy Borgstadt in charge of the cutting room.

Through the cooperation of the Development Company, Concordia enjoys a payroll of approximately \$250,000 annually.

## CONCORDIA FARMERS CO-OPERATIVE COMPANY

By Otto Oetting and Theo. Henning

The history of the Concordia Farmers Co-operative Company dates back to the year 1919. This organization, however, was the outgrowth of other organizations existing at that time in this community, known as farm clubs. These farm clubs were organized by school districts, and were named after the rural schools, for example, Walkenhorst School Farm Club. There were several of



these school farm clubs in this community, which together also formed a central organization, named the Concordia Farmers Club.

The purpose of these farm clubs generally was to enable the members to co-operate with one another, not only locally, but also on a statewide and perhaps wider hook-up; to promote the welfare of the farmers by striving for legislation favorable to farmers, by establishing better social relations between farmers generally, but more especially to conduct business and financial matters jointly.

The Concordia Farmers Club for several years tried to, and did conduct some business co-operatively in the purchase of some commodities needed by nearly all farmers, and by shipping livestock jointly to the Kansas City and St. Louis markets.

It was not very long until they came to the conclusion that the only way for the farmers to be really able to co-operate effectively would be to have an established business place, where certain commodities would be kept for sale, and where some of the farmers' products could be marketed. This conclusion then led to the organization and incorporation of the CONCORDIA FARMERS CO-OPERATIVE COMPANY.

This organization was formed by a group of the local farm club leaders raising capital through the sale of shares of stock to more than one hundred farmers at the price of \$25.00 per share. In this manner a capital of \$5,000 was raised.

The first president of the organization was Joe W. Klingenberg. The first business establishment was in a rented property located about where the present Walkenhorst Motor show room is located. That structure was a frame building which had been used as a lumber yard for several years, but the lumber business had been discontinued. Actual business operations by the Farmers Co-operative Company in this place were started about March 1, 1919.

Business was conducted at this location for several years. The first business consisted of a feed store, and the co-operative shipping of livestock. This was before the use of trucks, and the livestock was shipped in railroad cars to the Kansas City and St. Louis Stockyards. More than one hundred carloads of livestock per year, mostly hogs, were shipped to the markets. After a few years the hauling of livestock by truck was inaugurated. The first truck used by the Farmers Co-operative Company was a model T Ford.

After doing business at the first location a short time the company bought the lot where its first business building was built, across the alley from the present Bank building. At this place the company gradually expanded to retailing feeds and other farm necessities. The use of commercial feed at that time was very small as compared to the present time. The stockyards were located across the street south of the building, along the railroad tracks.

In the year 1930 the railroad company moved the stockyards a block and a half east, and in the following year a new grain ele-

vator was built on the space left vacant by moving the stockyards. This building had a grain storage capacity of about 15,000 bushels and was equipped with grinding and feed mixing equipment to take care of the demand for this type of service brought on by the change in feeding methods.

Gradual increase in sales and services created a demand for more storage facilities for grain and also warehouse space for the number of shareholders increased each year.

The increasing demand for ground and mixed feed as well various items of merchandise sold. When the property of the Concordia Mill and Elevator Co. was offered for sale it was purchased in 1938. Flour machinery was then removed from the building, and after some changes in the building itself, large cleaners were installed in order to handle better the increased volume of farm seeds such as Korean lespedeza, red clover and timothy as well as to offer custom cleaning service for all farm seeds. High speed grain elevators were installed to handle the grain better when it was hauled in at harvest time.

During the year 1945 the property of the Klingenberg Elevator Co. was purchased, thus bringing the total grain storage capacity of the three elevators up to about 65,000 bushels of bulk storage. A decision was reached by the board of directors at this time to go into the lumber business, and the feed warehouse space of the Klingenberg Elevator was remodeled for handling building materials. Within the next few years other lumber sheds were erected and a modern office and warehouse built to handle the ever increasing sales of the company.

The authorized capital stock of the company was raised from the original amount of \$10,000.00 to \$40,000.00 in the year 1947, and as the use of commercial feeds in general brought on the realization that the facilities for handling these were no longer adequate and that it would be necessary to make further improvements along that line. It was therefore decided to install new machinery which included a much larger grinder as well as mixing and shelling equipment and facilities for handling bulk feeds.

The total annual sales of the company passed the million dollar mark for the first time in 1952 and has exceeded that amount each year to the present time. There has been an almost uninterrupted increase in sales each year from \$21,650.00 in 1919 to a total of \$1,402,175.00 in 1959.

In order to meet the ever increasing demand for bulk storage it was decided to build additional grain storage for the company. During the year 1960 four steel grain bins with a capacity of 15,000 bushels each were erected for a total of 60,000 bushels, thus bringing the total storage of the company to 125,000 bushels.

The total amount of sales of the company during the forty years is \$24,235,952.00 and the savings returned to the patrons of the company during that time amounted to \$732,294.90. To the many employees during this period of time a total of \$805,424.70 was paid in salaries and wages.



## THIEMAN'S POLLED SHORTHORNS

Five miles west of Concordia on Highway 40 are the homes of Lewis and Harold Thieman. Here is the home also of the World famous Thieman's Polled Shorthorns.

Lewis and Lydia (Weber) Thieman are both natives of this immediate area. They attended school in this vicinity and Lewis graduated from the University of Missouri in 1904. They had two sons, Homer and Harold. Both are graduates of Concordia High School and the University of Missouri. Homer is now president of the syndicate of newspapers, the "Corn Belt Dailies". Harold is actively operating the home farm. Harold is famous as a beef cattle judge and has worked in leading stock shows in this country. He was honored by being asked to judge the Royal Easter Show in Sydney, Australia. In connection with this show, Harold and his wife Virginia, in 1957 made a trip around the world. Harold is also on the board of directors of the American Shorthorn Association, the American Royal, and the International Livestock Show.

The Polled Shorthorn herd was established shortly after 1900 and has constantly improved every year since. The very best cattle have been purchased through the years from all over this country, Canada, and Scotland, to further improve the herd. Certain specific goals are constantly kept in mind and a standard of near perfection and excellence is always a foremost thought. The most perfect beef for a small child or a king must be produced in an economical manner that will provide a suitable income for the farmer, the feeder, and the processor.

Because of the fundamental soundness of breeding and production, Thieman-bred cattle are now being produced in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the British Isles, South Africa, Argentina, and are widely scattered throughout the entire United States. Since 1930, almost half of all of the International Grand Championships have been bred, fitted, and exhibited by this firm. Ribbons won are stacked layer on layer and the trophy room is a sight to behold.

During the year 1960, major championships on cattle of Thieman breeding have been won in South Africa, Scotland, Australia, and numerous shows in the United States. The sun never sets on all Thieman-bred cattle.

The home herd today numbers about two hundred head. The herd sires are rated among the best in the world and the females in the breeding herd are equally outstanding. The Thiemans raise their own feed and have no other outside income except from normal farming operations. It is a tribute to American ingenuity that this great herd has attained world wide fame and international recognition. The herd is good enough to bring cattle minded people, seeking improvement in their own herds, from everywhere that good beef cattle are produced.

The Thiemans live and believe the quotation of Louis Bromfield: "In good times we have done well, and in bad times we have always had security, shelter and food, and above all else the dignity and self-respect without which life becomes, for the reasonable man, unendurable".

## CONCORDIA LUMBER COMPANY

On March 14, 1949, Edwin Pape and Norbert Schnakenberg purchased the stock from the Home Lumber Co., formerly known as the Duensing Lumber Co., from Mrs. Erma Walkenhorst. On April 25, 1949, the building north of the Home Lumber Co., better remembered as a livery and feed stable and a blacksmith shop, caught fire and completely destroyed all the buildings, including the Home Lumber Co. The loss was over \$20,000.00 and no insurance was collected.

Mr. Pape and Mr. Schnakenberg, immediately leased the present location from the Missouri Pacific Railroad Co., and with the help of their suppliers, the Bank, and many friends started in business on a bare lot with no building. The name Concordia Lumber Co. was adopted. By late fall, the present office building and additional buildings were added as capital was available.

Realizing the need for fertilizers for the farmers in this community and with the help of their good friend, Arnold Klemme of the University of Missouri, the first bulk phosphate plant in the State of Missouri was built.

On August 16, 1949, the grand opening took place. That there was a need for this business was indicated by the fact that it was one of the largest openings ever held in Concordia. It was attended by over one thousand people from far and near. The Concordia Municipal Band gave a concert. The speakers for this occasion were: Mayor Edwin Runge who welcomed the new business, Claude B. Stevenson from the Schrock Fertilizer Service, Congerville, Ill.; Ashleigh P. Boles, St. Louis, Mo., director of Agriculture Development, Missouri Pacific Railroad Co.; Parker Rogers, County Agent; Rod Turnbolt, associated editor of the Kansas City Star; Gene Raymond, director of U. S. Department of Agriculture PMA Division; Arnold Klemme, soils specialist of University of Missouri and Cordell Tindall, associated editor of Missouri Ruralist.

This being the only bulk phosphate plant in the State, it was sold wholesale and retail in a radius of fifty miles. In 1951 a peak sales of 198 cars was reached. Since then, there are over one hundred plants in the State of Missouri, and the company is practically out of the wholesale business. Realizing that phosphate alone was not the answer for farm fertilizing, lime bins were added and in 1957 bulk fertilizer (commercial). At present an additional 50' x 85' building for bulk fertilizer and nitrate is being added.

In 1955 we added a 44' x 90' block building on 6th and Main Street, just south of the Concordia Bank.



## ROSE-A-LINDA FARMS AND HATCHERY, INC.

The Rose-A-Linda Turkey Farm and Hatchery, Inc., was incorporated on July 1, 1958. The possibilities of a prosperous turkey operation in the Concordia area was the vision of Chester Gibson, formerly from Concordia. Chet is the president of the corporation and the breeder of the Rose-A-Linda strain of Champion Turkeys and operates a turkey farm and hatchery in Rio Linda, California.

Ralph Hovde is the other owner, secretary-treasurer, as well as general manager. Ralph has had nineteen years of experience raising and hatching turkeys and moved here from Nephi, Utah.

Although the hatchery is only two years old some 400,000 eggs were hatched last season. Already an expansion program is in progress for 1961 to meet the demand for Rose-A-Linda Poults. The turkey farm is a part of the operation where 11,000 turkeys are grown annually and 2,500 hens are retained as breeders.

Turkey poults and eggs are shipped all over the United States and also to foreign countries.

The owners believe the midwest will be the heart of the turkey industry because of the favorable feed price and the nearness to terminal markets.

## ALEWEL BROTHERS, PRODUCERS OF MISSOURI COUNTRY CURED HAM

Hugo and Emil Alewel started in the meat and grocery business and custom slaughtering in January 1932. In 1947 they added a frozen food locker and processing plant and built a new modern abattoir.

Over the years they have become well known for their German style sausages and country cured hams and bacon. In competition, their hams and bacon have won many state and national awards. In 1960 they had the grand champion ham and bacon at the Missouri State Fair. The twenty-two pound ham sold for eighteen dollars a pound at auction, and the bacon brought seven dollars and a half per pound.

## CITY MERCHANT LICENSES ISSUED JUNE 1, 1960

Marvin Nienheuser	501 Main	Marvin's Service Station
Robert Delany	503 Main	Selling Dairy Products
Melvin J. Frerking	515 Main	Appliance Center
E. M. Runge	517 Main	Runge Electric Shop
George Miller	521 Main	Concordia Sheet Metal Works
Vernon Rehkop and Robt. Schumacher	529-531 Main	Fruit and Produce Co.
Herman J. Alewel	539 Main	Concordia Harness and Shoe Shop
Harvey Wodrich	539 Main	Merchant
Concordia Bank	547 Main	Banking
Miss Edna Freese	547½ Main	Hair Dressing and Beauty Shop
Herbert Dierker and Louis Dierker	701-703 Main	General Merchandise Store
Roy O. Schnakenberg	547½ Main	Real Estate Agent
Edwin Pape and Norbert Schnakenberg	12 E. 7th St.	Concordia Lumber Co.
George Hewitt	11 E. 7th St.	People's Laboratory
Concordia Farmers Mutual Insurance Co.	705 Main	Insurance Company
Mrs. Edna Frerking	707 Main	Frerking Hardware Store
Norman R. Benteman	709 Main	Central Drug Store
Marvin Brackman	711 Main	Western Auto Store
Walter Boeschen	715 Main	Topsy's Cafe
Ralph Erdwin	715½ Main	Insurance Agent
Charles Kammeyer	719 Main	Insurance Agent
Eugene Rohman	721-723 Main	Rohman's Market
Maud Neal	725 Main	Hair Dressing and Beauty Shop
Eugene Neal	725 Main	Barber Shop
H. E. Martens	727 Main	Cigar and Tobacco
Allie Grace	729 Main	Merchant (Barber)
Howard Hamölin	731 Main	Jewelry Store
E. D. Posey	803-909 Main	Concordia Implement Co.
Geo. H. Markham	734-736 Main	George's Hardware
Edgar Oetting	730 Main	Cleaning Shop
Emil Alewel and Hugo Alewel	724 Main	Locker Plant and Food Market
Elmer Holsten	708 Main	Holsten's Store
Norbert Flandermeyer & Harold Flandermeyer	522 Main	Flandermeyer Bros. Store
Hy. W. Miller	733 Main	The Palace Bar
Lloyd Beissenherz	714 Main	Job Printing Shop
Concordia Farmer's Co-op. Company	618 Gordon	Grain, Feeds, Building Material, Fuel, etc.



Robert Vorwark	548 Main	Concordia Furniture Co.
Lester Wilckens	534 Main	Favorite Cafe
Mrs. Wm. H. Bockelman	530 Main	LaJean Flowers
Norbert H. Meyer	520 Main	Meyer Motor
Arthur L. Walkenhorst	512 Main	Insurance Agent
H. O. Walkenhorst	502 Main	Walkenhorst Motors
Al. H. Schlapper	15 W. 6th St.	Insurance Agent
Paul Madison	409 W. 4th St.	Madison Grocery
Concordia Bowl, Inc.	207 Bismark	Bowling Alley
George Derby	102 Main	Cree-Mee Drive-In
Concordia Creamery Co., Inc.	203 Gordon	Manufacturing Butter and Cheese
Tri Foods, Inc.	202 Gordon	Manufacturing Feeds
Raymond Krause	11 W. 1st. St.	Krause Implement Service
Elmer J. O. Frerking	115 Main	Electrical Repairing Shop
Alvin Oetting	409 W. 7th St.	Electrical Repairing Shop
E. S. James	911 Gordon	Funeral Home
M. W. Wehrs	617 Orange	Sinclair Bulk Oil Station
E. J. Reith	611 Bismark	Phillips Bulk Oil Station
Albert F. Gieseke	610 St. Louis	Socony Bulk Oil Station
Oscar Paul	305 W. 8th St.	Bread and Pastry Truck
Raymond Kammeyer & Omar Kammeyer	313 W. 8th St.	Kammeyer Electric
Willis Hinck	311 W. 8th St.	Hinck Plumbing and Heating
Frank Schwartz	14 W. 5th St.	Launderama
Ed. Linebach		Selling Raleigh Products
James Pfannkuch	313 W. 8th St.	Blacksmith Shop
Concordia Paper Box Co.	211 W. 7th.	Manufacture Paper Boxes
Cobus A. Wilde	1107 St. Louis	Shoe Cobbler
Homer Petty	1219 Main	Photography
Edmund Stuermer	808½ Orange	Insurance Agent
Frank M. Gerlex		Insurance Agent
Walter Schuette	104 Main	Ice Vending Machine
Harvey Goodpasture	713 Main	Billiard and Pool Hall
Irwin H. Meyer	717 Main	Blue Bar
Dan Miller	731 Main	Dan's Package Liquor
Fred Wm. Schultze	732 Main	Tailor Shop
Robert Kuhn		Insurance Agent
Raymond Holsten	528 Main	Insurance Agent

ORGANIZATIONS



EARLY ORGANIZATIONS. At the turn of the century Concordia had a Literary Club that met at Bruns Hall. The club's activities consisted of debates and music. A new Literary Club was organized in 1907 with Geo. A. Klingenberg as president and Theodore Bartman as secretary. There were also the following: Guitar Club, Mandolin Club, Busy Bee Sewing Circle, Hungry Hollow Club, a club of old German Soldiers called Deutscher Kriegerverein, and a Laborer's and Mechanic's Society. In 1908 a Gun Club was organized with J. E. Lohofner as president and W. C. Sodeman as secretary and treasurer. In 1911 the Commercial Club sponsored a Frontier Carnival in connection with the usual Street Fair, and in 1920 Concordia had an Overall Club.

## THE CONCORDIA BAND

By Tessie Martens

According to the records of the "Concordian," our weekly newspaper, the first Concordia Band was organized by Otto Walkenhorst and some of his associates. Then again in 1882 a band was organized, and it was called the Concordia Cornet Band, and a Wilhelm Wilk was its conductor. He led the band until sometime in the 1890's when he decided to quit and J. J. Bredehoeft, who had studied music in Germany and was playing solo clarinet in the band, was then elected conductor of the band.

As years passed on, Wilhelm Wilk again decided to start another band, and this time it was called the Wilks Band. So Concordia at that time had two bands, the Concordia Cornet Band and the Wilks Band. But in a few years Mr. Wilk was aging, and he again decided to lay down the baton for good, and Mr. Julius Sagehorn was elected conductor of the Wilks Band. Still two bands in Concordia. Later it was decided to combine the two bands and the name for the new organization was the Concordia Band. Mr. J. J. Bredehoeft was elected to direct the newly-formed band.

About 1905 the band was short of cornet players, and the band advertised for cornet players in the papers, and Otto Kircheis answered the ad and sent his credentials. He had been a music teacher and also a conductor of band and orchestras. Mr. Bredehoeft told the band boys, that if they could get a man like that, he would gladly step down and play clarinet again and let Mr. Kircheis direct the band. Mr. Kircheis was given the call. He accepted and led the band until about 1908, when in the yearly meeting Mr. Bredehoeft was again elected director of the band.

In 1910 the Missouri State Fair was offering a grand prize of \$250.00 to the best amateur band in the state contest to be held during one of the fair days. Well, Mr. Bredehoeft drilled his boys pretty hard for the contest, and he chose a march, "Colonel Minor", and an overture, "Lustspiel." When the contest was over, the

Concordia Band came out in flying colors, winning first prize. Dr. Hiner, who had that great professional band of his own, was one of the judges that day.

Again in 1914 the Elks lodges over the state of Missouri were having a big convention in Sedalia, Mo., and they were offering \$100.00 for the best marching and best band in regulation uniform. Well, the Elks lodge of Lexington, Mo. chose the Concordia Band to represent them in the contest, and again the Concordia Band was chosen for the first place.

In 1917 when the United States entered World War No. 1 quite a number of us young men had been called into the service of Uncle Sam's great army, and so in 1918 Mr. Bredehoeft decided with so many men missing and the war going on, he would drop the band during the war. Well, again Mr. Kircheis took over, and he brought in his daughter who played the alto horn, his sister-in-law, Miss Edna Grotfend, who played the valve trombone, and his son and he himself played the trumpets. At two different times when I was home on furlough, I attended their rehearsals, and it really seemed strange because that was the first and only time in the 77 year history of the Concordia Band that we ever had any lady members in the band.

In 1919 when we young men came from the service of World War No. 1, Mr. Bredehoeft was already again directing the band, and he then had charge of the band until 1946 when Mr. Bredehoeft decided to retire permanently and Mr. H. H. Mueller was elected to direct the band. He had charge through 1950. When Mr. Mueller accepted a call to teach school in the state of California in 1951, Mr. Fred Stuenkel was elected director. He had charge about two years when the good Lord called him to his eternal home, from whence no man shall ever return.

Mr. Emil Deke was elected conductor of the band in 1953 and he still is the present director.

In the early days bands had to operate on the pay they received from jobs they played. Band concerts were given on Main street, supported by money donated by the Concordia merchants. Gasoline torches were used for lights; Concordia had no electric lights in those days. Every block on the corner had a lamp post with a coal oil lamp on it. The city marshal, carrying a short little ladder, lighted each lamp making his rounds and blew them out again each night at ten o'clock.

The Concordia Band played before quite a number of governors of Missouri. On one trip to Jefferson City, one morning early, the band went to his mansion to serenade him. They got him out of his bed. The band played when Mr. Herbert Hoover was in Kansas City. He was then our candidate for President of the United States. We played a concert in the Hotel Muehlbach. We met the special train at Warrensburg, Mo., when Governor Alfred Landon of Kansas was our candidate for President. We played in the American Legion parade in Kansas City, played for the Missouri



State Fair, the Lafayette County Fair, Saline County Fair, Deep-water Fair, Versailles Fair and Horse Show, Lincoln Fair, and the Warsaw celebration. Sometime or other we played in every town in this community, maybe it was for only a church picnic or a town celebration but the Concordia Band would be there. There were no High School Bands in those days.

When Mr. Bredehoeft was its director he was very proud of his band. You were not allowed to keep time with your foot; you could wiggle your toe in your shoe. Regardless of how hot the weather was, in a concert or in a parade, we had to wear our coats buttoned up to the chin, and at all times when in uniform it meant black shoes only. Mr. Bredehoeft was sharp and determined with his music. I remember one night he put a new piece of music before the band boys. He told the boys how the composer had sat down at a little brook, a little rabbit had come down to get a drink of water, the water made a little noise trickling down the hillside into the brook and that's the way he wanted the music to sound.

As of today in the year of 1960 we have four members who have played with the Concordia Band continuously for 50 years or more, and they are as follows: Emil Deke, Fred J. Cassing, L. H. "China" Brockman, and H. E. "Tessie" Martens. August "Secco" Brockman was drummer for 72 years, retiring in 1959.

On one occasion the merchants and the people in Lexington, chartered a special train to take them to Jefferson City, in regards to some kind of a road project and of course hired the Concordia Municipal Band to go with them. The train came through Concordia and picked up the band. We played a number of pieces on the train to entertain the crowd and when we got about 30 miles on this side of Jefferson City, we had a pretty bad train wreck and tore up about a  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile of track. Lucky, none of the boys was hurt very seriously, all were shaken up pretty badly, so another train backed all the way out from Jefferson City to take us all into the capital city. We gave a concert in the capitol building and that night were brought back by special train.

**AMERICAN LEGION.** The Ed. H. Lohman Post No. 258 of The American Legion was organized on February 22, 1920.

Edwin A. Kroencke, Hugo H. Sodeman, Henry J. Bosselman, Charles C. Hobs, Julius M. Pregel, H. N. Cordsen, Harry Oetting, Roy F. Lieser, Al. H. Brackman, Gustav A. Vogt, Julius H. Oetting, Alfred O. Petering, Irwin Petering, Al. H. Schlapper, and John L. White were the charter members.

The post was named in memory of Ed. H. Lohman, who lost his life in World War I. It was organized to assist veterans, who had been wounded, to help them readjust to civilian life, and to care for the widows and orphans that were a result of the war.

After World War II, in 1948, the post's name was changed to The Lohman-Meyer Post in honor of Norbert H. Meyer, the first from Concordia to die in that war.

Our post now has members from both World Wars and the Korean Conflict. At present we have 119 members.

CONCORDIA MEMORIAL VFW POST 5649. On January 23, 1946 Concordia Memorial Post 5649 was started with 44 honorable veterans as members. In 1954 the new post home was built. At the present time we have 94 members. (By Commander Roland Fischer, Post 5649, Concordia, Mo.).

## CONCORDIA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

By Hugo Alewel and Otto Oetting

The Concordia Industrial Development Company must be considered an off-spring of a parent organization, the CONCORDIA CIVIC CLUB, which was organized about five years before. Credit for the organization of the Development Company must definitely be given to the Civic Club, or to the leading members of the Civic Club.

The incentive for the organization of the Development Company might be described in the following way. In the late summer of 1944, The Brookfield & Garrison Manufacturing Company of Warrensburg, with assistance loaned by the Civic Club, decided to establish a branch garment factory in Concordia. This factory was set up in a hurry to meet the demands of the U. S. military forces for more civilian clothes for military men and civilian government employees during the second world war.

The factory was set up in the building which now is used for the storage of new and used autos by the Walkenhorst Motor Company. After the factory had been in operation for some time information was received that this building might not always be available for factory purposes. Experience also showed that this building was not too well suited for the purpose of garment manufacturing.

With these facts in mind a member of the executive committee of the Concordia Civic Club in December, 1945, conceived the idea which he presented to a meeting of the Civic Club, an idea at first considered by some just a dream, that an effort should be made to form an organization separate from the Civic Club, the purpose of which was to bring additional industries into Concordia, and to provide buildings for additional industries, or for the present garment factory. The new organization was to be a corporation, and was to obtain finances by such methods as might be practical, to be used to construct buildings for industries.

That the idea was at first considered a dream was proven by the fact that when the plan was first presented to the Civic Club, the originator of the idea received hardly any response to his proposal. At the second meeting of the Civic Club after the proposal was presented, and after people had discussed the idea between meetings and became interested, the idea finally hit fertile soil,



and after a lively and lengthy discussion in the Civic Club meeting, firm action was taken by having those present indicate unsigned amounts they were willing to invest in shares in such a proposed corporation. The results of these secret subscriptions were surprisingly good, and from that time on the promotion of the project took on a lively and interesting forward movement.

After the plan was given some publicity, and more people became interested, the leaders of the project developed enough enthusiasm to make necessary efforts and moves to get the plan worked out in detail and to complete the organizational set-up.

Plans were made for an official organizational meeting, which was held on the 26th day of September, 1946, in the Concordia High School auditorium. In this meeting a constitution and by-laws were adopted, which provided that the name of the organization be "CONCORDIA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY." The article in the constitution describing the purpose of the organization read: "The purpose of this organization shall be to promote the industrial development of the city of Concordia and vicinity, and it may purchase or lease real estate, and erect buildings, and generally may do any and all things considered necessary or expedient to accomplish the general purpose."

This article shows the reason for selecting the name "Concordia Industrial Development Company" for the organization.

It is the belief of the writers that our company is one of the first, if not the first, in this state to use the words "industrial development" in the name of the corporation. Shortly after our company was organized the name of our company became known to the Missouri State Board of Resources and Development, and to the Missouri State Chamber of Commerce.

Since the organization of our Development Company the writers have seen dozens of news articles in the daily papers reporting the organization of companies similar to our company, in cities scattered all over the state of Missouri, using the words "Industrial Development" in the official names of the corporations. So we might be justified in assuming that we were pioneers in the use of the name "Industrial Development Company."

In the organization meeting of the corporation the persons elected as directors were: Otto W. Oetting, T. H. Henning, M. F. Uphaus, Wm. H. Balke, Edwin Cordes, Ad. L. Oetting and H. O. Walkenhorst. These board members organized by electing the following officers: Otto W. Oetting, president; M. F. Uphaus, vice-president; T. H. Henning, secretary, and Wm. H. Balke, treasurer.

The Concordia Industrial Development Company was incorporated under this name in the year 1947. The purpose of incorporating, among other things, is to take all legal liability off individuals, making only the organization as a whole subject to suit. The shares of stock in the company are non-assessable.

During the latter part of the year 1946, and the early part of the year 1947, plans were made for the erection of a building, the original part of the present garment factory building. The building was started in the late summer of 1947, and was completed in January, 1948.

The building was leased to the Brookfield & Garrison Manufacturing Company for their garment operation. In the fall of 1949 the Burlington Manufacturing Company bought the interests of the Brookfield & Garrison Company, and the Development Company executed a rental contract with the Burlington Manufacturing Company, which firm still occupies the building at this writing in 1960.

In 1954 an addition was built to the south side and the east end of the original factory building, increasing the floor space of the building to about 13,500 square feet.

In the year 1955 an automatic sprinkler system was installed in the building. This practically eliminates all danger of destruction by fire, and reduces the fire insurance rates to only a small percentage of the former rates.

With the addition to the original building and the installation of the sprinkler system hardly completed, there developed a project for the establishment of another factory in Concordia, requiring another new building. This was the present Box Factory. This required a building 100 x 100 ft. on the outside. This building also was financed, and cost around \$33,000, entirely too much investment for the number of people employed in it. We, however, have the building, of substantial construction, and hope that some day it might be used for another purpose, employing more people.

With this project completed, another demand was made on the Development Company, namely for an air-conditioning system in the garment factory. This the company also managed to install. With this installation in the garment factory building it has become highly adapted for the industry.

We venture to state that the majority of the people of this community never fully realize THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY FACILITIES AND SERVICES to the citizens of our city and community. The garment factory, together with the box factory and the creamery company and Tri Foods company, when all operating at full capacity, have a total payroll of about 200 people, about two-thirds employed by the Development Company plants. This is a payroll which very few cities the size of Concordia enjoy.

The cash payroll income to the employees of all these plants is not the only financial value of these plants to the citizens of our community. The CASH VALUE of every home in Concordia and of every business structure is kept at a high level because of these payrolls.



The many new homes which have been built in Concordia during the last ten years or so, and the many improvements which have been made in and on older homes during that same period of time, and the many costly improvements made in private and public projects, and the many costly personal properties which people in Concordia have bought in recent years, and enjoy, are evidence of the prosperity caused largely by the local industries.

It is true that not all people who grow up here find suitable employment in Concordia, and that many go other places to find suitable employment, but nevertheless it must be admitted that there exists a condition in Concordia under which almost anyone who has any ability at all can find employment, and as a result of all these conditions our city is enjoying a healthy population increase, which very few cities the size of Concordia can claim.

On the other hand we must consider that the monetary value is not the only value of these industrial establishments to our community. We must also consider the social value. We feel that nearly all will agree that Concordia is a very pleasant place to live, and that many of the pleasant circumstances making our city a pleasant place to live in result indirectly from the favorable employment possibilities.

**WHO DESERVES THE CREDIT?** It has required the diligent and conscientious service and attention and sacrifice of a considerable number of our citizens to supervise all the activities of the Development Company, and has required funds to the total amount of \$82,896.00 to finance the various projects mentioned, funds supplied by 306 persons or groups or corporations. The people who rendered these services and supplied these funds, and who took the broad-minded view of life, who realized that their own welfare and the welfare of the community cannot be obtained by greed and selfishness, who were willing to co-operate with others for the good of the city and community, who have in them the Christian spirit of "Love thy neighbor as thyself". **THOSE** are the persons who deserve credit for the accomplishments.

Much more along this line of establishing more industries for our community through the Development Company could be accomplished if a larger percentage of the citizens of the community would adopt this unselfish, Christian, co-operative spirit towards community welfare projects.

The present officers and directors of the Development Company are: Hugo Alewel, president; Lloyd Beissenherz, vice-president; Leslie Kueck, secretary; Norbert Flandermeyer treasurer, T. H. Henning, Herbert Dierker, and Donald Lohman.

On these men and their successors we must rely to keep the Development Company ship sailing smoothly in the future as it has been in the past. It is not enough, however, that we merely rely on them. We must also give them our moral and financial support to such extent as is necessary. Let us hope and pray that the organization may be as successful in the future as it has been in the past.

**HARMONY EXTENSION CLUB.** At a meeting called in 1940 at the home of Mrs. Adolph Runge, the Home Demonstration Agent, Mrs. Peterson, laid the foundation for the organization of the Harmony Extension Club which was organized in October, of the same year, at a meeting held at the home of Mrs. Elsie Frerking. Later a meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Anna Boteler and the following ladies were registered as charter members: Mrs. Alfred Brackman, Mrs. Alvin Bergman, Mrs. Anna Boteler, Mrs. Ervin Deke, Mrs. Ervin Flandermeyer, Mrs. Floyd Nowlin, Mrs. Anna Purcell, Mrs. Adolph Runge, Mrs. Delmar Stiegemeyer.

The club participates in many worthwhile activities, and raises money through bake sales and dinners at farm auctions. They have taken over the beautification of the triangle at the south end of Main Street where the street forks. The plantings of flowers and shrubs have beautified this approach to our town.

At present (1960) there are sixteen active members in the Harmony Extension Club.

**FRIENDSHIP CLUB.** Miss Edith Lawrence, the Home Agent of Lafayette County, met with some ladies on May 23, 1941, at the home of Mrs. Lawrence Kanoy to organize an extension club. The purpose of the club was to learn better ways of homemaking and at first chose the name "Better Homes." This was later changed to Friendship Club. Besides providing a social gathering for the club members each month, the club also sponsors social gatherings for their families at least twice a year.

At its organization, the elected officers of the club were: Mrs. Lawrence Kanoy, president; Mrs. Arthur Riesterer, vice-president; Mrs. Walter Heyenbrock, secretary; Mrs. Elmer Boyle, game and song leader; Mrs. George Temming, reporter; Mrs. Burney White, parliamentarian; Mrs. Albert Grau, child development chairman. The other charter members were: Mrs. Rose Hewitt, Mrs. Gust Lohman, and Mrs. Hugo Mieser.

**CONCORDIA HOMEMAKERS' CLUB.** Mrs. Gus Alewel extended an invitation to all who were interested in organizing a women's club on July 8, 1949. The club organized at this meeting was named the Concordia Homemakers Club. The charter members were: Mrs. Gus Alewel, Mrs. Florus Elling, Mrs. Glenn Emis, Mrs. Elsie Frerking, Mrs. Roy Frerking, Mrs. Francis Morgan, Mrs. John A. Meyer, Mrs. Ralph Martens, Mrs. Erich Oetting, Mrs. Elmer Pinkepank, Mrs. Ralph Schloman, Mrs. Oscar Uphaus.

The club activities include better homemaking, community services and supporting various charities. This club was instrumental in organizing the West Concordia 4-H Club with Mrs. Oscar Uphaus as chairman. The present membership is twelve of which three are charter members.

**THE FORUM CLUB.** The object of organizing a study club was to unite efforts toward the promotion of intellectual attainment and civic interest.



A group of women met at the home of Mrs. E. L. Johnston March 2, 1927 to organize a study club. Those present were: Mrs. E. A. Duensing, Mrs. E. L. Johnston, Mrs. G. A. Klingenberg, Mrs. W. F. Kroencke, Mrs. Al. Grother, Mrs. Arthur Kroencke, Mrs. E. S. James, Mrs. M. Boteler, Mrs. O. J. Stratman. The following officers were elected: president, Mrs. E. A. Duensing; vice president, Mrs. E. L. Johnston; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. O. J. Stratman, and reporter, Mrs. Al. Grother. From the very beginning the club has belonged to the Missouri Federation of Women's Clubs. Of the original members, the following charter members are still (1960) active in the club: Mrs. Richard Borgstadt, Mrs. Nell Klingenberg, Mrs. Leona Kroencke, Mrs. Al. Schlapper, Mrs. M. F. Uphaus.

The Forum Club undertakes many projects for the benefit of the community and for the benefit of needy people far away. The following are some of the projects undertaken: Helping the Public School with gifts of pictures, prizes for essay contests, beautification of grounds, awarding tours to outstanding students, and giving cash awards to highest ranking High School student in English. The community at large has benefited from the club's planting of memorial trees and from the interest the club takes in the public library.

In 1935-1936 the Forum Club opened a public library in Concordia which was operated by Mrs. Bradley, a club member. Books were given by club members and other friends of the library. In addition, free will offerings and silver teas were held for the purpose of raising money. Later, the city helped support the library, and of late it has become a branch of the Regional Library System. The club's interest, however, has continued. Miss Alvin Uphaus, a club member, is the present librarian. On June 4, 1960 the Forum Club sponsored a tea and an open house at the library for the purpose of acquainting the community with the library facilities.

The club has sold War Bonds and has contributed to hospitals and other charitable institutions.

Each year the Club has entertained the faculty and their families of our public and church schools and continued the practice of presenting a book to the top ranking senior in the High School.

The Forum Club is the oldest active club in the community and the third oldest civic organization. Their meetings are held the first and third Tuesdays of each month and the dues are \$2.50 annually.

**THE CONCORDIA LIONS CLUB, 1933-1960.** The Concordia Lions Club, chartered by and under the jurisdiction of The International Association of Lions Clubs, was organized March 28, 1933. Lions International is a service club international in character and purpose, and is found in more countries and has the largest mem-

bership of any service organization in existence today. Concordia can well be proud of a club affiliated with such a worthy organization whose objects are:

1. To form a body of men thoroughly representative of the business and professional interests of the community; to unite its members in the closest bonds of good fellowship and to promote a closer business and social union among them.
2. To encourage active participation in all things that have to do with commercial, civic, and industrial betterment.
4. To assist in every honorable way in furthering the interests of its members and toward bringing about a better understanding among men.
5. To teach that organization, cooperation, reciprocity are better than rivalry, strife and destructive competition.
6. To encourage the application of the highest ethical standards in business and endeavor by the exchange of methods and ideas to increase efficiency in all lines represented.

The Concordia Lions Club has sponsored many worthwhile projects in the last 22 years. In its first years it sponsored the Civic Club and 4-H club work. It sponsors the scout program in all its phases, and Little League Baseball. The Dairy Queen Night at the Concordia Street Fair is an event conceived, developed, financed, and wholly presented by the Lions Club. They have purchased playground equipment and a shelter house for South Park. Helping the blind and hard of seeing by supporting the Eye Tissue Bank and buying eye glasses for hard of seeing children is also some of their work.

The Concordia club was responsible for starting clubs in Alma and Sweet Springs and helped to organize Knob Noster, Waverly, and Odessa clubs.

In 1954 honor and statewide recognition was bestowed upon the club when Dr. H. H. Scholle was elected district governor, and the following year he was elected International Counselor. At present he is chairman of the state membership enlargement and retention committee.

Charter members who have remained with the club to this date are: Dr. H. H. Scholle, Henry F. Rohman, Hugo Alewel. Elmer H. Frerking, until his recent death, was an active charter and current member.

**CONCORDIA CIVIC CLUB.** Old records of previous civic organizations in Concordia, preserved by the Civic Club, show that a chamber of commerce existed in Concordia beginning with the year 1925, discontinuing after a few years, and then being revived in 1930 or 1931, continuing for four or five years and then passing out of existence.



In 1940, through joint action of the American Legion and the Lion's Club, a meeting was called to consider the future of our city. The result was the organization of Concordia Civic Club. Dr. H. H. Scholle was elected chairman, Louis Dierker, vice-chairman, Elmer Sagehorn, secretary, and Al. H. Schlapper, assistant secretary.

April 29, 1940 a charter meeting was held at which thirty persons paid membership dues and a constitution and by-laws were approved. A. J. C. Moeller, president of St. Paul's College was elected president and Geo. A. Klingenberg, the vice president. Otto W. Oetting was elected secretary, and Al. H. Schlapper, assistant secretary, and Walter McCollum was elected treasurer. Louis Dierker, Milton Uphaus, Edwin A. Pape, and Dr. H. H. Scholle were elected members of the executive committee.

The club accomplished much in its twenty years of existence. Some of the accomplishments are the following:

Promotion of highway "J" south across Blackwater River to Knob Noster. After eighteen years of effort, this was completed in 1959.

The Club influenced the state highway department to black-top the road to Alma.

In 1942 the club appointed a committee which was to cooperate with the Concordia Farmers Mutual Insurance Company for the purchasing of a fire truck for rural use. Through this combined effort a truck was acquired. The same year funds were solicited to improve South Park.

In 1943 the club procured the services of Mr. G. A. Bentley of Chicago who was to study the community and advise them how to procure more industries for the town.

In 1944 the Brookfield and Garrison Manufacturing Company of Warrensburg was induced to open up a branch factory in Concordia with the purpose of increasing production of civilian clothes for military personnel and other government employees. It was housed in the building which is now (1960) the north, long room, of the Walkenhorst Motor Company show room and soon employed forty persons. The success of this venture led two years later to the establishment of a corporation which put up the fine garment factory building at 617 Main, that now houses the Burlington Manufacturing Company which continues the manufacturing of work clothes.

In 1946 a group of citizens, mostly members of the Civic Club did some joint financing to purchase a property for a doctor's office and helped find an M. D. who was willing to set up his office in Concordia. The same year the club helped the members of Concordia Band raise a thousand dollars toward the purchase of new uniforms. They also endorsed and supported a drive by the Boy Scouts for the erection of a replica of the Statue of Liberty in Central Park.

In 1950 the club started a determined move to extend Concordia's Main Street to the new U. S. 40 Highway which was being laid north of the old slab. This came to fulfillment in 1952.

In 1955 another industry was secured for Concordia, the Concordia Box Factory, through the cooperation of the Concordia Industrial Development Company and the Civic Club.

In 1956 funds were solicited and arrangements made to install public rest rooms in South Park.

In 1953 the club succeeded in getting the United Funds Organization set up. This was done to combine all the solicitations for funds for various organizations into one drive.

The economic and industrial life of our city and community without a doubt would not be what it is today if the Civic Club had not existed and had not been wide awake and active as it has been.

**BULL CLUB.** The Lafayette County Holstein Bull Club was organized in the spring of 1922, with eleven members. Several high class bulls were purchased and these were bred to one hundred thirty-five cows. Joe Klingenberg was president of the club and Ed. Walkenhorst was secretary-treasurer. The off-spring of these bulls did much to improve the dairy cattle in this vicinity. Prior to this a pig club had been organized in which Walter Nierman took a leading part.

**4-H CLUBS.** The young men and young women who belong to the 4-H take the pledge: "I pledge my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to larger service, and my health to better living for my club, my community, my country." Thus the 4-H's stand for Head, Heart, Hands, and Health.

**THE WALKENEZER 4-H CLUB.** The history of the WALKENEZER 4-H CLUB dates back to the year 1924 with the Concordia Dairy Club sponsored by the Farmers Bank of Concordia and the Cow Testing Association. The Concordia Club round-up was held in connection with the Street Fair (Fall Festival). The judging team consisted of Walter Nierman, Alfred Brackman, and Delmar Stiegemeier. Oscar Stratman was their leader and E. L. Garrett was the county Extension Agent. Walter Nierman was the highest individual in the National Contest.

The Ebenezer 4-H Club started in the Ebenezer School District southwest of the city. After some years this club and the above mentioned Dairy Club disbanded. On June 5, 1945 the Walkenhorst and Ebenezer school districts met to start a 4-H club which took the name Walkenezer. Members with the longest record of membership are Mary Ann White and Roger Alewel who stayed with the club for twelve years and would have stayed longer but their age reached the maximum of 21 years.

Of the many activities this club sponsored, the following should receive special mention: The Baby Health Clinic at the Fall Festival, the planting of 6000 multiflora rose bushes for wildlife conservation, and making of forty park benches for Central Park.



The trophies won by members of this club for prize farm animals at the local, county, and state levels are too numerous to mention. In dairy judging the club had outstanding teams. Members who attained fame in this area were the following: Willard Stuenkel, Melvin Oetting, Vernon Heins, Harry Wehrs (leader), Roger Brackman, Melbourne Heins, Murrel Jungklaus, Claude Boyles, Edward Nierman, Carolyn Nierman, James Fuchs. In 1958 Edward Nierman had the highest score and was selected with three others from the state of Missouri to go to the National Dairy Congress at Waterloo, Iowa. A Standard Report Form was filled by Edward Nierman which included his experiences as a dairy project member. This enabled him to win a trip to the National Dairy Conference in Chicago late in 1959. A story about this trip, written by Edward, was one of five in the nation to be selected by the Elgin Watch Company for its merit. Edward was awarded a 19 jewel Elgin wrist watch in 1960. David Fuchs, Kenneth Nierman, James Fuchs, Edward Nierman and Carolyn Nierman have been awarded plaques of recognition for outstanding work by the Pure Milk Producers Association.

The following have served as leaders of this club: Elmer Lohman (1945-1947), Herbert Fuchs (1948-1956), G. B. Dotson (1957), Mrs. Alvin Nierman (1958-present).

**WEST CONCORDIA 4-H CLUB.** This club was organized at the Ebenezer School March 20, 1950 by Miss Martha Jones, Home Agent and Mr. Charles Belake, Assistant Agent, and Mrs. Oscar Uphaus, club leader, and Mrs. John A. Meyer, assisting leader. The charter members were: Dorothy Bushman, Marilyn Cordes, Merlyn Holsten, Jimmy Mieser, Roger Meyer, Winford Steinman, Donna Mae Schloman, Martha Joe Stiegemeyer, Dwight Uphaus, and Donnie Evins.

Those who have served as leaders and assisting leaders were: Mrs. Oscar Uphaus, Mrs. John A. Meyer, Mrs. Elmer Wodrich, Mr. and Mrs. Emil Oetting, and Armin Frerking. Following have served as presidents: Merlyn Holsten, Donna Mae Schloman, Marilyn Cordes, Carol Holsten, Cara Brady, Lynette Oetting, Esther Lou Uphaus, Dorothy Ann Oetting, and Jimmy Elling (1960).

Twenty-eight projects have been completed by this club to date. These include, clothing, home service, home furnishing, food preparation, gardening, horsemanship, dairy, baby beef, sheep, sow and pig, woodwork, rope work, electricity, and tractor maintenance.

The club has received many plaques and ribbons and has received special recognition for rat control. Yearly educational tours are made to places of interest nearby. Charity donations have been made to many worthwhile causes. The club is sponsored by the **CONCORDIA HOMEMAKER'S EXTENSION CLUB.** To keep the interest of parents, the meetings are held at the home of the members.

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR. Concordia Chapter No. 504, Order of the Eastern Star, was instituted February 9, 1951 by Worthy Grand Patron Byrne E. Bigger and his assistants, and constituted on October 16, 1951 by Worthy Grand Matron Ora E. Gardner and her assistants. The following officers were installed: Worthy Matron, Helen Klingenberg; Worthy Patron, Brice Bailey; Associate Matron, Caroline Pape; Associate Patron, William Bailey; Secretary, Leone Kroencke; Treasurer, Alvina Uphaus; Conductress, Leona Meyer; Associate Conductress, Mildred Rohman; Chaplain, Esther Uphaus; Marshal, Mildred Bailey; Organist, Erma Walkenhorst; Adah, Marion Dotson; Ruth, Irene Bailey; Esther, Iris Kroencke; Martha, Edna Freese; Electa, Viola Nowlin; Warder, Elverna McCormick and Sentinel, George B. Dotson. All of the above were charter members, the other charter members are: Nell Klingenberg, Jean Schoene, Mabel Walkenhorst, Ruth Walkenhorst, Frances Oetting, Leona Elling and Elmer Walkenhorst.

The present Worthy Matron is Edna Freese, and the present Worthy Patron is Floyd Nowlin. Present membership is forty-two.

THE CONCORDIA LODGE NO. 464 A. F. AND A. M. has a membership of fifty-two. Eleven of these members have received their 35 year pins. The present officers are: Worshipful Master, Kenneth Dean Wren; Senior Warden, Florus Elling; Junior Warden, H. O. Walkenhorst; Treasurer, Lilburn Hickman; Secretary, Clarence H. Meyer; Chaplain, Harry Oetting; Marshall, G. B. Dotson; Senior Deacon, Dale Elling; Junior Deacon, Arthur L. Walkenhorst; Tiler, Henry F. Rohman.

UNITED CAMPAIGN ORGANIZATION. In January 1957 the Civic Club set up a committee consisting of Herbert Dierker, Lambert Steffens and Donald Lohman to study the feasibility of having a United Fund Organization for the Concordia community. They reported favorably and arranged for a meeting. An organization meeting was held in the public school gym April 24, 1958 to approve the constitution and the slate of candidates for the board of directors. The first executive board consisted of the following: President, Norman Benteman; vice-president, Raymond Stuenkel; secretary, Mrs. Lambert Mehl; treasurer, Mrs. Holmes Kueck; member-at-large, Otto Oetting.

The first year funds raised amounted to \$4,167.44 which were distributed to the following organizations: March of Dimes, Heart Fund, Red Cross, Cancer, Salvation Army, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and Brownies, and 4-H.

LUTHERAN GOOD SHEPHERD HOME. The St. Paul's Men's Club in 1958 looked into the possibility of procuring a hospital for Concordia. After looking into the possibilities rather thoroughly, they deemed this venture inadvisable. There were other hospitals within thirty minutes drive of Concordia, the Kellings were beginning groundwork on a new one in Waverly, and Sweet



Springs was in the stage of planning one for that town. The result of this interest, however, showed the need of another kind of institution, namely, a home for the aged.

Under the leadership of Lambert Mehl, president of St. Paul's College, Elmer Sagehorn, the postmaster, Arnold Bodensstab, president of the Men's Club, and Walter Reith, former president of the Men's Club, enthusiasm for the project grew. The non-profit organization, known as Lutheran Good Shepherd Home, Inc., became a reality with the executive board of Men's Club as the board of directors. A campaign of solicitation was begun. Otto Oetting donated his services as treasurer, and in the first year a sum of seventy-five thousand dollars was pledged.

In February 1960 a meeting was called for the purpose of electing a board of directors for the corporation. Directors elected to the first permanent board are as follows: Harvey Heins, Walter Nierman, Wm. Cordes, and Emil Reith, of Concordia; Otto Rosebrock, Sedalia, Mo.; Emil Gebhardt, Forest Green, Mo.; E. C. Lueders, Carrollton, Mo.; Joe Serck, Bunceton, Mo.; and Ben Hartwig, Higginsville, Mo.

The newly elected board organized at the May 10 meeting, with the following officers elected: Chairman, Emil Reith; vice-chairman, Harvey Heins; secretary, Ben Hartwig; treasurer, Wm. Cordes.

Plans are for soliciting money from a radius of fifty to seventy-five miles, and also applying for Federal Aid to build this home. It is planned to begin with a home that will accommodate ninety-eight people in 42 double rooms and 14 single rooms.

The architect's plans show a beautiful one-story building with a spacious court in the center, sun porches, craft room, chapel, dining room and kitchen, nurse's and doctor's rooms. Residents will be accepted from the surrounding area, and the home will accept people of all faiths.

The home will be situated on a beautiful eleven-acre tract of ground in the northwest part of the city that has already been purchased.

**BOY SCOUTS.** Lone scouts were in existence in Concordia from about 1920, but Troop No. 258 was organized March 1936 under the leadership of Prof. A. W. Reese of St. Paul's College, Dr. H. H. Scholle, and Mr. Curtis Ellis. The American Legion was the original sponsor and served until June, 1943, at which time the Lion's Club took over.

An Explorer Post (scouts of high school age) was organized in Concordia in March 1960. Five scouts were enrolled.

The following scouts attained the rank of Eagle Scouts, the highest award white members of the local troop: Karl Heinz Pohl, John L. Powell, Robert A. Schlapper, Eugene Sylvester, Tyrus Frerking, Wm. B. Henry, Eugene Rohman, John H. Kammeyer, Dean Wren, Lelan Frerking, Fred Lampe, Jr., Roger L. Alewel,

Wm. H. Balke, Jr., Jerald Frerking, Warren S. Bivins, Philip W. Flandermeyer, Stanley Frerking, James Schultz, James Droege, and Gary Beissenherz.

The following men and boys are honor members of the tribe Mic-O-Say, an honor group of scouts and scouters: Dr. H. H. Scholle, Elmer H. Frerking, Lee Wehrs, Tyrus Frerking, Wm. B. Henry, Eugene Rohman, Fred Lampe, Jr., Dean Wren, Lelan Frerking, William Balke, Jr., and Stanley Frerking.

The present scout committee are: Institutional Representative, Dr. H. H. Scholle, Chairman Fred Schultz, Harry Dierker, Edwin A. Pape, Lloyd Beissenherz, and Oscar Paul. It was through the generosity of Ed. Pape that the troop received the present scout land.

The list of scout masters down through the years is the following: Prof. A. W. Reese, Dr. H. H. Scholle, James McKee, Howard Campbell, Prof. Claude Short, N. H. Schnakenberg, Chester Gibson, Floyd Schoene, Wm. Landis, Lee Wehrs, Stanford Brockman, and at present, Robert DeLany, Sr.

**CUB SCOUTS.** Cub Scouts was organized in November, 1951. The present Cub Committee reads as follows: Norman Benteman, David Johnson, Clem Duensing, Homer Petty, Cubmaster Raymond Stuenkel, and Assistant Cubmaster Kenneth Hinck. Den mothers presently serving are Mrs. Norman Benteman, Mrs. N. E. Meyer, Mrs. Harvey Heins, and Mrs. David Johnson.

**GIRL SCOUTS.** In 1956 Intermediate Troop No. 328 was formed. Mrs. James W. Richardson was first scout leader, and Mrs. J. D. Swisher was co-leader. Mrs. Herbert Scholle served as troop organizer and co-ordinator between Concordia and Higginsville neighborhood. Mrs. L. F. Wahlers was the first cookie chairman. The members of the first girl scout committee were: Mrs. Earl Fuhrmann, Mrs. John Riesterer, Mrs. Herbert Scholle, Mrs. Raymond Wodrich, Mrs. Holmes Kueck, and Mrs. L. F. Wahlers. In May 1957 this troop had nineteen members.

Mrs. J. D. Swisher became troop leader in the fall of 1958. In 1959-60 Mrs. Roger Meyer and Mrs. Robert Lange were troop leaders.

The intermediate and senior scout troops are sponsored by the Concordia Lions Club and the Forum Club.

Concordia has four senior girl scouts, Mary Harms, LaRue Kanoy, Sara Riesterer, and Karen Scholle.

Community service projects of the girl scouts included caroling for shut-ins, clearing streets of litter after pre-Christmas visits of Santa Claus to Concordia, gathering and burning discarded Christmas trees, planting trees and shrubs in South Park. Baskets of Christmas gifts were given to State School No. 3 at Marshall. Senior Scouts helped in moving books when the library moved to its new location.



In 1956 Brownie Troop No. 324 was organized and Mrs. Edgar Oetting was troop leader. Mrs. Willard Stuenkel and Mrs. John Allen were co-leaders. Fourteen girls, seven to ten years of age were in this group. In the fall of 1958 a second Brownie Troop, No. 113, was organized with Mrs. Omar Thieman as troop leader. The following year this troop had fourteen members. Leaders were Mrs. James Dickinson, Mrs. Donald Lohman, and Mrs. Vernon Grefe.

CHURCHES



## ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The first Lutheran settlers in Lafayette County arrived either in 1833 or 1839 near the present site of Concordia. Friends and relatives of the first settlers soon augmented the original group. One of these settlers, Henry Christian Liever, had been a Lutheran school teacher in Germany and was induced by the group to conduct reading services and baptize the children. He could be considered as their first pastor.

The first church was built in 1844 on a plot donated by one of the members. It was a log church dedicated by Mr. Liever. Liever was active in the work of the church until 1847, when Candidate Adolph G. G. Franke accepted a call to the parish, known as Cook's store and originally having the post office address "Freedom." He began his work in January, 1847, as the first ordained minister of the congregation and served until 1851.

Pastor Franke remained in charge of St. Paul's congregation until April 27, 1851, on which day he installed his successor, Martin Quast, and then left for his new field of labor, Buffalo, New York. The climate of Buffalo did not agree with him; he became so sick that he was obliged to resign from the ministry. He came back to Lafayette County to live with his relatives until his health was restored. Pastor Quast soon became dissatisfied with his work and resigned as pastor of St. Paul's. Now the congregation called Pastor Franke, who had recovered from his rheumatism in the salubrious climate of Western Missouri, as its pastor. He accepted the call and was installed on July 24, 1853.

Pastor Franke remained in charge of St. Paul's till the summer of 1856, when he accepted a call to the Lutheran congregation of Addison, Ill. During Pastor Franke's second pastorate a number of members of the congregation became dissatisfied with its Lutheran confession and left it to organize St. John's Evangelical Congregation near Emma, Mo.

A long vacancy ensued upon the departure of Pastor Franke. It was not before June 20, 1858, that his successor was installed. This was the Rev. N. Volkert. During his incumbency the congregation was to get a school teacher in addition to its pastor. This was Teacher M. Broening.

About the same time a movement was started to build a new church. The old log church had served its purpose well; it was now to be replaced by a more pretentious brick structure on the site of the present St. Paul's Cemetery. Since Cook's Store did not sell bricks and it was not practical to haul them from the distant shipping points, a Mr. Johannes of Benton Co. was engaged to make them near the building site. The timber required for the building that could not be sawed in the neighborhood was hauled from Syracuse, about sixty miles southeast, then the terminus of the railroad. The hauling and much of the work about the church was done by the members of the congregation.

The building operations were interrupted for some time by the sudden resignation of Pastor Volkert, September 23, 1859. After a vacancy of seven months the congregation obtained the man who was to be its pastor for the next forty-one years. This was the Rev. F. Julius Biltz of Cumberland, Md. He was installed as pastor of St. Paul's on April 29, 1860.

Franz Julius Biltz was born at Mittel-Frohna, Saxony, July 24, 1825, and came to this country with an adult sister as one of the Saxon pilgrims of 1839. That same year he entered the log-cabin college at Altenburg as a member of the first class. Accordingly he was also one of the first graduates of Concordia Seminary, which was still located in Perry Co. at that time. He was ordained and installed on March 12, 1848, in Cape Girardeau Co., Mo. After serving this congregation for six years and a charge at Cumberland, Md., also six years, he came to Lafayette Co., Mo. For seventeen years he was president of the Western District. At all times a zealous missionary, he was instrumental in organizing the Lutheran congregations at Emma, Alma, Norborne, and Ernestville. It was his zeal for missions that inspired him to found St. Paul's College. He was the first postmaster of Concordia, and he chose that name. His members got their mail when they came to church. After his retirement in 1901 he continued to live in the parsonage as pastor emeritus until the day of his death, November 19, 1908.

The new church was finished soon after Pastor Biltz' arrival and dedicated in August of the same year. In 1866 the congregation added twenty acres to its property, purchased at \$30 an acre, for the use of the pastor and teacher. In the same year, a new school was built opposite the church and a new dwelling for the teacher in the following year.

In 1887 the congregation resolved to build a second school in Concordia. The higher classes were to attend the town school, while the lower classes remained in the school at the church. Teacher W. Wilk of Wisconsin arrived in June, 1887, and took charge of the town school, located on the site of the present school, while Teacher Hamm kept school near the church.

Mr. Wilk organized the present brass band in Concordia and by indefatigable labor and skillful conducting succeeded in making it one of the best amateur bands in the State.

On December 23, 1903, the congregation passed a resolution to build a new church in town, opposite the congregation's school, on a piece of ground presented to the congregation by members living in town. This edifice cost \$36,409.87 and was dedicated on May 14, 1905. Altar, pulpit, and baptismal font were bought by the young people of the church at a cost of nearly \$1,400. In 1931 the old organ was replaced by a new Moeller two-manual organ, with 37 speaking stops and 1,672 pipes, at a cost of \$8,500.



The present school in town was built in 1921 at a cost of \$39,140.95. The present buildings owned by the congregation were erected almost entirely during the pastorate of Rev. L. Frederick Brust, who succeeded Pastor Biltz upon the latter's resignation in 1901. On September 6, 1931, the congregation celebrated Pastor Brust's golden anniversary. Two years later the infirmities consequent upon a long and strenuous life in the service of the Church induced him to resign. He departed this life on March 19, 1936. He had been president of the Western District, 1920-1921.

Pastor Oscar E. Heilman of Hastings, Nebr., was called to succeed Rev. Brust. He was inducted into office on November 5, 1933. During his tenure of office a Parish Hall and a parsonage were erected. On June 13, 1958 a severe windstorm did extensive damage to the church building. The repaired and renovated church was re-consecrated on December 21, 1958. The congregation numbers 1642 baptized and 1178 communicant members.

## ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH, ERNESTVILLE

In pre-automobile days and at a time of undeveloped roads, which became well-nigh impassible in inclement weather, farm families of a common religious faith, residing in a general area some distance from town, found it expedient to establish their own congregations. However, with the coming of automotive transportation and state-maintained roads and the tendency of the farm youth to urban centers, many a rural church was faced with the problem of maintaining the ministry in its midst and consequently disbanded.

St. Matthew Lutheran church at Ernestville, three miles south and three miles west of Concordia, at the junction of state roads CC, KK, and YY, is a typical rural congregation. Founded 62 years ago with the help of Pastor Biltz by several families of St. Paul's church, who had been granted a peaceful release for the purpose of organizing their own congregation, St. Matthew throughout all these years has flourished and grown. Even today it is "holding its own," numbering 162 communicant and 243 baptized members, with an average church attendance of 175. In late years a number of families have moved to town but are maintaining membership in their "home congregation," regular in church attendance and active in all phases of congregational work.

Three of the pastors have been natives of Concordia, namely the first pastor, Ernest Runge, 1899-1907; Erich Peterson, 1937-1942; and the present pastor, F. A. Baepler, since 1955.

From the beginning the congregation maintained a Christian Day-school, taught by the pastors or students from Concordia Theological Seminary, St. Louis. Since 1958, by an arrangement with St. Paul's church, the majority of the children attend

the parochial school in town. There is also a flourishing Sunday school, an active Walther League, ladies' aid, and men's club.

Two years ago the congregation drilled a 516-ft. well, which besides the church and parsonage supplies the five other homes of Ernestville with water. The church basement is occasionally used by community clubs and for meetings of a civic nature.

While not "in" Concordia, pastor and people of St. Matthew are "of" Concordia, in so far as it is their trading center, school district, telephone exchange, and post office address.

## ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 1900-1955

About five miles northeast of Concordia in the community known as "Flora", a Lutheran Church of the Missouri Synod, existed for fifty-five years. In the days of horse-and-buggy transportation, the farmers of that area saw a need for a church near by. Mrs. August Schmidt, Sr., gave three acres of land for a church site, and a congregation was organized. A Christian day school was also established taught by the pastors and at times by lady teachers. In 1955, because of easy transportation to Lutheran churches in nearby towns, and because of a shortage of ministers, the congregation was disbanded. The Rev. Louis Hermerding served the congregation the last few years as vacancy pastor. Previous to that the following pastors served the congregation: Theo von Schlichten, John A. Andrae, A. Wehmeier, C. W. Koch, H. E. Mix, and W. F. C. Bahr.

## BETHEL EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH

By The Rev. Paul W. Kasper

The congregation dates its history from March 19, 1872, when Herman Klingenberg, Peter Steinman, Ferdinand Kurz, Peter Esselman, H. Detert, and Pastor Heinrich Hoefer of St. John's Evangelical Church near Emma met and organized the Evangelical Bethel Congregation of Concordia. On April 21, another meeting took place at which Wm. Sodemann, Henry Meyer, Wm. Mielenz, and H. Droege joined the group. In this meeting the building of a church was decided upon, and on September 3, 1872 the newly formed congregation dedicated its first house of worship.

The congregation increased in number so that in 1884 the decision was reached to erect a new church, which was dedicated on February 8, 1885. The Frauenverein, or Ladies' Aid, purchased the bell, and the Town Clock was installed from funds received by general subscription in the community. From time to time the church building was redecorated and alterations were made as needed.



The first building stood where Bethel Hall was located, and it was used as a school building from 1877 until 1916, when Bethel Hall was erected and the parochial school was discontinued. A kitchen was added to Bethel Hall in 1935, largely through the efforts of the Sewing Circle, together with donations from the other organizations of the Church.

In 1873 two acres of land south of Concordia were purchased for a cemetery. In 1918 the entrance gate to the cemetery was erected, and in 1924 a gravel driveway was built.

The congregation was first served part-time by Pastor Heinrich Hoefer until his resignation at St. John's near Emma in 1877. The following pastors served the congregation in succeeding years: Friedrich Frankenfeld, Sr. 1877-78; J. M. Torbitski 1878-79; George Haenelt 1879-1880; Carl Kautz 1880-86; H. Mohr 1886-93; Carl Doernenberg 1893-95; F. Klemme 1895-1901. Since the turn of the century the following pastors have served Bethel Church: J. Hoefer, Herman Becker, Ernest J. Becker, Paul Dietrich, O. Oberhellman, O. Flohr, G. Nussman, Paul Rahmeier, Martin Ernest, Melvin Lichte, and Paul W. Kasper.

During the early years of the Congregation's life, the German language was used exclusively for the worship services, the day school, and later, the Sunday Church School. Some time during the 1930's the use of the German language was discontinued.

A memorial pipe organ purchased from the Reuter Organ Company of Lawrence, Kansas, was installed and a dedication service held on July 31, 1938.

A new church and educational building being erected this year stand on the site of the first church building. The new building is to be dedicated during the present year (1960).

During the years the following men from Bethel Church were ordained into the Christian Ministry: George Duensing, Hugo Bredehoeft, Benjamin Freese, and Raymond Walkenhorst.

Bethel has a membership of three-hundred souls.

## THE HISTORICAL RECORD OF THE CONCORDIA BAPTIST CHURCH

By The Rev. Jerry Kibbons

In December of 1850 Pastor Carl Kresse, missionary to Lexington, was invited to preach in the area of Concordia. Rev. Kresse continued working in Lexington and Concordia until the month of March in 1851 when he moved his family here from Howard County.

On July 13, 1851 the Concordia Baptist Church was organized with thirteen charter members, namely: Carl and Henriette Kresse, Anton and Maria Schloman, Peter and Anna Brand, Casper and Maria Holtcamp, Henry and Maria Uphaus, Elizabeth Shurman, Henry Heienbrock, and Herman Kuhlman.

The first church building was erected in 1862 on the site next to the plot of the old Baptist Cemetery southeast of town where many of the church's faithful followers are laid to rest. In 1884 the church building was enlarged and a bell tower and bell were added. This bell is now in the present church building here in town.

The building of the church in the town of Concordia came about in this way: When the city was laid out and platted, the city commissioners made an offer of two lots to any religious group who would build the first meeting house. The city commissioners at this time were Mayor George Gordon, Henry Westerhaus, and Henry Detert. The Baptist body offered to build a church and after receiving a deed for the lots a building was erected in 1873. The original building is the northeast portion of the present building.

Services were held alternately in the building in the country and the one in town until an event occurred which caused a division in the church during the pastorate of Rev. John Sievers who served from 1900 to 1904. During the difficulty the congregation divided and the group who continued to worship in the country building organized the Lafayette Baptist Church and remained as such until 1922 when the two bodies were reunited.

Originally the church was affiliated with the German Baptist Association. The Lafayette Baptist Church when it organized joined the Lafayette Baptist Association and the Southern Baptist Convention. In 1922 the reunited church affiliated with these latter bodies.

The Women's Missionary Society was organized in June 1864. The society was then known as the "Frauenverein". However, after the reuniting of the churches it became known as the Women's Missionary Union. This group also sponsors the missionary organizations for the young people and children known as the Young Women's Auxiliary, The Girls' Auxiliary, and the Sunbeam Band.

A Bible School was organized in 1875 with Miss Marie Shoemaker, the pastor's daughter, as teacher. This organization later became the Sunday School. In 1926 a Baptist Young Peoples Union was instituted; this group later became a part of the Baptist Training Union which was for all age groups.

The latest organization of the church is the Men's Brotherhood, organized in 1950. This group also sponsors the Royal Ambassadors, a mission group for boys over 9 years of age.

The following is a list of the pastors who have served the church: Carl Kresse, T. S. Werner, Anton Huessler, Carl Kresse, Chas. Shoemaker, E. Graalman, John Sievers, Gust Peitsch, Gus Draewell, John Sievers, Thomas Stori, G. R. Mayhack, John Hermann, George Ehrhorn, Chas. Laborn, Geo. Jurrens, J. L. Downing, Walter Davenport, A. F. Meredith, D. E. Sisk, J. E. Musgrave, M. Dale Allen, Jean Osbourn, Jerry Kibbons.



The Reverends Thomas, Carter, Frerichs, Davis and J. H. Payne served as pastors of the Lafayette Baptist Church in the country from the early 1900's until 1922.

At present there are 235 baptized members.

## THE METHODIST CHURCH OF CONCORDIA

By The Rev. Franklin Marlin

The Methodist Church of Concordia traces its beginning in direct line to the founder of German Methodism, Dr. Wm. Nast in Cincinnati, Ohio. Under his influence and ministry, three men were converted in the early 1840's. After their conversion with glad hearts these three men left for the west by way of river. These men were Mr. Kahrs of Pettis county, Mr. Gerhardt Ringen of Benton county, and Mr. Henry Meyer of Freedom (Concordia), Lafayette county. They wrote Dr. Wm. Nast and asked him to send a missionary into this section. In the fall of 1843 Dr. Nast sent Sebastian Bach. He preached at six missions, Jefferson City, Jamestown, Boonville, Cole Camp and Freedom (Concordia).

The only record we have of the first church is that it was built of logs in the southeast corner of what is now the John Runge farm one mile west of Concordia. Then the place belonged to Henry Meyer.

Under the ministrations of faithful pastors, Freedom enjoyed increasing success, and during the ministry of Philip Hehner in 1858, a comfortable two-room parsonage was built. The need of a new church had been felt for some time previous, and now that the pastor was living in their midst, the feeling became more pronounced. On the evening of January 6, 1860, the building committee consisted of: Herman Klingenberg, John Fr. Meyer, and George Helms. On the 19th of August they had a farewell service in "the old and venerable structure" (the log cabin) and on the 26th of August, 1860, they dedicated their new house of worship, which had just been completed the evening before.

During a period of 43 years the church had done service, and had suffered a move, and even before its razing in 1903 preparations had been made for a third building. On February 25, 1903 the Quarterly Conference decided unanimously to build a new Church. The new Church was built in Concordia on 9th and Orange. The parsonage was built next door to the Church.

The day following Armistice Day, on the 12th of November, 1932, the long shrill sound of the fire siren was heard. The Methodist parsonage was all aflame. But for the courageous battle of the fire department, and the ready assistance of the citizens, men and women, little would have been left but ashes. The building was saved from entire destruction for which we are truly grateful.

The Methodist Church of Concordia has a long and glorious record of service, and in reviewing the past, we well take courage in our faith to face the future, whatever its demands may be in this new and greater day, trusting in God whose we are, and in our Lord Jesus Christ, whose virtues we are called to show forth to the world. From Him, and by His Spirit, we expect the greater victory of eternal life at His right hand in glory.

At present the Methodist Church has a membership of 133 baptized members.

### ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

About 1901, according to Young, people of the Roman Catholic faith purchased the old Iowa Synod Lutheran Church on the corner of 7th and St. Louis, re-dedicated it, and named it St. Joseph's Church. Services were held here for a small group of Roman Catholics for about thirty years. The church building is no longer standing, and recently the site was purchased for the new post office.



EDUCATION

## LIBRARY

Very early in the history of Concordia, the people recognized the value of a library. A Concordia Library Society of eighteen members was organized in 1880. W. F. Walkenhorst was president, D. H. Smith, librarian, and F. H. Bartman, treasurer. Their aim was to furnish the young people with a suitable place to spend their spare hours. They purchased, as a nucleus, a collection of fifty volumes — consisting of books of travel, biographies, histories, and first-class novels. Young's "History of Lafayette County" of 1910 tells us that later this society disbanded and the books were given to the public school.

In 1935-36, the Forum Club opened a public library which was operated by Mrs. Bradley, a club member. In 1938 a library committee was selected. Representatives from various town organizations met with this committee to pledge their support to a library. In February 1939, Miss Hazel Page, the county library supervisor, met with the library committee to present two plans, the W. P. A. Library Project and the County Library Plan. The Committee decided to join the W. P. A. library project and the first library board was elected from the members of the recently formed Library Association. The following were elected for three years: Rev. Rahmeier, president, Dr. Herbert Scholle, and Miss Leona Duensing. Those elected for two years were: Miss Ruth Bergman, secretary, Prof. L. Spitz, and Mrs. Geo. Gibson. Those elected for one year were: Prof. Brattstrom, Vice-President, Mr. Lawrence Powell, treasurer, and Mrs. Richard Borgstadt. The W. P. A. project was opened March 4, 1939 and two library clerks, Mr. Norbert Schlickelman and Mrs. Leona Bertram, were selected. The library was opened in the old insurance office in the Mercantile Building. According to Mrs. Bertram's opening report that was filed, the library was opened to the public April 4, 1939, with 188 books—140 adult fiction, five adult non fiction, and forty-three juvenile. The library was open eight hours a day, six days a week.

In 1940 a demonstration of county library service by bookmobile was carried on in Lafayette Co. This was under a county library board. Concordia was represented on this board by Prof. L. W. Spitz. Norbert Schlickelman was the bookmobile driver. He made a two day trip of 125 miles every two weeks. This demonstration ended in 1940. Then residents of the county voted on a measure to establish a levy of  $\frac{1}{2}$  mill on a \$1.00 assessed valuation to maintain free county library service. This failed by less than 100 votes. The measure carried in towns, but lost in the rural precincts.

In 1942 the city council was asked to subsidize the library to the extent of paying the building rental charge, as the library was used as a sugar rationing center, a war information center, and served as a meeting place for city defense and the war bond committee.



The library association and board was notified that the W. P. A. service would be discontinued January 15, 1943. From a final report filed, the W. P. A. had contributed over \$3500.00 toward the library whereas Concordia had expended \$582.27. From April 4, 1939 to January 15, 1943, 9,319 adult books, 8,193 juvenile books, and 5,366 magazines had been circulated.

Now the library operated on funds received from the county court and by annual fund drives. In 1949, the county court stopped their monthly payments. Again the board went before the city council to ask for a tax levy of 5c on \$100.00 assessed valuation to support the library. The council went on record as being in favor of this. Instead, a yearly allotment was granted toward the support of a public library. In March 1957, the library board recommended to the city council that the library become a part of the Trails Regional Library system. Miss Alvina Uphaus was retained as clerk. In October 1959, the library was moved to the newly remodeled and redecorated Flandermeyer building at 704 Main Street. Circulation has reached over 1200 books a month. There are about 4000 volumes in the library and ten magazines. More than 400 people hold cards which entitle them to check out books and magazines. There are plans to expand the library in the future.

## ST. PAUL'S HIGH SCHOOL AND JUNIOR COLLEGE

St. Paul's High School and Junior College is one of the nine institutions owned by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in the United States and Canada whose purpose is to give initial training and preparation for the ministry of the Church. After a student completes his work at St. Paul's College, he takes two more years at the Missouri Synod's Senior College at Ft. Wayne, Indiana and after that three years at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. Between his second last and his last year at the seminary, he must take a year of vicarage. Upon completion of his seminary work, he is given his first "call" by the board of assignments.

Those who intend to go into the teaching ministry, after completing the course at St. Paul's College, finish up and obtain their bachelor's degree at one of Synod's teachers colleges either at River Forest, Illinois or at Seward, Nebraska.

On December 1, 1883, Dr. C. F. W. Walther, editor of "Der Lutheraner", joyfully announced the opening of the new academy at Concordia, Missouri. On January 3, 1884, lessons began in the study of Prof. Andrew Baepler.

The man who was primarily responsible for the new venture was Rev. F. J. Biltz, pastor of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church at Concordia and President of the Western District of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and other States.

Pastor Biltz was president of this district when it extended to the Gulf of Mexico and to the Pacific Ocean. To him came appeals for pastors and teachers from the great West. It was only natural that a man who had been one of the first students in the Lutheran log-cabin college of Perry County, Missouri, should have the vision and the courage to labor for an academy for the vast territory to which he ministered as president of his district. Synod, fully occupied with the erection of a new seminary in St. Louis, was in no position to found any preparatory institutions at that time. Accordingly, the Western District encouraged the Concordia congregation to proceed with its plan to found a pro-gymnasium.

Within a year's time the new academy had grown to such an extent that the Western District was prepared to assume ownership. This it did in 1885. Eleven years later Synod, convinced of the importance of St. Paul's Academy for the territory in which it is located, added this institution to its list of academies and colleges. In 1905 the junior college was added. Teacher training programs for women and men were introduced on the college level in 1954 and 1956 respectively.

The primary purpose of St. Paul's College is to prepare young men for the study of theology and young men and women for teaching in Lutheran elementary schools. The college maintains its standards on a plane correspondent to the professional needs of its students and follows a policy of selection and elimination in accordance with these standards.

The educational objective of St. Paul's College is to develop individuals who stand in the proper relationship to God and their fellow men; to train and motivate students to use to the fullest extent their talents and abilities in the service of Christ and humanity; to train students to recognize, interpret, and integrate subject-matter in accordance with that purpose.

Although St. Paul's College chiefly aims to prepare students for the study of theology or teaching in Lutheran elementary schools, it has also, when possible, attempted to serve those who have some other profession in view in the high school department. To them St. Paul's offers a thorough scholastic training under the influence of God's Word.

The campus of St. Paul's College has grown from four to seventy-five acres. The west twenty acres form an almost perfect rectangle which gently slopes from south to north. An abrupt drop separates the athletic field from the level on which the residence halls and administration building are placed.

St. Paul's has a fine athletic field. The baseball diamond is surrounded by a quarter-mile cinder track. Two tennis courts are located west of the athletic field. In season the space within the track is used as a playing field for intramural football, soccer, speed ball, and other sports.



The first building, a two-story structure, erected by St. Paul's Congregation of Concordia with the aid of Holy Cross Congregation of Emma, Missouri, was erected in 1884. The second building, a three-story structure, was erected by the Western District in 1890. These two buildings, known as Founders Hall, now serve as a music hall, with rehearsal rooms for the choruses and band, as well as an adequate number of piano practice rooms. One wing is used as a residence hall for women. The refectory, built in 1903, is a two-story structure, with a dining hall on the first floor and rooms for the service staff on the second floor. White Hall, erected in 1912, served as the college hospital until it was remodeled as a modern women's residence hall in 1954. This building has again become the infirmary with the completion of the new women's residence hall last year.

Kaepfel Memorial Gymnasium, erected in 1925, has served the double purpose of gymnasium and auditorium. With the erection of a new modern gymnasium, during 1959, the Kaepfel Gymnasium will be converted into an all purpose student union.

Biltz Hall, named in honor of the founder of St. Paul's was also erected in 1925. It is a three-story fireproof structure. The interior was recently remodeled and modernized. Brust Hall, a beautiful and functional residence hall dedicated in January, 1954, provides housing for college men.

In the years 1950-1951 a central heating plant was erected, and on June 3, 1951, Baepler Hall, the new administration building named after Prof. Andrew Baepler, St. Paul's first instructor, was dedicated. It provides up-to-date office, classroom, library, laboratory, and chapel facilities, adequate for the enrollment.

In 1958 the campus was expanded from twenty to seventy-five acres when the Stuenkel farm was bought. The first building erected there is the beautiful large gymnasium. Plans are to continue the extension of the campus eastward as new buildings are needed. The architect's model shows new dormitories in line with Moeller Hall to the east, and a library and academic buildings east of the present administration building.

The enrollment this year (1960-1961) is 270 students.

In the seventy-seven years of her existence, over one thousand graduates have been ordained into the holy ministry. St. Paul's graduates have gone into all parts of the world as ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ or as witnesses to Him in some other profession of their choice.

The following have served as presidents of the institution: Andrew Baepler, 1883-1888; J. H. C. Kaepfel, 1888-1925; Ottomar Krueger, 1925-1937; Albert J. C. Moeller, 1937-1951; Walter F. Wolbrecht, 1951-1954; and Lambert J. Mehl, 1954 to the present.

## THE PUBLIC SCHOOL 1860-1960

By Supt. Truman J. Hayden

The history of the Public School in the Concordia community over the past one hundred years is quite similar to that in most communities throughout our country. The evolution of the public school system from the early one room, one teacher rural school which seemed so firmly established throughout the first one half of the past century, eventually found itself slipping and being forced to close its doors in favor of large and greater populated units offering more varied and practical training.

This change-over is not a criticism of the rural school. The rural school did well in preparing its youth to meet the needs of that day. It seems doubtful that our present and future school system will ever be as able to meet the needs of their environment as the rural school did of its environment. In this rapidly changing world corresponding changes become necessary in the educational system, else satisfactory results are not realized, and time and money are spent for nothing. If our schools are to meet the needs of a democracy and perpetuate our system of free enterprise, it will depend almost wholly on the vision and foresight of our people and their determination to keep the educational system in step with the economical, industrial and social trend we are now advancing through. More important today is the fact that our very existence in this unsettled world depends on how well our schools serve their purpose and progress with this trend.

During the past century, 1860-1960, the record of the events in the history of the Concordia Public School is quite brief and limited. In fact, no written school records are available for the period before 1900. However, from the records of other communities and information received by the grapevine, we know that the progress was steady but slow, and encountered the usual number of difficulties. Since 1900 we have written-records to bear out this fact and the progress in the Concordia community in meeting the needs of public education is commendable. The records reveal the names of many Concordians who, being dedicated to the purpose of public education, persistently kept the needs of the school before the people until another step of progress was realized. The material to follow deals with the evolution of the Concordia public school system down to 1960 with possible implication of present and future progress.

The first public school building in Concordia, according to Young's "History of Lafayette County", was constructed in 1874. It was a brick structure and the total cost was \$1300. An authentic map dated 1886 shows the location of the school property as Lots No. 3 and 4, Block H, lying on the west side of Gordon street, or nearly the same location as that of the present public elementary



school. The map shows that Lots No. 1 and 2 lying to the north of the school site was a city park on which was located a city hall and a city jail.

The same source of information states that William F. Walkenhorst was the first public school teacher in Concordia, and continued his teaching in Concordia and the surrounding community for a period of 34 years. Mr. Walkenhorst was the son of Francis H. Walkenhorst, who was killed by the bushwhackers in the Civil War in 1864. Early Lafayette County statistics show that during this post-war period there were 82 rural districts in Lafayette county; the average wage of teachers was \$55.11 per month for men, and \$39.28 for women and that the school year was from 5 to 6 months in length with a per pupil cost per day of eight cents.

Concordia school records show that the Concordia district remained a rural three-director school district until 1914. In 1914 it was changed from rural district No. 5 to city district No. 97 and the number of directors was increased, according to law, to 6 members. In 1910 the Concordia school had an enrollment of 126 pupils, grades 1 to 8, three teachers employed at an average wage of \$66.30 per month, a district valuation of \$300,000, and a school levy of 30c on each \$100.00 of assessed valuation. No high school credit had yet been offered in the public school.

No accurate information is obtainable as to the exact date when high school work was first offered, but common belief places it at about 1910. The high school classification was known then as a two-year third class high school, offering the usual first year courses of the four-year high schools of that day. Few boys and girls chose to go to high school then even though the opportunity was near at hand. The importance of high school training had not yet entered the minds of parents and students. This movement, as we shall see, grew rapidly following 1910, and today, 50 years since the beginning of the first public high school in the Concordia community, all elementary school graduates enter high school.

A growing interest in the public school, including the public high school, is noted from the change of the district from rural to city districts in 1914. At this time the first nine-month school term was approved by the voters. Also July 14, 1914, a bond issue was submitted to the voters for their approval, the school board's resolution in part reading as follows, "— A public necessity exists for a larger, more commodious and more sanitary school in the district—be it resolved by the board of education that a special election is hereby ordered—for the purpose of submitting to the voters a proposition—to borrow \$20,000 for the purpose of purchasing a school house site and erecting a new school house thereon." The minutes of the board of directors show that this proposition failed to receive approval the first two times voted upon. On the third attempt the bond issue carried, only to be declared an illegal election because of some small error in advertising the election.

The fourth election, June 24, 1915, received a favorable vote and the construction of what is now known as the public elementary school (not including the auditorium) followed, being completed and occupied for the first time in September 1916. It was during this building program that Lots No. 1 and 2 were purchased from the city, thus providing more play area for the children.

During the school year 1916-1917 the high school was advanced to a three-year high school offering 12 units of credit. Latin and German had been a part of the course of study, but we find that these were dropped in favor of commercial courses so useful in the pre and post World War I days. Concordia has continued to this day to have a strong commercial department, its graduates having little difficulty in finding employment after leaving school.

In the 1919-20 school year the Concordia high school was increased to a full four-year, first class high school. With the advent of the four-year high school, and the increasing needs of young people for this training, Concordia high school attracted the interests of students living outside the bounds of the Concordia district. It soon became the center in which numerous students enrolled annually from an area widely surrounding Concordia. At first these non-resident students were forced to pay the full tuition cost, but later state laws transferred this obligation to the student's home district and with the State contributing a small amount. Since, according to law, tuition charges could not be applied to the cost of additional building facilities, and with continued annual increases in high school enrollment, the Concordia high school soon became overly crowded and the school tax levy unjustly high. Little, if any increase in the curricular offering had been found possible from 1920 to 1934 due to the lack of necessary facilities. It had become necessary to rent additional facilities when plays were presented and when commencement and baccalaureate services were held. No indoor gym made possible the physical education offering now required by the State Department of Education. On July 7, 1936, bonds totaling \$20,000 were approved by the voters of the Concordia district to build an auditorium-gymnasium addition to the present school building. The construction of the auditorium-gymnasium came during the existence of the Public Works Administration, and a part of the labor costs were paid by the federal government.

During the World War II period the board of education was faced with the problems facing all the schools of the country, that of increased enrollments, need for additional facilities, increased costs, and the increased demands of the public for more services from the public school. Public high school, the state and nation over, indeed faced a crisis. If the public school system were to continue to meet the increasing needs of our country, they, like other public institutions, must be progressively redesigned to perform not only the same, but new and additional services. This step



would have been impossible without the support of the cause of public education by the state legislative bodies.

In 1949, under the new Missouri school district reorganization law, and with the recommendation of the county and state boards of education, a new district was approved by the voters. Concordia Reorganized School District No. 2, as the new district is known today, includes Concordia District No. 97, and 12 of the outlying rural districts. With this enlargement of the school unit, the assessed valuation assuring the educational welfare of the high school students of this area was increased over three times. The elementary children now are brought to the one elementary school in Concordia as the high school students have been for many years. The potential of Concordia Reorganized School District No. 2 today in offering the best in educational opportunity to its boys and girls, ranks it among the better school districts of the State.

In 1952 a new high school building was partially completed, designed to make possible the broad educational offering so necessary today. During the 1960-61 school term, Concordia public schools will employ 20 full-time teachers in contrast to 5 in 1920, the first of a four-year high school. Thirty-one units of credit will be offered to high school students instead of 16 units. All out-of-town students are transported daily to and from school in modern day busses.

Not only are commercial subjects offered today but a wide selection of other vocational subjects in the fields of Vocational Home Economics and Industrial Arts. A broad curricular offering is also made in the field of science, mathematics, social studies, English and drivers' training. In addition, the school performs dozens of educational services never before conceived of. Once the new high school building is completed, and this staff of 20 teachers permitted to work at maximum efficiency, the residents of Concordia Reorganized School District No. 2 can justly be proud of one of the better educational systems of the State.

Concordia community, as most communities are, is proud of its public school system and, today admiringly approves the changes that have come down through the past 100 years. Much do the people of today owe to their fathers, grandfathers and great-grandfathers for their excellent foresight, planning and persistence in keeping the public schools in step with progress. The value of this contribution to our present generation cannot be over-estimated. The names of many past members of boards of education and other educational leaders of this area should be mentioned, but space here does not permit a mere beginning. Obviously, the best and only way this generation can recognize and approve the efforts of these leaders in public education, 1860-1960, is to become as much concerned and active about the public school today and of the immediate future. The schools of today are having to undergo more and greater changes than ever before. They still need leadership and support.

## ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL

By Virgil Leckband

Sometime during the years 1858 and 1859, St. Paul's Lutheran Church called its first school teacher in addition to a regularly called pastor. Previous to this time, whatever school was held, had been conducted by the congregation's pastor. In 1860, the first statistical report of the parish was recorded at the synodical convention. The report included 80 children, four of whom did not belong to the congregation. Teacher M. Broening's name was included in the report, having been the first regularly called teacher.

From 1862 until 1865 Joseph Gruber, a graduate of Fort Wayne Normal, served as teacher. He was succeeded in the fall of 1866 by H. Hamm who had received his education at a German normal school.

The steady growth of the congregation necessitated the erection of various school buildings in the outlying districts of the congregation. One of the schools was erected near the Blackwater Creek. It was abandoned before 1900. A second was erected northwest of Concordia and north of the Davis Creek. This school, known as Jacksonville, was in session only three months of the year, usually from Easter till the end of June. It was abandoned in 1915. A third school was erected west of town and south of the Davis. A fourth school was erected in town.

Until 1887, Teachers Boecher, Paar, Marr, and Kramer served in these schools. In 1888 R. Peters was called as a regular teacher in the school north of the Davis. Two years later a new school and teacher's dwelling were built there.

In 1887 the congregation decided to build a second school in Concordia. The upper grades were to attend the town school while the lower grades were to remain in the school near the church, the present site of St. Paul's cemetery. Teacher W. Wilk, succeeding Teacher Boecher, took charge of the town school, opposite the present church, while teacher Hamm kept the school near the church. The increasing number of children in the town school made it necessary to add an additional classroom in 1897. This classroom was temporarily located on the campus of St. Paul's College. In 1898 it was attached to the school in town. The additional classroom was served by Miss Meta Hamm. With the resignation of Teacher Hamm in 1900 and his retirement to Sweet Springs, accompanied by Miss Hamm, the two vacancies were filled by R. Peters of the Davis school and Miss Mary Wilk. Joseph Wukasch succeeded R. Peters at the Davis school in 1900. With the resignation of R. Peters, Mr. Wukasch took his place, the Davis school being put in charge of J. L. Lindoerfer.

With failing health, Mr. Wilk resigned and was succeeded by Mr. Wukasch. This was in 1902, Mr. J. Sagehorn taking the place of Mr. Wukasch. With the death of Mr. Wilk in 1906, Miss



Wilk left Concordia and Miss Louise Baepler took her place in the town school across from the present church.

Other teachers who served in the congregation's schools were E. Hedeman, P. Meyer, I. Peterson, M. Alschwede, and J. L. Lindoefer in the Davis school; K. Wyssmann and P. Noenning in or near town. In the years following many others too numerous to mention taught in the congregation's schools by temporary appointment.

In 1921 the congregation decided to expand its school facilities and built the present building across from the church. The Hamm school was abandoned with the completion of the new building. Five of its six rooms were occupied.

The congregation called two more teachers in the early 1920's, both of whom served the congregation long and faithfully. They were H. F. Klinkerman in 1923 and H. H. Miller in 1926. From 1900 these four teachers, Mr. Wukasch, Mr. Klinkerman, Mr. Miller, and Miss Baepler, until the retirement of the last one in 1960, rendered 157 years of service to the church. Mr. Miller accepted a call to California in 1948 after 22 years of service; Mr. Wukasch resigned his position as principal in 1950 but continued to serve as teacher until 1952, extending his service to 52 years; Mr. Klinkerman retired in Concordia after 31 years; and Miss Baepler retired in 1959 but continued to serve another year because of an unfilled vacancy on the school staff.

With the resignation of Mr. Wukasch in 1950, Herman Wentzel was appointed to the principalship. The assignment of candidate Robert Bruening to the congregation in 1952 added another classroom in that year, making a total of six classrooms. Following Mr. Klinkerman's retirement in 1954, Virgil Leckband of Kansas was called.

In 1956, the congregation completed another phase of the school building by adding a gymnasium, kitchen, office, and library. As the school continued to grow and modern methods demanded smaller pupil-teacher ratios, additional classrooms became necessary. In 1958 the auditorium in the original building was converted to two classrooms and a spacious hallway. Mrs. Viola Mieser became the seventh teacher on the staff. A year later, the second new classroom was occupied by the school's eighth member of the staff, Mrs. Esther Voigt.

In the spring of 1957, Mr. Wentzel accepted a call to the St. Louis area. Mr. Leckband was appointed to the principalship in his place. Mr. Lloyd Haertling of Iowa was called to fill the vacancy left by Mr. Wentzel. Mr. Bruening accepted a call in the spring of 1959 to Saginaw, Michigan. His vacancy remained unfilled until the spring of 1960 when a candidate was assigned to the congregation by Synod's Board of Assignments. The candidate, Arthur Fliege of Springfield, Illinois accepted the appointment, taking up his duties for the 1960-61 school term.

Other teachers currently serving on the staff are Miss Evelyn Brandt, who began her service to the congregation in the fall of 1948; Mrs. Selma Lange, who joined the staff in 1957; and Miss Ann Wolters, who has currently joined the staff for the 1960-61 school year. Other women teachers too numerous to mention have served the congregation temporarily but faithfully.



IN SUMMARY

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## IN SUMMARY

Concordia is unique in many respects when we compare it with many other towns. The following points should be stressed:

1. There is no slum area in this town. People moving here from other places remark about this quite often. While the town can boast no palaces, neither does it have any hovels. The people of Concordia are far-sighted and thrifty. They have traditionally been taught that man should live within his means.

2. The people of Concordia are a God-fearing and a church going people. Our ministers tell us that all of the natives belong to a church, and most of the people who move here look up the church of their faith and join it. The jail is seldom used, and when someone is in it, it is usually a transient who asks for the privilege of sleeping there.

3. It has been observed by competent observers that the general intelligence of the people is high. Those who have gone off to college have done exceptionally well, and their number is increasing. One of the local schools has produced a national spelling champion, Elvira Wukasch, the college has produced a national champion in forensics, Paul Heynel. Alewells' fine meat products have again and again won grand awards in state and national competitions, Concordia's Creamery Butter has been a blue ribbon winner for years, and Thiemans' cattle are world-renowned.

4. Concordia has a far-sighted city council. Witness their forty year plan for city improvement.

5. Concordia has civic societies that are really working for improvement. Read their histories and judge.

6. Concordia has a college, which besides adding a big pay roll to the town, also adds a touch of culture and keeps before the youth of the town the challenge of higher education. There are very few towns the size of Concordia that are privileged to have a college.

7. Concordia is on the main street of America. The four lane divided Interstate No. 70 now being constructed puts Concordia on a transportation artery that helps keep up property values. Some of the people who live here do not mind driving into Kansas City for work. The quiet and peace they find here repays them for the hour's drive. Many people in the suburbs of Chicago spend as much time getting to work.

8. Concordia is a town that is thinking about the human problem of aging, a problem that will become more complex as the average span of life increases. The Good Shepherd Home for the aged will make the difference between a lonely old age or one filled with love and companionship for many.

9. Concordia enjoys the comforts and cleanliness of natural gas heat besides all of the other modern utilities in abundance and at reasonable rates.



10. Climatic conditions are not extreme. Concordia enjoys a growing season of approximately 180 days. The January average temperature is about 30 degrees and the July average is about 79 degrees according to records of the U. S. Weather Bureau over a period of thirty years. The annual average of rainfall is about forty inches and is well distributed averaging four or five inches a month during the growing season. The town itself is situated on a well drained level site.

11. The industries described elsewhere are headed by a conservative yet far-sighted management. The people who lost their shirts in the Depression are still with us.

12. The town has people of financial stability. They may not be rich, but neither are they poor. Many of them have one foot on a farm and one foot in town. Concordia has an assessed valuation of approximately \$1,600,000.00.

13. The town is not dependent upon fly-by-night ventures. It is a center of trade in a radius of ten miles. The large college campus with its many new buildings is something that will not easily pass out of existence. The Good Shepherd Home will also be an institution that will be of a stable nature. These two institutions are not just supported by the local population, but by large bodies of interested people. The farmers who are stewards of the soil of this community have their roots down deep and are taking good care of it. The population as a whole has a philosophy of life that has a concern for the next generation.

14. Concordia is a town of many new buildings. In December 1954 the CONCORDIAN published a "Progress Edition" which revealed some of the following statistics: In eight years almost a hundred new homes had been built. "Over half a million dollars spent on new homes. Over half a million on new school buildings. Several hundred thousand on new business buildings." A check with the city hall for statistics of more recent years revealed that during 1957-1958, twenty-one building permits were issued for the erection of new homes and one commercial establishment. In 1959 fourteen new homes were built and three commercial establishments. Besides this tens of thousands were spent on remodeling homes and stores.

What will Concordia be like in a hundred years from now should Our Lord permit civilization to continue that long? Of course nobody knows, but there are some things that bear looking into. Estimates are made that stagger the imagination. For every person living on earth now, there could conceivably be a hundred in the year 2060. That could mean a population of one hundred fifty thousand for this area. Concordia would be a suburb of Kansas City.

Sometime in the future there will be paved streets, an airport, a modernized shopping center. Old Main Street will lose its complexion like Old St. Louis Street did. There will be an attrac-

tive roadside hostelry that will vie with Howard Johnson in excellence and that will serve elegant food (specializing in German dishes) in a quiet refreshing atmosphere of soft music. The many visitors that come here from afar visiting their sons and daughters in school will feel refreshed and go away with the feeling that "it's just like home." Educated people will make more demands for culture. Libraries will not just be something for young people, but there will be a greater thirst for knowledge in all walks of life.

On the other hand, if the trend for pleasure madness observed all over our country continues, the churches will decline, and a reign of wickedness will overshadow the land. Then those who are toddlers today will look back at the "sixties" and talk of them as the "good old times."

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Brownlee, Richard S., Gray Ghosts of the Confederacy.** Baton Rouge, La., Louisiana Press, 1958. pp. While this book does not treat of Concordia, nevertheless, it is closely connected therewith, treating of guerrilla warfare in other parts of Lafayette County, and it contains excellent maps of the Civil War period.
- Chiles, William H. History of Lafayette County, Missouri.** Republished by the Public Library and Historical Society of Lexington. n. d. 13 pp. (approx). This was an address delivered by William H. Chiles at the Court House in Lexington on July 4th., 1876. It was published in the newspapers at the time and has been several times reprinted from reprints so that errors have crept in which are now hard to correct. One of the early editions had a supplement of approximately six hundred words written by W. F. Walkenhorst on the history of Concordia, a copy of which was sent to the author by the Missouri Historical Society and is contained in this history in its entirety.
- Forster, Walter O., Zion on the Mississippi.** St. Louis, Concordia, 1953. 606 p. A few references are made to Rev. F. J. Biltz's early life and his student days at log cabin seminary in Perry County, Missouri.
- History of Lafayette County, Mo.,** "carefully written and compiled from the most authentic official and private sources including a history of its townships, cities, towns and villages together with a condensed history of Missouri; the constitution of the United States and state of Missouri; a military record of its volunteers in either army of the great Civil War; general and local statistics; miscellany; reminiscences, grave, tragic and humorous; biographical sketches of prominent men and citizens identified with the interests of the county. Illustrated." St. Louis, Missouri Historical Company, 1881. 702 pp.



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Young, William, **Young's History of Lafayette County, Missouri** by Hon. William Young. 2 vol. Indianapolis, B. F. Bowen, 1910. 837 pp. This work is based largely on the 1881 history but brings it up to 1910. Both this history and the 1881 history are cherished for their many biographies of prominent people of the earlier days.

## II. JOURNALS AND NEWSPAPERS

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**The Concordian.** A weekly newspaper established in 1893 in Concordia and published there ever since. A series of articles on the history of Concordia and St. Paul's College appeared in it in April and May 1933.

**Missouri Thalbote.** This was a weekly German language newspaper established in Lexington in 1871, moved to Concordia in 1880, and to Higginsville in 1893. Very few copies are still in existence. Those which are in existence are extremely fragile. The writer has a photostatic copy of parts of the October 23, 1885 issue containing an account of the guerrilla raids written by Rev. F. J. Biltz, himself. This copy was found in the Concordia Historical Institute in St. Louis. Some copies of this paper are in the Missouri Historical Society archives in Columbia.

## III. FESTSCHRIFTEN

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Concordia, Mo.** A Brief History and a Souvenir prepared for the Ninetieth Anniversary of the Dedication of Its First Church Building in 1884. Concordia, Mo., May 13-18, 1934. 35 pp.

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#### IV. OTHER SOURCES

Nussmann, Oscar Cornelius, **The Town of Concordia, Missouri as a Study in Cultural Conflict.** (A Master's Thesis) 163 pp., Columbia, University of Missouri, 1933.

Schoede, A. H., **Papers.** Some fifty or more hand written, unorganized loose sheets which are now in the possession of the City Hall. Most of the materials contained herein are found in Young's History or the 1881 History of Lafayette County. Photostatic copies of some pages are in St. Paul's College Library.



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APPENDIX

## MAYORS OF CONCORDIA

Concordia was incorporated in 1877 as a village, and in 1883 as a city of the fourth class. The last chairman under village life was Fred C. Cook and the Mayors have been the following:

1883 Fred C. Cook	1922 Joe A. Kuhlman
1886 Henry Ficken	1924 Geo. Klingenberg (son of John)
1888 Fred Cook	1935 John Cassing (acting mayor during vacancy)
1890 Henry Ficken	1935 H. F. Duensing
1894 Henry W. Thieman	1940 Ed. Pape
1898 Louis H. Mehl	1944 Ed. M. Runge
1900 Henry W. Thieman	1954 Louis Dierker
1902 George Duensing	1958 Ed. Pape (still serving in 1960)
1906 Max Doblje	
1918 John S. Klingenberg	

## OFFICIALS OF THE TOWN OF CONCORDIA 1960

Mayor —  
Edwin A. Pape  
City Marshal —  
Roy O. Schnakenberg  
City Collector —  
Fred J. Cassing  
City Assessor —  
Henry J. Bosselman  
Aldermen First Ward —  
Lawrence Reynolds  
Norbert Schnakenberg  
Aldermen Second Ward —  
Raymond Frerking  
John Ziegelbein  
City Clerk —  
Al Schlapper

## CONCORDIANS WHO SERVED THE COUNTY AND STATE

County Judges From Eastern District Of Lafayette County:

Conrad Stuenkel  
H. H. Elling  
John S. Klingenberg  
Jul. Vogt, Jr., during World War I  
Louis H. Meyer  
Joe W. Klingenberg  
Julius Maring  
A. H. Riesterer  
County Coroner —  
Dr. Edmund Lissack  
County Clerk —  
Al. H. Schlapper



## State Representative —

E. A. Duensing

Geo. Duensing, Jr.

## Deputy United States Marshal —

Henry W. Thieman

## DOCTORS, PAST AND PRESENT

Concordia has had the following doctors: F. L. Flanders, Dr. Bartens, A. P. Reed, W. A. Braecklein, H. F. Becker, Herman Weinberg, F. D. Lieser, Otto Oetting, Ferdinand Schreiman, J. A. Schneider, Henry Max Lissack (1909-1942), Elza Johnston, H. A. Saults, Richard Hohlt, DC, W. A. Gruebbel, DDS, G. F. Scholle, DDS, B. F. Hewitt, DVM, Dr. Hymer, DVM.

Doctors serving the community at present: Edmund Lissack, MD, Hugh Brady, MD, Max E. Rice, DC, F. G. Goeman, DO, Richard R. Robinson, DO, Herbert H. Scholle, DDS, Dale L. Bivin, DVM.

TEACHERS IN CONCORDIA'S  
CLASSROOMS IN THE 1960-1961 TERM

## Public High School

Truman J. Hayden, superintendent, general mathematics.  
Helen E. Klingenberg, high school principal, mathematics.  
Arthur Elwell, health and physical education, coach.  
James Dickinson, band and chorus.  
Clark King, science and mathematics.  
Nellie King, vocational home economics.  
Ruth Schaefer, commerce.  
James Van Blarcum, industrial arts and driver's training.  
Truman Kirschner, social studies.  
David Pibel, English and social studies.  
Mary McLamb, English.  
Helen Monroe, French, school publication, and grade school music.  
Frank Canfield, guidance counselor.

## Public Elementary School

Leona Meyer, principal, first grade.  
Blanch Kronsbein, second grade.  
Mrs. Gary Meek, third grade.  
Marian Cassing, fourth grade.  
Viola Terwilliger, fifth grade.  
Susie Glahn, sixth grade.  
Vernon Grefe, seventh grade.  
Mehetabel Hulver, eighth grade.

## Lutheran Elementary School

Virgil Leckband, eighth grade, principal.  
Lloyd Haertling, seventh grade.  
Arthur Fliege, sixth grade.  
Esther Voigt, fifth grade.  
Ann Wolters, fourth grade.  
Evelyn Brandt, third grade.  
Selma Lange, second grade.  
Viola Mieser, first grade.

Scenes from  
the  
Centennial Pageant



Co-chairmen of the Centennial Pageant—Mrs. Norman Gienapp, left, and Mrs. Roy Brockman.





Quartet—Left to right, Roland Fischer, Melbourne Heins, Dr. Max Rice and Henry Kammeyer.



The Old Lamplighter—Fred Schulze.



Pastor Biltz, Postmaster—Norbert Flandermeyer.



Scene from story of Bushwhacker raid during Vogt baptism—Mrs. Pansy Dierker, left, and Mrs. Biltz, and Miss Vera Miller as Mrs. Vogt. Elmer Reinke portrays Mr. Brockhoff.





Parents of Mrs. Biltz reading letter of raid—Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kammeyer.



Pastor Biltz as postmaster—Norbert Flandermeyer.



Lincoln and cabinet members—Melbourne Heins, left, Wally Oetting, right. Ralph Hovde as Lincoln.



Civil War scene—Jackson and Lincoln controversy.





Campfire scene from Civil War episodes—left to right, Ralph Krause, Wally Schuette, Wendell Olson, Bob Dotson, Herbert Dierker, Albert Schlueter and Vernon Grefe.



General Grant and General Lee, portrayed by Edwin Bergman and Raymond Holsten.



Bank robbery by members of James gang—left to right are Erwin Bergman, Walter Nierman and Raymond Kam-meyer.



Homestead scene—Mr. and Mrs. John Hartwig, Kenda Haertling, Mary and Ruth Mehl, Rita and James Gienapp and Gary Lietke.





Railroad scene—Lloyd Haertling, S. M. Chapin, Roy Borgstadt and Melvin Rehkop.



School scene—Mrs. Henry Kronsbein, teacher.



Public School scene.



Post Office scene—Mrs. Armin Frerking, left, Mrs. Edward Hulver, right.





Baptist Church scene—Rev. Jerry Kibbons, right.



Methodist Church scene, "Building a Church"— Rev. Franklin Marlin, Leland Helt, Ronald Elling, Donna Berry, Gene Tebbenkamp, Sharon Elling and Shirley Elling.



Lutheran Church scene—Christmas program.



Evangelical Church scene—Shown left to right are: first wedding, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Kroencke; first baptism, Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Hemme; first confirmation, Martha Jo Stiegemeyer; family group, Leslie Dotson, Phil Kindle, Connie and Bob Dotson, Mrs. G. B. Dotson (seated).





Meeting of the Literary Society Debaters—Raymond Holsten left, and Herbert Dierker, right.



Family group—Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Dotson, center; Leslie Dotson, front left, and Linda Kroencke, front right; rear, left to right, Phil Kindle, Connie Dotson, Bob Dotson.



World War I—The Home Front: left to right, Mrs. E. C. Hartman, Mrs. F. A. Welpman, Mrs. Walter Walkenhorst, Mrs. Henry Rohman, and Mrs. S. M. Chapin



World War II scene—Mrs. G. B. Dotson, Mrs. Roy Krause, Mrs. Max Rice, Miss Margot Frerking, Mrs. Norman Benteman, Miss Vera Miller, Bob Dotson, James Droege, Phil Kindle, Kenneth Cook, Jim Evert, and Homer Becker as Uncle Sam.





Homer Becker as Uncle Sam.

On the following pages are  
some of the floats in the  
Religious and Decorated  
Float Parade



The winning float in the Kiddies  
Parade—Left to right are Tammy  
Froeschle, Kelly Kammeyer and Deb-  
bie Kammeyer.





The Telephone Company float.



The Lions Club float.



The St. Paul's Lutheran School float.



The Concordia Public School float.





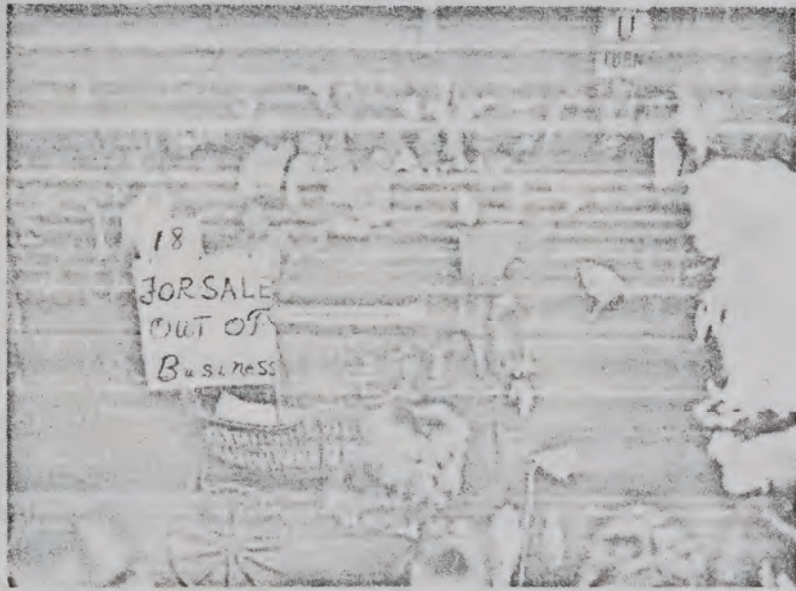
The Concordia High School float.



The Methodist Youth Fellowship float.

**A Few of the Floats  
in the  
K. K. K. Parade**











# Leaders of The Parade









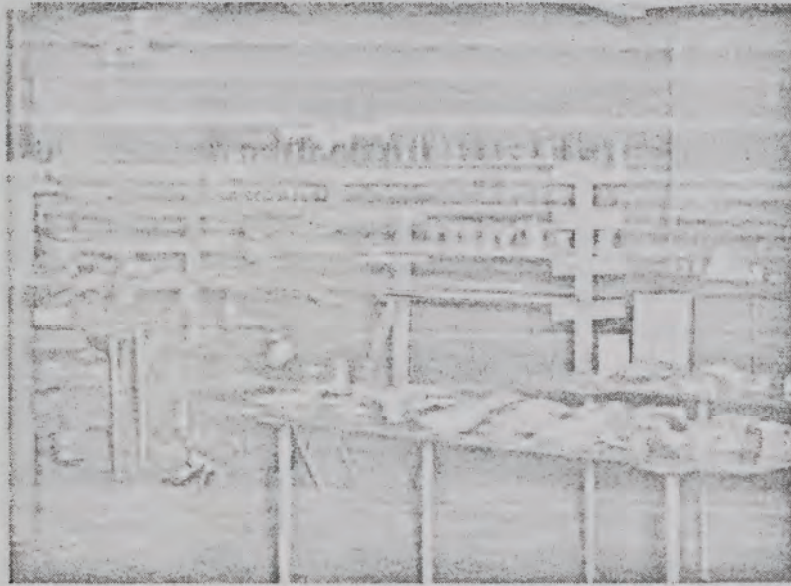


The following are pictures  
of some of the  
Centennial Shows  
and Exhibits



Mrs. Ben Kueck showing her "bobbin hobby."





Flower Display—Mrs. Gus Oetting, Mrs. Lillie Cook, Mrs. Joe Holsten.







## Random Shots



THE 1960 CENTENNIAL EXECUTIVE BOARD—Left to right, Homer Nierman, Herbert Beerman, Donald Lohman, Norman Benteman, Hugo Alewel, Harold Bohlman, Kenneth Hinck, Marvin Nienhueser, Herbert Dierker.





D. F. Meyer, Henryetta, Okla., oldest teacher attending High School Reunion.



Class of '29, winners of attendance award at High School Homecoming—Left to right, Mrs. Robin Payne, Mrs. Fay Franke, Hadley Petering, Mrs. Ora Dillon, Norbin Evert, Mrs. Renata Young, Dan Meyer, Miss Vera Kroencke, Mrs. Hazel Fuchs, Albert Gieseke, Mrs. Helen Means, Paul Franz, Mrs. Margie Pape, Miss Helen Klingenberg, Mrs. Louise Oetting.



Scene at the High School Homecoming.



BABY HEALTH CONTEST WINNERS—Left to right, Vickie Lynn Oetting, girls 1 to 2 years; Randal Lynn Petty, boys 3 to 4; Terrence Lee Elwell, held by his mother, boys 1 to 2; Roxanne Elwell, grand champion girl; Steven Mark Fuchs, grand champion boy; Karen Kay Schelp, girls 2 to 3.





THE CENTENNIAL DAIRY QUEEN—Miss Patricia Tebenkamp, center, and her attendants, Miss Karen Scholle, left, and Miss Sara Riesterer.



The Dairy Queen contestants.



The Kiddies Parade



The Hank Thompson Band





Presenting Past-President award to Willard Stuenkel, chairman of the 1959 Fall Festival board.



The Centennial Dairy Queen presenting trophy to her brother, Elmer Lee Tebbenkamp, go-kart race winner.



The Midway at night.



Square Dance Group—Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Fuchs, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Pape, Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Nierman, Mr. and Mrs. Hugo Alewel.





Intermission at the pageant.





Edwin Runge, Concordia's oldest business man, being chauffeured by N. H. Schnakenberg.



Gustav Roepe, one of Concordia's oldest citizens.





Ralph (Abe Lincoln) Hovde and daughter.





"On the Band Wagon" in 1885.



William Sodemann, Sr., and his twelve cans of milk on which he took a blue ribbon in about 1867.





Hugo Alewel, Centennial chairman,  
and Mrs. Alewel.



Mayor and Mrs. Edwin A. Pape.



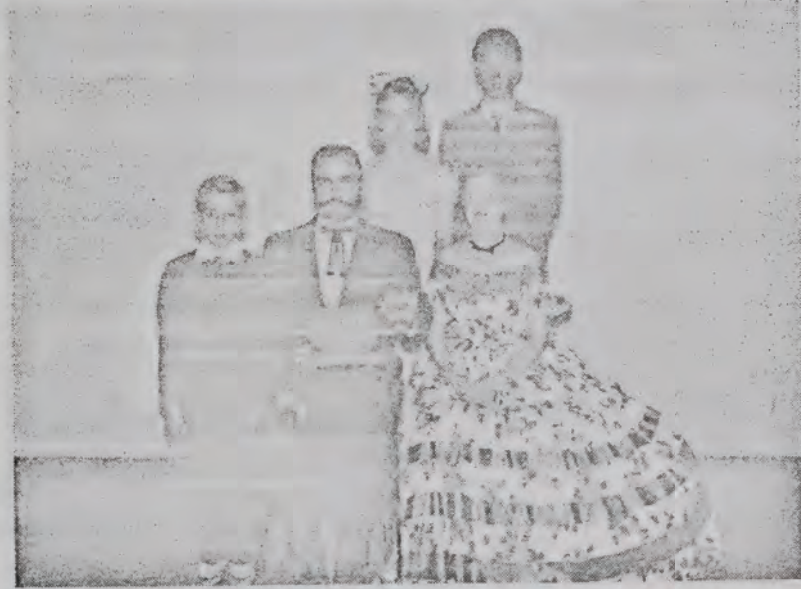
F. J. Biltz (left) of Glen Lake, Minn., grandson of the man credited with naming Concordia, receiving the key to the city from Mayor Pape.



Mayor and Mrs. Pape, Mr. and Mrs. Biltz.



All dressed up for the Centennial.









## Centennial Beards



THE WINNERS—Paul Frerking, center, won in the Bushwacker class and also won the grand prize in the Centennial Beard Contest. Donald Holtcamp, left, won the mustaché and goatee class, and G. B. Dotson won in the characterization class.





Co-chairmen of the beard contest were Edgar Oetting, left, and Harlan Henning.

The following are the entries  
in the judging in the three classes.











The following are more pictures  
of the Centennial beards.

