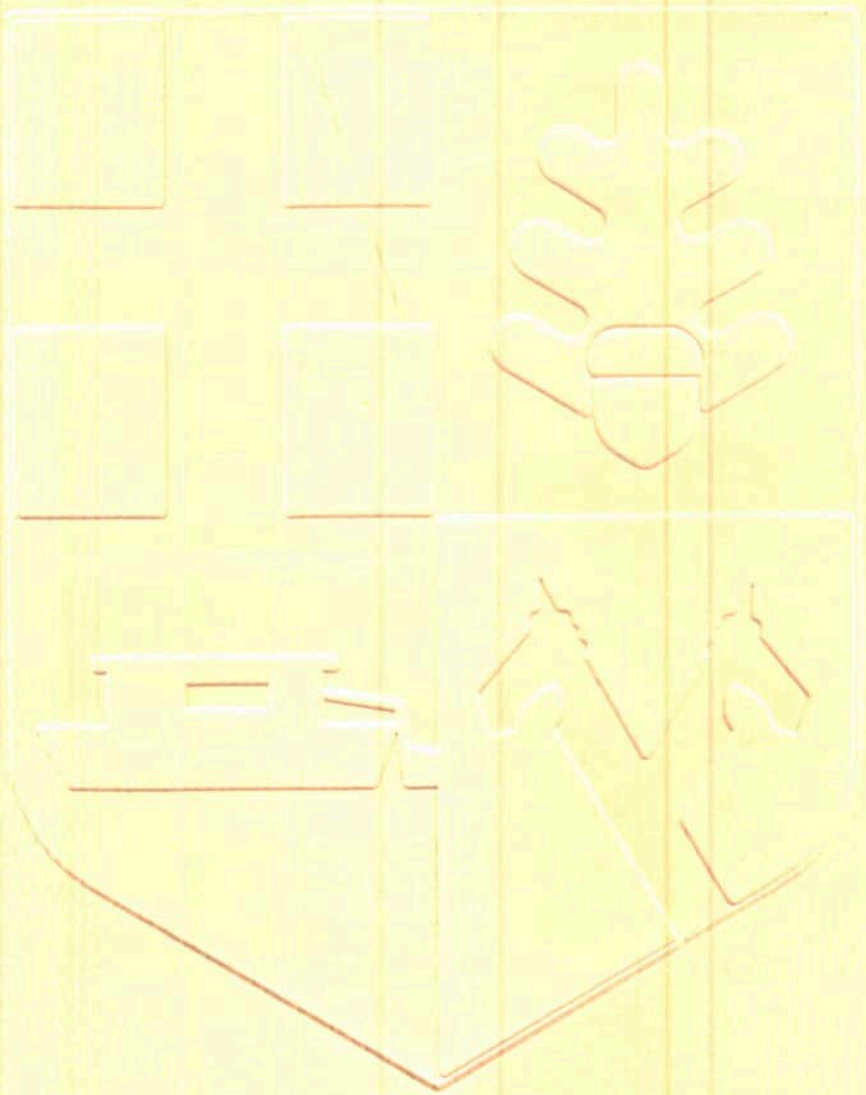


Remembering...

a commemorative look at Minster, Ohio, 1832-1982.

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Robert J. Lammers, Editor

A LIMITED EDITION:

The publisher will limit the printing of this book to 1,250 copies. They are available for sale to the general public for $9.00 ea. plus $2.00 for shipping and handling of mail orders.

This book is being published on a not-for-profit basis by MIDMARK CORPORATION. If sales income exceeds printing costs, the additional income will be donated to the Minster Historical Society to carry on the important work of preserving and promoting Minster heritage.

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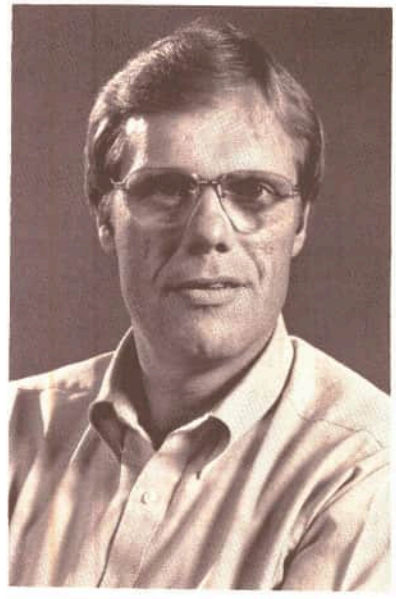
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Foreword



Compiling and presenting this look at our community of Minster, on her 150th birthday, has been an exciting, rewarding, challenging and sometimes, frustrating experience.

The idea for the project was born in 1976 when our nation celebrated its Bicentennial. It was not until 1979, however, that the actual work began. Very quickly we realized that a complete and totally accurate history would be an impossibility. The 1932 Centennial book had done such an excellent job of depicting the first 100 years. A decision was made to try and include as much new research and work as possible and to present a more personalized look at the community. It was felt that a high degree of involvement by the residents themselves would be much more valuable than the work of one individual. And so, this book is really authored by the people of Minster.

No doubt mistakes have been made in compiling this book. We've had to compromise, condense and edit much of the contents, and some things that perhaps should have been included, have not been. Hopefully those who follow will correct these human errors.

Because of the tremendous help I've received with this project it is impossible to acknowledge everyone by name. So many people contributed their thoughts, their remembrances, ideas, etc. There are some, however, who must be mentioned because without their aid and support the book would not have been completed.

It's one thing to come up with an idea for a book like this, but it's quite another to make the necessary financial and time commitments to accomplish it. The necessary resources and time have come from MIDMARK CORPORATION and the sale of the book will only partially cover the expenses incurred. The guidance and encouragement of MIDMARK president, Jim Eiting, was vital to the project.

Miss Velma F. Schmieder, who compiled an excellent book on Minster's history in 1932, gave freely and willingly of her time. Her files and previous work provided a great deal of material for this book.

My gratitude is also extended to the Minster Historical Society and its members, particularly Luke Knapke, who contributed a wealth of material. And to the late Louis A. Hoying, whose encouragement meant so much.

Thanks also go to Post Printing Company for their help in the organization and printing of this book. We drew heavily from the preserved copies of their weekly newspaper, "The Minster Post" and more recently, "The Community Post".

The support of my wife, Dorothy and our sons, Bill, Mike, Jim and Brian was also vital. They really deserve more credit than I can possibly give them in a few short words.

It is said that a labor of love is not really labor at all. I've had a great time putting this book together. Thanks to all who gave me the opportunity.

Robert J. Lammers

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In The Beginning

Why Leave Home?

By Luke Knapke

Most of our early settlers came from northwest Germany, descendants of the Saxon tribes of that area. They came mainly from Oldenburg and also from Hannover and Westphalia. These were small states which, along with many similar little states, were later to be unified and known as Germany.

What was our forefathers' home like? Today's visitor finds a countryside not extremely different from what is now found here. Most of the area is flat and criss-crossed with drainage canals. There are a few groups of low hills. Large areas are moorland (marshy), most of which is farmed. This is still principally farming territory as it was then, and is dotted with numerous villages containing prominent churches. The villages, homes, gardens and farms are extremely neat and orderly . . . . a reflection on the great industry of the people. Ruins of windmills are still to be found. Undoubtedly one of their purposes was to pump water, much as in neighboring Holland, for the early records occasionally mention flooding. Ruins of water mills are also quite numerous, and these would have served for the grinding of grain and sawing of logs. Similarity to Holland is noted in that the land is low-lying, the low German language is closely related to Dutch, and wooden shoes were commonly used by the people in the old days. Even in America wooden shoe making was an occupation of importance in our area for many years.

What was living in the homeland of our forefathers like? All of this area and the rest of western Europe had gradually been organized under the ancient feudal system which served well for many centuries by providing some order after the chaos of the Dark and Early Middle Ages. This feudal pattern persisted into the early 19th century, but abuses had developed. The system created classes, setting nobility, privileged land-holders and office-holders, both Church and State, apart from the bulk of the people. Those at the low end of the system provided all of the goods and labor needed to support everyone. Almost all of our early settlers came from the poorest classes. But these were locked into a system which did not allow for upward movement. The child was virtually forced to remain at the same class level as his parents.

As the population grew in the late 18th and early 19th centuries things became serious. With the increase in their numbers the poorer classed became poorer. Some could only find occasional work as day-laborers. More and more were forced to live on marginal lands . . . . tiny leases on the poorest soil, not large enough to provide a living. They lived under the most miserable conditions, in wretched shelters with only sorry clothing and pitiable amounts of food. The amount of land available for these tiny leases was limited. The oldest child might inherit the right to use his father's lease. But lease-holders were required to provide labor for their patrons . . . . in some cases almost an unlimited number of days per year. As they became more numerous they were often treated arrogantly by the patrons. It was little better than slavery.

What of the other children? There was no industry to absorb these laborers. A very few might find opportunity in a skilled craft, in military service, or with the church, but most had to settle for the most menial and poorest paid work as maids or servants. One was not permitted to marry until he had some shelter, a cow, and some means of support so that few men could start a family until they were thirty-five or more. Taxes were heavy. A child with no inheritance could only hope for a small bit of land to become available. And what of the next generation's chances?

For the poorer classes conditions were almost hopeless. For a while many of the men engaged in summer migrant work in nearby Holland. This helped to bring in needed funds as did the cottage industry of flax processing and linen weaving at which the whole family spent its winters. Both of these opportunities collapsed about 1830.

The only hope was to get out and America offered the perfect chance. The newly-opened Ohio regions could furnish much good and cheap land for farming. The United States wanted good workers and farmers. Better yet, in the United States one would encounter no high taxes, no military service, no restrictions on marriage, no debasing laws, no arbitrary oppression by privileged classes. A man need only struggle against nature and could keep the fruits of all of his labors. Above all he could own land! He could hold out hope for his children! Glowing reports came from earlier arrivals in America. "A maid could earn in a month what it took a whole year to earn in Germany." One of our area pioneers commented, "In the old country we starved for twenty years. Here we can eat meat three times a day."

The decision to leave had to be hard . . . to leave family and friends and civilization for an unknown wilderness. But once made the prospective emigrant went about getting a variety of certificates: from the tax collector and other government officials, from the pastor, from school officials. These were needed to get a travel permit for a man and his family. Then came the sale of one's meager possessions and the journey to Bremen, point of departure for most of our ancestors.

Cost of passage was about 37 to 40 thalers in gold in the late 1830's . . . . a sum our ancestor could only have been able to save because of his migrant work and

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linen weaving. The ocean journey for between-decks passengers on these small sailing vessels must have been a horrible experience. The voyage lasted from six to thirteen weeks depending on the weather. Upon arrival at Baltimore . . . . most common port of entry for Bremen ships . . . . another difficult journey over the mountains and down the Ohio River to Cincinnati faced the immigrants. Then one more hard trip to the Minster area . . . . to meet dawn-to-dusk, cradle-to-grave hard work. But the immigrant was used to hard work and that was much easier to tolerate where there was freedom and hope.

The flow of immigrants mushroomed and in a few years some communities of southern Oldenburg lost as many as one-third to one-half of their people. Some few of these left for political, military, religious or personal reasons, but the vast majority came here for economic motives . . . . the chance to live decently, to own land, and to provide for their children's future.

Early History of Minster

By Velma Schmieder

(Editor's Note: This article is condensed from the Centennial book written by Miss Velma Schmieder and published in 1932.)

To all there is a beginning. Following the creation, thru the subsequent prehistoric ages, the era of the mound builders, the Indian habitation, and the early history of our country we come to the founding of Minster, Ohio.

This was all a great wilderness, the territory of the Miamis, Shawnees, Wyandottes and Ottawas. In 1749 the first English leaders had built a fort at Laramie. A trail had been blazed thru this section via the portage of the St. Marys River to Ft. Wayne. The Declaration of Independence had been signed in 1776. In 1778 Daniel Boone had passed thru here as a prisoner of the Indians. The Northwest Territory had been opened in 1787 and Ohio had been admitted as the 17th state of the Union in 1803. In 1813 General Harrison had established a fort at St. Marys. In 1807 on January 16 Miami County which included the present Darke and Shelby and part of Montgomery, had been organized. In 1809 Darke County had separated and in January 1819 Shelby had taken all that part of Miami north of its present limits. In 1820 Mercer County had been formed and in 1832 the U.S. Government had purchased the last Indian Reservation in Ohio which ended forever the Indian disturbance. Settlement was slow for there were no gold fields or trading posts to attract.

Transportation at that time was difficult. In 1782 General George Rogers Clark made a trail from the town of Washington (now Piqua) to what is now the junction of the Hardin-St. Marys Pike and north over the Wilderness Trail to Ft. Laramie.

This same trail was surveyed in April 1808 by Armstrong Brandon for the sum of $20.34¼. A road was built in August 1808 being 17 miles and 52 poles in length and was declared a public highway in June 1809 and ordered opened. In 1813 the road was fully completed and the Act of March 3, 1819 established the first Post road to carry mail from Troy, Piqua, St. Marys, Ft. Wayne and Ft. Defiance to Ft. Meigs. This road wound thru the great virgin woodlands and the traveler saw the wilderness in all its gloominess and listened to the howling of the wolves. The usual mode of travel was by foot or horseback, a few being fortunate to come over it on a "spanker" which carried four passengers and was drawn by two horses at the rate of two miler per hour. The end of a day's journey left the body sore and the mind beset with fearful anticipations of the oncoming night and the day to come.

THE FOUNDING OF STALLOSTOWN

On the first day of September in 1832 a group of 97 young Germans of which Margaret Stueve was the only woman met in Cincinnati, Ohio to form a stock company to purchase a Section of land in Mercer County, Ohio for the purpose of establishing a settlement. The conditions bound the company to furnish sufficient money as a joint fund to purchase and enter the land and lay out the town. Francis Joseph Stallo was designated as the man to carry out these conditions and to report at the earliest possible date.

Accordingly he was entrusted with all the money and authorized to enter the land in his own name with the understanding that he would execute a deed to each member as soon as the government issued the land grant to him. Immediately thereafter Stallo, accompanied by six men, John B. Feldman, John Herman Suhrman, John Frederick Rohenkoln, rest unknown, set out from Cincinnati on foot headed for the Land Office at Piqua in Miami County, Ohio. Mr. Feldman related in later years they had $800.00, the fixed price of a Section all in silver in a tin box which the six men carried on their shoulders. At one point between what is now Dayton and Troy they encountered a band of Indians on horseback. The chief dismounted and tapped the box with his hand indicating money. Stallo was master of the situation and shook his head negatively then pointed to the box and to his gun indicating powder. The Indians left immediately and the party passed on. They arrived at the Government Land Office in Piqua on September 28th, 1832 and with this $800.00 purchased:

S-E ¼ of Sec. 27, Township 7, S. of Range 4 E
S-W ¼ of Sec. 26, Township 7, S. of Range 4 E
N-E ¼ of Sec. 24, Township 7, S. of Range 4 E
N-W ¼ of Sec. 35, Township 7, S. of Range 4 E

As evidenced by Receipts numbers 805-806-807-808. No record has been found that explains the selection and purchase of these particular sections. Family histories disclose that the Prengers, Schmitmeyers, Sextros, Bernings and Quebbes had previously bought land and settled to the east, and the Hoyings and several others to the west. It is a probable supposition that this may have been an influence.

Soon after this purchase Stallo made a plat and divided the land into 144 shares, with each share subdivided into ten parts of lots, and he named it "Stallostown." He estimated and calculated the price of each share to be $8.50.

On April 14, 1833 he assembled the members and having before him the purchase receipts and the plat he appointed a committee of three. They prepared 144 slips of paper each bearing a number of a share or lot. These were placed in Stallo's hat and each paid membership was entitled to withdraw one slip, the number of which was to be the number of the lot owned.

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After this drawing of lots Stallo in his own handwriting wrote an agreement of which the following translation appears as an exhibit in the court records of the bill in chancery mentioned later:

"I, the subscriber Francis Joseph Stallo from Damme in Germany, at present residing in Cincinnati, do herewith certify, that I have this 28th day of September, 1832, purchased at the Land Office in Piqua, Ohio, 4 quarter sections of land intended for a town to be called Stallos Town. The said land is lying in Mercer County, in township 7 S. of Range 4 East, containing 4 quarter section viz: the NE quarter of Section 34; the NW quarter of Section 35; the SE quarter of Section 27 and the SW quarter of Section 26; which altogether makes an entire section or 640 acres of land. I have this day laid out a town called Stallostown. There is 11 streets from south to north and 7 streets from west to east both these streets being the principal ones are each 60 feet wide all the other streets are to be but 50 feet wide in the center of each side. In streets adjoining the principal streets there are to be 4 public places which are to be sixty feet wide and the streets 50 feet wide and each of these places is to be two hundred and seven feet long as it is marked on the subjoined map. There are to be further between each street running east and West 12 numbers; all these numbers are to be divided into five lots and there is a street running through each of these lots from south to north so that there are five lots to each number running in a direct line to the Main street; there is an alley sixteen feet wide between all these lots which is also designated on the map. All the streets and alleys are to be opened whenever public convenience shall require it. All numbers run from south to east along Main street and you commence with No. 1 at the southwest corner and so on at the west side of the street to No. seventy two inclusive, then northeast the east side counting 73 and so on up to 144 numbers in the town each sixty-eight and one third feet front running clear through that side of the street. The lots of Stallos Town to be sold under the condition that the purchaser has to pay for all costs that occur and expenses. The following lots in Stallos Town are sold by Joseph Francis Stallo to the below named persons which I hereby relinquish to them forever for me and my heirs. Francis Joseph Stallo."

Then followed the same list as aforementioned.

The members decided that there should be no delay in taking possession of the land and soon thereafter Stallo with about thirty members arrived at Stallostown, to join with those who had come the year previous. Their first task was to fell trees and build their cabins. Afterwards several of the men assisted Stallo in surveying and clearing the timber for the streets. Main street was made first and next the intersecting Fourth street. Stallo built his cabin on Lot 37, that is on the northwest corner of Fourth and Main streets. Some of those who we know definitely to have come with Stallo were John B. Kooper who had the first store, F. Rohenkohl, J.B. Feldman, Voltke in whose home the first church services were held and Gossman who helped survey Fourth street. On June 11th, 1833 the plat of Stallostown was recorded on Pages 280-1-2-3 of Book Letter "B" in Mercer County, Ohio.

In the summer of 1833 the first attack of the Asiatic cholera visited this territory and although it was in a mild form many of the settlers took sick.

Stallo became alarmed and whenever new settlers were expected, he would meet them south of town and warn them. On the day that he met John Henry and Mary Elizabeth Shulte, a young couple from Cincinnati, he told them that he would probably not see them again. He died the next day on July 26th, 1833 a victim of this cholera and his sorrowing friends buried him alongside his little cabin near the street, where they could pass it daily.

After several years his body was removed to the St. Augustine's cemetery and years later it was again removed but the final resting place of this sturdy pioneer is now unknown to all even his descendants.

A book belonging to his eldest living son lists the first, second and third deaths in Stallostown as follows:

1 — On November 26, 1832 the first person died in Stallostown — Herman Boeckmann. 2 — Wilhelmina Goehrman from Holdurf Damme died on February 28, 1833 in Stallostown, buried on February 29th. 3 — Anna Mary Kramer, three years old, daughter of Henry Kramer of Ruhlendorf Damme, died in Stallostown, July 20, 1833.

Could it be that Stallo himself was the fourth?

When he was swept away by this sudden illness the remaining settlers took fright and for a time the future of Stallostown was threatened. Winter was approaching and many returned home. One of these was J.B. Feldman who secured work at a stone quarry near Cincinnati. When he decided to leave in the Spring, his employer had no money for his wages so he gave him a herd of cows which Feldman drove to Stallostown. He sold them to Mr. Sextro who then had the distinction of owning the first cows. During the summer of 1834 more came to claim their lots and to become citizens of this little settlement, many bringing their families with them.

Some had no conception of the conditions and the story of Mrs. Wiechelman and her family of nine is probably true of others. When her belongings were deposited on the large stump which served as a platform she inquired the way to Stallostown and wept when informed that she had reached her destination. The five little log cabins did not appear to be the thriving settlement she had imagined.

Life at that time was one of privation and adversity. The men chopped down the trees and it was the work of the women to clear the underbrush and saplings by the use of a crude tool resembling a hoe. Swamps and stagnant pools abounded and a foggy condition prevailed. Water was obtained by collecting the rain in barrels and later in wells dug by a Mr. Wessling. The food consisted of wild game supplemented by corn bread and pap. This territory abounded in linden trees, the leaves of which, possessing medicinal and flavoring qualities, were a frequent adjunct to the daily meal.

In the early years three and four families lived together in one house. An open log fire kept them warm and a tiny candle or tallow wick lamp furnished light. Each individual ground the grain necessary for family use, and privileged indeed were those who owned a coffee mill which could be used for this purpose. Some carried the grain on horseback to the mill at Piqua but this was a long and dangerous trip.

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The crops of 1835 were a failure and no grain for meal and flour was available here. Children were starving for want of bread and the dark spectre of famine was looming over the horizon. Some of the farmers in the neighborhood learned of this and donated grain. The news of this dire want spread as far as Covington and the Quaker settlement there sent a wagon load of flour, so large that it was drawn by four horses. They took this flour to the home of William Shilling, the town's first shoemaker, who lived on North Main street, and asked that he distribute it. The citizens here were poor, but they offered their choicest possessions in payment which the Quakers refused stating it was an act of mercy.

Francis Joseph Stallo had been an educated man and justly loved and trusted by his followers. He died intestate without having executed deeds to the several purchasers as required. For the purpose of securing title to these purchasers a bill in chancery was filed on November 16th, 1836 in the Common Pleas Court of Mercer County then sitting in St. Marys. This bill is a very lengthy legal document and the court order only is quoted:

JOHN ZIMMER, B.J. FELDMAN,
JOHN H. PELSTER, JOS. SURMAN et al,
vs. In Chancery.
JOHN M. STALLO, LEWIS STALLO,
MARY ANN STALLO, THEODORE
STALLO, and THERESA STALLO.

"the defendants, the legal heirs of said Stallo being infants, appeared by their guardian at litem, when it was ordered by the Court that the defendants as they became of age should severally convey to said owners or original purchasers their respective lots of shares, and in their failure to do so within six months after attaining their majority, this decree is to operate as a conveyance."

Wm. M. Murdock was appointed administrator of his estate. Theresa Stallo was found in Montgomery County, Ohio and notified of the Court proceedings, but the other heirs were not located. Accordingly the court appointed John W. Roof guardian at litem. Later the Court was petitioned to sell the lots owned by Stallo to satisfy his debts which were listed as follows:

"Nicholas Greenbaum,	acc't	$ 7.26¼
M. W. Huxford,	acc't	4.50
John Casper Gohr,	acc't	5.90
Wm. M. Murdock	acc't	3.00
John Ritz by Adm.	acc't	50.00
John H. Gossman,	acc't	5.50
Henry Burgading	acc't	8.00
		$84.16¼

And said administrator has every reason to believe that said intestate owes in Cincinnati to different individuals at least one hundred dollars so that it is probable the whole amount of debts will amount to one hundred and eighty dollars. Amount of effects — $50.00, deficiency $130.00."

J. B. Feldman was appointed assignee and completed the sales.

* Friday, September 19, 1924: Stop signs were erected at the intersection of 4th and Main Street in Minster.

Minster's Founder . . .
Francis Joseph Stallo

Francis Joseph Stallo was born in Damme, duchy of Oldenburg, Hanover, Germany May 2, 1793, the fifth of seven children of John and Katharine (Liening) Stallo.

Stallo, according to his decendants and early residents of Minster, was an extremely complex and gifted man. Although no known pictures of him exist, he is described as tall and blond with a short, straight nose and firm expression.

Stallo married Katharine Schaiper (Schaefer) July 27, 1814. Seven children were born to this couple. Five lived to accompany their father to America: John Martin, Ludwig, Mary Anna, Theodore Christopher and Theresa. Two sons John Bernard and Victor Ernst Ferdinand died before the journey.

Stallo was a schoolmaster and in 1816 learned the art of binding books. He was tree nursery expert as well as a published bee keeper. He at one point contrived a hot air balloon. The maiden voyage ended on the tree tops of Damme.

Stallo loved to experiment and at one point was believed to have been on the verge of inventing the electric telegraph.

Stallo, according to some, was a radical, a religious free thinker. He incurred the wrath of religious and civil authorities in Germany and was jailed several times. One must remember that the government was extremely oppressive in the area of personal freedom in those days.

For several years Stallo had read accounts of fellow Germans who had immigrated to America. On April 24, 1831, Stallo, his wife and five children began their own journey to the New World. They first travelled to Amsterdam where Stallo's wife, who had been in failing health for some time, died at age 38.

Stallo secured a nurse for the children and on May 2, 1831 they departed for New York on the ship Jano. They reached New York June 19 and by July 27 arrived in Cincinnati where they were welcomed by that city's German population.

In Cincinnati Stallo continued as a binder of books in a print shop owned by Mr. Phillips, who is said to have been a business partner of William H. McGuffey who later published the famous McGuffey Readers.

By 1832 Stallo and a group of fellow Germans had decided to leave Cincinnati and start a new community about 100 miles north.

(Details of the founding are elsewhere in this book).

In 1833 cholera struck the tiny town. Stallo himself was a victim of the dread disease, dying July 23.

Stallo died without having executed deeds to some of the properties in town and this fact was viewed by some as an effort to defraud them. Others said Stallo simply had not gotten around to doing since the drawing for the lots occurred only a few months before.

At any rate a lengthy court proceeding was necessary to make sure the rightful owners received their property.

There are several stories that have been passed down over the years as to why Stallostown became Minster in 1836.

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One is that a run-away team of horses ran down the sign "Stallostown" and since Stallo was no longer living, residents decided to change the name.

Another version, perhaps more believable, is that perhaps because of Stallo's failure to record the deeds, the angry townspeople voted to change the name of Stallostown. New Damme was considered but was rejected because the word Damme was too close to an English curseword. Oldenburg was considered and also rejected. Finally the name Munster was selected then anglicized to Minster.

A Look At Early Minster

(Translation of an article written in 1866 and published at pages 147 through 152 of "Der Deutsche Pionier" published by the "Deutscher Pionier Verein, Cincinnati, Ohio". Translated by Allen A. Dicke, New Bremen, Ohio, August 1959.)

SETTLEMENT OF MINSTER,
AUGLAIZE COUNTY, OHIO

"When we think of the many blooming cities and the many friendly towns in the State of Ohio, which was referred to by Professor Raumer in his travelogue "The Queen, the Wonder of the West", one hardly realizes what sacrifices and what persistence was required of the first pioneers to create these towns and cities. Most of them, after years of hard work and after a successful battle with the wilderness, have gone to a better home and their successors and others now reap the advantages which they won with such difficulties. Rapidly diminishing are the ranks of the brave pioneers who pressed forward into the primeval forests and converted them to peaceful and pleasant homes, and it is time to collect their recollections in order to be able to transmit them to a thankful posterity. This is one of the main responsibilities of the "Pionier" and this work has been lightened by the friendly cooperation of many German pioneers who gladly told us in conversation of their experiences and adventures. We Germans should be justifiably proud that the most blooming settlements of the State were created in part or entirely by German settlers who, with very little means other than industry, energy and perserverance fought the hard fight.

"Today we give attention to the friendly and blooming little town of Minster in Auglaize County and relate the information of the oldest settlers with reference to the location, the difficulties and sorrows of all kinds and the final success. However, we want to first have a look at the town as it is today.

"Minster lies in northern Ohio exactly on the divide between the Ohio River and the Great Lakes on the Miami Canal, one mile from the 1700 acre reservoir which has an abundance of fish and 10 miles from the nearest railroad station. It was incorporated as a town 20 years ago, it now has 1500 residents, possesses two school houses, one of which is a parochial and the other a public school, in the latter of which, however, religious instruction for the Catholic pupils is given by a priest. There is also a girls' school of the Sisters of the Precious Blood, a beautiful and roomy church, a good post office, an excellent steammill and one of the best fulling mills, a saw mill and a brewery. Practically every trade is well represented there. The entire environs are highly developed and it is surrounded for ten miles around by numerous excellent German farms and numerous friendly villages. However, it was not always thus and we therefore want to present the pictures of past times as they were presented to us:

Experiences, Hard Times, Travel, Adventures
and Finally Success of a German Pioneer

"Mr. Franz Hergenrother who does not show the hard times experienced during his 69 years is a member of the "Deutschen Pionier Verein" enjoys in Covington, Ky. the fruits of his persevering diligence in his fine home in the company of his faithful wife. At our request, the old gentleman told us his varying experiences as follows:

"During the year 1832, I, as well as many other persons in the District of Eierdorf, Mittel-Franken, Bavaria, who were tired of Europe had the wish to migrate to the United States and after many difficulties and vexations with the local authorities who placed in our way all possible chioanery and obstacles, we succeeded in April, 1833 to start to carry out our plan and to say farewell to Bavaria. And, on the 16th of April, we sailed from Bremen on the schooner "Mathon" to the promised land. I was accompanied by my beloved wife and a baby. Our faith in God and our diligence were as large as our financial means were small. Although nearly all of us were from the same region, two different groups formed on board ship, the one of which consisted of well-to-do farmers and their sons who held their noses high and did not even want to look down on us poor devils. We let them have their fun and listened, from a distance, to their grandiose plans. On the ship's deck, they laid out villages and cities, threw dice for the corner lots and promised themselves the best of everything. What happened to these farmer junkers later, I never did learn.

"On the 18th of June, 1833, we arrived in good condition in Baltimore. We required 16 days to travel to Pittsburgh on shank's mare (Schusters Rappen) which was not difficult for me since I had done this often in the old country as a wandering shoemaker's apprentice. We intended to settle in the vicinity of Pittsburgh and we sent out a reconnisance party of seven men to study the land. After eight days they, like Noah's dove, returned without having accomplished their mission. They reported that America consisted only of steep mountains, hills and narrow valleys but no land was to be found anywhere. So, we packed up again and traveled by steamship to Cincinnati where at that time cholera raged and primarily among the German immigrants where it created terrible havoc. One of us had a letter of introduction to a piano maker named Reis who referred us to a Mr. Zimmer, the owner of a coffee house on Main Street. The latter said "You want to go to a German Town? Then get out of here as rapidly as you can before you catch the cholera and go to a German town which I founded with Mr. Franz Stallo." We did not waste any time and after securing the necessary instructions proceeded by canal to Dayton where we loaded women and children and baggage on wagons and proceeded to Stallotown as Minster was then called. The driver unloaded the wagons in front of the log cabin of Mr. Surmann. He was not at home but his wife told us, to our horror, that already 26 of the 42 residents had died of the cholera. They had no space available in their little cabin but invited us to use their hog stable as shelter for the women and children. The pigs were

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driven out and the stable cleaned. My wife, however, refused to enter and she camped with me for fourteen days under the trees of the forest. The condition in the settlement was pathetic, nothing but woods wherever one looked. Mr. Luers, father of the present Bishop of Fort Wayne, lived in a stable. Mr. Stallo had died seven days previously in his double log cabin built of raw tree trunks and he, as well as the others who had died, were buried in his lot near to the house. Mohr had bought Stallo's horse. This was used as the funeral horse for the settlement. The hearse consisted of a rough wooden sled. The coffins were made out of boards (puncheons) split from the logs and fastened together as best one could. Mohr's wife and Einendorf were among the first of our group to die. Mohr had bought 160 acres congress land at $1.25 per acre and Lebbert, Klopf and I each 80 acres of forest land. Here and there the German settlers had made small clearings and planted crops but most of the corn was eaten by the raccoons (Waschbaren), opossums and squirrels and the wheat was chewed off by the deer down to the roots.

"There were many deer and they were so tame that it was hard to drive them away. If one set the dog on them, they trotted slowly away but when the dog came back, the deer were back also. There were also wild turkeys in abundance and it was easy to shoot them. The Germans, however, had too much work to do to have any time for hunting. Also they were not good hunters, had only a few light shotguns and were very much afraid of becoming lost in the woods, which occurred quite often. I purchased 80 acres Government land and, since my money was all gone, I traveled with numerous friends to Fort Wayne in order to work on the canal where we were promised $12.00 plus board and room for the first month and $13.00 for the second month. On the way there we came to a farm house where we noticed the delicious fragrance of roast pork, like at weddings in Bavaria. We could not pass by since we were already very hungry. We therefore informed the farmer of our needs and since we had already learned enough English to know the word "breakfast" we soon sat the table before a juicy roast accompanied by corn bread and coffee. By accident, we heard that the roast had not come from a hog but from a bear and this nauseated some of us and I myself never had any use for bear but there was nothing to be done and we acted in accordance with circumstances. We wanted to proceed when the farmer notified us that we had to pay him 75¢. We searched through our pockets, scrounged the money together and proceeded with good spirits and empty purse to Fort Wayne where we found work immediately. My wife had in the meantime bound herself as maid to an American farmer in the vicinity, where she received board for herself and the baby as her wages. She had a hard time there, had to do the hardest possible work with the result that she lost her health which she never fully recovered. After I had worked three months on the canal, I returned home with $30.00 in cash, picked up my wife and proceeded immediately to our land which I had not seen as yet. We had hard times and I still don't know how my poor wife was able to stand it and to live so long on a bare earth floor in a hut made out of twigs. By all Saints Day, our log cabin which I had built with the help of four men, was finished. It was covered with clapboards and not a single nail was used in the entire building. Now we at least had a shelter and were in our own home, although this had no doors nor windows. A bed sheet took the place of the former for the entire winter. Now, our money was completely gone and hunger was the order of the day. Quite by accident, the American farmers in the vicinity had heard that I was a shoemaker by trade and they soon came from all sides to have their old shoes and leather articles repaired for which they paid me with venison which for more than two years was our only food with the exception of corn bread and black coffee and on which we did very well. At dawn of every day I was in the woods and after a while I managed to clear 20 acres. Thereafter I got work on the canal at Piqua and received from the contractor for my work a cow and calf for which he charged at the rate of $11. Their arrival on the farm excited great joy and we again experienced the taste of milk. Our next domestic animal was a cat which I bought for 12½¢ and soon thereafter somebody gave us a young rooster which gave us much joy by its crowing. In the meantime, our family had increased and my little Barbara was baptized in 1835 by the "Professor".

"Provisions were very inexpensive. In Piqua, a barrel of wheat flour cost $3.00, in Minster $4.00, a fat hog $5.00, cow with calf 9 to $10.00, whiskey of the Krambambuli type 25¢ per gallon, eggs 3¢ per dozen, coffee 25¢ per pound, butter 8 to 9¢.

"From time to time, I worked on the canal for a contractor named Gornitz. The present Bishop Luers of Fort Wayne was assistant cook and "whiskey boss" but he was frequently cheated during the dispensing of the latter. I lived on the farm for seven years and then concluded to give up farming and return to my trade as shoemaker. At an auction, Gornitz bought my harvest, two oxen, 3 cows, a number of hogs and my rights to half a wagon for $350.00. I trusted him so much that I did not demand the security usually given at auctions. He had a contract for building the canal between Piqua and Minster and I left to work for him. Suddenly there was a terrible epidemic of typhoid among the workers and many died. I lasted the longest but finally collapsed and, lay near death for a long time. When I again got on my feet, I heard that Gornitz had gone bankrupt and that the workers would not receive their back wages. As soon as I could walk, I went to Gornitz and, at the intervention of his wife, he gave me notes to collect covering amounts owed to him by people in the vicinity and after three weeks of wandering around I managed to collect enough to pay myself. I thereupon sold my land to Franz Bergmann for $330.00 payable in annual installments over a period of six years and went with my family to Cincinnati. Here things at first went very badly for us. How I later, after years of persistent work and a lucky speculation, became well-to-do so that I can look forward to quiet old age is a matter which does not belong here.

"In conclusion, I feel that some comment should be made concerning the founder of Minster, Mr. Franz Joseph Stallo whose name has already been mentioned and whose memory still lingers among his countrymen. Mr. Stallo, the uncle of Judge J.B. Stallo, was a gifted but somewhat eccentric man which in later times and under other circumstances would have

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played an important role. Although his father and uncle were school teachers and his relatives wanted him to follow their example, he had no inclination thereto and later became a book binder in Damme. Through the introduction of burning off the moors and the cultivation of buckwheat, he became widely known. Also he built a balloon with which, according to the neighbors, he intended to fly to America. At the first attempt, however, a pine tree got in his way and he remained hanging in its branches. He emigrated to Cincinnati in 1831 with three sons and two daughters. The fate of the oldest, Martin, is not known; the second, a genius like his father, is now an engineer in California and a daughter is married and lives in Indianapolis. Peace to his ashes."

EXPERIENCES OF MR. J. H. STEINMAN

"Mr. John H. Steinman, an intelligent and successful business man living near Minster, was kind enough to give me the following information in a conversation during a recent short visit by him to Cincinnati:

"After a long and difficult trip, I arrived in Cincinnati on July 5, 1832 where I remained during that summer. The Germans there could not feel very much at home. The prejudice against the "Dutchman" was great and times were very bad. Most of the immigrants were simple, industrious and undemanding people who came here with the wish to find a new home. There was much talk about laying out a German town and to make this the nucleus for a large German settlement. Mr. Franz Stallo, an intelligent and enterprising man, had arrived in Cincinnati in 1831 and he had been instrumental in drawing the immigration from Damme to Cincinnati. Naturally the newly arrived immigrants approached him on arrival and he was always ready to help with advice and action. He also was the leading spirit in the intended undertaking and after he had journeyed through several states, he located, in cooperation with Hermann Beckmann and Zimmer, the settlement where the flourishing town of Minster in Auglaize County now stands and which was at first named Stallotown in his honor. For himself, he bought 50 acres of congress land and built a double log house thereon within a porch, of round tree trunks. For the town, 640 acres of Government land were purchased at $1.25 per acre and laid out in four acre lots for which each participant paid $6.00. The entire region was primeval forest which consisted mainly of large white oaks, beachers and maples. With the exception of some small creek bottoms, the soil was so-called white oak soil. The first settlers were Steinmann, Surmann, Gosmann and Beckmann who were soon followed by others so that the village grew quite rapidly. In 1833, the cholera exacted a terrific toll, among them being Mr. Stallo. The first residents had to battle with indescribable difficulties and it required mny years before they could win the battle against nature and achieve an independent existence. The first church was built during the first year of the settlement. It was 40' x 60' and built of logs. The first priest, who, however, remained only a short time, was the Rev. Mr. Bandon of Fort Wayne who sent us the Rev. Mr. Horstmann. After him the Rev. Mr. Herzog was for many years priest of the congregation. Later a brick church 60' x 120' was built."

MR. J. BUSSE'S TRAVELS, ADVENTURES AND EXPERIENCES

Mr. Joseph Busse who now owns a stove store and a factory for manufacturing tin-ware on Main Street between 12th and 13th Street, had the kindness to tell us the following:

"As a 10 year old boy, I arrived in the fall of 1832 in Baltimore with my family. The women and children together with trunks, baggage, etc. were loaded on large freight wagons and transported to Pittsburgh. I, my 9 year old brother Theodore and two cousins of similar age had to walk the entire distance and this required 14 days. We traveled from Pittsburgh to Cincinnati by steamer in five days. There we remained only a short time because Minster was our destination from the time we had left home and we proceeded with our trip by canal boat to Dayton. There the cholera broke out among us and since in that village no shelter was to be found, an American blacksmith humanely permitted us to occupy his shop. There, in the course of three days, ten persons died of this terrible disease, my grandmother, my father, Friedrich Busse, my two uncles, John Busse and Casper Tieman, my sister Marie with her three year old child, Joseph Wemper and a five year old boy. For four weeks, we remained in Dayton, where we had suffered so much, and rode on a rented wagon to Minster where we arrived shortly before Christmas and were unloaded in the forest. Of our traveling group, insofar as I know, there still live in Minster Elizabeth Enneking, formerly the wife of Casper Tieman, and the widow of Heinrich Fortman and now married to Drees.

"The first settlers, who had arrived in Minster in November 1832, were, insofar as I know, the following: Gerhard Surmann, farmer, with three grown sons and a daughter; Henry Quartman, tailor, with his wife and three small children; Friedrich Gerver with wife and two grown sons; Bramlage, farmer with two grown sons and daughter; Tanke and his wife, two unmarried young men, Kemper, a tailor, and Friedrich Sommer; Bernard Busse; Joseph Cordesmann, now the owner of an iron foundry in Cincinnati. Fried Gosmann built the first log house in Minster and Bernard Walke the second one. Quartmann at that time wrote a letter to his friends in Langvorden, District Bechta in which he stated:

"Here we pick up the coffee under the trees, dig the tea out of the ground and shoot a deer if we need meat."

"He, however, forgot to say that the coffee was made from acorns and the tea from sassafras roots.

"Gosmann opened the first tavern; Togemann was the first school teacher and Heinrich Bohmer the second one. The first burial in Minster was that of a three year old child of Mr. Gosmann. An immigrant by the name of Beckmann was killed while felling a tree:

"I remained in Minster with my brother for about eight months and then returned to Cincinnati where I had numerous relatives. There I bound myself for one year and attended school part time. Then I worked four years on a steamer and through my trips became well acquainted with the South. Later I learned the plumbing business, bought some land and built my own business."

"Mr. Busse is now 44 years old, is well-to-do and can look forward to many years of happiness with his youthful wife and four lovely children."

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Brewing Beer - A Major Industry Here For Many Years

By James Lammers and Steven Frierott

The history of brewing beer in Minster probably began on an individual basis shortly after the founding of Minster.

There were two small formal breweries in operation, brewing "brown beer" in 1869. One was operated by George Luckman and the other by B. H. Nienberg.

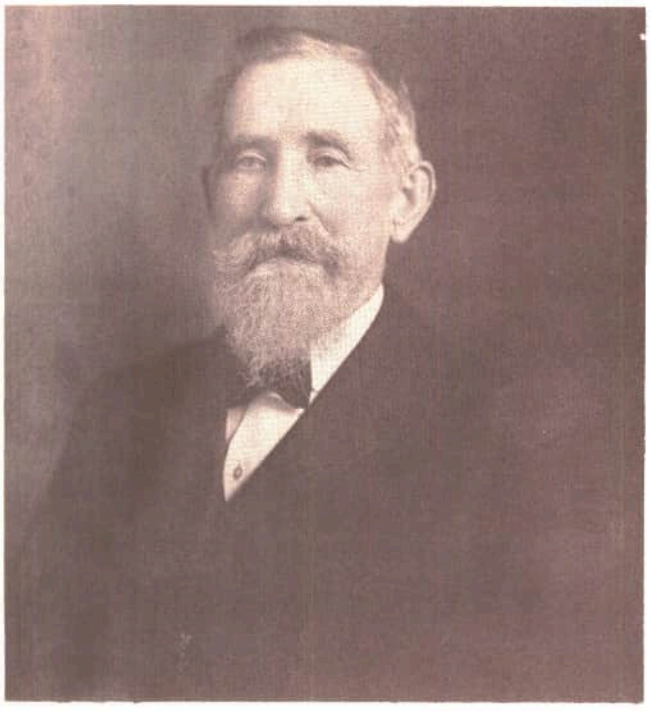
In the fall of 1869, Franz Lange started construction of his lager beer brewery on South Ohio Street.

The brewery was originally to be built in St. Marys, but because of the high cost of land, Lange decided to build it in Minster where land was cheaper.

The brewery was built of stone and brick, was 2 stories high and had an arched cellar. The building was very well furnished. The power to grind the malt and the pumping of water was supplied by horses, while Lange and his sons did all of the other work.

In the year of 1870 the first Minster lager beer came on the market and was well liked. These were hard times for the Lange's. They had to work hard to keep their small business going. One has to realize that brewing in the beginning was bound to have many failures. The smallest mistake could result in the loss of hundreds, even thousands of dollars according to the size of the brewery.

In the middle of 1870 a small steam engine of 20 hp was purchased and took the place of the winch. By now the Lange brewery was on its feet.



The first lager beer brewmaster at the Lange brewery was Peter Adolph Mittler. A native of Frimmersdorf, Germany, he immigrated to the United States in 1868. He learned the brewery trade in the Cincinnati area.

At the same time Lange hired a man as brewmaster, whose know-how of brewing gave the Minster Brewery a boost. He was Peter Mittler, who gave all his efforts to the brewery until 1898.

In the spring of 1883 the brewery was sold to the Steineman brothers. On June 28, 1888, tragedy struck when fire destroyed the brewery to the foundation. It was immediately rebuilt, and on November 5, 1890, it changed hands again.



The successful operation of the Wooden Shoe Brewery for many years was, in large part, due to the efforts of these men: (left to right) Bernard Frierott, Henry Frierott, Anton Frierott, Joe Brinkman and Mike Hartman.

Peter Mittler, Matt Goeke, W. Gervals, Ben Frierott, and Frank Herkenhoff formed a company. Ben Frierott served as general manager and from then on the business flourished.

In the winter of 1890 the new firm bought a modern beer cooling system and expanded. In 1895 the main building was expanded with a cellar 40 x 80 ft. on the east side. This expansion called for a complete renovation, and on October 31, 1901, they bought a new ice machine and a 100 hp steam engine was intalled.

In 1892 the bottles were filled by hand and capped by hand. After one year this method was discontinued and a modern machine was installed, which could wash, fill, and cap far better than human hands could!

In the year 1899, Peter Mittler, the brewmaster, sold his share to J. B. Meyer, which culminated his association with the business. Mittler's apprentice, Joe Brinkman took over as brewmaster. A decided change took place in May, 1903, when the manager, Bernard Frierott Sr., died.

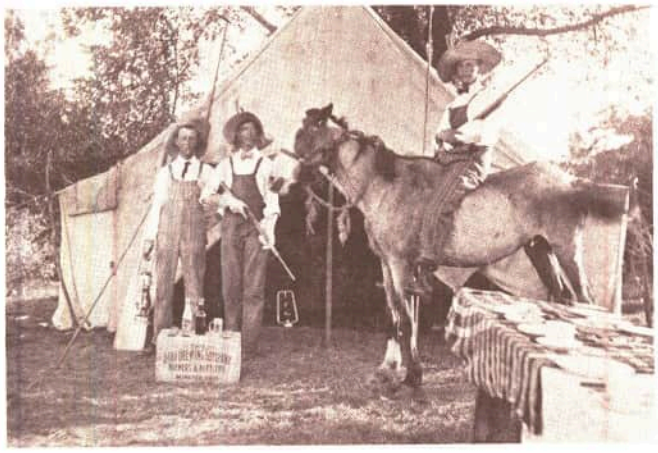
It was decided to discontinue the old company and form a new management and new name. On July 1, 1903, the name of the brewery was changed to the Star Brewing Company with the following on the board of directors: Matt Goeke, Pres.; Frank Herkenhoff Sr., Vice President; Charles Herkenhoff, Secretary, and Treasurer and manager; A.W. Gerwals and George Van Oss as directors. In July of 1907 to favor the former manager, Van Oss stepped out in favor of Anton Frierott.

The Star Brewing Company was then one of the leading breweries and had an output per year of 15,000 barrels.

The company which started with a capital of $1,000 and was incorporated, consisted of the brewery and had inventory of buildings, ponds, ice-house, and warehouses in New Bremen, Lock-Two, Ft. Recovery, St. Marys, Chickasaw, St. Henry, Yorkshire, and Versailles.

In the brewery 2 steam engines of 100-20 hp were installed to process the grain. Also two Artesian wells

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Whenever area residents gathered before Prohibition you could count on Star Brewing Company beer being included. Note case in foreground.

were drilled, which produced the necessary water, also an electric generator to produce the necessary electric for 60 lights for the entire dept.

Five wagons were practically kept busy the entire year. The business also employed 25 people, and the monthly payroll was $1000.00 and $1500.00.

In 1919 the passage of the Eighteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution abolishing the manufacture and sale of all alcoholic beverages had a great impact on the business.

The company changed its name to the Star Beverage Company and manufactured a line of soft drinks and "near beer". They also manufactured a product called "The Home Malt Tonic". The label on this product read, "The Home Malt Tonic has become very useful to nursing mothers, frail children, convalescents, the aged and for all run down and nervous conditions. Recommended by the medical profession. Aids digestion and induces restful sleep." Sounds a bit like the old "medicine show" pitch, doesn't it?

The soft drink business kept the company alive during Prohibition. When beer "came back" in 1933, manufacture of the stronger stuff quickly replaced the soft drink business.

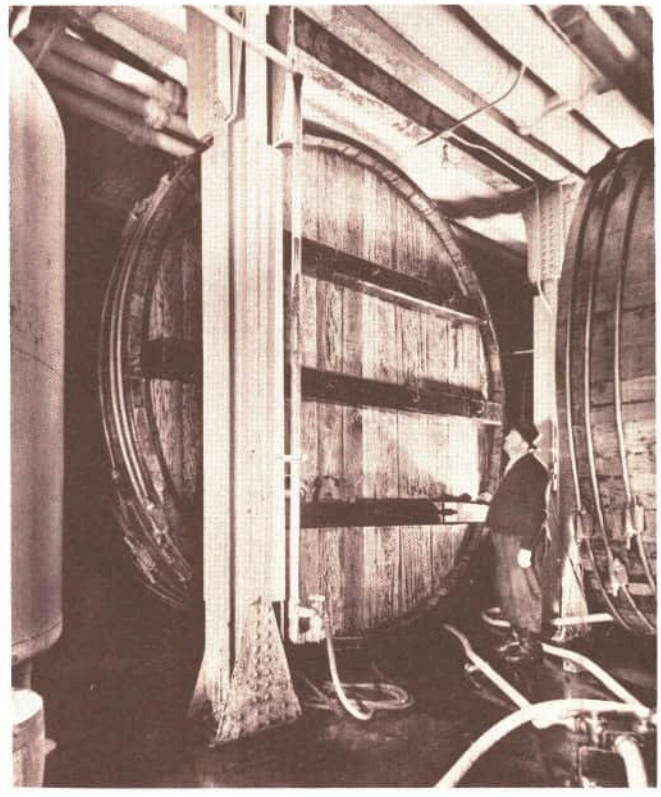
The years following repeal were excellent ones for the brewery. Wooden Shoe beer was shipped and sold in most of the United States. From 1933 for about 10 years until the statute was changed, taxes from the brewery met the entire operating expense of the town.



Many area residents and visitors to the brewery "hoisted a few" mugs of the golden brew in the brewery's "rathskeller".

Brewery tax money paid for the police and fire departments, the street department and other expenses.

From 1933 to 1947 the brewery experienced a steady increase in sales. In 1935 the brewery was expanded with its floor space doubled and its production potential nearly doubled. In 1940 the name was changed to the Wooden Shoe Brewing Company.



John Kemper, Minster, a long time employee at the brewery is dwarfed by one of the large wooden kegs at the brewery.

In 1946 gross sales amounted to $1,781,000. Of this amount $866,006 was retail sales (by brewery truck in this area) and $915,000 was listed as wholesale receipts. The company employed 77 persons in 1946.

Competition became ever keener and in 1947 the firm expanded its advertising budget and sponsored TV broadcasts of the home games of the baseball team at Dayton. Thousands of dollars were spent for newspaper advertising in a number of cities in Ohio.

In August of 1946 controlling stock in the Wooden Shoe firm was acquired by Ulreh Vogt, Jr., a Chicago financier. Sales gradually dropped off until in 1950 the company's financial structure was weakened considerably.

Records of the company show that Vogt poured good money after bad into his venture — that he put an additional $125,000 cash into the now defunct bus-

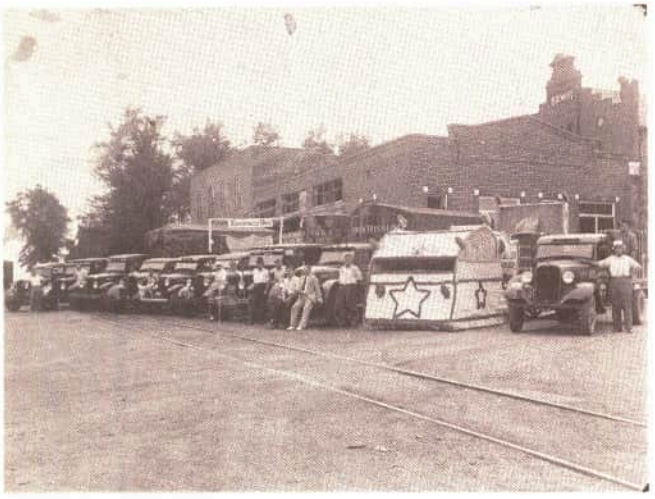
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* In 1850 there were 38 occupations listed in the Minster U.S. Census records. By 1900 there were 86 occupations noted. In 1850 there were 18 coopers but by 1900 that number rose to 64. In 1870, 34% of the population in German and Jackson Townships were German born. By 1900, it was only 2%.

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iness to cover deficits and meet operating costs after 1950.

In November, 1953 a court order issued in the case of Van Wert and Celina financial institutions versus the company, forced them to discontinue the manufacture of beer on November 17.



A group of Wooden Shoe Beer distributors and their trucks. Far right: John Fullenkamp (foreground) and son Ray Fullenkamp of Fullenkamp Distributing Co., St. Henry, Oh.

In March, 1954 the business was placed in bankruptcy. On June 24, 1954 the real estate, buildings and equipment were sold at public auction to satisfy claims of creditors.

There was one man who was largely responsible for favorable reception of Wooden Shoe lager beer during most of the company's years of operation. He was Joseph Brinkman who came here from Germany and was brewmaster continuously more than 50 years until his death in 1942.

After the death of Mr. Brinkman Mike Hartman became brewmaster. Herman Erath had charge of the brewing department 1946 to 1950, Charles Cook for two years until 1952 and Ray Huelskamp from September of 1952 until the company ceased operations at direction of the court.

Drink recipe from a booklet published by the Star Brewing Co. around the turn of the century:

Gin and Pine
(Use Whiskey glass)

Put 3 ounces of splinters from the heart of green pine log in a bottle of gin. Steep 2 hours. Put a lump of ice in the glass and hand out the bottle for the customer to help himself. (Editor's note: So that's why we don't have any virgin pine timber left in Minster!)

* In 1956, The Minster Implement Co., Phone 139, was advertising the new International four-wheel drive pickup for $2,177.

* The Minster Post: Ad Friday, December 19, 1919: The Star Beverage Company, Minster, Ohio, the manufacturers of the famous dry Wooden Shoe Beer. Also our old line Wooden Shoe Cream Soda, Wooden Shoe Strawberry, Wooden Shoe Lemon, Wooden Shoe Ginger Ale, Whistle, our new line Indian Rock Ginger Ale, a very fine drink, Bubble Up an imitation champagne drink. We contemplate in the near future to place several more new drinks on the market. Break in the New Year with a new drink.

* The following appeared in the June 17, 1917 issue of the Minster Post: An ad for the Star Brewing Company dated June 7, 1917: TO OUR PATRONS: Owing to the further enormous increase in cost of all materials and supplies which enter into the manufacture of beer we are compelled to advance our prices on beer as follows: case beer from 60¢ to 65¢, per dozen, plain bottles. The above advanced price will go into effect June 11, 1917 and you will kindly govern yourself accordingly in the future. This is but a small advance in cost to you considering the additional cost we are experiencing over prices of raw materials. It is our aim to maintain high quality of our goods and rather than give you an inferior article we deem it advisable to add this slight advance trusting that you will appreciate the necessity of our actions.

Thanking you for past favors and soliciting and continuance of your patronage we are very truly yours, The Star Brewing Company, C. F. Herkenhoff, Secretary. F. Herkenhoff, president; F. Goecke, superintendent of sales; A. W. Gerwels, vice-president; and C. F. Herkenhoff, secrtary-treasurer.



Before reception halls for large public gatherings were built, wedding receptions were held at the home. This picture of the Joseph Thieman and Millie Woehrmyer wedding was taken in 1906.

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Prohibition

In 1919 the Congress of the United States passed the Volstead Act. This act provided for Federal enforcement of prohibition.

From 1920 to 1933 it was forbidden by law to manufacture, transport, sell or possess any alcoholic beverages.

The enforcement of the Volstead Act had a pronounced effect on the residents of Minster. There were both social and economic reasons for this.

Back in 1919, the Star Brewing Company was a major employer. The drinking of beer and the stronger spirits was a part of life among many Minster residents.

Resistance to the Volstead Act in Minster was widespread and both active and passive.

The Minster Post played a major role in condemning the enforcement of the act. The pages of the weekly newspaper during this period in Minster's history contain many editorials against the act and regularly reports on the excesses of the enforcement officials.

Here's a sampling of several items that appeared:

March 14, 1919. Blackmail Responsible for the Prohibition Law Says Priest: No one should have the least scruple about evading it, breaking it or defying it, says Reverend John L. Belfore, director of the Church of the Nativity in the February issue of the Mentor in regards to the Prohibition Amendment.

Continuing Fr. Belford says "this iniquitous law is here and it looks as if it is here to stay for a long time. It is the worst invasion of personal liberty the world has ever seen. It is not the will of the American people, it is the will of a small minority of narrow-minded bigots who have availed themselves of a weak spot in the Constitution and forced upon the majority a law that is iniquitous as it is odious. It is an unjust law. No one is bound to obey it, no one should have the least scruple about evading it, breaking it, or defying it.

How you will ask could such a law be enacted? It owes its existence to a band of fanatical thugs and blackmailers. They have held up legislators as truly as ever a highwayman held up his victim. They have browbeaten, bulldozed, threatened and frightened men into supporting a measure which every decent man loathes and every honest man despises. They hired hundreds of spies, detectives and investigators, put them on the track of every legislator who would not promise to support their iniquitous measure and then when they had crawled through the sewers and strained the cesspools for scandal they produced their vile evidence and bade victim deliver his vote or accept the infamy of exposure. Then they bought others for votes for the one legislator who really believes in prohibition. There are at least two who neither believe in it nor practice it. Let us hope that these modern manichees who have procurred this infamous legislation will now proceed to make it as odious as possible.

Give them all the spies they can use, let them choose their inspectors, detectives and agents, give them the right to enter any house at any hour and search for hidden liquor and allow them at site to destroy anything that looks like liquor. Then let us see how long the American people will stand. Smaller things than this have brought on revolutions. Talk about America being the land of the free and the home of the brave. This brood of vipers had made it the land of the freak and the home of the knave.

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Friday, December 23, 1921. Headline: **That Raid That is Being Used as Fodder for Neighboring Newspapers.** Only a part of the published statements are a real fact.

Prohibition officers took Minster by storm last Saturday and after prowling around over the Star Beverage Co. they went away and the next heard from their visit came in the form of some sensational newspaper notices which stated that they had filed charges against this company for violating the law. Some of the smally dailys that cater to highly colored stuff spread the headline dope across the front pages of their sheets and couched their story in language that was calculated to arouse the readers to a state of expectancy that a hanging was soon to take place.

There were six men in the party of raiders four of whom registered at the New City Hotel as follows: C. Mono, Columbus; J. W. O'Connor, Columbus; W. A. Appelman, Mansfield; H. S. Clark, Columbus. The others of the party did not leave either their names or their photographs and the writer for this paper has no means by which he can tell the residents who in the blank H they are nor where in the blank H they came from. One thing sure they brought with them their nerve and if they had left just a fraction of that for our convenience we'd fight Jack Dempsey a round or two just to show him that we have some gall.

The Star Beverage people nor no other person in Minster was given the least of a surprise when these houch hounds came into this city. In fact it was wondered at that they should postpone their trip so long. Minster is just as good of town as other other, but in a general way, no better and why should we be slighted when they are knowing the people of every other city and hamlet between two oceans? They have made many visits to St. Marys, Wapakoneta, Sidney, Celina, Greenville, Versailles, and in fact every other town in this immediate territory, and if they hadn't made their appearance in Minster we'd have felt slighted.

The party presented themselves at the office of the beverage company during the morning hours and they made known their business to Mr. C. F. Herkenhoff who accorded them American courtesy and was not the least alarmed over any possible results from their visit and search of the plant. They were favored with a businesslike answer to every question propounded and were really assisted by him in their work, notwithstanding the fact that it was a humiliating experience for the gentleman. They "took in" the plant in every department and searched all of the surrounding buildings. They drilled holes in near-beer kegs, pulled the tops off of bottles and did almost everything else expect make the engineer blow his nose to see if he were holding any 2-3/4% in his horn. Their search was as complete as it could be made by those trained snoopers but it undoubtedly was fruitless.

In the office they checked up Mr. Herkenhoff's accounts and found nothing there to support a complaint so that when they left the city the men who have charge of the company's business felt a sense of relief that this job, that they had been expecting daily for

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months and months, had been finished for this one time at least.

The charges referred to were filed in Toledo and they alleged that the company had been violating the prohibition laws in the manufacture of beer of 3.33 alcoholic contents. The company will fight the case down to the last ditch and the Minster public will watch the proceedings with must interest.

In connection with the case there has been considerable stuff published by unreliable newspapers that is as far from fact as the east is from the west and in one or two instances there have been such offenses as would arouse any person to action in self defense. One story is to the effect that the soft drink establishment of a man by the name of "Benjamin Holmstead" was raided. The party who started this story perhaps had in mind the eating house of "Big Ben" Hunstead, but if he did he set in motion a lie, pure and simple, for the snooper never visited Hunstead's place during the day although he is sure that one of the party made his appearance there just a few days previous.

Another story was connected with the affair was published in the Tuesday issue of the St. Marys Evening Leader, and the beverage people are justified in their determination to show active resentment against the parties who are responsible for this report. The tale is to the effect that the company was penalized several months ago to the extent of several thousand dollars for manufacturing beer of more than the lawful alcoholic contents, but somehow the matter escaped the natural publication in the newspapers. The attention of Mr. Herkenhoff was called to the statement and he emphatically denied it. Under the circumstances it is a nasty thing to put in cold type and spread before the general public. But it is in keeping with the ways and manners of the average newswriter who is giving his support to prohibition. Without any exception they think of nothing else but this troublesome thing; they wink at such little crimes as murder, theft, etc. and would support a movement to hang any person just suspicioned of violating this unamerican fad. There were forerunners of the raiders of last Saturday and it is believed that these men thought they had a sure case against the beverage company. On two different occasions the plant was visited by a man who showed all of the elements of a foreigner and the people around the plant identified him as the man Mono who was in the raiding crowd. On his first visit at the place he was dressed in the garb of a tramp, while on occasion number two he appeared in a soldier's uniform. At one time he made a pitiful plea to Mr. Herkenhoff for some "good beer" which he said was really needed by his wife, who was in a delicate condition at their home in good old St. Marys. His story had the ring of a man who was in distress and he made such an impression on Mr. Herkenhoff that the gentleman declares that he certainly would have granted him his request if he could have found any of the "good beer" around the plant, or would have had any at his home. This fellow's business was to spy around, but what he saw that warranted him in calling for the final raid is not understood by the people around the beverage plant.

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Friday, April 27, 1923. The iron hand of prohibition reached out to disturb Minster's serenity. 21 officers from Russells department visited this community. Last Saturday morning was an eventful time in the history of Minster. Between the hour when honest men set themselves about to perform their accustomed days labor and the noon time there was enacted the most sensational prohibition melodramas that has ever been known in this section of the state. There were no comedians, no handsomely gowned stars, neither no souprettes or perfect 30-6 chorus girls in the cast, but all terrible Simon Legrees. Every actor was out of J. E. Russells School of Dramatic Training and they were just as dangerous as they looked. The show is not yet over and included among the performers in the last act will be one Judge Killets who will have a most important speech.

At about 8:00 on Saturday morning there rode into the town a party of motorists who were bent on looking after alleged violators of the prohibition law and when they left they took with them about one dozen local men, a truckload of copper boilers, coils, sugar, oil stoves, etc. They gathered up the men and gathered together the junk after the most clever general search that perhaps has ever been pulled off in this wooded country. That the job had been skillfully planned is an accepted fact and it shows that while perhaps prohibition is not being obeyed any more strictly than heretofore, yet the system to catch offenders is getting better.

There were 21 men and three machines and each fellow was armed with a gun that looked dangerous. They carried with them warrants to search several places and they worked with lightning like rapidity. At some places they found nary a thing to justify them in making an arrest while at other places they "got what they were looking for." The fact of the presence here was spread to the four corners of the town and their maneuvers were watched by interested crowds.

During the raid it is said that the men found about 8 stills, some of which were splint pieces of mechanism and very large in capacity. They also found some of the finished product, a quantity of mash, sugar and other material that is necessary to make the goods likeable. After they had gathered all of the stuff they found they were not prepared to transfer it to a storing place, so that it was necessary for them to engage a truck for this purpose. It was really a curious site when they were all ready to leave the burg to see a pair of the sluice perched up on a pile of junk for a ride to headquarters.

The posse came into town equipped to make the thorough cleaning that they did. They made very few, if any, inquiries about who lived here or there, or where so and so did business. They seemed to know just what they were going to do beforehand and they lost no time in carrying forward their prearranged program. They searched a number of residences in the town, and in the country. They also searched the Laut restaurant and an old building on the banks of the canal where one still was located. At places where they found vessels that contained liquor, they dashed out the quantities that they did not carry with them as evidence.

A squad went through the rooms at the New City Hotel but they found no evidence that liquor was being kept there. And the plant of the Star Beverage Company was also singled out as one of the places that they would look after.

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At the Laut restaurant there was a non-advertised specialty that only a few persons had the privilege of witnessing. At that place they made an attempt to go further with their activities than the proprietor believed to be justifiable and he remonstrated. Just to prove that under Prohibition Laws the rights of the deteck have no limitations they used the butt ends of their guns on one man's head and when they landed their prisoner in the Shelby County jail he showed some nasty bruises as a result.

The fellows seemed to enjoy the stir that they had created among the people and the leaders gave orders to their inferiors in no uncertain way. One of them who looked after the safety of the truckload of junk was as profane as a pirate and there would have been no harm done in arresting him for using obscene language in a public place. He showed every quality of a genuine roughneck and his very conduct seemed to intensify the unpopularity of Prohibition with such local people who saw and heard him. His manners were especially offensive when the crowd was standing at the crossing of Fourth and Main Streets just before the truck left for Sidney. He bolted out of the Laut restaurant and with an oath too vile to be put in cold type gave his orders for the start to be made.

Take Me Out To The Ballgame

Baseball was a big pastime in the Minster area during the 1920's. The following two articles indicate the rivalry that existed between Minster and New Bremen. A similar rivalry existed between Minster and Ft. Loramie. The author has been told on numerous occasions that large sums of money were bet on the outcomes of these games by the residents of these towns.

This first article was taken from the July 15, 1921 issue of the Minster Post. Headline - **Oh! You Bremen's.** Big baseball game of the season will be on next Sunday.

Come all of you people who have the flames of city loyalty burning in your gissards and do your share of pulling for the home team on next Sunday. On that occasion we will have as visitors at Eagle's Park the boys from New Bremen and you and your folks know, quite well, that this announcement is the signal for every man, woman and kidlet in the village to get in "rooting" condition. The Lima Stars trimmed our fellows in a tight-wax-and-top-corn game on the 4th and the Versailles fellows skinned us on last Sunday, but all this will be forgiven if the home fellows will just get together and larrup the New Bremen's. They can do it, if they think so.

During the earlier weeks of the present season the Minster boys were defeated by the New Bremen team at the park in our neighboring city, but We, Us and company believe that the result of that contest hinged on the operations and troublesome interferences of the tough luck element so that we have great hopes of reversing the matter on next Sunday.

Peppy has been oiling up his right wing and giving considerable sober thought to the immense duty that will rest upon him in this game and as the hours pass his confidence grows stronger, so that he will come up to the job fit as a fiddle. Vallo will not be able to handle the shoots and hops of the big boy, but the local management has been fortunate engaging a real substitute. Reussenzehn, a high class catcher from the Michigan State league, has been booked to do the receiving in this game.

Come early and stay until the last man has retired in the final round.

Minster Post, Friday, July 22, 1921. Headline - **Bremen Catched When Trying To Pull Off An Old Baseball Trick on Sunday.** Deface the cover of the balls which is not permissible.

The New Bremen baseball team came close - uncomfortably close - to winning last Sunday's baseball game, notwithstanding the fact that Minster had a team that was at least 50% stronger than the one that represented that town in this much advertised game. There is an interesting story connected with this "almost" matter and this story exposes the trickery of some fellow who knows more about the peculiarities of a hard, round baseball than fellows who have never given the matter much investigation or thought.

It is a fact that if the cover of a baseball is "roughed" in spots that this increases the effectiveness of a curve ball pitcher until his twisters become practically unhittable and no doubt this fact is known to no persons any better than the fellows who manage the New Bremen team. In the game on last Sunday they started out with a left-handed curver and for several innings he went like a Johnson. Nobody could hit him and batters from the Minster leaguers were pies for this kid. Finally some fellows took a peek at the balls that were in use and they all looked as if the proprietress of some cheap boarding house had been working on them with a hash knife. Spots the size of a quarter were cut in the leather and the baseball man knows quite well what that means in the way of helping to throw benders. The defaced spheres were called in and new ones were thrown out and the game proceeded with the natural strength of the two teams serving as the element to decide the struggle.

From that time on the New Bremen bunch were trampled on just like the local fans expected them to be, for they had set the stage to give their friends from the village north of us a trouncing and they did the job with a satisfying completeness. The newly organized team showed the strength that was expected and they gave the local fans the very finest exhibition of real baseball that has been seen here for a long, long time.

Everybody had expected this game to be the big event of the baseball season in Minster and nobody was disappointed. There were at least 1,000 paid admissions and the sight was one to make the local management feel a feeling of intense gladness.

The home team had been given a shaking up and new players engaged, all of whom proved to be very good. Poeppelman led his team to a fine victory and showed the local sports that, with the assistance of players who have had the advantage of good drilling, he is the class in this section of the country.

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Churches

St. Augustine Church

By Louis A. Hoying

The pioneer town of Stallostown was founded in 1832 by a group of German immigrants under the leadership of Franz Joseph Stallo. Many of these settlers came from the provinces known as Oldenburgisches Műnsterland. These people brought with them an intense Roman Catholic faith that had been established by Charlemagne, when he founded the Abbey Werden, among the Saxons in the year 800 A.D. This faith had been strong enough to withstand, in a hostile environment, the early schisms, the trials of the Reformation and the Thirty Years War.



It is said that Father J. W. Horstman celebrated a Mass on Christmas day, 1833, in this house, still standing at the corner of Fifth and Main streets.

The settlers were visited from time to time in their wilderness abode by missionary priests who traveled about the old Northwest seeking out Catholic settlements. Among these pioneer priests, Father Frederick Résé, who was later to become the first Bishop of Detroit, was the first to offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in Stallostown in the late fall of 1832. Father Theodore Badin, the venerable Sulpician, came to the village on several occasions in 1833 and celebrated Mass when he traveled from South Bend, Indiana to the Bardstown, Kentucky, Mission Center by way of Cincinnati. In late 1833 Father J.W. Horstmann on his return to Detroit after visiting with Bishop Purcell arrived in Stallostown shortly before Christmas. He sent a messenger to Father Collins in Dayton for the necessary things required to celebrate the Eucharistic Service. So it was with joy that Mass was celebrated in Stallostown on Christmas day in 1833 by Father Horstmann, the untiring priest, physician and teacher from Osnabruck who served on foot as a missionary to the Catholic people of northwest Ohio during this early period.

With the help of Father Horstmann the first church was completed in 1835 on the Catholic Church parcel set aside by Stallo when he planned the village. This lot was located on the southern part of what is now known as the North Park. The church was forty feet wide, sixty feet long and sixteen logs high. A building of such size in the wilderness could have, in probability, been referred to as a Műnster or important church by the Platt-deutsch speaking inhabitants. Perhaps, because of this, or more likely the fact that the immigrants had formerly been subject to the Bishop of Műnster politically and ecclesiastically, as residents of the Műnsterland, the name of the village was changed in 1836 from Stallostown to Minster; with the ensuing designation of the mission to St. Augustine Parish, now under the direction of a permanent pastor, Father Franz A. Bartels.

Father Bartels and succeeding pioneer priests continued to care for the congregation, and the renowned French missionary and personal representative of the Bishop in the Northwest, Father Louis Navarron, took charge in 1844. The coming of the Miami and Erie Canal; the cutting of the oak forests; and the arrival of Irish laborers and Prussian coopers from Westphalia had caused a rapid population growth to take place in the region, and accordingly the Catholic Telegraph of June 1, 1844, listed St. Augustine's as having 261 families or 1,288 souls. Soon Father Navarron appealed to Bishop Purcell for German-speaking priests to take over in the area, and after some difficulties were overcome in 1845, Father Francis deSales Brunner, the Provincial of the Society of the Precious Blood, and Father John of the Cross Wittmer came to Minster. Father Brunner was actually in charge of affairs for several months in 1846, but was primarily engaged in spreading the good work of the Society; and in building the Convent of Mary Help of Christians at Maria Stein, Ohio. Thus for a brief period St. Augustine's served as a "mother" church for the Society of the Precious Blood, and accordingly the congregation came under the loving and dedicated guidance of this Society.

A new brick church was begun under the administration of Father Wittmer in 1848, and despite a cholera epidemic that turned Minster into a "dying village" and took 250 lives during the following summer, work progressed satisfactorily, and on November 11, 1849, Father Gavinzel, as representative of Bishop Purcell, dedicated the new structure. Father Maximilian Homburger, with daring abandon, attended the sick and dying during the cholera scourge, but emerged untouched by the dreaded disease.

The church entrance and tower were located on the east end of the lot facing the alley according to the 1848 plan because most of the parishioners at the time lived east of the church site. Local artisans and trades-

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St. Augustine's Church - 1848

men contributed their talents and wares to help build the church. Bricks were bought from J. H. Steinemann, B. Ortman, and William Finke and lime was obtained from Bernard Dircksen. The cornerstone was laid by local stone mason J. H. Kalverlage. Carpenter work was done by Theodore Barlage and Jonathan Hisey. Oldiges and Adelmeyer were the exterior painters while Ulrich Tandrop painted the interior. The total cost of the building was about $18,000. The cost of the church was covered in large part by subscriptions, and collections that were taken up in Cincinnati, Wapakoneta and neighboring parishes. The increase in the number of pews in the new church allowed for the seating of 506 persons or 170 more than could be accommodated in the old log church.

Three Sisters of the Precious Blood Society came to Minster from Maria Stein in the fall of 1848 to take charge of the education of the girls of the parish. In 1851 the erection of a convent began but work progressed slowly. It was not until the autumn of 1852 that the Sisters took permanent possession of their convent dedicated to Our Lady of the Visitation, and began the perpetual adoration of the Precious Blood of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. Since that memorable day mere words cannot fathom, nor express, the magnitude of the prayers and sacrifices that the Sisters have cheerfully offered to the Precious Blood for the good of the people of St. Augustine's.

Father Andrew Kunkler, a capable and pious man, began his long administration of the parish in 1852. A new rectory was soon constructed, and the first Mission was conducted. St. Theresia's school for girls was erected in 1867, and in 1874 the church was enlarged. The length of the building was increased by twenty feet and the steeple razed. Inspiring twin towers were built on the west by Anton Goehr. It was not until 1901, however, that the main entrance to the building was moved to the tower end. Father Kunkler labored in Minster for thirty-three years before leaving as a missionary to the state of Missouri where he died unexpectedly soon after. He was buried in St. Augustine cemetery and a beautiful monument, that gracefully dominates the entire graveyard, was erected in his honor.



St. Augustine's Church Interior - 1874

The renovation of 1901 was completed under the direction of Father Aloys Malin. The groundwork for this undertaking took place in 1898 when a church fair celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the building of the present church profited a considerable sum. With the money obtained a new roof and ceiling were constructed and a new sanctuary with two sacristies added. Further improvements included a new floor, new pews, and a choir loft. The interior was beautifully decorated and impressive paintings by J. Vittur enhanced what has now become known as the "Minster Ceiling".

The church has been renovated several times since the turn of the century. In 1922 the front step approach was completed, and in 1927 the interior was redecorated. A major renewal project was undertaken by Father William Meyer in 1957. Stately marble

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altars with a reredos overlay in mosaic, and mosaic Stations of the Cross, all designed by Prof. Rudolf Scheffler, and patterned after Durer, guided the theme of the redecoration. Upon completion, a strikingly beautiful church interior was dedicated to the greater Glory of God.

In 1969 the main altar was placed in the sanctuary forefront and the celebrant at Mass faced the congregation for the first time in accordance with the instructions of the Vatican II Council. A new rectory was completed in 1971 under the leadership of Father John Spatt. The following year a Parish Council was established by direction of the Sixth Archdiocesan Synod.

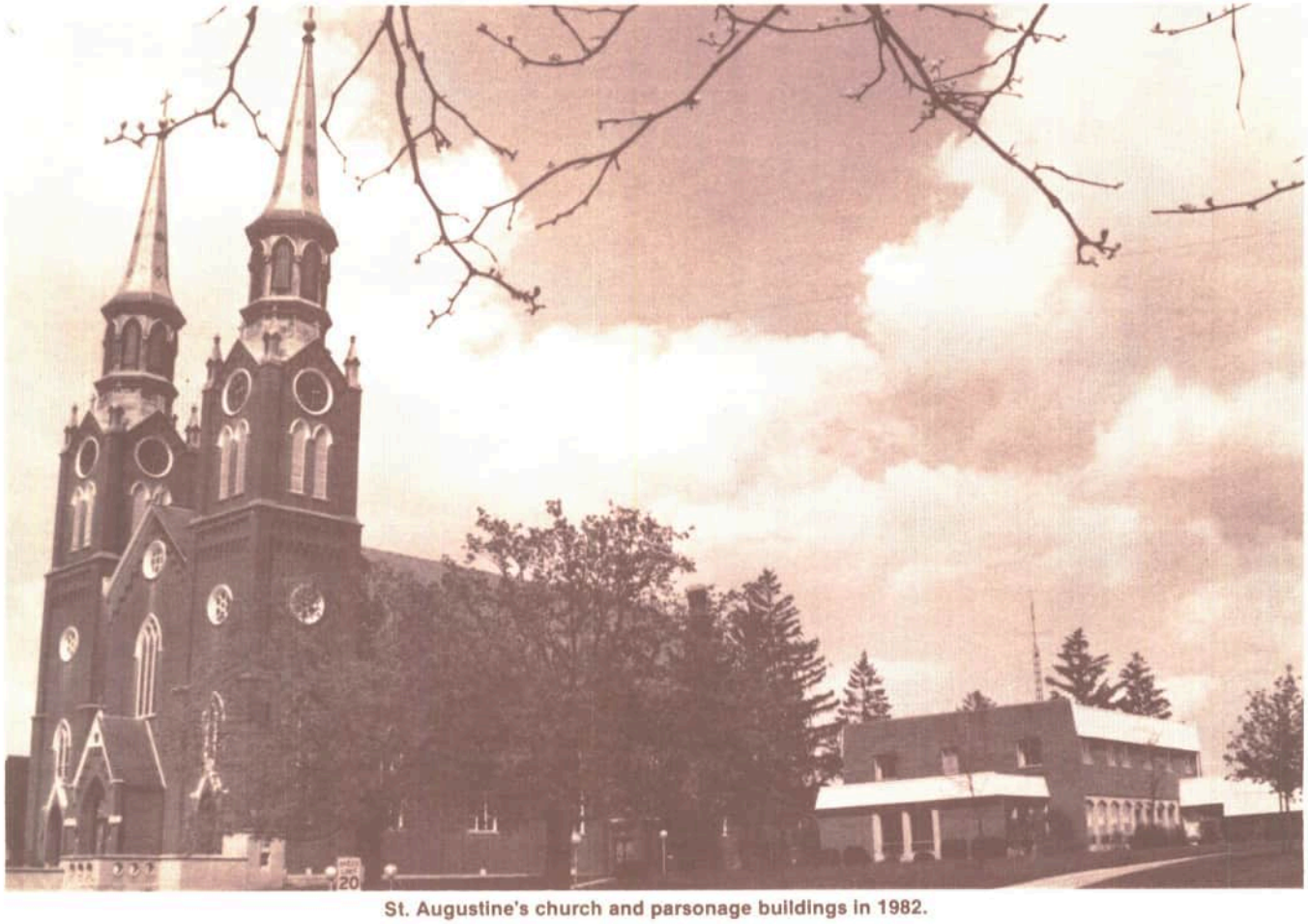
The present pastor of St. Augustine's is Father Joseph Pax. He is assisted by Father Ferd LaManna as the associate pastor. Father Pax is very active in the development of the religious and cultural heritage of the congregation, and was instrumental in the placing of the beautiful stained glass windows in the side entrances honoring this heritage.

St. Augustine's is a consecrated place of worship, and this honor and blessing was bestowed upon the people of the parish on December 7, 1931, by Bishop Albers, through the unceasing efforts of Father Sixtus Meyer. A consecrated church is a church that has been solemnly set apart as a place of service to God. There are very few parishes in the Diocese that have been so singularly honored.

A history must of necessity be more than the telling of administrative events or the story of brick and mortar. It must be concerned with the sacrifices of the priests, brothers, sisters; the dedicated labor of the teachers, organists, choir members, servers, lectors, ushers, sextons, and helpers; the guidance of the counselors; the prayers of the faithful. It must be the story of the people of God. A parish must have vitality and it must bear fruit. Some measure of this can perhaps best be seen in the number and excellence of the sons and daughters of the parish, who, following in the footsteps of Bishop Dwenger and Bishop Luers, have given themselves to the service of Jesus Christ.

PASTORS OF ST. AUGUSTINE PARISH

Father Franz Anton Bartels	1836-38
Father Henry Herzog	1838-45
Father Louis Navarron	1844-45
Father Francis deSales Brunner C.PP.S.	1845-48
Father John Van den Broeck C.PP.S.	1845, 1848-52
Father Anton Maria Meyer C.PP.S.	1850
Father John of the Cross Wittmer C.PP.S.	1848-52
Father Maximillian Homburger C.PP.S.	1848-52
Father Andrew Kunkler C.PP.S.	1850, 1852-85
Father Xavier Griessmeier C.PP.S.	Nov. 1875 to May, 1876
(during leave of Father Kunkler)	
Father Christian Nigsch C.PP.S.	1885-90
Father Albert Voag C.PP.S.	1890-97
Father Aloys Malin C.PP.S.	1897-1903
Father George Fleisch C.PP.S.	June, 1903 to Aug. 1903
Father Eugene Grimm C.PP.S.	1903-21



St. Augustine's church and parsonage buildings in 1982.

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Father Chrysostom Hummer C.PP.S.	1921-22
Father Richard Schwieterman C.PP.S.	Feb. 1922 to Feb. 1922
Father Sixtus Meyer C.PP.S.	1922-35
Father Vitus Schuette C.PP.S.	1935-39
Father Theodore Koenn C.PP.S.	1939-45
Father Otto Mueller C.PP.S.	1945-53
Father William Meyer C.PP.S.	1953-63
Father John Spatt C.PP.S.	1963-1973
Father Joseph Pax C.PP.S.	1973

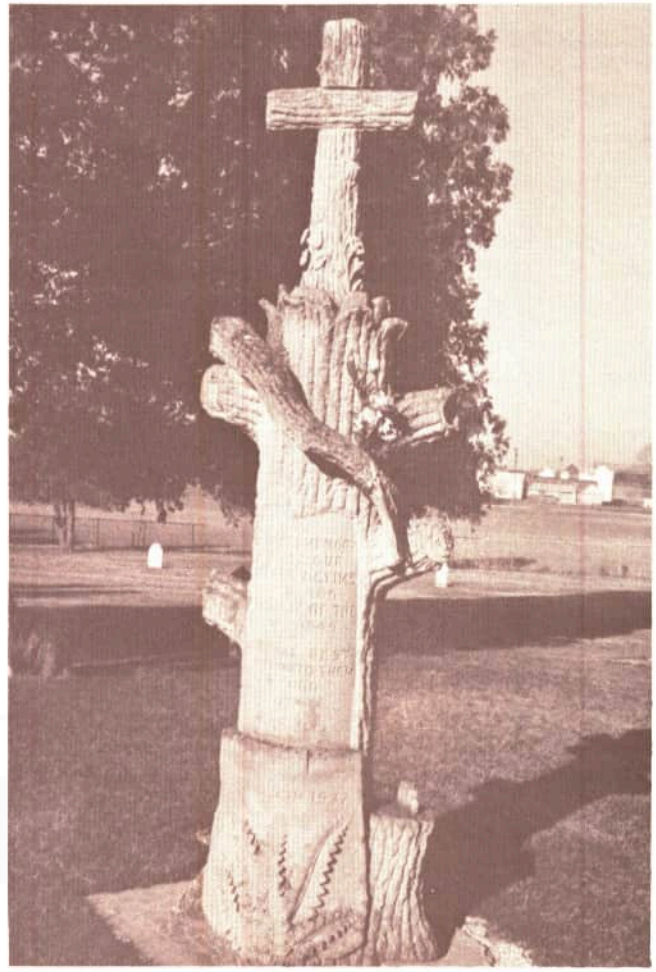


The impressive 190 foot, twin towers of St. Augustine's Catholic church replaced a single spire when the church was remodeled in 1874, by Johann Anton Goehr, architect, master carpenter and builder. Goehr built or remodeled many churches in this area. Goehr died in 1855. A monument, made entirely of wood and built by his son, Anton Goehr during the winter of 1855, still marks the spot where Goehr is buried at St. Augustine's cemetery.

CEMETERY

The first pioneers in Stallostown, when they fell, were buried alongside the log cabin in which they had lived. This practice soon became outmoded as the number of deaths increased. Accordingly, the first cemetery was established at the Northeast corner of Fifth and Main Streets. The rapid growth of the community, and sharp increase in the value of choice building lots, soon made it apparent that this location would not be satisfactory for long. A new cemetery site was chosen in 1836 outside of the village limits on the south at the foot of Hanover Street. This tract of about three acres or more was purchsaed from John B. Feldman, and the deed was recorded on September 3, 1838. Seventy-five cents was paid by the church treasurer for the writing of the deed in the spring of 1837.

This cemetery was one of the few Catholic places of burial in Northwest Ohio in the early years. Deceased Catholics from the surrounding region were buried in the cemetery alongside those of the parish who had died. From 1838 to 1842 Irish Catholic immigrants, who were brought north by the contractors when the canal was constructed from Piqua to Deep Cut, were buried here. These Irish Catholic laborers lived in shanty camps established at various points along the canal route. Piqua, Sidney, Troy, St. Marys and Deep Cut were the locations of large camps and a sizable town sprang up at Grand Lake Reservoir when the east wall dam was constructed. However, when hard winter set in and the ground became too frozen to work, it was not uncommon for a group of the Irish laborers to build a few make-shift shelters alongside the particular section of the canal on which they were working. This sometimes occurred in the Minster area. The laborers survived until the next spring thaw and the renewal of the dig on wild game, hickory nuts, and the provisions they could obtain from the settler farmers by helping them clear the virgin forests.



This monument was erected in St. Augustine's cemetary in memory of over 300 cholera victims, especially of the year of 1849. The monument appears as a tree, with several limbs severed to symbolize the loss of many people in the community. Cholera victims died so quickly during July and August of 1849 that they were buried together in a huge trench about 20 feet deep, 7 feet wide in tiers.

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When the cholera epidemic struck the town in 1849 the bodies of the victims were buried in the cemetery in unmarked mass graves. A monument in their honor was erected in 1937. The inscription reads, "In Pious Memory of All Our Cholera Victims, Over 300, Especially in the Year 1849."

A chapel was erected in the cemetery in 1855 by John H. Steinemann in thanksgiving for the recovery of his wife from a serious illness. The building measures twelve feet by eighteen feet and is constructed of red bricks made at the Steinemann brickyard. It is topped by a white spire and cross. A large oil painting, "Souls in Purgatory" brought over from Germany about 1852 is hung behind the white altar. Originally the chapel was used by the priests at funerals during inclement weather. In the early 1950's it was restored and is now open to the public on Memorial Day, All Saints and All Souls days. The Steinemann heirs bequested the chapel and a sum of money to the parish in May, 1975.

Nine acres of land were purchased for the sum of $1,000.00 on February 21, 1884, from Theodore and John Dickman as an addition to the cemetery. This was part of the original eighty acres purchased by Theodore Dickman upon his arrival from Cincinnati in 1836. The addition was consecrated on May 16, 1887, by Father Henry Drees, the Provincial of the Society of the Precious Blood, for Archbishop Henry Elder. At this time, Father Nigsch, the pastor of St. Augustine's, erected an iron fence on the north side of the Cemetery facing First Street. An imposing monument near the center of the cemetery was dedicated in the Spring of 1891 to the memory of Father Andrew Kunkler.

Twenty acres of land lying to the west of the dedicated portion of the Cemetery were purchased in 1960 from Clarence Walters for the sum of $20,000. Five acres of this land was later sold to the Village of Minster for future expansion of the Sanitary Disposal Facility.

The general upkeep of the cemetery has been possible through the use of funds provided by the sale of burial plots. These funds must be used for this purpose as outlined by the Third Plenary Council held at Baltimore. Additional needed funds have been obtained by an assessment of a small yearly sum. This practice began in 1913 when $1.00 was charged to all plot holders for grass mowing costs. A payment of $1.00 by all plot holders to the cemetery fund, payable at the time of pew rent collection, went into effect in 1914. Later on assessment against all families in the parish whether or not they had purchased a lot was effected. The assessment for each married couple was raised to $10.00 per year by the Parish Council in February, 1976. Employed single parishioners out of high school, widows and widowers, were assessed $5.00 per year. Lot holders not living in the parish were also asked to pay $5.00 per year. The Cemetery fund is a distinct fund kept separately from the treasury operations of the parish.

The American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars organizations annually decorate the graves of the deceased veterans of the community on the Sunday nearest to Memorial Day. There are graves of veterans of all major wars beginning with the Civil War to be found on the cemetery.

On the Sunday following All Saints Day a procession of parishioners from St. Augustine's slowly walk to the cemetery praying the rosary for the benefit of all of the Poor Souls in Purgatory. A short prayer service is then held, followed with visitation by the marchers to individual graves.

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* In an editorial in the same paper Friday, June 27, 1924: In mentioning Mr. Niles, or Reverend Niles the paper notes "the very enterprising preacher who was primarily responsible for the drift that affairs have taken in Minster is about as popular among the show people of this community as a Ku Klux Klanner would be at a goose butchering by a company of Jews."

"The people of Minster and throughout the surrounding territory desire Sunday night shows and the lull that forbids them is just about as unpopular as the carpetbagger who rustled into the community and caused the business to be discontinued. Where one person can be found who might object to them 100 others can be located who will pay their money at the box office, watch the performance of Harold Lloyd or Jackie Koogan and then look any old vinegar faced reformer squarely in the face and swear that they wouldn't trade their chances to get past St. Peter's gate with the fellow who is so painfully goody-good." *(Editor's Note: Four weeks later the Crescent was open on Sunday once again.)*

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* In July, 1966, Minster Village council closed the old town dump on Hamilton Street and dedicated that area as a park.

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* Catherine (Siemers) Decker Duveneck, a native of Minster, was the mother of Frank Duveneck, a 19th century American painter of world recognition. Duveneck, who died in 1919, had major exhibitions of his American art all over the world. Today his works hang in the National Gallery of Art and some fifty other American museums. His paintings have sold for 1/2 million dollars.

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* For many years the main drive at St. Augustine's Cemetery had large pine trees down both sides of the drive. The December 21, 1967 issue of Community Post noted that the trees had been cut down in order to widen and improve the drive. One of the trees that had been removed has an interesting story behind it. Years ago when candles were used to light Christmas trees someone in Minster constructed a tree that would turn slowly from the heat of the candles. Something went wrong however, and on Christmas eve the tree began to revolve rapidly and caught on fire. Since it was too late to purchase another tree the local resident went to the cemetery and cut the top out of one of the trees that lined the drive and took it home for Christmas. The writer went on to say that this was probably the first example of something going topless in Minster.

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Calvary Chapel

Dr. Ron Boldman and his wife Brenda are originally from the Troy-Christiansburg area. They have five children; Eric, (home with the Lord), Noel, age 15; Aaron, 14, Seth, 11; and Nathan age 9.

Dr. Boldman was called to preach in 1967. He then enrolled in Tennessee Temple University, Chattanooga, Tennessee. He graduated in 1970 and came to Minster, Ohio where he founded Calvary Chapel. In May, 1979 he received his Doctorate Degree from Hyles-Anderson College at Crown Point, Indiana.



Dr. Ron Boldman with Dr. Russell Anderson of Hyles Anderson College, Hammond, Ind., May 25, 1979.

The first three years of the church's Sunday morning services were held at the Crescent Theatre in Minster. Within this time, the church decided to purchase lots with intentions of building in the future. Progressively and carefully plans were constructed and finally a reality, with ground breaking ceremonies taking place. Lots had been purchased East of the city on Hamilton Street and in April of 1973 after the morning service, the first shovels full of dirt were turned over. By October the first building was finished and the membership of Calvary Chapel no longer held services at the Crescent Theatre. The new building was dedicated in October of 1973.

Still rapidly moving ahead the average attendance had grown to 945 per Sunday. The new building was too small and the 4th, 5th and 6th graders were then transported back to the Crescent Theatre for the Sunday School and Junior Church Services. The High School students were transported to the Minster High School Auditorium. Again plans were drawn up to expand the present facility with enough space to house offices, youth center, Maranatha Christian Academy Learning Center, choir room, kitchen, print shop, three nursery rooms, visitation meeting room, and Sunday School cubicles. This building was finished in 1976.

By 1978, in again over-crowded conditions and skyrocketing bus gas prices, the Pastor founded Calvary Chapel, Piqua. The church building at 500 Broadway Street in Piqua, Ohio was purchased. The branch church is now under the direction of Associate Pastor David Smith.

OUTREACH MINISTRIES OF CALVARY CHAPEL

The Bus Ministry was started while Calvary Chapel was still at the Crescent Theatre. The first route started with only 29 riders from the New Bremen and St. Marys areas. At the present time 18 buses are running on 14 routes. The bus route areas include Wapakoneta, St. Marys, New Knoxville, New Bremen, Celina, Anna, Botkins, Sidney, Jackson Center, Maplewood, Quincy, Degraff, Houston and two buses come from the Dayton area. The Piqua Bus area includes Piqua, Troy, Covington, and Bradford. The average bus totals for April, 1981 were 1033.

There are two special ministries reaching out to very special people. One such ministry is to the deaf. The Deaf Department was started in 1971 and there has been as many as 32 present at one time, this was in 1977. Sign language classes are given periodically in an effort to broaden communication and fellowship to our deaf friends.

The other department is our Special Learners Class. This was started in April, 1975 by Mrs. Sally Newton. She averages fifteen in her class each week. Many times these "special" people are overlooked and unloved because nobody cares. Mrs. Newton has found them eager to learn and teaches them a Sunday School lesson each week. She has taught them to write their name and to count. They are taught to bring their Bibles to church and to memorize scriptures. Who are our special learners; a blind girl, persons with muscular dystrophy, cerebral palsy, epileptics, diabetics, mutes, and retarded deaf. Truly God's special people.

The Nursing Home Ministry started with the Lone Pine Nursing Home in New Bremen, Ohio in 1972. Today this ministry reaches out to twelve nursing homes. There are seven laymen that visit these homes presenting a music program and bringing a message from the Bible to them. At the close of the service they visit in the rooms of the bed-fast that could not attend the service.

The Jail Ministry was started in 1972 by Dr. Boldman. Everyone, no matter who they are or where they are need to hear the preaching of God's Word and learn the plan of Salvation. This ministry is carried out today by Mr. Paul Wenner.

Also, in 1972 came the first radio broadcasts, coming from W.E.R.M. Moulton, Ohio. Today the broadcasts come from W.P.T.W. Piqua.

There is one ladies group in Calvary Chapel, this is the Phoster Club. These are ladies that go out Soul-Winning each week. They go door to door inviting families to church and presenting the plan of Salvation. These ladies also host the "Our Town" Sunday which honors all the businessmen of the community.

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Calvary Chapel Piqua, 500 Broadway Street, Piqua, Ohio. Purchased 1978.

MARANATHA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

In the earlier years of the church, Dr. Boldman saw a great need to have Christian education available and founded Maranatha Christian Academy. The school started as a day care and Kindergarten in 1974. Today the school teaches Kindergarten through the Twelfth grades, with hopes of adding a college in the future. The attendance for the 1980-81 school year was 125 students. The school is still headed by Dr. Boldman with Mrs. Camilla Anderson as School Principal. There were fifteen monitors (teachers) instructing the student body. This year honored the largest graduating class for the Academy with 11 students receiving their diplomas.

MISSIONARIES SUPPORTED

This outreach of the Church includes support to four different colleges, the Christian Law Association, Christian Radio, four United States based Missionary Associations and Foreign missions in Peru, India, Africa, Phillipines, Netherlands and Korea.



Attendance before new building was added.



Aerial view - 1976. New building completed.

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Village Government

Village Government

Following the death of F.J. Stallo in 1833 a number of residents returned to Cincinnati for fear that the tiny town would not survive. Indeed, those early years were ones in which adversity seemed to dominate the lives of those who remained. The crop failure in 1835 caused many hardships. Thankfully, some of the farmers in the area donated grain to ward off starvation.

On March 5, 1839 Minster was incorporated and on April 27 the first election was held.

John M. Drees was elected mayor, J.H. Grosman, recorder and council members were C.H. Lau, A. Haverbeck, G. Luckman, B.H. Kramer, B. Klas and F. Schaper.

The complete list of Mayors of the village can be found elsewhere in this book.

Today Minster is still governed by a Mayor and Village council but there is now a Board of Public Affairs to handle the utilities in the village, and Planning and Zoning boards that assist council in carrying out the zoning laws.

There has been some discussion in recent years to hire a village administrator. Council in the 1970's created the position but council has never filled it. Once the position is filled the Board of Public Affairs would be eliminated.

Like all government bodies Minster's village council has found itself in the middle of controversy on a number of occasions over the years.

In recent times the proposal to close the canal through town and turn it into a park was widely debated before being defeated by the voters.

The establishment of the present swimming pool and park complex on the north side of town came about only after a proposal to construct a recreational facility near Arrowhead Golf Course was defeated.

The village income tax and how those monies should be spent were the subject of much discussion over the years.

In the 1970's perhaps the "hottest" topic of discussion was the location of a new fire station.

In 1972 village council decided to proceed with the needed construction of a new building.

Council considered a number of locations for the building. In April they had purchased two properties on the southwest corner of Hanover and Fourth Street. Also being considered was the South Park on Fourth Street and a dedicated piece of property at Fourth & Garfield Streets.

At a May council meeting, after much discussion, council voted 4-2 to locate the building in the South Park.

By May 17 council had formal opposition to their selection from a group of Minster residents who were organized as the Save The Park committee.

At their June meeting council along with members of the S.T.P. committee and village firemen reviewed architect proposals for constructing the building in the South Park and at Fourth and Hanover Streets.

After reviewing the plans, Council again voted (4-2) to keep the location for the new fire department in the South Park.

The S.T.P. committee reacted by getting on the matter to keep both parks on Fourth and Lincoln Streets as parks placed on the November 7 ballot. Residents made themselves heard by overwhelming voting in favor of the proposals.

Council, on November 22, reconfirmed their decision to build the fire station in the South Park, selected architect plans and awarded contracts for construction.

The S.T.P. committee countered by seeking an injunction to halt the construction.

At their December 5 meeting, council heard the complete contents of a temporary injunction granted the S.T.P. committee against them read with a large number of residents present.

Finally the matter was resolved when, at their February, 1973 meeting council decided to proceed with the fire department construction at Fourth and Hanover Streets.

Mayors - Village of Minster

1839-1840 — John M. Drees, 1841 — C.H. Dickman, 1842 — Henry Zumbrink, 1843 — Francis Sprehe, 1844-1845 — J. H. Gossman, 1846-1848 — Francis Sprehe, 1849-1851 — H. H. Busch, 1852-1855 — J. P. Schmieder, 1856 — B. A. Wendeln, 1857 — H. Knostman, 1858-1860 — J. P. Schmieder, 1861-1863 — J. Henry Hut; 1864 — H. Elbert (resigned May), 1864 — H. Knostman, 1865 — Fritz Kramer, 1866 — H. Knostman, 1867-1868 — J. P. Schmieder, 1869 — J. M. Drees, 1870-1873 — J. P. Schmieder, 1874-1875 — C. Depweg, 1876-1877 —C. P. Depweg, 1878-1881 — J. P. Schmieder, 1882-1889 —John Laufersweiler, 1890-1891 — Henry Busse, 1892-1895 — T. Vanden Brock, 1896-1899 — Joseph E. Schmieder.

1900-1905 — Louis Drees, 1906-1907 — B. H. Meiners, 1908-1911 — B. Sherman, 1912-1913 — M. A. Anthony (died April 1913), 1913-1915 — Louis Drees, 1916-1921 — Joseph E. Schmieder, 1922-1923 — J. T. Haverbeck, 1924-1925 — Louis Ley, 1926-1933 — August Herkenhoff, 1934-1939 — Louis Drees, 1940-1957 — Edmund F. Morsey, 1958-1963 — Joseph L. Raterman, 1964-1965 — Wilfred Ripploh, (In November 1965 the election for mayor was for a 4 yr. term, continues to be at present), 1966-1975 — Ted Purpus (no mayor was elected in November, 1969), 1976-1981 — Ed Van Oss.

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Council Reacts To "Rough Stuff"

The Minster Post, Friday, April 13, 1923: In an article related to accidents on Minster Village Council:

The council then took up some matters that referred to the deportment of residents and people who come into the village to enjoy her hospitality for any length of time. Regarding the deportment of some of the younger elements in the town there is ample room for improvement and the councilmen handled this matter with gloveless hands. As guardians of the peace and safety of the citizens they decided that it is high time that the reins are drawn on a certain class of young men who stage their "rough stuff" in every public and private place which is open to them. Without regard to who else may be within hearing they swear like sea captains and belch out the most indecent language that can possibly be framed. The complaints against these offenders have been coming in to the officers by the score and the men have become restless under the strain. Taking the initiative in the matter of bringing about a reform the councilmen instructed the chief of police to give attention to this matter and to arrest offenders irrespective of whom ever they may be.

The matter of reckless auto driving through Minster was also debated and it was the consensus of opinion that a positive stand against this practice should be made. With the opening of spring the inclination to use the streets of the village as a speedway is intensified and the dangers of life correspondingly increase. This reckless practice is noted particularly along Main Street and unless there is some means employed to stop it the lives of children and elderly people will be constantly in danger. The officers have no disposition to be "cranky" in this matter, but they are determined that the drivers shall use discretion or else subject themselves to arrest.

Missing Votes May Have Changed Our County Seat

When Auglaize County was formed in 1848, Wapakoneta felt it should be the county seat as it was close to the geographical center of the county.

St. Marys pushed its claim too since it was nearer to the population center of the county.

To settle the matter an election was held. The vote was extremely close with Wapakoneta being declared the winner.

It wasn't until sometime later that it was discovered that the ballots of Minster and New Bremen had "mysteriously" failed to arrive and were never counted!

* The longest continuous term of Mayor of Minster was served by Edmund F. Morsey. He was elected for 9 consecutive two-year terms, serving from 1940 to 1958.

Names For Minster Streets Changed

Friday, August 6, 1920, the Minster Post: Council met Monday night in regular session with Mayor Schmieder in the chair and all present except member Oldiges. Part of the business that was conducted was a petition to the council of the Village of Minster, State of Ohio - The undersigned owners of lots in the Village of Minster, State of Ohio in the immediate vicinity of Freyburg Street, Zweibrucken Street, Zweitzer Street, Oldenburg Street, Vienna Street, Berlin Street and Jefferson Street respectfully petition your honorable body to change the names of said streets as follows: Freyberg Street to Cleveland Street, Zweibrucken Street to Lincoln Street, Zweitzer Street to Garfield Street, Oldenberg Street to Jefferson Street, Vienna Street to Hamilton Street, Berlin Street to Webster Street, Jefferson Street to Grant Street. The petition was signed by Frank Busse, Freyberg Street; Louis Ley, Zweibrucken Street, and C. H. Dickman of Zweitzer Street, Oldenberg Street, Vienna Street and Berlin Street; and Elizabeth Kramer, Jefferson Street.

Minster's Downtown Parks

There were four public parks created when Minster was platted in 1833, each 60 feet wide by 207 feet long.

The present day North Park on the northeast corner of Fourth and Lincoln streets was intended for a "court house". The present day South Park across the street was for a marketplace and was used as such for a time in the 1850's.

The parks on the northwest and southwest side of Fourth and Garfield streets were originally intended for Catholic and Protestant churches.

* Friday, January 9, 1925. A notice that at a meeting of the Minster Village Council the members heard a report from the Treasurer to the effect that the town is absolutely broke. With this condition to be reckoned with it was agreed that the ship of state should be steered cautiously so that the wrecking shoals could be avoided. With current expenses to be met it will be up to the members of the city board to either borrow money or ask their employees and their local officers to grant them credit until the February draw from the county treasury.

* The results of a village wide community survey conducted by the Minster Jaycees and village council were published in the June 16, 1966 issue of the Community Post. Some of the questions were: Would you like to see a public swimming pool in Minster? 324 yes, 70 no, 23 no answer. Would you be willing to pay a monthly fee of $5 to $6 to receive 12 channels on your TV? 66 yes, 321 no, 20 no answer. Would you be in favor of a Protestant Church in Minster? 181 yes, 161 no, 75 no answer. Would you like to put the canal underground? 182 yes, 175 no, 60 no answer. Do you presently work in Minster? 249 yes, 124 no, 44 no answer. Would you like to see zoning laws in Minster? 185 yes, 140 no, 92 no answer.

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Minster Police Department

7 N. Hanover St.

Village of Minster — Constables, Marshals, Patrolman & Chiefs of Police.

1839 — 1849 — H. WILLOH
1848 — Unknown — B. H. WENDELN
1848 — Unknown — ANTON WENDELN
1849 — 1859 — H. KNOSTMAN — Note: In 1854 an ordinance was passed to change Constable to Marshal and designate his power & duties.
1850 — 1851 — HENRY TANGEMAN
1851 — 1859 — J. F. LAMPING
1859 — 1861 — J. P. DORSTEN
1861 — 1868 — J. KLATTE
1868 — 1871 — AUGUST BUSCH
1871 — 1873 — HERMAN HERKENHOFF
1873 — 1875 — HENRY BUSSE
1875 — 1877 — HERMAN HERKENHOFF
1877 — 1878 — C. H. DICKMAN
1878 — 1888 — BERNARD TANGEMAN
1889 — 1891 — JOHN DORSTEN
1891 — 1893 — B. J. TANGEMAN
1893 — 1894 — JOHN SCHULTE
1894 — 1898 — H. C. DREES
1898 — 1916 — JOSEPH BRUNEGRAFF
1916 — 1929 — GEORGE SCHMIEDER
1929 — 1940 — HARRY GEBHART
1940 — 1949 — ELMER GERWELS
1942 — 1960 — WALLACE OLDIGES
1942 — 1962 — RALPH POEPPELMAN
1943 — 1961 — LAWRENCE SCHEMMEL
1946 — 1951 — RALPH MEHMERT
1948 — 1973 — GEORGE HOFFMAN
1962 — 1969 — STEVEN HEIL
1963 — 1964 — MICHAEL KNABILE
1964 — 1965 — RICHARD WITMAN
1969 — 1969 — ROBERT BERGMAN
1968 — PRESENT — WILLIAM POEPPELMAN
1969 — PRESENT — LAWRENCE MURTZ
1971 — 1974 — MICHAEL WILLIAMSON
1973 — PRESENT — JAMES HARTING
1974 — 1975 — JERRY WROBLEWSKI
1975 — PRESENT — RUSSELL HARTING
1976 — 1977 — WILLARD WOEHRMYER
1976 — PRESENT — DONALD BERGMAN
1976 — PRESENT — VERNON VONDENHUEVEL
1977 — 1978 — PAUL McDANIEL
1978 — PRESENT — DAVID STRICKER
1978 — PRESENT — ANITA HARTING
1980 — PRESENT — LARRY KINNINGER

* The first office of Dr. R.A. Rulmann, a Minster physician for 52 years (1881-1933) was located in the current Sherman Drug Store building. Dr. Rulmann was also known for his leadership in many community activities.

* In the 1850 and 1860 Minster Census there were no saloon keepers. By 1900, there were eight.

Income Tax Adopted By Village Council

In 1966 and 1967 there was a great deal of discussion at village council meetings pro and con on the establishment of a village income tax.

The momentum swung in favor of such a tax, at least among a majority of council members, when village residents defeated a 5-mill operating levy in November 1967.

At their December meeting council passed the third and what they thought would be the final reading of an ordinance to establish a 1% village income tax beginning in April, 1968.

In January, 1968, however a citizen's group presented council with a referendum petition halting action on the tax. The delay was shortlived however for in February council passed an emergency ordinance to enact the tax beginning in April, 1968.

Partial Abstract of Real and Personal Property in Minster Village 1915

Property	Number		Value	Average
Horses	122	$	8,945.	$ 73.
Cattle	35		1,225.	35.
Mules & Asses	13		1,420.	109.
Sheep	3		15.	5.
Hogs	68		395.	6.
Automobiles	35		11,940.	362.
Motor Trucks	4		3,350.	837.
Motorcycles	2		150.	75.
Office Furniture			4,370.	
Pianos & Player Pianos	78		8,470.	111.
Organs & Victrolas	1		170.	170.
Merchandise			75,060.	
Raw Material			101,740.	
Moneys			28,420.	
Credits			65,180.	
Banks			30,510.	
Total, including household goods, etc.			$381,650.	
Public utilities			34,430.	
Real Estate			887,960.	
Grand Total			$1,304,040.	

Note: Not figured to cents.

* William Poeppelman was sworn is as Village Police Chief in January 1970. He presently retains that position.

* In May 1968 Minster Village Police got their first radar unit.

* In January, 1967 Minster Village council gave final approval to the establishment of a police auxiliary in Minster.

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Minster Schools

By Elmer Gough, Superintendent

In 1833 the first boys' school was built on Lot No. 42, Block B. Here Mr. M. Boehmer taught the three R's.

Several years later the girls were also admitted to this school which was then taught by the good and capable Teacher Schemmel.

By 1848 Rev. Brunner arranged to have the Sisters take charge of the education of the girls of the neighborhood. Accompanied by their superioress, Sister Rosa Schlupf the three teachers, Sister Albertina Schleinzer, Sister Victoria Wunderle and Sister Adelaide Schmerge came to establish a school for girls. The Religious had no convent but were housed in a private home which also served as the school and which was located on Lot 54, Block A.

The undertaking, accompanied by hardships and great inconveniences was interrupted by the siege of the dreadful cholera which ravaged the town and extinguished many families. It would have been wanton imprudence to expect that the Sisters, all frail in health, should remain exposing themselves unnecessarily to the deadly disease. Not through cowardly fear, but in obedience to the orders of Superiors they closed the school and retired to the convent at Maria Stein. As soon as the plague subsided they returned and resumed their work with zeal and devotion in the home of Mr. Schemmel who had died without heirs.

This was located on Lot No. 40, Block C and continued in use until 1867 when the St. Theresa's School for Girls was erected on Lots 45 and 46, Block D. It was a two story structure and 40 x 70 feet in its dimensions. Albert Vanden Brock had the masonry contract and he was assisted by Jacob Vanderhorst; Theodore Goehr was the master carpenter, while Edward Koverman and Bernard Fischer acted as his assistants. The brick was delivered at the site by Bernard Ortman and the sand was brought to Minster from Lockington by a canal boat in charge of Captain Bernard Barhorst. Among the persons who attended school in Minster during the first year were:

Marie Woehrmyer Bernhold, Maria Berting Kruse, Elizabeth Helmsing Goeke, Amelia Vallo Schmieder, Agnes Drees Hoying, Catherine Depweg Thiedick, Elizabeth Bockrath Fischer, Anna Meyer Wernsing, Mary Hinders Lambers, Elizabeth Bensman Meyer, Mary Meyer Decker, Josephine Pieper Knostman, Mary Kramer Drees, Elizabeth Fortman Horstman, Jane Schemmel Fischer, Agnes Haverbeck Reising, Clara Schafer Heckman, Anna Senger Roettgerman, Anna Wendeln Koester, Carolina Stern, Kate Brandewie, Frances Schafer Rahm, Anna Vallo Vanderhorst, Sophia Koverman Haas, Jane Wuebker Bensman, Elizabeth Meyer Ripploh.

Of the teachers here Sisters M. Celia Lange, M. Josephine Bates, M. Victoria Magle, M. Mosuetta and M. Angeline are recalled by many.



This building was erected on the southwest corner of Fifth and Lincoln Streets in 1853 and used as Minster's first so called "free" school.

In 1853 a four room brick school building for boys was erected on the southwest corner of Fifth and Lincoln Sts. Mr. Sprehe explained the principles of learning here followed by Mr. Renfort, Mr. Collett and Mr. Schiffer. Beginning in 1880 and continuing for a period of sixteen years Mr. John Horst had charge of this school. Assistant teachers under Mr. Horst during these years were Aloys Roessner, J. H. Reitmeyer, Frank Hackman and B. Sherman.

Set into its east wall is a stone reading: "District School No. 1, 1853" for this was originally Minster's first so-called "free" school.

As required by Ohio's new Constitution (1852) Minster citizens had elected a Board of Directors for School District No. 1 of German Township. (Jackson Township was formed from German in 1858.) Members elected were Dr. J.P. Schmieder, Fred Ruemping and Clemens Stueve. In May of 1853 they decided to construct a new four-room school for the 73 boys and 64 girls then enrolled, and to levy a tax of four mills for construction plus one and one half mills for operation.

In June a site was purchased for $58 from B.H. Nienberg on the southwest corner of 5th and Zweibrucken (Lincoln) Streets - the location of the present elementary building. There was some difficulty getting bricks. On June 25 arrangements were made to purchase 40,000 bricks from B. Wiggerman. Two days later a contract was made with J.H. Steinemann for "20-25 thousand bricks from his old kiln and remainder as needed when the new kiln was heated". Presumably neither could furnish the bricks for agreement was reached on July 2nd with Wilhelm Finke of New Bremen for the bricks. A contract was also made with Conrad Fleckenstein for carpentry and materials for $485, and the Board hired Ambrose Britsch as brick-

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layer since no Minster bricklayers were available.

During the Fall, H. Elbert agreed to rent a room to the District at $4.50 per month until the new building would be ready; Ambrose Britsch was paid $125 upon completion of the foundation; other payments were made for hauling sand and brick. In January $232.39 was paid to Wilhelm Finke for the 68,350 bricks used. Various amounts went for lime, sand, plaster laths and labor. April found the building still unfinished.

The school finally opened its doors with the school term of September, 1854, and continued in use until 1894 when it was moved to lot 43, block B site to make room for a new building. Subjects taught in 1854 were Reading, Penmanship, Arithmetic, Geography and Grammar. Some local citizens still know the building as the "boys" school.

1894 (Translated from an article in the first issue of the "Minster Voksfreund". December 28, 1894, by Henry Eickholt, Editor-Publisher.)

"The new school house is now nearing completion. It is a splendid building of which Minster can be proud. For some time a new school house for Minster has been needed. The old school, which was built about 40 or 45 years ago, was originally large enough - even too large - but Minster has grown and the building has become inadequate. Therefore the School Board resolved to erect a new building. This Board, consisting of A.W. Gerwels, Dr. R.A. Rulman, Fred Kraemer Jr., John Fortmann, Joseph Knostmann and Henry Bockrath, deserves every credit for its spirit in undertaking this great task.

On June 2, 1894, the contract was let to Mr. Bernard Kokenge who had submitted the best and lowest bid. On June 20th the work was begun and the foundation laid. The masons started work on June 28th. The walls rose rapidly under the efficient direction of Mr. Kokenge and the building is now under roof. It contains eight beautiful spacious rooms and a hall. The floor of the lower five rooms is of cement, the work of Joseph Ziegler, an artist in his craft. That the material used for this building is the best obtainable must be credited to Mr. Kokenge.

About 300 benches which are in excellent condition will be taken from the old school, and about 100 new ones will be purchased. Although it is almost finished the building will not be used before next summer."

The following week an article appeared in the "Volksfreund" telling of an accident at the school. A roofer fell from a height of 37 feet while working and was carried on a stretcher to J.B. Zumbroegel's hotel. (This hotel was located west of the Fourth Street bridge on the north side.) He was seriously hurt, but was expected to return to work after a period of convalescence at his parent's home in Lima.

The above items referred to the school which was opened in September, 1895, only to be entirely gutted by fire in February 1905. After the fire the school was rebuilt and it is still in use.

In 1903 Mr. John Laufersweiler was elected president of the school board with F. Fisher, J. Horst, B. Nagel, Mr. Merusing and C.H. Dickman serving as board members and clerk. The superintendent was F.J. Boerger.

The state examined the school district records and found them to be satisfactory.

In 1904, the same men remained on the board. A levy was passed with 6 mills going for tuition, 1.5 mills for the school house and 3.25 mills for bond and interest.

The superintendent's salary was $750 per year. The teacher of boys received $70.00 per month and the teacher of girls received $40.00 per month.

Textbooks were purchased from Ginn and Company in exchange for used books: Elements of Geography, 39¢ each, exchanged price; Lawler's Essentials of American History, 60¢ each.

A four foot wide sidewalk was laid on Zweibrucken Street by Ley Gerling for 15½¢ per square foot.

1905 — FIRE OF THE MINSTER SCHOOLS. Shortly after 7:00 a.m. on Friday, February 3, 1905, Minster's fire alarm sounded and the word was quickly passed that the school was on fire (a dream come true for many a small schoolboy!) The fire had been discovered by the janitor. The few pupils already in the building safely escaped while the janitor and a few others attempted to extinguish the blaze "between the floors" with buckets of water. This failed and thickening smoke plus building vibrations soon drove them out also.

Both the Citizen's Fire company and the Cataract Fire Company promptly responded to the alarm, though the Cataract Company's apparatus was frozen and took a while to activate. Firefighters from Ft. Loramie and New Bremen were summoned by telephone and a second alarm was sounded for our villagers. By 8:00 a.m. it was apparent that the beautiful school, pride of the community, was doomed. The flames had travelled swiftly upward between the double walls and the roof was now ablaze. It was possible to save only a few school books from the eastern portion of the building.

The firefighters battled in vain, and about 9:00 it was decided to quit wasting water and attend to neighboring buildings. The roof of the Rulmann residence did ignite several times but these flames were quickly extinguished. Fortunately there was almost no wind. Saddened citizens stood by helplessly as this largest fire in the town's history raged.

The school had been built in 1894 for $20,000 and was considered one of the finest in the county, its only defect being the double walls concealing heating and ventilating ducts which enabled the inferno to spread so rapidly. Various improvements had boosted present value to $25,000, $21,500 of this covered by insurance. $8,000 debt still remained. Burned also were: 442 benches, 500 volume library; almost all pupils' textbooks; many valuable school district records; personal libraries of Teachers F.J. Boerger and L.W. Sullivan; maps, charts, and geological and zoological specimens. Source of the fire remained unknown for the janitor and first arrivals were not able to shed any light. A rumor hinting at arson was soon dismissed.

School resumed on Monday, February 20, in temporary classrooms, seven arranged in the old St. Theresia's School, one in the office of the Minster Fire Insurance Company on Lincoln St., and one in the north sacristry of the church. Not all of the new schoolbooks, paid for in part by volunteer contributors had yet arrived. These arrangements were clumsy but the citizens were grateful to be able to do this at all and doubly grateful that no one had been injured in the catastrophe.

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The School Board consisting of John Horst, president, S.A. Haverbeck, vice-president, C.H. Dickman, clerk, Bernard Nagel, and Joseph Beckman took immediate steps to rebuild. Mr. Kramer of Columbus declared that the outer walls were structurally sound. It was decided to rebuild the interior into ten classrooms. At an emergency election on March 20th, a $10,000 bond issue passed easily, 160-yes; 13-against. The contract was awarded May 23rd to Wm. Brodbeck, St. Marys, Ohio for the sum of $16,937.32. During the rest of this year and the first part of 1906 school sessions were conducted in the old St. Theresia's School and various other places. By December the roof was enclosed and work proceeded without delay. Pupils and teachers moved into their new quarters on Monday, March 12, 1906.



Minster's oldest school building still in use as a school. It was erected in 1906 after the previous one on this site was destroyed by fire.

The term was opened on September 3, 1906 in the rebuilt building with the following teachers: Hugo J. Anthony, superintendent, F.J. Boerger, principal, Sisters M. Angelina, Thonella, Felicia, Anna, Dulla, Alarda and Philomena. The payroll for eight teachers and the superintendent was $443 per month.

A lightning rod was placed on the school building for $96.00. Coal was purchased for $2.00 per ton. Marshall B. Ahrns was appointed to serve as truant officer.

In 1907, board members remained the same for this term. A total of 13 mills went to support the school: 7 mills, tuition; 2.5 mills, school house; 3.5 mills, bond and interest.

A five year contract with St. Johns in Maria Stein, Mercer County was signed in 1908 to teach Patterson elementary graduates for $20 per student per term. Mr. Ed Steinemann was appointed to fill the board vacancy created by the death of S.A. Haverbeck.

The high school, in 1909, was given a first grade rating by the state of Ohio. This has been maintained each year since.

The first class graduated from the high school in May. Graduates were Frank W. Dine, Charles Kaiser and Lawrence Steinemann.

George Van Oss was appointed to fill the vacancy on the board upon the death of J. Horst in August.

All members remained on the board in 1910. In January the superintendent and ten teachers received a total salary of $703.00.

The clerk of the board was appointed to perform the duties of the treasurer of the district. The Citizens Bank of Minster was to be the official depository. Three Oliver typewriters were purchased for $187.00.

In 1911, graduation honors were conferred upon Sister Mary Angeline. She had taught in the school system for 24 years at that time.

Mr. A.H. Knapke became principal of the high school in 1912. Sister M. Angeline completed her twenty-fifth year as a teacher in the local schools.

A contract was awarded to J.C. Halsema for the school year 1913-1914 for the position of local superintendent.

The 1914 school board consisted of George Van Oss, president, C.H. Dickman, clerk, Ed Steinemann, Frank Eiting and Joseph Beckman. The Citizens Bank became the Minster State in February of this year and the depository for school funds.

In February the Minster Village School District united with the Jackson Township School District and the Jackson Township Special School District.

In March Mr. Van Oss resigned from the school board and Mr. Henry Ruemping accepted the appointment as president. The Minster District united with Deiters Special School District and the Dirksen Special School. Taxation was as follows: $5,000.00 for tuition; $500.00 for the school house; $1,500.00 for bonds and interest.

The September 1915 payroll of the superintendent and twelve teachers amounted to $841.00. According to a new law, the school must purchase all supplies and books. They have, heretofore, been bought by the pupils. The North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools honored the high school by selecting it as a member.

In 1916, Mr. Ed Steinemann was elected president of the school board to replace Henry Ruemping who resigned in October. Frank Schmuecker replaced Joseph Beckman on the board.

A resolution was passed by the Board of Education that a student must have an average grade of 65% to pass to the next grade.

The 1917 enrollment for this year was 319 students in the elementary and 85 students in the high school, a total of 404. Mr. J.C. Halsema and Mr. A.H. Knapke served as administrators in the capacities of superintendent and principal. Minster High School graduated 11 people this year.

The Board of Education was headed by Edward Steinemann as president, C.H. Dickman, clerk. Other members were F. Eiting, F. Schmuecker, and F. Thieman. Mr. J.H. Henke served as Auglaize County Superintendent of Schools.

Mr. Henke complimented the school on their meritorious work as shown at the Auglaize County Fair. The high school and all the grades won first place in class A and a number of pupils won individual prizes.

$65-$75 per month was paid to a high school teacher and $40-$45 to each grade school teacher. A total of $841 per month was paid in salaries including the principal and superintendent.

At the September meeting the board voted to admit pupils to the first grade who would be six on or before February 2, 1918. Teachers' salaries were raised about $10 per month. Mr. Landall was hired in November to teach drawing in the high school for $5.00 per month.

The Minster High School Alumni Association was

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organized in 1918. The graduating class was comprised of 16 students. Mr. Halsema and Mr. Knapke were again hired in the same positions with Mr. Knapke accepting the additional duties of teaching in the high school.

The clerk's salary was raised to $75.00 per year. All needed monies were borrowed from the Minster Bank at 6% interest.

Twelve students were graduated from our high school in 1919. The superintendent, Mr. Halsema, was given a 3-year contract and the teachers were given a $5.00 raise in salary. All personnel on the board, the administration and the clerk remained as in the previous year.

In July, the Board of Education hired J.C. Halsema to teach an evening class in shop mathematics and Mrs. Charles Hampeau to teach girls in sewing for 24 weeks, one lesson per week. Each teacher received $144.00 for these services.

In September the board voted to sell bonds for refunding the deficiencies of the district.

The 1920 Board of Education employed eleven teachers plus the superintendent and the high school graduated eleven students.

In July, a meeting was held with the Minster village council, the deputy county auditor and the board to decide about an extra levy. This was not to exceed 3 mills and would be used to dissolve the school's indebtedness. It was determined to ask for 2 mills for 5 years. The August voting results were: 273, Yes; 71, No.

This was the year the Ohio Teachers Retirement system was begun.

The 1921 board and the administration remained the same.

In 1922, Mr. Edward Steinemann served as president of the school board, Frank Schmuecker, vice president, C.H. Dickman, clerk-treasurer. New members were Loretta Laufersweiler and Joseph Stueve. The board voted a resolution deeming it unnecessary to transport pupils living more than two miles from the schools.

Fourteen seniors were graduated.

Mr. Ed Westerheide was hired in 1923 to furnish taxi service for certain pupils to and from school (families of George Baumer, Fred Wuebker and Joseph Stueve). Mr. Westerheide received $3.75 per day.

Fourteen teachers were employed and eighteen seniors graduated.

In April the Board passed a resolution to uphold the state requirement that students must have 2 years of Latin or German for graduation.

In 1924 the Board of Education once again elected E. Steinemann as president. C.H. Dickman, clerk, Mr. Frank M. Oldiges, George H. Knostman, new members, and Loretta Laufersweiler completed the unit. A motion was passed to charge $15.00 per pupil for out of district tuition. The graduation class had fifteen members.

The average salary for grade school teachers was $88.88 per month. High school teachers received an average salary of $140.00 to $155.00.

In May, 1925, the board moved to increase the out of district tuition for high school pupils to $5.00 per month.

Superintendent Halsema's salary was set at $3500.00 and Principal Knapke's at $1800.00 per year. Teachers' salaries remained the same. Twenty-two students graduated this year.

Mr. C.H. Dickman continued as clerk in 1926 but no longer served as a board member. Mr. F.M. Oldiges was elected president, George Knostman, vice-president, Loretta Laufersweiler, Charles Heckman and Charles Nagel completed the board.

A contract was accepted with the Berlin School District (Ft. Loramie), Shelby County, to accept high school pupils at $45.00 per pupil during the 1926-27 school term.

In 1927, pupils from the Deiters School District (Shelby County) and Dirkson Special School District (Shelby County) were accepted as students in the Minster School District.

Twenty-one persons graduated this year. A motion was passed to permit pupils to enter the first grade who have reached 6 years of age by January 16, 1928.

An additional high school teacher was employed and E.F. Westerheide contracted to transport pupils for $140.00 per month. Mr. F.J. Behrns was hired to teach in the Deiters School District in 1927-28. All properties were transferred to the Minster district effective September 29, 1927.

The 1928 enrollment for the elementary grades was 317; the high school was 175. Minster graduated 23 students.

Busses were purchased for transporting students. Messrs. Westerheide and Busse agreed to drive. Mr. Westerheide was to be paid $120 and Mr. Busse, $140. John Schmiesing agreed to transport some students for $2.00 per day and Joe Thieman would transport others for $1.00 per day.

The board moved to contract with Ft. Loramie Board of Education to admit their high school students to Minster School District for a tuition of $45.00 per student for the 9-month term.

George Knostman, board member, resigned from the board in October as he was moving to Lima, Ohio. Harry Lehmkuhl was appointed to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.

In 1929, it was agreed to rent the Deiters Special School to the Community Club for $25.00 a year. Rent of $2.50 was to be paid each time the trustees used the building for elections.

Twenty-one graduated this year.

The 1930 enrollment has increased to a total of 516 students. Thirty persons were graduated.

The board voted to provide necessary equipment for the high school pupils. The Board of Education instructed the superintendent to engage an architect to make sketches and plans for the necessary new high school building. On June 23 it was voted to employ Ferd Freytag, architect, to make the sketches and drawings without cost or expense to the board.

Mr. Frank Klob, attorney, was employed to prepare a tentative lease to lease a certain property from the St. Augustine church for a new high school. The board voted to buy property to make possible a play area for the school.

The Board decided to present bonds in the amount of $80,000 for a new high school building and $8,000 for equipment at the November 4, 1930 election. The bonds were not to exceed 6 per cent annum interest.

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The election returns showed 566 for the new school and 279 against. A levy of taxes was made, as estimated by the county auditor, to average 2.012 mills for a maximum period of 22 years. The budget for the school year was $26,856 for expenditures and $3,374,380 valuation.



Presently used as a primary school building today, this building was erected in 1931 as a high school.

The 1931 roll of Board members read: Frank Oldiges, president; Charles Heckman, vice-president; Frank Schmuecker, Charles Nagel, Harry Lehmkuhl. The superintendent was J.C. Halsema and the principal A.H. Knapke. Minster high school had 168 students and the elementary numbered 351.

Ferd Freytag, architect of Sidney, Ohio, presented the completed plans and specifications for the construction of a fireproof high school building in the Minster School District. These were accepted by the Board of Education.

In February it was voted to accept the lease from St. Augustine's church for block D of inlots 46, 47, and 48 for the term of 49 years beginning March 1, 1931 and ending February 28, 1980 at the rate of $350 per year in advance at semi-annual installments due on the 1st day of March and September of each year. This land was selected as the site of the new high school.

The reconstructed existing school was renovated as an elementary school.

Mr. Joseph Melcher was hired as the general contractor for a fee of $66,554. The dedication of the new high school was held on New Year's Eve. The Board bought from the Sisters of the Precious Blood, lots 55, 56, 59, and 60 of blocks C & D for a playground for the sum of $1800.

Thirty-three students graduated from our school this year.

Mr. John Dues became president of the 1932 Board of Education. Frank Schmuecker served as vice president. Other members were Harry Lehmkuhl, Charles Heckman and Charles Nagel. 349 students were enrolled in the elementary and 165 in the high school for a total enrollment of 514. C.H. Dickman died and Mr. Lehmkuhl was appointed to fill the unexpired term of the clerk.

Bills of sale for the buses owned by Busse and Westerheide were transferred to the Board and the licenses were then freed. Said buses were to be used only for the transportation of students.

32 students graduated this year.

The Board moved to sell the Dieters and the Dirkson schools. Mr. Barney Ortman bought the Dirkson School for $66.00 and the Deiters School was sold to the East Side Country Club for $387.00.

In December Harry Woehrmyer was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Frank Schmuecker who passed away.

In 1933, our enrollment remained the same and 36 students were graduated.

In September Ohio laws passed an authorization for school boards to establish and pay teacher and other school employees by payroll.

The 1934 roll of Board members read: John Dues, president, Dr. H.J. Gudenkauf, vice-president, Lawrence Naber, Robert Bensman, new members and Harry Lehmkuhl, clerk.

In September the Board voted to add an additional tax of 1 mill. This was to be voted on by the public at the next election in November.

The clerk's books were audited for the first time by the State Auditor.

At the December meeting the Board voted to participate in a county wide circulating library program of supplementary readers and library books for the elementary school. Each local district agreed to purchase and submit for circulation, not less than $25.00 worth of books or more than $50.00 worth, on or before September 1 of each year. Exchange of books made not less than 4 times or more than 8 times per year.

Twenty-five students graduated this year.

In September, 1935, the Board of Education authorized the transportation of all pupils in the Minster School District who live outside the corporation line.

The budget for the school year read: expenditures, $28,202; valuation, $2,093,030. Thirty-seven students graduated in 1935.

In 1936, the Minster State Bank was designated as a depository for the school funds. As the bank did not pay interest on commercial depository funds nor service such funds, the funds had remained in the Auglaize County Treasurer's Office.

In July, Mr. Freytag furnished specifications for sidewalks on the west side of the high school. Such plans included a 50' x 7' walk, four steps, two light posts and all wiring and materials for $293.00. Also to do all the walks and driveways on the north, east and south side of the high school including all materials for $295.00.

1937 enrollment reached a total of 540 this year. We graduated 29 students.

The board took an $80,000 earthquake insurance on the new high school building.

Hogenkamp and Bernhold were hired to paint the interior of the grade school building at 45¢ per hour. The Board allocated $30 for the use of a moving picture machine purchased by the County Board of Education.

1938 board members were: Harry Lehmkuhl, president; Lawrence Naber, vice-president, John Dues, John Prenger, Louis Hoying. Mr. Lehmkuhl also served as clerk. The board hired a college instructor to teach a course in Farm Management one evening a week for 10 weeks. The board will be reimbursed the $100 salary by the state.

36 students were graduated that year.

In 1939, a total of 526 students were enrolled; 322 in the elementary and 204 in the high school. The walls of

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the high school were waterproofed at a cost of $265 by H.F. Hegemier. Thirty-eight were graduated.

The 1940 Board authorized the purchase of a moving picture machine and screen for $300. Expenditures for the school year were: $38,046. The valuation for the year was: $2,450,000.

In 1941, Mr. John C. Halsema, who had served the Minster School as superintendent for more than a quarter of a century, passed away during the school year. Mr. Anthony Knapke, principal, was appointed by the board to act as superintendent for the remainder of the school year. On May 23rd the board met in a special session and elected Fred J. Behrns as superintendent of the Minster Schools for a 3-year period at a salary of $2,300.00.

The 1942 enrollment totaled 481. Mr. John G. Dues, president of the board, died during this year. Mr. Carl Eiting was appointed to fill the vacancy. Lawrence Naber took over the presidency. Thirty-one graduated.

In 1943, Mr. William Wagner was elected to fill the vacancy left by the death of Mr. Anthony Knapke, high school principal. Thirty-four students graduated.

The 1944 Board of Education remained the same. The enrollment totaled 486; 41 graduated.

In 1945, Mr. Urban Severin replaced Carl Eiting on the Board of Education. 466 were enrolled; 295 in the elementary and 171 in the high school; 28 students graduated. Miss Rita Meyer was hired as school secretary for the school term.

School was closed for three days due to illness. 177 elementary and 63 high school students were absent.

Expenditures for this year were $51,814. The evaluation was $2,825,000.

In 1946, Joseph Liening replaced John Prenger on the Board in January. The Board contracted with the Lima Plumbing and Heating Company to install a new horizontal type indirect heater for hot water and a circulating pump return line and stoker.

In January, 1947, Leo Frericks and Charles Wolf replaced Urban Severin and Harry Lehmkuhl. Mr. Lehmkuhl remained as clerk. Mr. John Herkenhoff took over as Board president.

The students staged a demonstration in February. Superintendent Behrns resigned and William Wagner was appointed superintendent for the remainder of the school year. Thirty-eight students graduated.

1948 enrollment totaled 494, elementary, 318 and high school 176. 36 students graduated. The Board unanimously elected F. Tom Lang as superintendent.

In 1949, 46 were graduated. The Board engaged Ferd Freytag to submit a sketch for a building of at least six rooms to be added to the present high school.

Forty graduated in 1950. Expenditures totaled $96,631. The valuation was $4,170,000. Enrollment reached 576; 377, elementary and 199, high school.

1951 enrollment up to 678; 488, elementary and 190, high school. 46 students graduated.

Knowlton Construction Company of Bellefontaine was awarded the general contract for the new addition for $93,350. The heating and plumbing contract was awarded to Lake Construction Company of Celina for $32,503 and the electrical installation to Heckler Hardware Company of Celina for $16,613 at a special meeting on March 22, 1951.

In 1952, a driver's education training course was introduced into the curriculum. James Stechschulte was hired to teach it.

45 students graduated.

In 1953, Mr. John Herkenhoff served as Board president, Leo Frericks, vice president, Lawrence Naber, Charles Wolf, and Clem Enneking, members. Harry Lehmkuhl remained as clerk.

During the 1952-53 school year a 12-room addition was built adjoining the high school to accommodate the rapidly expanding junior high enrollment. This made a total of 35 classrooms and 10 special rooms. Our enrollment now totaled 807. 39 students graduated.

In 1954, 39 students graduated.

The tax levy of November 5, 1955, passed by 80%; 852-for, 215-against.

Louise Bergman, a grade school teacher died during 1955.

52 students graduated. Expenditures totaled $130,546. Valuation listed as $5,990,000.

In 1956, 48 graduated. Enrollment was 663.

In 1957, the Board of Education remained the same. The superintendent, principal and clerk also remained the same. The 1957 tax levy passed as follows: 876-for; 85-against. 48 graduated.

Leo Frericks served as president and Charles Wolf as vice president of the 1958 Board of Education. Other Board members were: Norman J. Stueve, Raymond Bergman, Clem Enneking, and Harry Lehmkuhl, clerk.

46 graduates. The enrollment was 709. The elementary had 487 students and high school 222.

On November 1, 1959, Harry Lehmkuhl resigned as clerk. The Board expressed their sincere gratitude for his 31 years of service. He served 27 of these as clerk of the board. Norman J. Stueve became clerk of the Board.

The enrollment reached 725; elementary, 503 and high school 222. 55 graduated.

The Minster Schools received a bequest of $39,421.60 from the estate of the late Thomas R. Schoonover of Lima, Ohio.

In 1960, heads of the system remained the same. Total enrollment was 754. 58 graduated. Expenditures for the school year were $227,031, valuation $10,183,674.

The 1961 enrollment went to 896 students. 684 were in the elementary and 212 in the high school.

In July the Board met and discussed the closing of the Egypt school. The 1960-61 enrollment in the first six grades was 69. The estimated 1961-62 enrollment was 58 with 36 in the first four grades. The state would not make an exception to their ruling and it was decided to bring Egypt students into the Minster School starting with the next school year.

The Egypt school building was leased to the Egypt community.

An agreement was made with the Westerheide Motor Sales to lease a car to be used for Driver Education.

Sister Alicia Meiering was hired as grade school principal.

Charles Bensman was hired as the first guidance counselor.

Results of the renewal of the 4.6 mill operating levy were: 594-for, 200-against. This levy was for a 10 year period.

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The school system now used 4 buses to transport students.

A discussion was had regarding building an addition to the south side of the high school building.

50 students graduated.

The 1962 board members were: Ray Bergman, president; Charles Wolf, vice president; Norman Stueve, clerk; Clem Enneking and Leo Frericks.

Total enrollment: 807; elementary 595 and high school 212.

Permission was granted to the Civil Defense Administration to identify the tunnel connecting the high school building and the elementary building as a possible air shelter.

A citizens' advisory committee was formed to help plan the new high school. The Board contemplates issuing $875,000 of bonds, $15,000 for real estate, $733,000 for construction of a new senior high school building and $127,000 for furniture. This would be voted on at the November 6, 1962 election.

Thomas Bailey was appointed county superintendent on the death of L.F. Schumaker. In August it was voted to submit the tax levy for the new high school to the people which according to the County Auditor would be 5.15 mills throughout the life of the bonds. Roger Henkener, attorney was hired to act as legal advisor in all phases of the building program.

Membership was obtained in the airborne television instruction.

The results of the election of the bond issue were: 822-for and 611-against.

In 1963, total enrollment was 890; high school, 266 and 624, elementary. 34 teachers were employed.

Prospective sites for the new high school being considered are the south end of Route 66 (Paul Meyer's farm) and 7th Street (Schunck-Thieman and St. Augustine Orphan Society property). Freytag and Freytag of Sidney, Ohio were employed as architects.

In May the Citizens Committee and the Board of Education agreed on a compact floor design for the new high school.

Thomas Bailey, the county superintendent, advised us of a joint county meeting to discuss the vocational school.

Land was purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Ed Schunck for $8,000. The village was asked for incorporation of the school site. Thirteen acres were approved for purchase from the St. Augustine's Orphan Society for $15,000.

The bonds were sold to Hayden, Miller & Company of Cleveland, Ohio. The rate of 3⅛% interest per annum is to be paid.

The Egypt school was sold to the St. Joseph Church at Egypt for $600.00.

In September the J.C. Shappie Construction Company of Versailles was hired for the building construction.

In 1964, Robert Zimmerer replaced Charles Wolf on the Board of Education.

The enrollment reached 992; elementary, 758 and high school 234. Forty-nine graduated.

A gift of $2,648 for a language lab in the new high school was accepted from the Minster Machine Company.

Sunday, February 21, 1965 was set for open house for the new high school from 1-5 p.m. The dedication will be held on April 4 at 2:30 p.m.



The present Minster High School opened in 1965.

Enrollment totaled 1,031; elementary, 709 and the high school, 322. Expenditures for the year were $401,873; valuation was $12,852, 906.

Statistics on the new high school are:

450 student capacity; set on 27 acres; 55,804 sq. ft. floor space.

Cost:

Site, legal advertising & soil tests	$ 38,717.23
Architectural, educational consultant and bond counsel fees	51,140.88
Building and site work contracts	696,925.00
Equipment and installation	123,355.26
	$910,138.37

Ray Bergman retired from the Board in December after serving two terms; Clem Enneking after serving three terms.

Leo Frericks and Robert Zimmerer served as president and vice-president of the 1966 Board of Education. Other members were Norman J. Stueve, clerk, Roger Thieman and Melvin Vallo.

In March it was decided to put a new roof on the old grade school. The old Vocational Agriculture rooms were to be remodeled into kindergarten area. Freytag and Freytag was the architect and Victor Baumer the construction company.

In September a citizens' committee attended the board meeting and asked that a slow learners class be started for 1967-68 school term.

69 were graduated.

In 1967, enrollment raised to 1046.

A vote of thanks was made to Leo Frericks for completing 20 years as a member of the Board of Education. He was presented with an educational award. Mr. John Eiting was elected as the new member.

The elementary numbered 779 and the high school 337 students in 1968. 71 persons graduated. Forty-six teachers plus Superintendent F.T. Land and Principal Edmund G. Van Oss were employed.

The board members voted to discontinue further interest in the Joint Vocational School as planned by the counties south of our district. Discussion was held on the formation of a new citizens' group.

A slow learners interchange was formed with Marion and New Bremen to cover as many levels as possible.

A renewal of the recreational tax of .25 and an additional 3 mills for a continuing length of time for

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the financing of the school was brought before the voters.

The Board met with the village council to the location of a swimming pool being planned by the Minster council.

In 1969, 74 students were graduated from an enrollment of 1103. Forty-seven teachers were employed. On November 9 Coach Virgil Winglewich died.

The Board voted to become a part of the Auglaize-Mercer Joint Vocational School District as provided in the approved plan of the Ohio Board of Education.

The Minster Village Council proposed to exchange land they planned to purchase for a portion of school land to be used as the site of the new municipal swimming pool. This would be approximately one acre of land to be used as access to the new pool and parking lot.

The Board approved the suggestion made by the teachers and other employees that they be paid twice a month instead of monthly.

Mr. Robert Zimmerer served as president and John Eiting as vice president of the 1970 school board. Other members were: Paul Winner, Ben Hemmelgarn, Tom Bensman. Mr. Norman Stueve served served as clerk but was no longer a board member.

Superintendent F.T. Lang informed the Board that he and Mrs. Evelyn Lang had decided to retire at the end of the current school term.

Auglaize County hired a speech therapist and a psychologist for the local schools. The cost was prorated to each district on the basis of enrollment. Each would be part time.

In June the Board approved Mr. Thomas A. Knapke as the new superintendent. He was given a three year contract. Mr. Lang retired in July.

Expenditures for the year were $621,242. The valuation was $17,089,124.

By 1971, six buses transport 364 students in the district. The enrollment totaled 1073. 84 persons were graduated.

Mr. Robert Zimmerer advised the Board that he would be resigning to take a position in Ireland.

In 1972 Dr. James Reilly joined the Board to replace Mr. Zimmerer. In May Mr. John Eiting submitted his resignation for business reasons and Fred Boecker was appointed to fill the unexpired term (12/31/75).

88 students graduated.

The 1973 Board moved to become a part of the Auglaize-Mercer Joint Vocational School District as provided in the plan approved by action of the State Board of Education.

Thomas Knapke, superintendent, submitted his resignation effective as of July 31, 1973. He stated he was taking an administrative position with Leugers Insurance Company of Maria Stein.

The Board met in special session and employed Mr. Edmund G. Van Oss as superintendent for two years. Mr. Elmer Gough, of Flushing, Michigan, was hired as principal to take Mr. Van Oss's place.

In 1974, the scholarship plan, as presented by Board member Norbert Gudorf, was adopted.

Board members were Dr. James Reilly, president, Frederick Boecker, vice president, Paul Winner, Tom Bensman, and Norbert Gudorf.

By 1975, student-teacher ratio was 22 to 1. 68½ subjects offered in the high school. Ninety-nine students graduated.

Edmund Van Oss gave his notice of resignation, effective July 31, 1975. It was accepted by the Board of Education.

Mr. Elmer W. Gough accepted the position of superintendent effective August 1, 1975. Mr. Stanley Shopa was employed as the high school principal and will report for work on August 4, 1975.

The Board experienced the death of one of its members, Dr. James Reilly on July 2, 1975. Mr. Norman J. Stueve was appointed to fill the unexpired term, ending December 31, 1975.







On March 9, 1976 eight Minster High School students were killed in an accident. On Sunday, September 19 at 2 o'clock, Memorial Field was dedicated to these students: Joy L. Brandewie, Barbara Ann Olding, Anthony Kemper, Michael Kemper, Lester Ranly, Rebecca Ann Moorman, Scott Westerheide and Kenneth Sommer. This was a community project and almost everyone in the community donated some time and energy to working at the field. It is behind the high school building and contains a football field, all-weather track, and is fully equipped with lights, bleachers, press box, etc.

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At the dedication, comments of appreciation were made for the following:

Grandstand - Minster Machine Company; All-weather Track - Booster Club; Goal Posts - Progress Tool Company; Flagpole - Mrs. James Reilly; Fencing -Minster Fire Department; Pressbox - Vic Baumer Construction Company; Lighting - Minster Utilities Department; Concession Stand - Future Farmers of America; Time and Effort - Citizens of the Minster Local School District; Stone Monument & Plaque - St. Augustine's Orphan Society.

On December 5, 1976, three more students were killed in an automobile accident: James J. Quinlin, Jeffrey E. Bruns, and Thomas E. Meiring.

Notification was received assigning Minster to the Apollo Vocational School District for the school year 1976-77 on the basis of pupil-situation availability.

Expenditures for the school year — $886,809. Valuation — $21,107,167.

The 1976 Board of Education: Tom Bensman, president; Paul Winner, vice president; Norbert Gudorf, John Slonkosky, Frederick Boecker. Superintendent, Elmer Gough; Principal, Stanley Shopa; Clerk, Norman Stueve. The enrollment totaled 991 and 70 graduated.

In 1977, ninety-five persons graduated from a total of 988. Expenditures for the year were: $1,137,973. Valuation was: $32,804,911.



An exercise building was erected in 1978 behind the high school. This building houses elaborate exercise equipment donated by The Booster Club.

The 1978 school board elected Mr. John Slonkosky president. New Board members elected were Mr. Donald H. Schmitmeyer and Mr. Philip V. Monnin. On November 5th an exercise building with eleven exercise machines, donated by the Booster Club, was dedicated in memory of the 3 students who lost their lives in an automobile accident in December of 1976. The building was constructed by the Harold Dorsten Construction Company.

Seventy-three students graduated from a total school district enrollment of 944.

Expenditures for the year were: $1,175,220. Valuation was: $31,722,911.

The 1979 school board elected Mr. Fred Boecker as president.

In July, Mr. Francis J. Cain was selected as the high school principal.

The Minster High School girls track team were the Ohio State Girls Track champions for the 5th consecutive year.

Eighty-one students graduated from a total school district enrollment of 926.

Expenditures for the year were $1,260,777; valuation of the school district was $37,098,785.



August 10, 1980, the school building on N. Hanover Street sustained heavy damage when two trees were felled by a strong windstorm.

The 1980 school board elected Mr. Philip Monnin president. New board member elected was Mr. Virgil Moorman.

In August, Mr. Larry Prenger was selected to become the elementary principal replacing Sister Alicia Meiering who retired after nineteen years with our schools.

A course in computers was included in the high school curriculum, and Spanish was introduced in grades 4 through 8.

Eighty students graduated from a total school district enrollment of 926.

August 10th, a strong wind blew over two large trees and the flag pole in front of the grade school on Hanover Street.

The tennis court was resurfaced at a cost of $1,897. A four foot sidewalk was replaced on Lincoln Street between Melcher and Sixth Streets by Virgil Arling for $1.25 per square foot.

Expenditures for the year were: $1,398,263. Valuation was: $38,834,383.

Mr. Donald Schmitmeyer was elected president of the school board for 1981.

A course in psychology was included in the high school curriculum.

Color coating was placed on the tennis court at a cost of $1,765. Bids were accepted for the replacement

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of windows on the west side of the grade school and all exterior entrances at a cost of $56,335. Bids were also accepted for the replacement of the windows on the north side at a cost of $24,536.

Replacement of the doors began May 6, 1981 and was finished May 14, 1981. Replacement of the windows began May 11 and was completed the week of June 15, 1981. Bids were accepted for the replacement of windows on the south side of the grade school May 28, 1981 for a cost of $12,007. The work was to be completed the week of June 15, 1981.

Valuation of the school district was $40,270,840.

From the earliest times the schools have been a reflection of the high standards the people have placed on education and the quality of life. Each student who has pursued their educational goals in the Minster Local Schools has been very fortunate.

* Ohio Governor James A. Rhodes made a campaign swing through Minster September 13, 1966. The Governor's stay in Minster lasted about ½ hour during which time he toured the Minster Canning Co. and met with Republican Committeemen, village officials and representatives of the local school system, industries and civic organizations.

* Jim Stechschulte, science and math teacher at Minster was appointed to teach the first driver education course at Minster High School in March, 1953. He's still teaching it today.

* In 1956, "The Lone Ranger Rides Again" was playing at the Crescent Theatre.

* Friday, September 8, 1922 The Minster Post: "The new fangled steel cars now being run over the Minster branch of the Western Ohio Railway Co. will carry about the same number of passengers as the wooden coaches. It is agreed that there is less danger of a wholesale human slaughter in case of a serious accident with this sort of a coach in use than when the old kind was carrying the passengers.

MINSTER

Minster, Auglaize County, Ohio, has about 1800 inhabitants. Surrounded by fertile farm land, and well known market center. Has fine public schools, finest church in Auglaize County, municipal electric light and water plant, banks, factories, wide streets, plenty of water for manufacturing plants. The best community to live in, and here in Minster I will offer

FOR SALE

ON THE 15th DAY OF AUGUST, 1912

Beginning at 1 o'clock P. M. an addition to Minster comprising

23 LOTS

One has a brick house and stable, also out buildings. All splendidly located ½ square from the principal business street, 3 squares from church and school, right opposite the largest factory and foundry in the city. Every young man or young lady should buy one of these lots, it will be the safest investment one can make. For laborers and employees this plan of getting to be sole owner of a town lot is the easiest. The lots will be sold to the highest responsible bidder.

The payments are two dollars down and one dollar per week thereafter until paid. When sick you need not keep up your payments for 60 days should your sickness last that long. Buy a lot, get in the swim, be up-to-date, you never regret it. You will have the lot paid for and never miss it. The Minster Loan & Savings Co. will build a house for you. Get your own home and your wife (if you have one, if not get one) will call you a manager and be the more pleased with you. Be an independent American, do not look to father nor mother-in-law for help but help yourself.

Here is the best opportunity. Be at the sale. Don't forget the date nor time, familiarize yourself with the way lots are sold and you will see it as we do. Come to Stallo addition near Lake Erie & Western depot. All business transacted in an honorable and up-to-date way. Come yourself and bring your neighbor.

J. E. HAMBURGER

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Then And Now

Remembrances of Minster

(Editor's Note: The two articles that follow were first published in 1960 by The St. Marys Evening Leader. Writer Andrew Kay interviewed a Minster resident, Mrs. Caroline Arkenberg Zumbragel of Minster.)

Mrs. Caroline Zumbragel, Minster, Recalls Many Events Of Early Days and Tells Thrilling Story Of Preventing Robbery of Minster Bank By 13 Robbers in November, 1901

Mrs. Caroline Arkenberg Zumbragel of Minster will be 86 on her next birthday, but you would never know it by looking at her or hearing her talk. She has escaped the ravages of advanced age as few people have. She has so many interesting recollections that we'll plunge right into them.

"I was born Oct. 15, 1864 in Shelby County, between Minster and Fort Loramie, in a 1 room log house. Although it was a 1 room house, there was a balcony at one end, on which the boys (my 5 brothers) slept. I can still see our fire place. We had no stove. In the fireplace was a hook on which you would hang the kettle or the coffee pot. When I was 4 years old my father got one of the first horse drawn mowers around there. I was following the mower one day. I saw a nice red apple in the grass, just ahead of the sicle bar and I jumped over to get it. The sicle bar caught me in the foot, just below the ankle, made an awful gash, and cut the tendon in my left foot. It all went so quick. It bled terribly. Father carried me to the house. Mother was just coming out of the cellar with a big crock of milk. When she saw me she fainted, dropping and breaking the milk crock. Father laid me on the kitchen table and took care of mother first. He made a bandage to stop the bleeding, and then, on horseback, went to New Bremen to get a doctor. So as a youngster I was somewhat crippled and missed out on a lot of play. I got to school at Fort Loramie just occasionally, because I couldn't get there unless father would take me on horseback. So they put me in the convent school at Minster. They conducted a boarding school for girls in those days, and it cost $8.00 a month. But later I got a shoe with an iron brace in it and that helped a lot. After three years of school at the convent, I stayed home and helped with the work.

"Near our house there was a swamp where the grass grew extra high. That's where we had to go to milk the cows. One night I was milking by myself. I had one pail full and was bringing a second pail full back. And there were two great big milk snakes, drinking the milk out of the pail. That was one of the two worse scares that I ever had." We asked about the other one. "It concerned a snake too. Mother had aired out bed clothes, and laid the pillows out in the sun. Later in the afternoon she put them back on the bed. When my sister and I went to bed that night and when I laid my head on the pillow, I jumped up and said 'There's something in my pillow.' We thought it might be a mouse. We called father, and he lighted a candle and came in. Mother came too. He put his hand on the pillow, and there WAS something in it. I was just a young girl yet. Father pulled off the pillow case, and out came a snake, onto the floor. Father stomped it to death. It had crawled into a hole in the pillow and mother had carried it into the house. That scared me so that I didn't sleep in that bed for a whole year."

Her father and mother both came from Germany and both lived in Cincinnati. Her mother was a milliner, and she wove women's straw hats out of straw. Her father met her there and fell deeply in love with her. "But father didn't have much money. He and a group of others bought a covered wagon and four mules, plus spades and picks and barrels of supplies including barrels of flour and "speck". They traveled over land as far as San Francisco. On the way over they had to cross the Platte River on a raft. Here was quote: "While crossing the river on a raft, there were a lot of alligators in the river. One big fellow snapped one of the boys and pulled him under the water and that was the last they saw of him." The rest of the party did well in the gold fields. Her father's share of "gold dust" netted him $9,000 in cold cash. They liked it in San Francisco and it was only the girl friend in Cincinnati that lured him back. He made her very happy, — happy by returning, and not at all unhappy when he displayed his $9,000 young fortune before her admiring eyes. So they were married and bought their farm, at first a smaller one and thereafter one of 204 acres. "Father had been around a little, and he did real well. Other people would drive their hogs to the shipping point and get maybe 1½¢ a pound for them. But father would hire a canal boat and take his hogs direct to market in Cincinnati. There he got as much as three to four cents a pound for them. I had five brothers at home, we had several hired men all the year round, and in summer we had much more help. Sometimes we had as many as 20 people at our table." Her father also bought a tract of land in what is today Minster, and he gave the grounds on which St. Augustine Church today stands, to that congregation. Later his children gave the ground for what is today their parking lot.

Mrs. Zumbragel distinctly remembers the first picnic that she attended. "We had a big cornfield. Father said to my sister and me, if you girls will thin the corn in that field, and replant all missing hills before July 4th, I will give you each a dime to go to the picnic with. So father counted out the rows and told us how many rows we would have to finish each day. Well

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—we got it done. On the morning of July 4th we each got our dime, and as a surprise to us, we each got a new calico dress. My but we were happy! So, to the picnic at Fort Loramie we went, each with a dime in our pockets. The first thing we bought was ice cream. You got a heaping dish full for a nickle. Then half our money was gone. Then we each bought 1¢ worth of cookies. They were 6 for 1¢. After that we got a penny worth of stick candy each, 6 sticks for a penny. Then we each had 3 cents left, and didn't know how to spend it, and had a wonderful time, all for 7 cents!"

She continued working at home until she had grown to womanhood. "At that time my father wanted to tear down the old log barn and build one with board siding. The carpenter who did the work had a young man working for him who had just come from Germany, and whose name was Zumbragel. He talked to us in such an interesting way about Germany and his trip across, that we just listened and listened." But he must also have been aware of excellent audience response on the part of at least one audition. That was Caroline Arkenberg. In short, about a year later they were married. They moved to Minster where they conducted a boarding house during the time of the oil boom. They boarded as many as 30 oil field workers at one time. They had only 5 beds and they slept two to a bed, and slept in relays, 4 men to a bed, two sleeping during the day, two at night. For the rest of the men we found places among the neighbors. The men who built derricks got $1.00 a day. The drillers and tool dressers got $1.50 a day. They paid us $3.50 a week for room and board and we made out real well with it. You could buy good steak then for 8¢ a pound. Roast was 5¢ a pound. We used a 300 pound barrel of flour every 11 days. It cost $2.25 a barrel. We baked 10 or 12 pies every day. Eggs were 5¢ a dozen and potatoes 10¢ a bushel.

In 1900 they sold their boarding house and bought a grocery store in the same building where she and her only daughter - Frances - (Mrs. Frances Hallotte) continue to live today. Her husband died in 1901. Several months after his death came another harrowing experience. "It was the night of November 15, 1901. The bank was right across the street from us. Around midnight I could definitely hear pounding in the bank. I got up and looked out of the window and the street was dark. I listened, and I could plainly hear them pounding in there. THEY WERE ROBBING THE BANK! I went downstairs in my night gown. I saw a man standing on the sidewalk and I thought it was our next door neighbor. I spoke to him. But it was one of the robbers. He shoved a big gun into my face and said 'You S.O.B. get in the house and keep your mouth shut, or I'll shoot you!' Well, I went inside. But our money was in that bank too. So I quietly went through our back yard, and to a saloon which was still open. And there were our two town marshals. I told them what was happening. They came at once. One approached the bank from one side and one from the other. The robbers had somehow put out the street lights. Well, our two marshals started shooting, one from one side and one from the other. By that time I was home again, upstairs, and I was kneeling in front of the window, just my head sticking over the window sill. I saw it all. All the shooting that they did! There were 13 robbers in the gang. They called each other by number, not by name. But they finally were scared out and disappeared in the darkness. They stole some horses in town and all got away. They left behind a can of nitroglycerine. Everybody was afraid of the stuff. It was finally emptied into the canal. But anyhow, I prevented the bank from getting robbed." "Did they reward you for it?" "Naw, they thanked me! There was $11,000 in the bank at the time, and Minster sure would have been poor if they had gotten away with it. I didn't mind the excitement at all at the time. I guess my nerves were still keyed up from my husband's recent death. But three weeks after the attempted robbery I had a nervous breakdown."

Many are the items of interest in Mrs. Zumbragel's home, and each item has a story. She showed us a highly treasured plate. "When I was a girl, father gave me a sheep. When I sold the sheep, I bought this for it." Inscribed thereon are the words: "A GOOD MOTHER MAKES A HAPPY HOME." There were "mustache cups." "In those days you weren't a man unless you had a mustache. Yes—my husband had one of those things too." These cups have a shield in them which prevents the man's mustache from getting dunked while he sips his coffee. There was an assortment of coins. "Those we picked up on the farm. On our farm some battles were fought with the Indians, I think around 1812. We found a cupful of coins, 8 cannon balls, and gallon buckets full of Indian arrow heads and grinding tools. There was a "music box" at least 80 years old which still emits a merry tinkle after it is duly cranked. A fern, with a leaf (or tendril) 9 feet long, is carefully watered and cared for in her living room.

Mrs. Zumbragel Remembers Time Robbers Might Have Taken Payroll For Oil Men Except That L. G. Neely Forgot and Left Cash Lying in Bundle on the Buggy Seat in the Barn

When we had finished the original interview with Mrs. Caroline Zumbragel of Minster (She will be 86 on her next birthday), she said "There are so many more things I could tell you, you'll have to come back again." And such was the interest that Mrs. Zumbragel's menoirs created that we herewith give the rèsults of our return engagment. So we'll let her speak directly.

"Because of the accident that I had as a youngster, I couldn't play and walk like other children. The tendon in my left foot had been cut. So father early provided me with a horse and I became family errand and messenger girl. It was an old plug of a horse, but gentle and reliable. Her name was Nancy. Nancy liked me. I always brought her apples and lumps of sugar, and that she liked. I went horseback to Minster and to many of our neighbors. When they needed something in a hurry and couldn't get away, they'd send me over. Once they broke a pulley during hay making time. Father put the broken one in a basket and sent me to Minster for a new one. I would climb on a board fence and then onto the horse.

"On Friday we weren't supposed to eat meat. So on Thursdays they'd send me to the Loramie Creek to

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catch fish for Friday. Usually in about an hour I would have a half a bucket full of catfish, sunfish, ring perch, bass and pike. One day while I was fishing I saw a great big turtle. I quickly jumped on Nancy and rode home to get the turtle pole. This was a special pole with a short stout line and hook on it. I put a piece of ham on for bait, and dangled it in front of the turtle's mouth. The turtle snapped at it and got caught. O, how he did fight. But I got him home. Father was proud of me then. He cut off its head but turtles don't die till sundown. Then after sundown he butchered it. It weighed 21 pounds.

"My brother Herman (Herman Arkenberg) always was an explorer. He always wanted to try out new things. One day one of his other brothers read in the paper how to make a bomb with gun powder. So he used a handful of powder, put it into something, attached a fuse to it, and put it in our outdoor bake oven, lighted the fuse, and then ran away to see what would happen. Well, plenty happened. The bomb went off and our bake oven just fell together. O,—did he get "prugel!" And once he and I shot a hole through my older brother's Sunday hat. I did the shooting and Herman got the hat. That scared us both. We put his hat away and he didn't find out about it until Sunday morning when he wanted to go to church. Then we both got "Prugel." O, the "Prugel" that we used to get! It seems we were in some kind of mischief just all the time, or, at least, they said we were. But he was my playmate and I could shoot pretty good. He taught me how. I often shot squirrels. Why, its about 55 years ago that I attended a church picnic at McCartyville. They were having some shooting matches and someone dared me to try. One of the men said, "She's a woman and a woman can't hit the side of a barn." Well, I showed them, and I hit the bullseye. I got a box of cigars as my prize. Then someone else asked me to shoot for him, and I won him a box of cigars also. I took my cigars home and had a lot of fun with them.

"I'll never forget the family parties we used to have when I was little. We would all pile on to the farm wagon. Then we'd go to our relatives or to some neighbor. We would take knives and forks along. They all seemed to have enough plates, but not knives and forks. So we carried ours along when we went visiting, and others brought theirs when they came to our house. Threshing those days took three or four weeks. We would have as many as 30 at the table then. Then the neighbor women would also bring their knives and forks, and we'd take ours along when they thrashed. We'd put up tables outdoors.

"Something I forgot to tell you about was the time we had a burglar in our house. That was during the oil boom and when we were running our boarding house. Lemon G. Neely of St. Marys, was paymaster for the oil men. We didn't have a bank yet, and he brought the money in cash. He was staying at our house overnight that night, and had the money with him. We had a coal oil lamp on the stairs. (Her daughter went and got that particular lamp and showed it to me). I kept the door of my room open just far enough so that I could see who was coming, when someone came upstairs. Well, after everybody was to bed I heard noises downstairs. I listened carefully. Then I heard and saw him come up the steps. It was a burglar, with gun in hand. He was after the payroll. I grabbed my husband and hollered bloody murder, just as loud as I could. Everybody in the house jumped up. The burglar got scared and ran away. We went downstairs and found he had robbed our cash box, and had gotten some other valuables. But he missed $160 we had hidden under the cracker barrel. Then Mr. Neely said—"My money for paying the men is gone!" We thought the robber had got it. Well, now that he thought of it, he couldn't remember having brought the package with the money in it, into the house with him. We lit the lantern and he went out to the barn and looked in his buggy. And there, in the seat of the buggy, he had left the package. So the burglar could have gone right into the barn and gotten his money without any trouble—if he had known. Burglars and snakes—I am afraid of 'em!

"That same year I dropped a "go-devil." (A "go-devil" is a metal cylinder which is dropped into a new oil well to set off the charge of nitroglycerine when an oil well is shot). Of course, they had everything arranged, and all I had to do was to drop the "go-devil." Then I could say that I "shot" an oil well. Well, after you dropped "that thing" you would run, in the direction that the wind came from. When the nitroglycerine went off, oil and stone and dirt would be thrown high into the air, and it would blow all over you if you stood on the wrong side. So I've done something that few women have had a chance to do.

"Another exciting thing that I'll never forget was when I saved a child's life. Some boys had been putting pins on the Railroad track to have the train run over them and flatten them out. Well, a little fellow about 4 years old had been watching the boys and he decided to do that, too. So he got some pins, and when the train was coming he runs up to the track and sits down beside it, holding the pins on the track. I was at the pump. The train whistled furiously and put on the brakes. But it couldn't stop. The kid just sat there and looked at the train. I ran the fastest that I've ever ran and grabbed that kid away just in the nick of time. I sure spanked that youngster. The boy's father saw it, but neither he nor I ever said anything to the boy's mother."

At this point Mrs. Zumbragel got out the family album. But I can't begin to go into that here. That would require a third installment. But just one item. There was a picture of her husband when he was a gay young blade with a full beard. Handsome! "He and his buddy dared each other to grow a beard. Both did. The one who cut his off first had to set it up to the house. Well, my husband lost that bet. It itched him so much during the summer that he cut it off. My husband sang in St. Augustine Choir many years. When we were married 5 years the choir gave a party for us. As gifts they gave us each a pair of wooden shoes. Ha! And they made us dance in 'em. Das war aber ein Spetakel! Well, years later there was a salesman who wanted them so badly and we let him have'm for five dollars.

"The year 1905 was a year of accidents. On Feb. 3, 1905 our school here at Minster burned. The fire broke out around 8 in the morning, before the children were there. That same week there was a big explosion in New Bremen, in the Dry Goods Store at the corner where the bank now stands. There had been

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gas in the basement and someone lit a match to see where it was coming from. I went over right away to see it. There was a piano lying in the street. Corsets were scattered over the bridge. On the streets was underwear and cotton and spools of thread and about anything that had been in the store. A curtain pole had been blown right into the wooden wall next door. And then about 4 days later came the Fort Recovery explosion. That was really bad. It was a hardware store. They kept dynamite in it, and the stuff went up. My daughter and I and Mrs. Anton Friedericks, grandmother of Velma Schmieder, went there on the Dinky. The windows were all blown out of the Catholic church and we still have a piece of window glass as a souvenir.

"I saw my first automobile at the New Bremen Fair. They had a race between a team of horses and the automobile and the horses won. The automobile looked like a spring wagon.

"Sixty four years ago I thought my time was up. I had hemorrhages of the lungs, just very badly. We had no doctor here and my husband went to Fort Recovery to get one. He came, fed me a lot of salt, and the bleeding stopped. The family was plenty worried and I was too. They prettied me up and took me to Wapak to have my picture taken. (She showed me the picture.) I knew why they did that. Then a few days later mother took me to a specialist at Toledo and from there to Delta, Ohio. The doctor was a sickly little man and I can still see him. He looked at me and said, "I know what's the matter with you. If you will obey the laws that I give you, and take the medicine and rub your chest, and stay indoors after sunset and before sunrise, and wear red flannel underwear for eleven years—why then you'll live to a ripe old age." And by giminy, I am going on 86! I followed his laws to the letter."

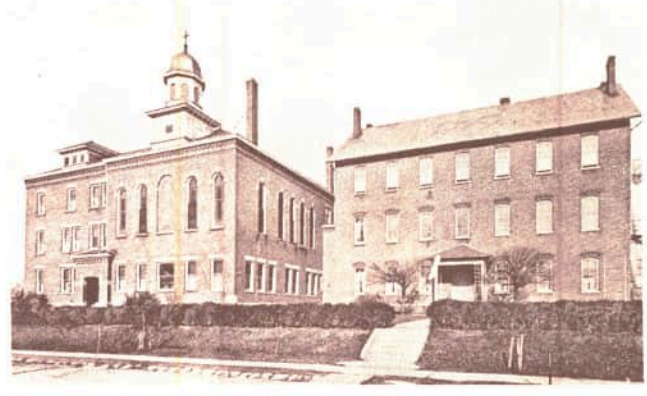
Flyers Visit Minster

The Minster Post, Fri., Aug. 29, 1919: Last Saturday afternoon at 2:00 the attention of the inhabitants of Minster, at least of those who were staying outside at this time, was called to the heavens by the no longer unknown rattling sound of an aeroplane which was flying over the town in a northeasterly direction and finally landed on the Woehrmyer field north of town. This was to our knowledge the first landing at Minster of an aeroplane, and therefore caused no little surprise and interest. As most of the factory employees are off on Saturday afternoon, soon a big crowd gathered around the flying machine and inspected the strange monster. The machine was manned by Lt. Runser of Ft. Wayne and his machinist. As we were told by them, they are making flights all over the United States to give people an opportunity to make flights themselves. Only one Minsterite dared to go in the air as far as we know, namely Paul Dine a young lad. The ascent was made successfully and the young passenger was carried on eagle's wings, up to town, over town, and back to the landing place perfectly safely. This descent was no less lucky and uneventful yet many of the spectators uttered the opinion that they would not like to go up for even a good sum of money.

Minster Convents of The Sisters of The Precious Blood



This convent was built by the Sisters of the Precious Blood in 1855. It was located on the north side of Fifth Street between Hanover and Lincoln streets. The door on the far right was known as the "Poor Door". This door led to a very small room containing a tiny table and one chair. It was here that food was offered to vagrants. In one corner of the room was a solid door with a bell cord along side. When the bell was sounded, a small panel in the door would slide open and a nun's face would appear. In German, the nun would ask, "What do you want?"



The second convent on Fifth Street (left) replaced the structure above in 1911. The building on the right, The St. Marys Institute, a boarding school for girls, was built in 1888. Both buildings were razed in the 1960's when the Bornhorst Condominiums were built.

* In 1897-98 the total value of real and personal property in Minster was less than $200,000.

* In 1912 the Crescent Theatre was opened. The first feature was a Chicago road show called "Mutt and Jeff". Tickets for the big social event were $5.00 each!

* August 22, 1919: An ad in the Minster Post for A.W. Boecker saying: Opening of our new store, Saturday, August 23rd all day. Beginning Saturday, August 23rd, we shall continue our grocery business, heretofore conducted on the corner of 4th and Zweibrucken St., in our new store on the corner 4th and Frankfort St.

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Bold Raiders

Minster Bank Robbery Recalled

(Editor's Note: The article below is from the issue of the Auglaize County Democrat, Wapakoneta, dated November 14, 1901. It is printed here courtesy of the Historical Collection of Velma F. Schmieder of Minster.)

Invade Minster And Wreck The Citizens Bank:

Heroic nightwatch tackles the gang single handed and drives them off without their plunder. - Dozens of shots exchanged and one or more of the raiders are seriously wounded and forced to drop their guns. - Horses and vehicles stolen to aid their flight and found later miles away from scene. - Pool of blood found in the surrey in which one of the wounded burglars was taken away. - Handkerchief and pair of gloves also found saturated with blood. - Commissioners act promptly and offer reward of Five Hundred Dollars.

The town of Minster, this county, 17 miles southwest of this city, was thrown into great excitement about two o'clock yesterday morning by a gang of eight or ten burglars who suddenly swooped down upon the slumbering village. The cut-throats were heavily armed with shot-guns and revolvers, and attempted to terrorize the people by firing off their guns. They immediately visited the Citizens Bank, the only institution of the kind in Minster, and broke in the front door with a heavy piece of timber. They then attacked the safe, nitroglycerin being used for its demolition. The safe is quite a heavy one, fireproof, with three doors, the vault being furnished with a time lock.

While the scoundrels were at work, Lewis Vallo, the night-watchman, approached the bank building, when he was met by the man on guard and ordered back. He went to the residence of the town marshal, John Schulte, and after explaining the state of affairs to him, borrowed his repeating shotgun and supply of shells. He then returned by a rear way to his own residence, which is located nearly opposite the bank, and going upstairs, raised a window and commenced firing at the gang, part of whom were working on the inside and part standing guard and patroling the street. The burglars returned the fire, and for a time the noise resembled that of a pitched battle.

The firing soon became too hot for the raiders, and they rushed out of the bank in great confusion, and running to the surreys and buggies which they had previously stolen and left conveniently near, clambered in and drove rapidly away in the darkness, Mr. Vallo giving them a parting shot as they disappeared. In all the watchman fired seventeen shots at the desperadoes, and no doubt saved the bank from being gutted. One or two of the robbers were shot, as considerable blood was found on the floor of the bank and on the pavement outside, and they were seen to assist one of their men into a buggy when they left. Mr. Vallo was not struck by any of the shots fired at him, but the side of his house was filled with leaden pellets. Several citizens who had come out on the street to see what was creating the disturbance were also fired at but they all escaped injury.

In their attempts to open the safe two blasts had been fired, and one door had been blown off and the second one badly bent and twisted, but they could not gain entrance to the inner vault. The firing from the opposite side of the street made it too hot for them to make the third blast.

The raiders realized that they could accomplish nothing so long as they were exposed to the terrific fire Vallo was pouring into them and an effort was made to break into the brave man's house, but this proving futile they were compelled to quit the job.

When the burglars retreated from the bank they did not take time to take all their murderous weapons with them, leaving two new repeating guns and a large number of cartridges. One of the guns was covered with blood. They would have secured a large amount of booty had they not been driven away, as there was $10,000.00 or $12,000.00 in the vault.

Before making the raid on the safe they made arrangements for their escape by stealing two rigs in Minster. One of these, a horse and surrey, was taken from the barn of John Brandewie, and the other, a horse and buggy belonged to A.W. Herkenhoff. Brandewie's horse was driven as far as Johnson Ginn's, five miles southeast of Minster, where it was exchanged for a fresh animal. The horse and buggy was taken from A.W. Herkenhoff's stable, and was driven to a point a mile west of Bradford and abandoned.

It is supposed part of the gang went to Bradford Junction, Darke County, which is about thirty miles southwest of Minster. By rapid driving it is supposed they reached that town before daylight, where they probably jumped an early freight and made good their escape. It took some time to organize a pursuing party, and it was after daylight before the posse got on the right track. The pursuit only resulted in finding the abandoned horses.

The bank building as viewed by a DEMOCRAT reporter presents a frightful appearance. The plate glass window is broken and the interior looks as if a cyclone had struck it. While no money was secured the loss to the bank from the destructive blasts and shooting will be considerable, but the loss is fully covered by burglar insurance.

Sheriff Melching and Marshal Schubert went over to Minster early yesterday morning to assist in running down the thieves.

One of the horses the burglars drove into Minster was so badly run down that they could not take it with them when they left. The horse had been stolen from Ed Strafer, at St. Marys, showing that some of the gang had passed through that place.

The gang was under the command of a tall ruffian, who wore a long dark overcoat and a slouch hat. They were designated by numbers.

About six years ago, an attempt was made to rob the Citizens Bank, and two men were sent to the penitentiary for the crime.

The bank is a private institution, owned by citizens of the town. It generally has about $100,000.00 on deposit. Frank Herkenhoff is president and George Van Oss cashier. Although the cashier lives a half mile away from the bank he was awakened by the explosion.

News was received here this morning that the horse and surrey in which a number of the gang escaped was found eight miles west of Berlin, Shelby County.

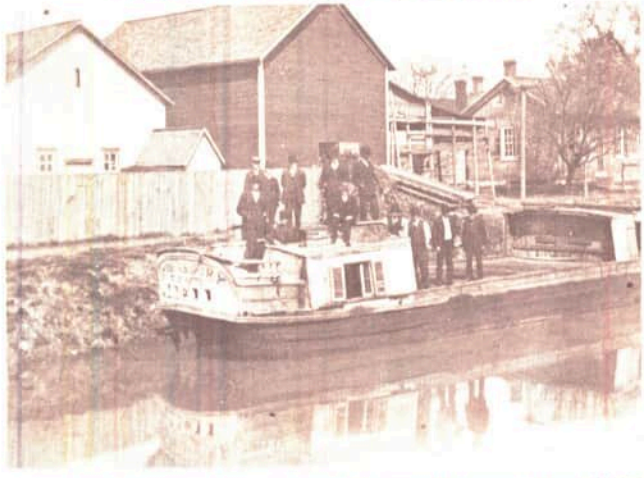
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There was a pool of blood in the surrey and also a handkerchief and pair of gloves saturated with blood.

This was the surrey into which one of the wounded burglars was assisted when the gang left Minster. The horse had given out, while the surrey was considerably wrecked which compelled the men to abandon the rig.

What was done with the wounded man is yet a mystery. It is supposed they stole another rig in the neighborhood and continued their flight. The Commissioners of Auglaize County offer a reward of $500.00 for the arrest and conviction of this gang of burglars.

Miami & Erie Canal



The "Thos. Asbury" canal boat of Cincinnati is shown about 1905. Tied up on the east bank of the canal between Third and Fourth Streets at the Piening Tannery.



The old iron bridge across Fourth Street looking east. This photo was taken prior to 1914 when the street was paved.

Although today its use is strictly one of storm water drainage, the Miami and Erie canal that flows through Minster played a major role in the development of the community.

Construction of "the ditch" that would carry goods and people from Toledo to Cincinnati began before the founding of Minster, in 1825.

Work progressed slowly. Grubbing and clearing the right of way and removal of the wood and brush had to be done before the digging could begin. Inexperienced contractors often had to abandon work due to a lack of funds. Standard wages for laborers during the early years was 30 cents a day, sunrise to sunset, plus board and lodging.

In 1827 the canal was opened from Cincinnati to Middletown. In 1829 the first boat arrived in Dayton.

The stretch from Dayton to Piqua was opened in 1837. By 1843 the first canal boat reached Minster and an impromptu celebration was held to welcome it.

The entire Miami and Erie canal system was opened in 1845 with passage of the "Banner" from Cincinnati to Toledo.

Existing businesses flourished in Minster with the opening of the canal and new businesses sprang to life.

Minster now had access to the outside world for their products and produce. Pork packing houses and barrel factories flourished.

Besides the cargo boats on the canal there were state maintenance boats, floating homes, grocery stores and the packets which carried 40 to 60 passengers.

The beginning of the end of canal usage came in 1848 when the first railroad from Lake Erie to the Ohio River was opened. As more railroads were constructed canal usage dwindled. By 1909 the canal system showed an $11,000,000 loss and was virtually in disuse.

"Plattdeutsch" Spoken Here

The founders of our town were able to bring few material things with them when they made the journey to what was then the Mercer County forest.

Their customs and their language, the "Plattdeutsch" Low German language, were a part of life on the new frontier however. The tongue of the Oldenberger-Munsterland residents, a sturdy but melodic dialect, is still spoken here today.

And, because Low German was not a formal written language, some also knew how to read and speak High German.

As late as the 1920's a number of the Minster children entering the first grade had to learn to speak English since all they and their parents and grandparents spoke at home was Low German.

The Minster Post was published mainly in the High German language until 1921.

Wolfgang Fleischhauer, formerly with the language department at Ohio State University has made a very detailed study of Low German dialects in this area.

He notes that although the residents of Minster, New Bremen and New Knoxville speak similar dialects there are significant and striking differences in their vocabulary.

Fleischhauer has made numerous recordings of the "Plattdeutsch" spoken in this area. He notes that the dialects here have undergone less change than in Germany. When he played the local recordings for residents in the areas of Germany from which our founding fathers came, the Germans remarked, "Why our grandfathers talked like that. Nobody talks like that here anymore."

The dialect has undergone numerous changes here however. English words are now used when some of our older residents carry on a conversation. This is partly because they never learned the dialect equivalent for some of the newer words in the English language.

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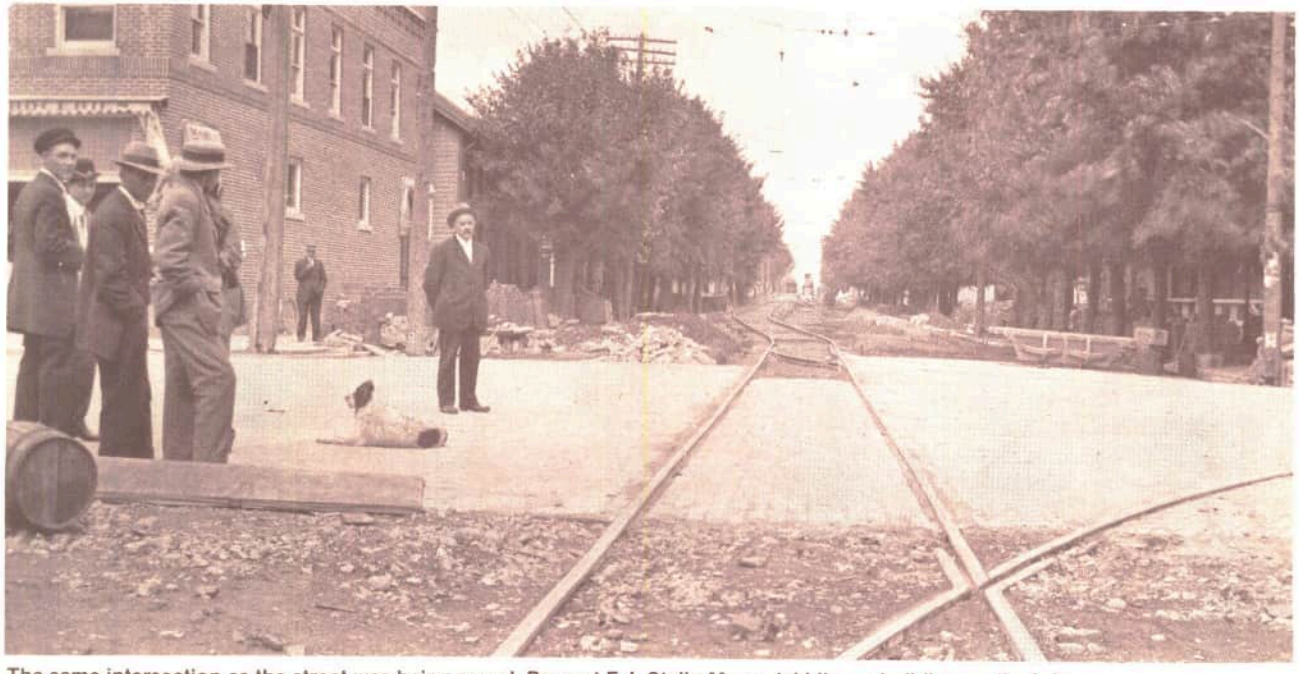
With each new generation the use of "Platt-deutsch" in everyday conversation is dwindling. Today it is more prevalent among members of Minster's farming community but few other residents under the age of 40 speak the dialect fluently.

Minster's Interurban Railway

By Kurt Huelsman and Mike Stueve



The intersection of Fourth and Main, looking North. The building on the right was the Frank Fischer store and tickets for the interurban were sold here. Today the building houses the Wooden Shoe Inn.



The same intersection as the street was being paved. Present F.J. Stallo Memorial Library building on the left.

Before the turn of the century, the electric interurban railway had added greatly to efficient means of transportation in this country. On March 10, 1902, the Western Ohio Railway opened a line from Lima to Sidney. A branch line from Wapakoneta through St. Marys to New Bremen opened on April 21, 1902. An extension of this line to Minster opened on June 1, 1902. (A further extension from Minster to Ft. Loramie opened on February 24, 1911.) The introduction of paved all-season roads in 1917 led to an increased use of automobiles and trucks for passenger and freight use and eventually caused the demise of the interurban. The last interurban left Minster January 18, 1932.

The first cars were made of wood with later models sheathed with metal. Soon after that cars were made entirely of metal. The cost of a car was between four and five thousand dollars. Each car measured from forty to fifty feet in length, ten feet in width, and fifteen feet in height. The tracks were laid four feet eight and one half inches apart. (These tracks were

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later dug up for the steel.) A car was equipped with a motor, air brakes, an air horn, toilet, lavatory, baggage compartment, and had separate sections for smoking and non-smoking passengers. Maximum capacity of a car was forty passengers. A hot-water heater located in the baggage compartment heated coils in the passenger section to furnish warmth in cold weather. A "cowcatcher" in front kept foreign objects from getting caught in the wheels. Flanges on the wheels kept the car on the tracks.

Power for this section of the railway came from the power station in St. Marys. This was an enormous brick building in which a battery of boilers and steam engines operated generators to produce 750 horsepower. Each car received its power from an overhead copper line by connecting its trolley to the line. (The trolley was a pole fastened to the top of the car with a roller or slider which made contact with the line.) The trolley was movable so that the car could be turned around. The top speed of a car was forty miles per hour.

The motorman started and stopped the car, and controlled its speed. A long-term motorman on the Minster line was C.A. Koehl. The conductor collected the fares and helped the passengers on and off the car. The manager of the Western Ohio Railway was F.D. Carpenter. Minster's ticket office was in the Frank Fischer store (now Wooden Shoe Inn). The freight house was located immediately behind this building.

A trip to St. Marys from Minster took about forty minutes. As many as ten cars each day provided service starting about 5:30 a.m. and continuing till about midnight . . . in each direction. The extension from Minster to Ft. Loramie had seven cars each day in both directions. From St. Marys the passenger could make rail connections going east or west. Or the passenger could continue on the interurban to Wapakoneta. From there he could travel north or south by interurban to Lima, Piqua, etc., or could make various rail connections.

The electric railway provided a very efficient transportation during its heyday. There are still people who would like to see it make a comeback.

Four Makes A Dozen

The Minster Post, Friday, January 2, 1920: Last week Joseph Morsey went out to gather the eggs. Among the lot was a freak, it was a hen egg as large as a goose egg. Friday Mrs. Morsey broke it to make a cake. It contained three distinct eggs within one shell. It not only took the cake, it made one. You see it only takes four of these eggs to make a dozen.

Saw Sea Serpent

The Minster Post, Friday, August 27, 1920: Last Friday while driving over the Reservoir Bridge at the Ben Lehmkuhl farm, Frank Rentz claims he saw a sea serpent or some sech varmit swimming rapidly in the reservoir. He states that it was 10 or 12 feet long and 6 inches in diameter as near as he could judge from where he was. Mr. Rentz claims he called the attention of several campers to the freak but as yet it has not been captured.

Mad Horse Causes Commotion

The Minster Post, Fri., Jan. 5, 1923: "A mad horse" caused a great amount of commotion in the northwest part of Minster on Thursday of last week and it required the keen use of a shotgun to put the animal out of its misery and insure the people that there was normal safety in that territory again. The horse belonged to Mr. Anton Beckman, a coal dealer, and it was a large black animal that worked as a mate to another horse of the same color and size. It developed brain fever or "water on the brain", as the old time veterinarian named the disease, and it acted up as a maniac for a time. In its intense misery it caused almost a panic around the lumber shed by tearing up the manger partitions and feed trough. And when it broke out of the barn Mr. Beckman got himself into close quarters by attempting to be of some assistance in the emergency. When once on the outside it found its way to the Rabe Lumber Company's yard and made an attempt to climb up on a pile of lumber. The stack tumbled over but the horse kept on pounding at the boards with its feet in such way as to assure the men that no matter what got into its path it would be in for sure destruction. The case called for immediate action and Mr. Peter Boehmer went to his home and procured a shotgun with which he ended the career of the "mad critter". The owner reckoned with it as a valuable animal, but was fully persuaded that it could never recover and consented to have it shot.

Steinemann Store Robbed

Minster Post, Friday, March 16, 1923. Robbers did a profitable single job in Minster this week. Carried $2,500.00 worth of goods out of the Ed Steinemann store. At sometime between the hours of 6:00 p.m. on last Tuesday and 7:00 a.m. on Wednesday robbers performed the biggest single job that has ever been done in Minster. In fact it was one of the most remarkable feats in this line that has ever been reported to the authorities in the territory and it has created a sensation all over the county. The details were reported to the county sheriff and he and his deputy ran down from Wapakoneta to look the ground over, but it is doubtful if they or anyone else, will ever be able to lay their hands on any of the parties who had a part in the affair.

The robbery was committed at the big Steinemann store of which Mr. Ed Steinemann has been the proprietor ever since the death of his father about a year ago and it will result in a significant loss to him. The store is situated at the southwest corner of the crossing of Fourth and Cleveland Streets. And is quite a distance removed from any other business block.

The store fronts towards the north and there are two single doors at the main entrance which is off of Fourth Street and it was through one of these doors that the intruders forced an entrance. But evidence was found to lead to the belief that they made their exit from a rear door.

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Oil Discovered West of Minster

Friday, November 28, 1924, The Minster Post: Well west of Minster looks more than encouraging. Oil raised 500 feet within a very short time. Located in the center of a large area that has never been explored. The conditions about an oil well near Minster are so encouraging that everybody is bouyed up with just a faint hope that there is to eventuate in this section of the country at least a miniature boom. Real estate hasn't as yet shot up to sky high prices and there have been no influx of greedy land buyers. But just the same there is a mighty good chance that there will be a most satisfactory flurry in this community that some people who have the nerve to finance an oil search will receive some reward for their enterprise. A well was put down on the Robert Steineman farm west of Minster and during the first couple of weeks the drillers announced that they had penetrated the Trenton rock to a depth of 42'. Their drill sank 1,282' below the surface and the workmen suggested to the men who had financed the proposition that it would be futile for them to go deeper. Arrangements were at once made to shoot the well and the go devil was dropped about 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday. The result was that oil at once rose to a height of 500' in the hole. And this was considered to be a most encouraging condition. The men who had put up the cash to pay for the drilling at once made arrangements to go further into the business. And when the Post went to press on Wednesday afternoon the workmen were engaged in putting tubing into the hole. A pump will be attached without delay and the men who have some experience in the oil industry declared that many wells that do not show as thrifty condition as this have been known to produce at least 200 barrels daily. It has caused considerable commotion in this locality and there is much talk of future activities about the city and community. Local capital alone was responsible for this movement and the men who got behind the proposal with their dollars were in the midst of the oil deals about 18 years ago when Minster was really an oil town. The well is located about 3/4 of a mile west of the village and is in the center of a territory that was not bothered by explorers who operated in this section of the country in the former days. The result of the first test would indicate that there are some rich deposits in that territory and the men who have started in the business will not stop until the whole field has been punctured. There was a large crowd of people present when the nitro was dropped into the hole and excitement ran high when the news was brought back to the city that real black smeary oil splashed out over the adjacent territory. Shroyer and Son of Rockford were the drillers. And they assure the men that the indications merit further action. In subsequent issues of the paper it was noted that the well had an average production of about 10 barrels of oil per day. Plans were made for a second well to be drilled on the Fred Steineman farm.

* In 1961 you could take a 15-day vacation in Hawaii and California for the price of $499 including hotel & airfare!

A Fowl Robber

Minster Post, Friday, August 27, 1920: For some time a chicken thief has been putting into practice his nefarious work on the multitudinous hennerys of Minster and has been making a good living at it.

Early in the spring, this knight of the hen roost, entered the old tannery building belonging to F. Morsey, and pilfered several valuable hides and some chickens. Recently he secured 11 nice fat chickens from the same place and left no tracks to tell how he entered the building.

This same gent, not being a hog only took 30 out of 33 chickens at one place. He visited many other roosts, and there are many sad hearts in Minster since. 'Tis said an officer will be detailed on this case to run down this pesking chicken thief.

The Ice Man Commeth

Minster Post, Friday, January 27, 1922: The zero weather of the past several days loosened up the ice tension that had been a nightmare for dealers for several weeks. In fact it afforded the first opportunity that Minster packers have had to "hook" ice from the ponds and pile it away in their storage houses since the winter of 1919-20. It will be remembered that there never was a time during last winter when the ice on the local ponds was thick enough to justify a harvest and the following summer opened up with only the artificial kind on the market. Mr. Ernst Nagel, who deals only in the natural grade, did not get into the business last summer, but he has succeeded in gathering a pretty good supply for his customers for the coming summer. The Star Beverage Company has also profited by the conditions and they have lost no time in gathering the crop from their pond near the plant. They have been able to put in storage ice that is measured 6" in thickness and is as clear as glass so that their business will be helped vitally through the good favors of Jack Frost.

Buy Wireless Receivers

Minster Post, Friday, January 13, 1922: Miss Velma Schmieder purchased a wireless receiving station this week and she will soon be able to receive wireless messages that will tell her about the wonderful things that are occurring over the world that the average person does not know about until he reads it in one of his newspapers. She will listen to great music artists and will hear addresses by long winded congressmen while other folks will have to be satisfied with common things. The pole, which is the receiving center for her instrument was set up this week. Mr. Benjamin Hageman has also purchased one of these outfits and he expects to have it installed within a few weeks.

* A Kroger's ad in the March 21, 1924 issue of the Minster Post: Kroger's was located at 105 W. 4th St., Minster, currently occupied by Farno's. A one pound can of salmon - 14¢; a bushel of potatoes - $1.05; a 1½ pound loaf of bread - 7½¢; a pound of Country Club butter - 53¢.

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Fliver Kicked Back

1920 Minster Post: While en route to a family gathering at the home of Harry Burden, Roy Shaffer of near Minster stopped his Ford automobile in front of the Auglaize County Fairgrounds Sunday morning to wait upon other machines that were also of the party, and when he tried to crank his car to start on his trip again, his right arm was broken in the act.

Minster's Centennial Celebration

The celebration of Minster's Centennial in 1932 contrasts sharply with the 1982 celebration of the Sesquicentennial.

Miss Velma Schmieder almost singlehandedly organized a one-day event held September 28th.

The program began with services in St. Augustine's church and closed with a commemorative program in the auditorium of the high school.

During the day visitors and local citizens viewed the displays local businessmen had in their windows. Men and women dressed as early pioneers and early 1900 residents moved about the streets.

The evening program at the school featured a talk given by Mrs. Theresa V.P. Krull, great granddaughter of F. J. Stallo and Theodore Tangeman, State Director of Commerce and a New Bremen native.

An exhibit of interesting articles relating to the past was opened in the school's Community Room for those in attendance.

The book, "Centennial, Minster, Ohio" by Miss Schmieder was also published in 1932. It contained a most interesting and accurate record of Minster's early history.

PROGRAM

Centennial Celebration

MINSTER, OHIO

September 28, 1932

Music—Princess Tip Toe . . . . . School Orchestra
Welcome . . . . . H. B. Boecker
Introduction . . . . . Velma F. Schmieder
"Francis Joseph Stallo and His Family" . . . . Mrs. Theresa V. P. Krull
Song { Kyrie at Sea / Nach der Heimath . . . . St. Augustines Choir
"Minster" . . . . . Hon. Theodore Tangeman
Song—America . . . . . By All
Music—Fox Hunt . . . . . School Orchestra

. . America . .

My Country 'tis of theee,
Sweet land of liberty
Of Thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrim's pride,
From every mountain-side
Let freedom ring.

Exhibition of interesting articles in the Community Room after this program and on Sunday, October 2nd, from 1 to 8:30 P. M.

Minster Couple Adopts Six Children In One Day



Members of the Martin family in 1954 (left to right) Julie, Brenda Sue - 3, John - 8, David - 6, Ben, Ben - 4, Diane - 9 and Elizabeth - 5.

In 1954 a Minster family was thrust into national attention.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Martin, both age 37, adopted six children all members of one family in Mercer County.

The event drew wide-spread attention first locally, and utlimately internationally when "Look", the most popular family magazine in the 1950's ran a feature on the family.

The "Look" article was extensive, over four full pages of the family at their home on S. Frankfort Street.

The adoption by non-relatives of six children at one time was believed to be unique in U.S. legal history.

Minster Retail Merchants Organize

In July, 1966, the Minster Retail Merchants Association held an organizational meeting at the Town House in Minster. Elected President is Norman H. Gudorf, elected Vice President is Robert Brinkman, Secretary - Gerald Shenk, Treasurer - Mel Vallo, Trustee - Jess Doenges. Members of this organization are: Minster State Bank, Garman's Store, Zimpfer Jewelry, Sherman Drug Store, Grapner Shoe Store, Wyen & Sons, Minster Oil, Minster Farmers Exchange Co-Op, Gudorf & Moorman, Wetzel's Store, Wagner's IGA Market, Minster Sohio Service, Ripploh Meat & Grocery, Norb & Bob Mobil Service, Streaker's Inc., Far Motors, Inc., Dahlinghaus Garage, Schmiesing Refrigeration Sales & Service, Brinkman's Floor Covering, Minster Implement Co., Weaver's Beauty Shop, Luthman's Bike Shop, Bill Gagel Plumbing & Heating, Minster Supply Co., Maltinsky's Store, Hoying & Westerheide Inc., and Shenk's Store.

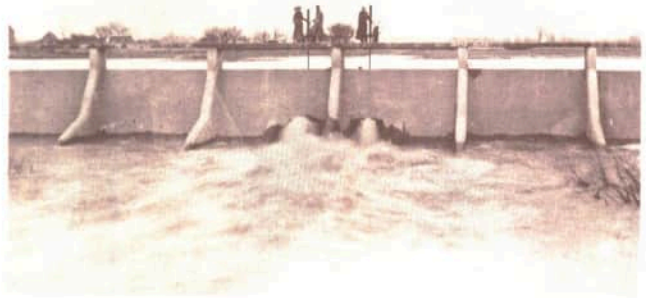
* In October, 1966 Ed Bruns was appointed Superintendent of Utilities. He holds that same position today.

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Lake Loramie



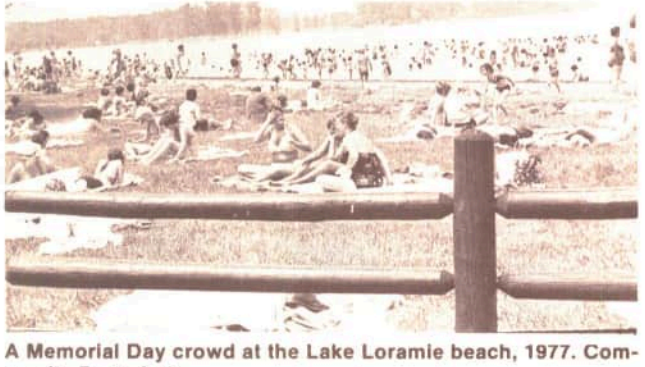
Minster residents have enjoyed camping at nearby Lake Loramie for many years. When this photo was taken in 1912 at Koverman's Landing (now Captain's Cabin) camping equipment consisted of camp wagons and tents. Pictured left to right: Ben Dwenger, Elizabeth Dwenger (rear), Ed Lammers, Ella Lammers, Wilbur Lammers (6 weeks old, today age 70) and John Dwenger.



The spillway at Loramie Reservoir during the Great Flood of 1913.



A nice string of fish from Lake Loramie is shown by some local residents a number of years ago. Left to right: Roy Rulmann, Henry Fortman, Louis Fischer, "Butch" Schelper, Herb Rulmann, Bob Schafer and Karl Kuehner.



A Memorial Day crowd at the Lake Loramie beach, 1977. Community Post photo.

Lake Loramie, located just east and south of Minster has been a popular recreational site for many people in recent years who love fishing, camping and boating.

The lake was created in 1844 as a 1900 acre reservoir to help feed the Miami and Erie Canal system that would flow from Cincinnati through Minster to Toledo. Cost of construction was only $22,000. A short feeder canal connected the lake with the canal system.

Eventually the canal was abandoned as a means of transportation of goods and people and for many years was of little use except by hunters and fishermen.

In more recent history however its management by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources has turned it into one of the most popular and picturesque of the canal feeder lakes.

Curling Enjoyed Brief Popularity Here

For several winters the Scottish sport of curling was popular in the Minster area. It was introduced in Minster in 1966. The game is played with large smooth stones on a rink marked out on ice. The stones measure 36" around and weigh 25 lbs. Each stone has a handle. Two teams usually of four players each take part. Each player slides 2 stones along the ice towards a mark 38 yards distant. The object is for a player to slide his stones closer to the mark that that of his opponents. An important feature of the game is the sweeping of the ice. Two players do this under orders of their captain. By sweeping the ice in certain areas some stones can be made to reach the target sooner. Others can be made to go beyond the target.

The first match in Minster was between two teams, one called Don's Rolling Stones and the other Industrial Curling Irons. The introduction of the sport to Minster was the brainchild of Louis Hoying of South Hanover Street in Minster. He missed the first match however due to a cold. Members of the Don's Rolling Stones team were: Dale Miller, Charlie Hoying, Don Oldiges and Norman Bertke. The Industrial Curling Irons team was made up of: Shorty Miller, Vern Mescher, Tom Oldiges and Bill Earley. The Industrial team won the first contest 21-20. An estimated crowd of 100 was on hand for the first contest at Lake Loramie.

* June 15, 1967: Arrowhead golf course opened last week. Greens fees were: $2 on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday; Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, greens fees were $3. Club house managers were: Virgil Winglewich of Minster, Jerry Maxson of New Bremen. Greenskeeper was Ernest Eley.

* The present Gudorf & Sons building on W. Fourth St. was opened as Gudorf & Moorman's in the fall of 1969. The modern steel & glass structure was built on the site of the old Busse Blacksmith Shop.

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Minster Oktoberfest

On October 2 & 3, 1982 the community of Minster will be hosting their Eighth annual Oktoberfest. In keeping with the tradition of the community, the celebration will follow upon the Founding Fathers and their history and the building of a town by people dedicated to a common cause of a better tomorrow.

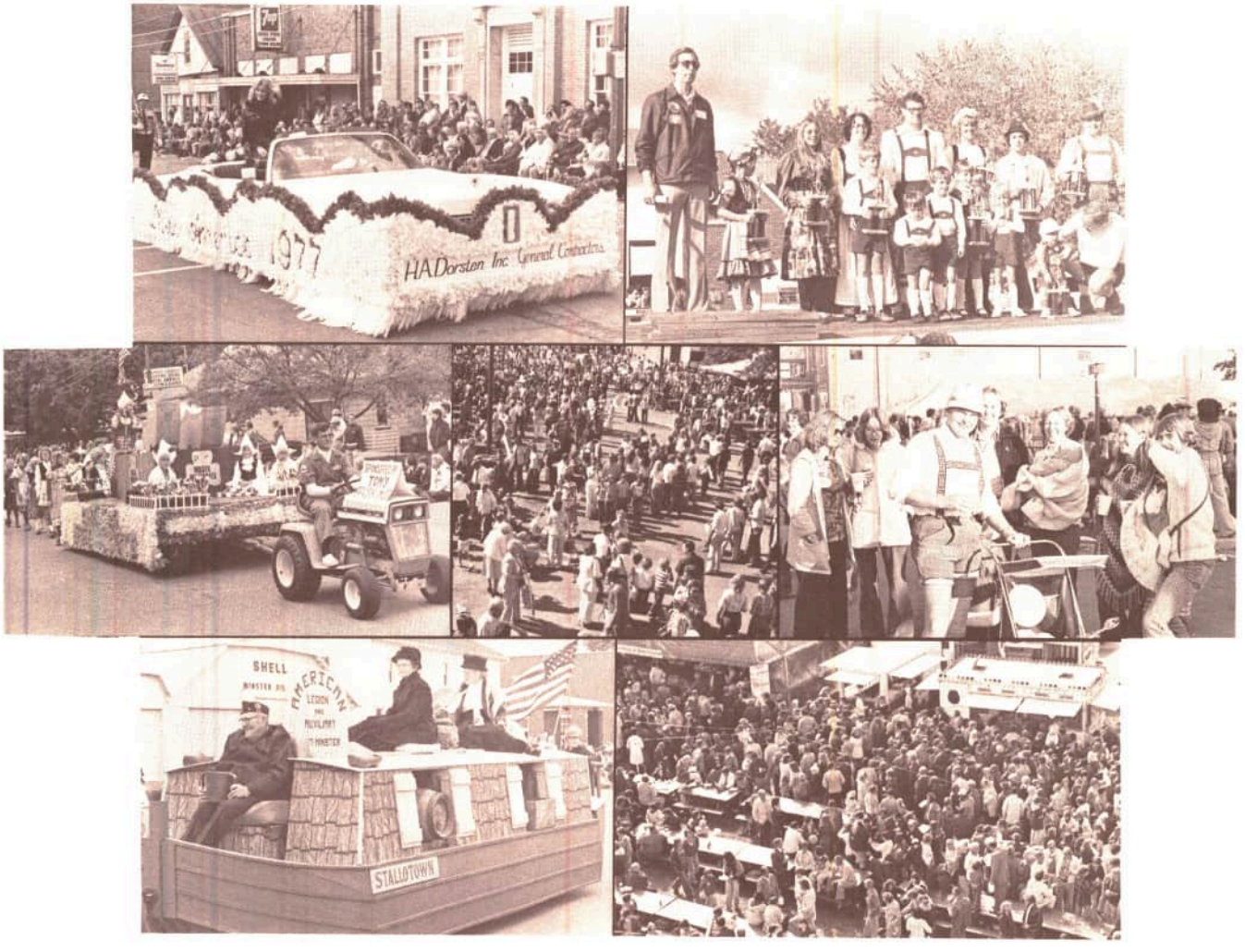
This same dedication and common cause prompted a group of individuals to come up with a project that would help preserve the German heritage that existed in Minster. This project was to be a combined effort of the Jaycees and Kiwanis. It was decided at that time to cancel the Annual "Father's Day Picnic", which was run by the Jaycees and replace it with something that would involve the whole community in preparing for the occasion. The event was to be an Oktoberfest.

The first Oktoberfest was held on October 4 & 5, 1975, under the joint sponsorship of the local Kiwanis and Jaycees. With the help of the various other organizations of the community and the townspeople the Minster Oktoberfest achieved success beyond all expectations. It is estimated that over 500,000 people have come to Minster in the past seven years.

The following were responsible for helping to make the first Oktoberfest a success: Jim Donauer, Dale Mescher, Ken Leugers, John Farno, Mike Goubeaux, Marty Brands, Mark Thieman, Ralph Doenges, Rolly Hausfeld, Mike Meiring, Ron Dorsten, Gary Oldiges, Ned Sielschott, Mark Wenning, Norb Gudorf, John Westerheide, Linie Hausfeld, Dan Westgerdes, Joe Sherman, and many other individuals.

Many positive contributions have been achieved during the seven years the Oktoberfest has been in existence: Midmark's slide presentation of the history of Minster, Minster Machine's pavilion, Minster Historical Society, St. Augustine's display of Church history, celebrities and good entertainment, and many more.

Probably, one of the more important contributions is that of the people. Many local organizations benefit from the Oktoberfest and in turn benefit the village by helping serve youth, charities, and many service projects. The Oktoberfest enables the community to bind together as it did throughout history.



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1976 - A Year of Tragedy and Sorrow For Many Here

The year 1976 will be remembered by many residents of Minster as a year of tragedy as two automobile accidents took the lives of 11 young high school students.

Eight Minster High School students were killed Sunday, March 7 in what was termed the state's worst traffic accident in 15 years.

The students were Barbara Olding, 14; Scott Westerheide, 15; Kenneth Sommer, 14; Michael Kemper, 17; Rebecca Moorman, 15; Anthony Kemper, 17; Joy Brandewie, 14; and Lester Ranly, 16.

The students were enroute to a weekly Sunday night teen dance at the Carousel Ballroom near Celina when the lead car of a 9-car caravan stopped at the intersection of the Minster-Ft. Recovery Rd. and Rolfes Rd. Some of the teenagers had left their cars and were having a discussion when a car crested the hill near the intersection and continued eastbound striking the group. Three other students were injured.

News of the accident spread rapidly and the entire community was deeply affected by the tragedy. It seemed that almost everyone was personally touched by it.

By the next morning as the church bells of St. Augustine's tolled, an official month of mourning began for the village.

Word of the tragedy reached across the nation as national wire services carried their reports.

On Thursday, March 11, double funeral masses for the eight were held at 10 a.m., 12 noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. in St. Augustine Catholic Church with burial following in a single plot at the church cemetery.

Just two days short of nine months later, Sunday, December 9, three more Minster High School students lost their lives in a single car automobile accident south of Celina.

On Thursday, December 13 consecutive funeral masses were said in St. Augustine's Catholic Church for Thomas E. Meiring, 16; James J. Quinlin, 16 and Jeffery E. Bruns, 17.

Once again the entire community responded with expressions of sympathy and sorrow to the families of these youngsters.

Winter '77-78 . . the Worst Ever for Minster



Snow scene in back yard of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Ranly, just north of Minster. Community Post photo.

Down through the years, stories of severe winter weather have been recalled by many residents. It seems like every decade had its own "worst storm" on record. Residents tell of the blizzard of November, 1950 and the heavy snows in November, 1966. But the winter of 1977-78 certainly broke all previous records in terms of snowfall, wind and drifting.

About 72 inches of total snowfall were recorded in the period of December 3, 1977 through February, 1978.

The weekend of December 3, three inches of snow fell and was blown into drifts. Schools were closed, the first of many such closings. More snow, December 5 and 6, totaling nearly a foot. Winds up to 50 miles per hour on December 7 forced some businesses to close. Most roads in the area were impassable. Two days later another storm dumped 6 more inches of snow and the winds continued, gusting to about 50 miles an hour. The drifts grew, more businesses closed. Temperatures went to five below zero.

A few weeks passed with snow occurring off and on and by the end of December, 21 inches of snow lay on the ground. Another snow storm, preceded by freezing rain hit Minster January 7 & 8, leaving another three inches of snow on the ground.

Seven more inches of snow fell January 16 and 17 and once again all normal activities ground to a halt.

Over the next three days three more inches of the powdery stuff drifted down. Once more school, business and industry activities were either stopped or severely hampered.

Over 16 inches of snow were now on the ground but the worst was still to come.

In the early morning hours of January 26 many Minster residents were awakened about 3 a.m. by winds that blew at 70 miles an hour. In a few hours the residents were virtually imprisoned in their homes by huge drifts. Very little activity was possible that day and the next as the storm roared through the village.

Many were stranded, doctors in the area delivered babies in homes, after reaching them by snowmobile and by helicopter.

An emergency headquarters was set up at the Minster-Jackson Township fire department. Fire, police, rescue squad, village employees and a host of volunteers showed up to do what they could to help their friends and neighbors.

Groceries were taken to those in need by caravans of residents on snowmobiles. Dairy farmers had to dump their milk as collection was an impossibility. Animals caught outside in the storm died of exposure.

Digging out was about the only activity possible the

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next few days. Within five days after the storm hit, village roads were passable once again and normal activities resumed.

The winter of '77-'78 caused many problems, big and small. But it also taught us once more that in an emergency, Minster residents respond to serve the needs of others.

Tornado Strikes Near Minster

Sunday, April 11th, 1965: A tornado struck Shelby County. 3 persons were dead. Among them were Mrs. Bernadine Barhorst, age 75, RR 1, Minster who resided on the Schmitmeyer-Baker road. Many persons from Minster spent the next week helping their neighbors in the Ft. Loramie area by donating clothing and household items to the people devastated by the storm.

Minster's Flag Unfurled During Sesquicentennial Year



Some village officials who received official flags from the Minster Historical Society in 1982. They are (left to right) Ralph Doenges, Board of Public Affairs; Tom Meyer, Minster Area Life Squad; Don Lampert, Minster-Jackson Township Fire Dept.; Robert Tebbe, Jackson Township Trustee; William Poeppelman, Police Chief; Edmund VanOss, Mayor; Dave Moorman, Historical Society President and Dennis Kitzmiller, Councilman. Community Post photo.

Minster has an official flag for their Sesquicentennial year in 1982 thanks to the efforts of the Minster Historical Society.

The project was begun by the society in 1981. David Hoying, C.PP.S., and Bob Lammers of the society worked on the design elements following input by the society's officers and trustees.

A final design was approved by the Minster Village Council in late 1981 and the finished version was presented to the society at a membership meeting Sunday, March 28, 1982.

Subsequently, a number of flags were donated by the society to village officials to promote the displaying of the flag not only during 1982 but beyond.

The heraldic design elements of the flag have special significance.

THE CROSS — The cross represents the strong Christian faith of the community. This faith was rooted in the late eighth century when Christianity was brought by the victorious Charlemagne and the venerable Benedictine missionaries to the defeated Saxon tribes in the area that was to comprise the Dioceses of Munster and Osnabruck.

THE OAK LEAF AND ACORN — The acorn is a symbol of the Saxon tribes to whom the oak leaf served as a symbol of strength. The early pagan ancestors of the settlers of Stallostown worshiped the oak tree as a deity. The "tree of life" was an important feature of many customs that developed later in the Munsterland.

THE CANAL BOAT — The Miami and Erie Canal reached Minster in 1843. This important artery of transportation connected Cincinnati on the Ohio River with Toledo on Lake Erie, and provided a link between the markets of New Orleans and those of New York. The canal greatly aided the population and economic growth of the community in the crucial years of development.

THE HORSE HEADS — Two crossed wooden equine heads are another ancient symbol of the Saxon nature religion. These heads were placed at the peak of the front gable of the old homeland farmhouses to ward off evil and thus served as an omen of good fortune.

THE COLORS — The colors of the flag — red, white, and yellow — are the colors of the flag of the city of Munster, Germany. The Bishop of the church-land of Munster had been both the ecclesial and secular ruler of the Oldenburger Munsterland from where Franz Joseph Stallo and many of the first settlers of Stallostown emigrated. It was from this relationship with the Bishopric of Munster that the name of the community of Minster was derived.

The color brown, selected for the heraldic overlay, was taken from the Minster Oktoberfest flag. This color represents business and industry, the agricultural activities related to the soil, and the Germanic origins of the community.

The Sesquicentennial flag is indicative of the faith and heritage, the ethic of hard work, the practical use of common sense, and the good fellowship inherent to the community. Display it with pride!



Fred Kramer (left) and son Herbert outside of Kramer's Store building. Today the library occupies one half of the building. The old tin ceiling and beautiful wood stairway inside have been restored.

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THE MINSTER MESS

or

How Not to Panic When the Bottom Falls Out of the Bus

Editor's Note: A small incident of a United Methodist bus breaking down outside of Minster vividly illustrates, I believe, the spirit of the people of Minster. What follows is a short poem of that experience.

This is a tale as true as can be
That all began very innocently.
Our driver, Gene Scott, and our faithful bus
Headed for Minster with 22 of us.

We made the trip and got along great
'Til we hit a bump that made us rattle and shake.
We ate our dinner at the "Wooden Shoe Inn,"
Went back to the bus and all got in.

Now we change drivers and mighty Mike Hall
Takes over the wheel, but the bus starts to stall.
The clutch will not clutch, all it does is grind,
Enough to drive everyone out of their minds.

We cripple along to the edge of town
With a funny smell in the air all around.
A farmhouse nearby seems a likely place
To find a phone and help, just in case.

But no one is home, so we have a meeting
When down the road comes a farmer with a friendly greeting.
He gets out his tractor and heavy chain
And pulls our bus backwards into the lane.

Now here's where the story really gets fun,
'Cause this isn't his farm, it belongs to his son,
Who isn't at home, no one is there
But he unlocks the door with 'nary a care
And says "Come on in, use the potty or phone,"
And then he goes off and leaves us alone.

A phone call is made and help is on the way
When up comes a storm that turns night to day.
But we don't care, we're having a ball
Laughing and joking and loving it all.

Bets are made, they're all in fun,
As to who will come first,
Our rescuer or the farmer's son.

Well, happily, our bus comes first,
Driven by Larry Shaner from the Vandalia Baptist Church.

So, off we go leaving our bus behind
And wondering at the farmer's state of mind,
When he gets home, as he surely must
And finds an empty United Methodist bus.

Just one more thought, I kind of have a hunch
That this is the most souls the Baptists have ever saved in one bunch!

Jeanne Huston
May 15, 1982

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* The Minster Post, Friday, April 4, 1919. Wooden Shoe Bach Beer Fit for a King. As the years come to pass and judging the business activities of our town, we take special notice at the present time that the local delivery wagon of the Star Brewing Company is kept busy in making his rounds for delivering case beer to the private trade. This being the bach beer season, it bears evidence that the old reliable Wooden Shoe Bach Beer is appreciated and enjoyed by the people of good taste. We are also in position to state that the Wooden Shoe Bach Beer is a beverage that many a one who toot their horn in public for the "dry" side sneak home as soon as the parade is over and hurry to their cellars to get in touch with their beer case. Beer, such as the Wooden Shoe Beer is surely a helpful and invigorating drink and the management of the Star Brewing Company as well as their genial brewmaster, Mr. Joseph Brinkman, deserve all due credit for the product they place on the market. We trust that the agencies for freedom and justice and the legislature will be successful in barring the dry fanatics from making our state go dry in the near future.

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* Friday, November 12, 1920, Minster Post. One of the oldest industries of Minster is now a thing of the past ancient history. The Minster Cooperage Company after struggling for years against adverse circumstances was finally compelled to go into the hands of a receiver to be closed out. The machinery was sold to a second hand firm and has been removed from the building. The Minster Machine Company bought the 100 x 40 foot barn directly opposite and also the big lot.

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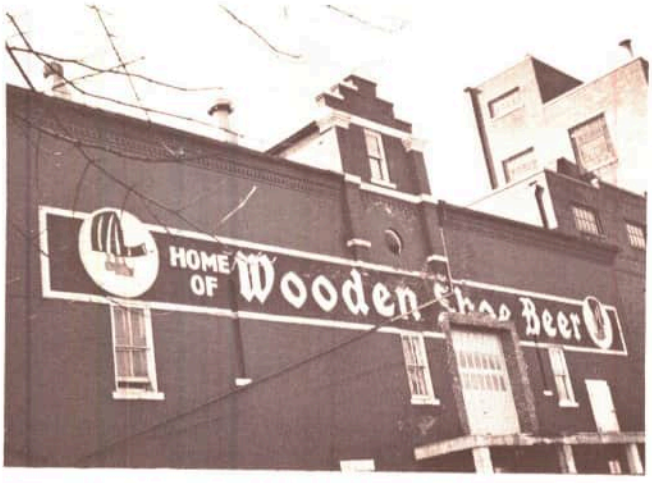
* July 20, 1923: The Cataract Fire Company has engaged new quarters to accommodate them in their public activities and to furnish the members comfort in their idle hours. They have moved all of their paraphernalia into the rooms on the second floor of the building on South Main Street above the Albert Oldiges blacksmith shop and are now boasting of a more desirable home than they have ever had before. The bell which has been used to give calls for meetings, etc. has been elevated above the building so that all things are now in order for the company's members to send out the at-home cards in their new lodging place. They will have pleasant club rooms at this place.

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Not Too Long Ago

Photos by Jim Eiting



The sign on the north side of the Wooden Shoe Brewery was very visible in 1957 when this photo was taken.



The Minster Milling Company on the north side of Fourth Street, between Main and Garfield, as it looked in 1960.



The north side of Fourth Street between Frankfort and Hanover in May, 1961.



The convent of the Sisters of the Precious Blood in 1972. It stood on the north side of Fifth Street between Hanover and Lincoln.



The north side of Fourth Street between Hanover and Frankfort in 1960. The building on the right was Home Service Cleaners. The second building from the right was used as Wagner's IGA storeroom downstairs with an apartment upstairs.



The New City Hotel in 1979, a Minster landmark for many years, stood on the southwest corner of Fourth and Main Streets.

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Local Architecture Provides Insight For Minster's History

By Barbara K. Grimm

INTRODUCTION

This study is based on information that has been found during the historic inventory of the houses and buildings in Minster. The survey is being done for the Ohio Historic Preservation Office (OHPO), Ohio Historical Center, Columbus, Ohio, in conjunction with Mary Ann Brown, Regional Director of the Western Ohio Branch Campus of Wright State University's Regional Historic Preservation Office at Celina, Ohio. The goal of this inventory is to survey and identify all the houses and buildings with significant architectural features or historical importance as related to the development of Minster. All of these buildings are recorded on an Ohio Historic Inventory (OHI) form and are filed in the Celina and Columbus offices. The final phase of this inventory will be to make nominations to The National Register of Historic Places.

Information was gathered from published works such as the Minster Centennial of 1932 and the 1880, 1898, and 1917 Atlases. (NOTE: Often times the same name has different spellings, sometimes as many as five or six. The spelling I use is the spelling I saw from that particular source.) Court records, tax plat books, and tax duplicates from Mercer and Auglaize counties were used, as were early census records, but the greatest wealth of information came from you, the people who have grown up here and whose families for generations have helped mold this town into the prosperous community it is today. Many thanks go to those of you who took the time to talk to me about the stories that were passed on through your families and friends and helped me to locate important information and facts that help to reconstruct the architectural development of this town. Your cooperation was both enjoyable and enlightening. A special thanks must go out to Mary Ann Brown - a good instructor; and to Velma Schmieder, Luke Knapke, and Rita and Louie Hoying - all respected town historians who shared their wide knowledge of the town's history with me.

So far we have uncovered an astounding number of very early homes that are one hundred to one hundred fifty years old. Anyone not knowing this town and driving through it would be surprised at this. This is almost a village covered over but underneath still remains the early settlement houses of this town.

Much is written in books and magazines on the "pretty" old house and how to refurbish and decorate it. Although museums, historic houses and districts interest some with their history, they attract many with their aesthetic appeal. You may have gone through museum houses and admired restored houses and perhaps you have noticed the elaborate woodwork, or "homey" hearth, the grand elegance of a Queen Anne house or the simple rustic features of a pioneer house, and the appropriate furnishings inside. How many of you have wondered why a certain style was built at a particular time? Architectural style is related to the growth of our towns and our country. When the early pioneers of this area came to this wilderness, they wanted a functional place to live - a shelter - so their houses were plain. As the country grew and the Industrial Revolution took place, people were living more comfortably, and besides a place to live they wanted a house of beauty and fashion. Their houses took on more ornament. Often times having too much ornamentation, the people became tired of this. Style then took a turn to the more simple design again. Architectural details give clues as to how a building was used, how old it is, and how it fits into history. This article will try to show how Minster's history is intertwined with the type of buildings built here. It is hard to match one style with certain years, as styles tend to overlap. It is just as hard to categorize a building with one architectural style. The buildings in Minster are mostly vernacular with popular architectural style details and influence. (Editor's Note: The Illustrated Glossary at the end of this article will be helpful to readers not familiar with some architectural terms.)

GERMAN VERNACULAR

Minster is a town that was settled in the form of a colony by a large group of German immigrants. This is unusual in itself. These Germans fled their homeland for America. Cincinnati seemed to be their meeting place and from there they would venture into the wilderness of northwestern Ohio which was just then being opened to white settlement. By 1832 the last Indians were removed from the Shawnee Reservation at Wapakoneta. The Germans tended to settle together and the land they found here seemed desirable. It was along a very early portage area and transportation road which was called the Auglaize Trail and was used as early as the Revolutionary War. The land was on the summit, which was high ground, and was a favorable location for early trade. The Miami-Erie Canal was being planned, and this meant that there would be work for the people. The canal was finished by 1845. This opened up a way to sell products. Mercer, Shelby, and Auglaize counties became a trading point and many small factories, craftsmen, hotels, saloons, general stores, and businesses such as coopers, mills, brewers and pork packing began. This accounts for Minster's enormous wealth at an early date.

These German people built in a traditional fashion to make this new land look like the old country. Lower Saxony, a German Catholic area which is next to Holland and Belgium, was the homeland of most of our forefathers. Others came from the Alsace-Lorraine area along the edge of France. You may have heard the people of our area referred to as "Dutchmen" or Dutch-German. This is because our ances-

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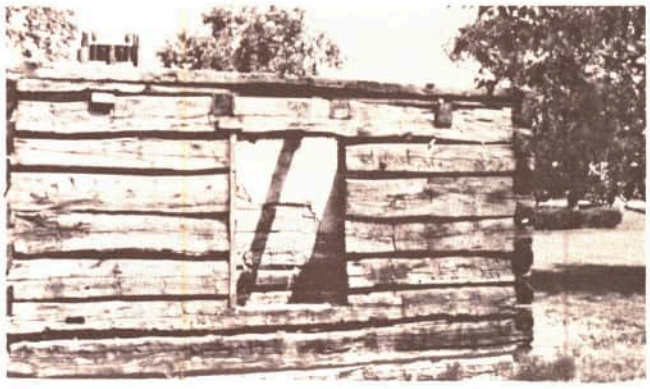
tor's homeland was next to Holland, and their traits are more like the neighboring Dutch people. Also the German word for German is Deutsch, which sounds very much like Dutch. Therefore, the types of houses built by the farmer and small village resident in those areas of Germany were copied here. It would not be accurate to look for house types of other areas of Germany, even the only other major German Catholic area in Germany which is Bavaria. The Bavarian people borrow their traits from Switzerland, which is next to them, and they lean towards buildings with the Swiss chalet, half-timber look. This, of course, is not our heritage.

Our ancestors carried over with them the way of building they knew best. This is vernacular architecture. All vernacular means in an architectural sense is "common to the area." It is not a high style textbook example of architecture. It is important because it is a style that is commonly used in an area by the people there and often times relates to the country from which they came or is associated with a particular local builder or architect. Most of the architecture found in Minster is vernacular, and it exhibits a strong Lower Saxony (Dutch-German) influence. For example, some of the traits found in early German Catholic settlements across the state are: groups of German Catholics tended to settle together rather than settle randomly throughout the state, their houses were built in a linear pattern along the street with little or no front yard, each household was self-sustaining with barns and outbuildings - often of the timber and peg construction, they seemed to show a preference for brick construction with even the frame buildings frequently being brick-lined, summer kitchens separated from the main house are repeatedly found, their early houses often do not have fireplaces because Germans brought iron stoves, many times they combined their business and living quarters, the core of the town seemed to be a cluster of religious buildings, and last but not least, the German beer-drinking culture is seen by the presence of early saloons and breweries. Early Minster displayed all of these characteristics. The remarkable thing is that these early buildings are still left and still being used, many times by the same family that owned them originally. This is partly because of the conservative nature of the German people to reuse, save, and take good care of what they have.[1]

The high style or novel architectural styles listed in the architectural books do not reveal as much about a community as the vernacular styles. High style can be found anywhere throughout the country. A Queen Anne style is a Queen Anne in Ohio or California. The vernacular style is what helps form a historical pattern of German (or whatever the ethnic group may be) settlement across the state and throughout the country. There is probably not another community in the state that has the early assortment of residences and businesses of the "Dutch"-German Vernacular Style like Minster has.

[1]Brown, Mary Ann and Niekamp, Mary. German Catholic Immigrant Settlements Related to Father Francis De Sales Brunner and the Society of the Most Precious Blood in Northern Ohio, (unpublished manuscript) Ohio Historic Preservation office, 1981.

LOG





Most of you are familiar with the log cabin or house. Although there are different types, they all have the logs laid horizontally with the space between the logs filled with small wood slabs set diagonally between them and covered with a plaster mixture of clay, sand and animal hair. Most of these early cabins or houses were crude structures, made by the early pioneers of our country as shelters. The log house was used by all nationalities and in all parts of the country. When the pioneers came to this unsettled land, there was no other material available to them, so they felled the trees, which were plentiful, squared and notched the logs and filled in between with chinking.



This photo shows the method of chinking used in old log buildings in the Minster area. Wooden slats were placed between the logs, then were covered with a plaster of clay, sand and animal hair.

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Some of the early settlers of Minster built small log shelters. Sometimes they were as small as ten by fourteen feet with a six-foot ceiling, one door, one window and a sleeping loft. This would house a family with five children or more until the land could be cleared and a household set up. Then usually a larger, more permanent house would be built and the small log building became a rear wing, detached summer kitchen or wash house. One of these small log buildings still stood on North Main Street in Minster until 1977 when it was dismantled and moved away.

Sometimes the early settlers built a larger permanent log house being one-and-one-half to two stories high. As soon as they could, they would clapboard the outside and plaster the interior. When the interior had to be left exposed it was often whitewashed. Other times the walls were covered with rough boards. The roof was usually covered with hand-split wood shingles.

We think there may be only two log houses left standing in town and there is even controversy over these.



105 North Main Street, Lot 49 Possibly 1833

This two story, rectangular house is said to be log by many of the older people in town.

It is credited with having the first mass in Stallostown said here on Christmas Day, 1833. It is said that services were held in this private residence until a log church was built in 1835. At that time there was no parish priest, as there was hardly a parish. A priest would travel through the scattered settlements, and when he came to Stallostown (Minster), people within a fifteen mile radius would gather for services. During the priest's visit, he would administer all the sacraments needed.

This next house is diagonally across the street from the previous one, and the two are very similar.

It is a two-story, rectangular house with a central chimney and balanced four bay facade. This house did have a fireplace. The present owner remembers her father closing it up. While putting on an addition, the present owner and her husband ran into some difficulty and had to cut an archway through a 12-14" thick solid log wall.

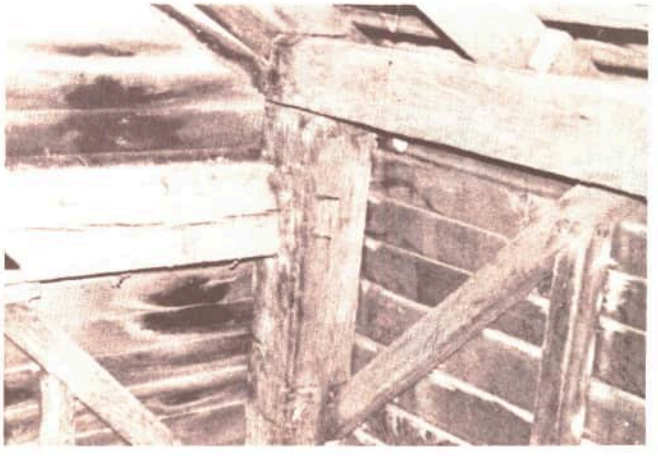


116 North Main Street, Lot 95 C. 1851



Little is known about the curious brick outbuilding which stands behind this house. Why the cross above the door? Within a block of here was the first cemetery, a home where many early masses were said and a home that held the first school for girls run by The Sisters of The Most Precious Blood. Could this have been used as some type of religious building originally?

BRICK LINED



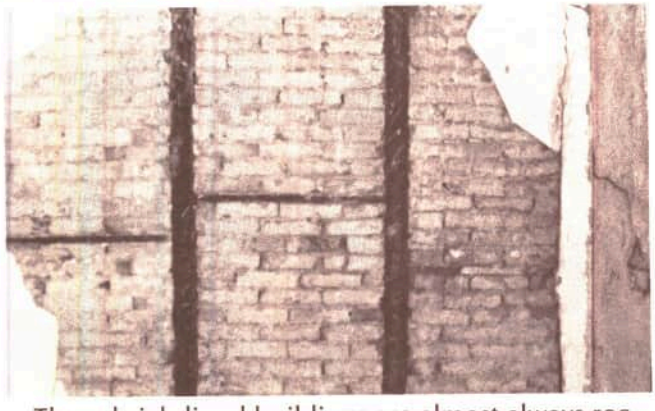
This type of building is definitely a German vernacular style. It is found in very early settlements where the German people who settled these communities were predominantly from the Lower Saxony area of Germany. In Ohio they are especially found where Father Brunner and The Society of the Most Precious Blood went and where there was a large concentration of German Catholics. The greatest concentration of these brick-lined buildings is found in the Mercer-

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Auglaize County area (part of this county was originally Mercer Co.). There are records of some brick-lined buildings in Germantown, Glandorf and several other towns in Ohio. A few were also found scattered across the U.S. in German communities in Texas, Missouri and various other states.



A brick-lined building has a hand-hewn timber framework held together by wooden pegs. Usually all the cavities between the vertical timbers were filled with brick or clay, mud and straw. Sometimes only the exterior walls were lined with brick, and the interior walls were lined with mud and straw. A few timber and peg houses are found with no brick lining. Also, in later years, during remodeling, brick lining was sometimes removed. This type of construction should not be confused with the exposed half-timber Swiss chalet-look buildings of Bavaria.



These brick-lined buildings are almost always rectangular in shape but can be one, one and one half, or two stories high. They are a plain building with little ornamentation. They usually have four rooms on the ground floor with no central hall. The facade has a balanced bay arrangement and the roofline has a distinctive low pitch to it. The window frame are plain, sometimes topped by a triangular pediment.

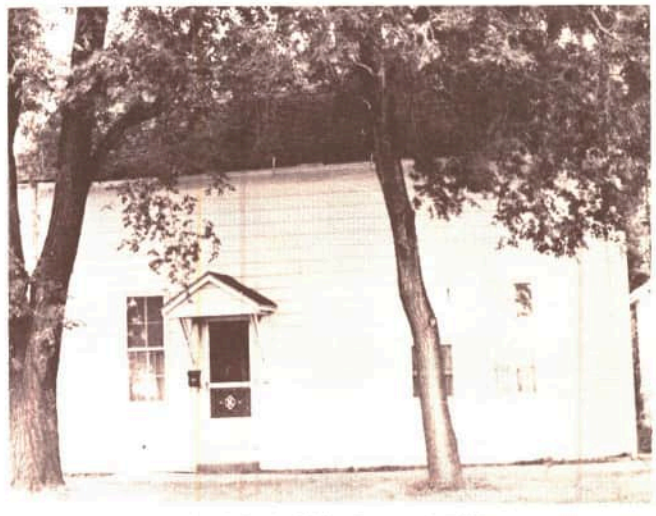
It seems our early settlers built this type of simple rectangular shelter as early as the log buildings. As earlier stated, they wanted to make this new land look like their homeland. Here they found the "clayey" soil which was suitable for making brick. They seemed to know how to make their own brick and to build with it. Sometimes a kiln was made to make bricks for one or two houses, and then the kiln was destroyed.

It is generally thought that these brick-lined buildings were covered with clapboard as soon as possible, although there is an old photo in *The New Bremen Sun* showing no covering on a building of this type.

Tax records for Stallostown only exist as far back as 1837. However, often the names of these 1837 records match the original owners and lots listed on Stallo's 1833 plat. Many of these German vernacular brick-lined buildings still stand today.

The largest concentration of brick-lined and timber-and-peg houses is on Main Street which was the central street of the whole platted town. Others cluster along the canal, then the town's "highway" to civilization. On Main Street alone we know of twenty brick lined and one timber and peg. We find North Main has larger one-and-one-half to two-story rectangular brick-lined buildings, while South Main seems to have the smaller ones. Often times these homes had a business in one of the two rooms to the front of the house, which seems to be a common practice of the Germans.

Surprisingly we found six brick-lined and one timber-and-peg houses on North Lincoln Street, and other brick-lined and timber-and-peg buildings are scattered throughout the town.



180 North Main Street, Lot 87



172 North Main Street, Lot 88

Both 1837 (possibly 1833)

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The house on lot 88 is Minster's brick-lined building in its most original state. The exterior as well as the interior walls are lined with brick. It is believed to have the nineteenth century wood siding with end boards topped by a cornice, and also most of its original 6/6 double-hung sash (DHS) windows. The off-center door and window arrangement are common to this type of house. The door still has the transom above it, and all the framing is plain and is topped by a triangular pediment. Also note the central chimney.

The two previously pictured houses are built three or four feet away from each other and across the street are two other brick-lined houses built in a similar manner. These two houses look very much alike but even though the other house still shows its original shape, much of the detail is lost through the use of vinyl siding.



163 North Main Street, Lot 56



169 North Main Street, Lot 57

Both 1837 (Possibly 1833)

This first house has been known as a Shaffer house for as long as anyone can remember. It was in the Shaffer name by 1880 if not before. It is a full two-story house with the same features as those across the street except for the four matching bays across the second story.

The house at 169 North Main Street is a typically German-built, two-story, timber-and-peg house, but it has mud and straw lining in the exterior walls. Also note the five-bay arrangement (central door with two windows to each side and originally five windows across the second story) and the inside end chimneys. This five balanced bay arrangement is often found in Federal styling.

Here is another example of a brick-lined house on North Main Street. Its roofline has been changed or raised - probably to add the small second floor windows so it could be used as living quarters.



147 North Main Street, Lot 54 1837 (Possibly 1833)

The original 1833 plat lists F. Rhoenkohl as owner. He was listed as having come with Stallo when he founded the town. He also drew lots 40, 87 and 93 - all of which had some of the earliest houses in Minster built on them, and all seem to be still standing today. A. Rhoenkohl is listed as owner in the 1837 tax records. According to the *Minster Centennial,* in the fall of 1848, Father Francis De Sales Brunner arranged to have Sisters of the Most Precious Blood take charge of educating the girls. In late 1848, four sisters came to establish a school for girls. There was no convent here at that time, so they were housed in this private home, which also served as the school. The Superiors closed the school and ordered the sisters to retire to the Maria Stein Convent because of a siege of cholera. After it passed, the sisters returned and resumed their work in another private home.



265 North Main Street, Lot 68 1837 (Possibly 1833)

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This two-story, brick-lined house on 265 North Main Street was in the Bensman name for at least one hundred years (1850-1950). The Bensmans had a general store in the front two rooms of this house and a brick pork house on the north side of the house. One of the present residents found many old ledgers, expense books, and checks in the attic dating back as early as 1850 and the Bensman store was still advertised in the *Volksfreund* in 1894. These records are now preserved by the Minster Historical Society.



31 North Main Street, Lot 40 1837 (Possibly 1833)

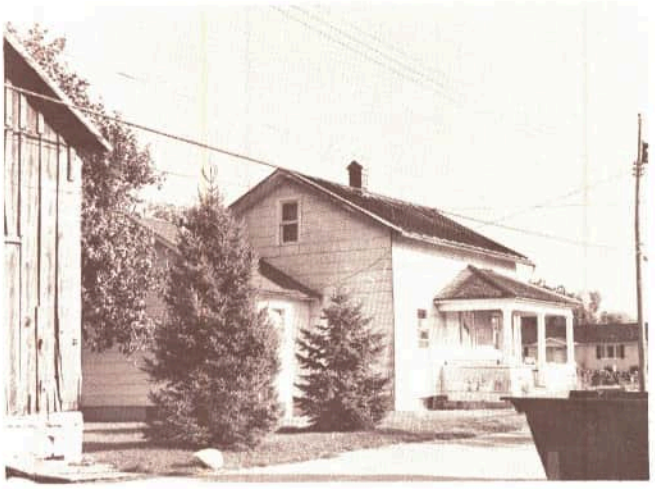
Here is another example of the brick-lined house. The exterior walls are brick lined and the interior ones are mud-and-straw lined. These earliest houses all sat along the sidewalk. This lot 40, along with 54, 87, and 93 were all owned by F. Rhoenkohl. This is one of the four early houses still standing on lots that were originally drawn by him in 1833. It is very likely these are the original houses built on these lots. At one time, one of the front rooms in this house was a tailor shop operated by Trorings.

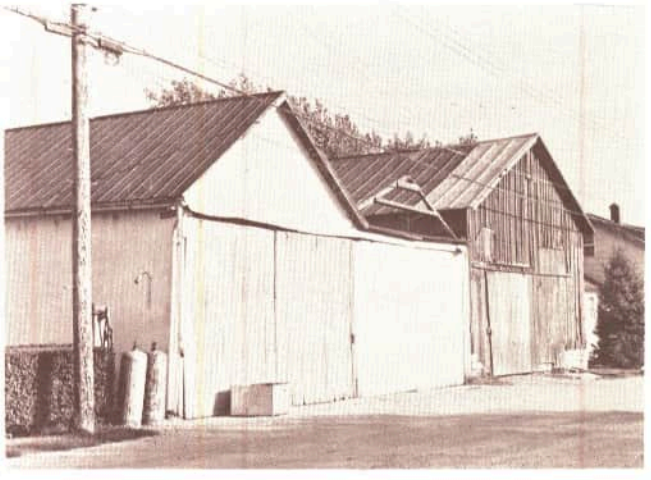


221 South Main Street, Lot 10 C. 1839

This one story house is an example of the smaller brick-lined houses found along South Main St. It has a central door with one window to each side and a central chimney. It has been aluminum-sided and extensively remodeled, but the basic shape can still be seen.

This house was owned by a family named Pieper by or before 1862. Pieper was a casket maker. He made wooden caskets custom-made to fit the body. The 1860 Census for Minster lists Theodore Pieper as one of the six cabinet makers in town then.





77 South Frankfort Street, Lot 27 & 28G C. 1850

Here is one of the many brick lined houses that sprang up along the canal in the late 1840's and 1850's. It is the typical rectangular shape with four bay arrangement having an off-center door. There is an old summer kitchen south of the house which is covered with the original board and batten. At one time an old outdoor oven stood on the property. The barns pictured also have a very early date. They are of the timber and peg construction covered with weathered board and batten. The barn on the right of the picture has a stone foundation that continued to form a basement-like area with stone walls and a dirt floor. The ground where the large door is was dug out at a slope to the canal for the loading and unloading of the canal boat. These very early barns are very rare in Minster today even though they used to be found on almost every property. These two are especially valuable because they were part of a prosperous business that came about because the canal gave this small settlement access to the outside world. The canal stimulated enormous new mercantile trade in this town.

These lots 27 & 28 were owned by J.B. Meyer. J.B. Meyer and J.H. Steineman were Minster's leading pork processors. In the late 1850's and 1860's pork packing became the leading industry. Along with pork, they would buy the farmer's grain which they shipped to markets at Toledo and they would ship black walnut to the furniture factories in Cincinnati. Meyer also had a general store north of this house, a large warehouse, an icehouse, a blacksmith and he owned his own canal boat - the "St. Bernard". The

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1860 Census lists one Boat Captain - Barney Meyer. Two granddaughters of J.B.'s remember the boat. The front section was for the horses, the middle part for produce and the back was for the people. Meyer specialized in hams. The rest of the hog was considered waste. During butchering season, the townfolk could bring a very large basket and fill it with spareribs and other parts - all for twenty-five cents! They took the tenderloins along with the other waste and buried it in the woods. In the winter, hams would be stacked along the canal banks like cords of wood and when the canal thawed the hams would be shipped out.

The granddaughters remember there were thirteen beds or bunks upstairs. It was like a dorm. Sometimes when the canal boat came in, their grandmother Agnes (Bessie) would have a huge black kettle filled with soup cooking over a fire and she'd bake many loaves of bread in the outdoor oven for the men on the boat and then the workers would stay in the bunks overnight. Also when men came into town from the farms to have their horses shoed and the blacksmith could not get to it that day, these men would bunk overnight.

Agnes was one of the first persons in town to learn English because of the people she met on the canal boats and because of a colored lady they had living with them who knew the language. At one point, Meyer's brother-in-law, Arthmer, joined the business and by the time the railroad came to Minster in 1877, they had quit the pork packing business. He later moved his business to the present site of The Farmer's Exchange. There he had a lumber yard, grainery and general store. The 1907 business directory lists J.B. Meyer-saloon and grocery. This later became Wernsing's Store. Wernsing was a son-in-law and many people in town remember this store.

TIMBER AND PEG



124 North Lincoln Street, Lot 51B C. 1850

This modest rectangular house is of timber-and-peg construction but has no brick lining. It was moved to this lot from a lot across the street probably around the turn of the century. It is not uncommon to find that old houses have been moved. It seems that people used to move houses more often than they do today.

As a young boy, the resident and his parents moved into this house at its present location. It was always said that the Brothers of The Precious Blood lived here. The Catholic Convent and the Society of the Most Precious Blood did own much land in this area, including the entire block from Fifth to Sixth Street, between Lincoln and Hanover Streets, from which this house was moved.



70 South Lincoln Street, Lot 28B C. 1850

This timber-and-peg house is said to have been moved to this location from North Ohio Street (near the water tower). It was the house of the esteemed Johann Anton Goehr. Goehr was a master carpenter who built 20-25 churches in the area and is credited with additions and spires of many of the small churches when the High Gothic trend came to Mercer-Auglaize counties in the late 1870's. He added twenty feet to the St. Augustine Church along with the notable twin spires.

OLDEST BRICK

Minster has two very early all brick houses. It is quite unusual to find an all brick house in our area with such an early date. The court records checked seem to indicate these early dates as does the construction of these houses. The brick bonding pattern, 6/6 double hung sash (DHS) windows and the wood lintels and lugsills also suggest an early construction. Both of these houses are in one of the earliest areas settled in town. Also, as already mentioned, these German people seemed to have a preference for brick.



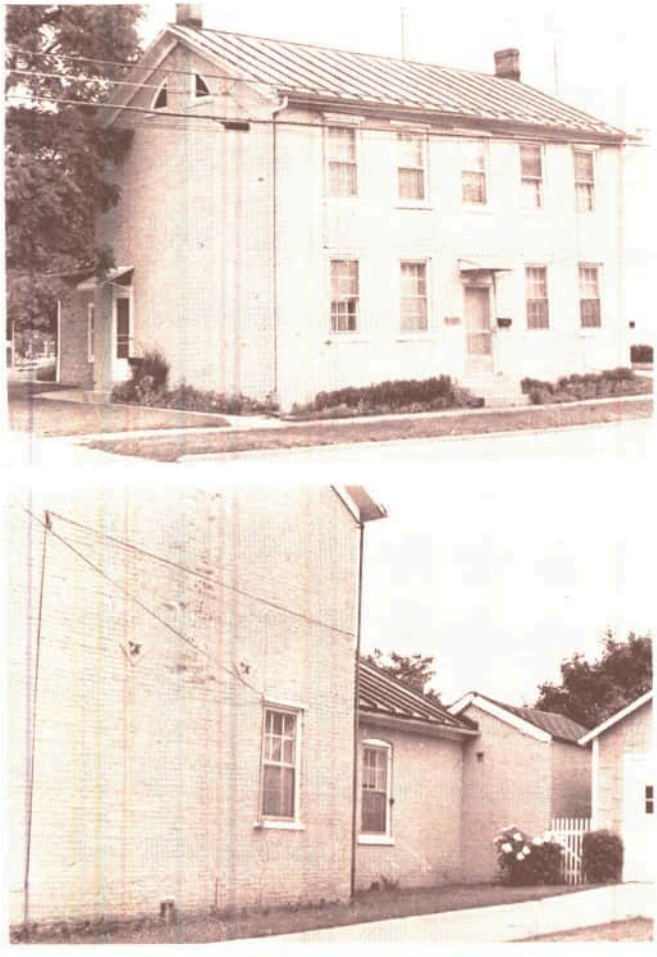
55 North Main Street, Lot 43 1837 (Possibly 1833)

This quaint, one-story, brick canal-style house is

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quite unique because of its very early date. This rectangular house has a six-bay front, two of them being recessed entrance doors with four-light transom above. The doors and windows have wood lintels and lug sills. This is one clue to its early date, along with tax record property values. The house has a central chimney. A brick court yard is to the north of the back of the house. The brick smokehouse still remains behind the house. Almost all of the early households were self-sufficient. They each had their own garden, fruit orchard, barn and a smokehouse. This smokehouse has a fireplace, central chimney and an all-brick fruit cellar that is partially below ground. This house is a rare find and should be respected and preserved.

The Beckman family owned this house as early as 1849 and for close to fifty years after that. Joseph Beckman walked between Minster and Piqua to learn the cobbler's trade. The back addition was used for his cobbler business and the extra large front window farthest to the north was used as a display window. Beckman made "special lasts" as well as regular shoes. Special lasts were shoes made for people with special needs, for example the crippled.



139 North Main Street, Lot 53 C. 1839

Here is a much larger, very early brick house with Federal-like details. It has five bays across the first and second stories with a central entrance door. Two quarter fan windows are found in each of the gable ends. The house has inside end chimneys and wooden lintels and lugsills like the small brick house mentioned. A brick summer kitchen is now attached to the rear of this building.

This house was in the Meiners family for many years. B. H. Meiners was a partner in Minster's flour mill around the turn of the century, and he was also mayor of Minster in 1906 and 1907.

CANAL STYLE

Here we have a German vernacular style building that we seem to find only in the small German communities located along the canal. Although this building would be categorized as German vernacular, we call it canal style. German vernacular is such a broad term and includes so many different styles that we try to further define the styles found in our area by giving them a suitable title. Canal styles are not necessarily found directly alongside the canal. They are usually a one-and-one half story building, most commonly brick, with four rooms down and a central hall. They have a balanced facade and a low pitched roofline that comes down to about the tops of the window lintels which makes for a small half-story above. They often have a flat stone or wood lintel and sill and 6/6 DHS. On our canal styles we also find a flush shaped lintel of brick and sometimes a flush segmental arch. A wood lintel is earlier than stone and a flat lintel is earlier than segmental arched. The shaped lintels we find here seem to indicate as early a date as the flat lintels. A lot of the canal style houses have a stone foundation and if stone wasn't available yet, they might have continued the brick walls to form a brick foundation. Often even the interior walls are of solid brick and the brick continues through the floor to form a foundation for each wall.



229 North Main Street, Lot 9 By 1878

This small brick canal-style house stands directly on the sidewalk in the old German fashion. It is in its original state. It has two front doors with a window to each side. They have relieving brick shaped arches and stone lugsills. The foundation is of stone and the house has inside end chimneys. The interior walls are of brick with a foundation for each wall.

John B. Feldman had this house built and his great-granddaughter lives here today. John B. Feldman was one of the six men to come with F. J. Stallo, founder of Stallostown (Minster), to establish a settlement here. He built a log cabin south of Minster on what is now the Henry Feldman farm. Later he built a large brick

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house on North Main St. for his family to live in and about ten years later built this house. He rented it to different families, and it was passed down through the family and rented out until a third generation, Bernard J. Feldman, moved his family into it. Rose is his daughter. She has lived in this house almost all of her 90 years.



278 South Main Street, Lot 142 C. 1858

This house was built as a small canal-style house somewhere between the 1840's and 1858. The house originally had an off-center door with four bays across the front. Here is a case where the brick walls continue to form the foundation. The 6/6 DHS windows on the back of the house show a double header brick flat lintel. Probably when the Gothic trend arrived in Auglaize County, a need for more space arose, and as money permitted, an addition to lengthen the house was put on the north side and a Gothic peak was added to the central roofline. Also the double header segmental arches over the front 6/6 DHS windows may have been added at this time.

The present owner is a descendant of John B. Feldman as was the owner of the previous house. This house has been in the Feldman family for over 100 years. Henrietta's mother, Mary Feldman married a Hackemoeller. The Hackemoellers were farmers, as were most of the early families along Main St. They raised sugar cane and had a cane press for sugar and molasses which they sold to the townfolk. The circular walk the horses used to power the cane press can still be seen behind the house.



72 North Main Street, Lot 102 C. 1860

Although most of the canal-style houses we find sit lengthwise along the street, this one has its gable end to the front. However, the entrance doors are still located on the long side of the building like we find on most of these buildings. This house has shaped arches and stone lugsills. There is an interior chimney.

This house is in the area of Minster's first business district. It is remembered by many of the older people in town as Kramer's Store. Actually this was the living quarters and a frame building was attached to this. This frame section contained Minster's first post office and a drygoods store. Here they sold yardgoods, quite a large selection of wallpapers, religious articles, school books, the prettiest valentines and the largest selection of penny candy in town, along with numerous other things.

Although this building goes unnoticed by many, it is well worth preserving. Inside it has the original wooden fireplace mantle, hand-grained woodwork and a hand-painted ceiling with colors as brilliant as the day they were painted. These originals are very rare things to be seen in an old house in the 1980's, although very common in their day.



124 North Main Street, Lot 94 By 1849

Here is another example of a canal-style with its gable end to the front. This one has an entrance door on this side. It also displays many of the canal-style characteristics.

This small house, although quite old, is not the original house on this lot. By 1844 or possibly earlier, a small log house (approximately 10' x 14') was on this lot. The parents and five children lived here until they could build this house. This was somewhere between 1844 and 1849. It is said the man who built this house owned a brickyard near here. When the new house was built, this log house became a summer kitchen-washroom. The interior walls were plastered and had wainscotting part way up. This log building was dismantled and relocated about 1977. Many people in town remember this as Dillman's Store. Julius and Millie Dillman bought the house in 1919 and ran a grocery store in the front room of the house until 1953. They also had a gas pump out front and ran a huckster wagon through the surrounding countryside.

This next canal-style house is on North Hanover St. near the church. Behind it at the alley is an old pork

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house. This canal-style house is typical with its four-bay balanced front and the windows having shaped arches and stone lugsills. There are also inside end chimneys. The porch was added at a much later date.



32 North Hanover Street, Lot 40D C. 1848



Very little is known about the pork house. I am told that the butchered meat was brought here to process and cure. The faded remains of the painted letters spelling out "Pork House" can be seen, but the line below cannot be made out. Obviously this was a porking business, one of many of these businesses which sprang up after the Miami-Erie Canal was completed in 1845, connecting Minster to the outside world. This opened up new commercial possibilities and the town began to change. Two businesses to come from this were cooperages and porking houses.

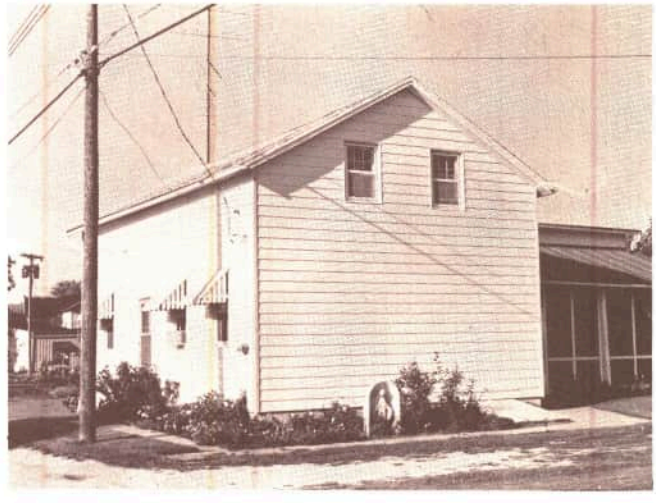
This next house is an excellent example of a canal-style house with flat wood lintels and lugsills. It has a central door with transom flanked by two 6/6 DHS to each side. There is an interior chimney and stone foundation. All of the walls are brick, even the interior walls. They are twelve to fourteen inches thick, and continue through the floor to the ground. The small entrance stoop was a later addition.

The present owner was told that a cobbler lived here long ago. The 1898 map lists H. Nipper as owner of this lot and a 90-year old resident tells of a Nipper being a wooden shoe maker in a frame house not far from here. Upon checking the records for the frame house, which is newer than the brick house, we find H. Nipper listed as owner. He might have built a new frame house and moved himself and his business there.



55 North Frankfort Street, Lot 43G C. 1850 or earlier

Most of the older people in town remember the brick house as the Brandewie old maids' house. They were excellent dressmakers and ran their business in this house. The man who bought the house from the Bandewies did some replastering. After tearing off some of the old plaster, he found old newspapers stuffed in the cracks and one was from during the Civil War.



45 South Frankfort Street, Lot 30G

This is an old canal-style house now covered over by modern aluminum siding. It is one of many houses and buldings that sprang up on the west side of town because of the new transportation route that opened in 1845. The basic canal-style shape can still be seen along with newer additions and the front bay arrangement is characteristic of the canal-style found here although the windows have been changed.

The Piening Tannery was on the lot south of here. Although I don't think this house was built by a Piening, Frank Piening did own this lot by 1870 and he had acquired and set up a tannery on the lot South by 1880. This tannery is listed in the 1880 business directory as Frank Piening Tannery-tanner and dealer in oak tanned leather. It is also in the 1882 directory but

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twenty-five years later it is not listed. There is an old sketch of the residence and tannery that is still preserved today.



37 North Frankfort Street, Lot 42H, between alley and the canal C. 1850

Here is a very early building along the canal that was not built for a house. It is one of the few canal business buildings that is still standing and in near original state. It is very similar to the canal style house being a one-story gable roofed rectangle with a central chimney. It has 6/6 DHS windows that are topped by a jack arch. A jack arch indicates a very early date and this building could date earlier than 1850. The building has a stone foundation and cellar with dirt floor. The building is built on the slope of the canal bank and has a wide opening towards the canal, probably for loading and unloading the canal boats.

The information that could be gathered on this building is sketchy. It was hard to get definite information any earlier than the 1890's. Many old buildings and barns used to stand around this building but they have been torn down. Quite a few of the older residents say this was a pork house but no one seems to know who it was operated by. One account is that this is where the hogs were slaughtered and then the meat was brought to another pork house for curing and processing. Could J.H. Steineman have operated a pork house here? He started in the pork packing business in the 1850's. He owned land across the canal from here and block H is divided by the canal. Many older people say that canal boats docked here. Others remember Steineman's canal boat. Another thought is - could this have been a cooperage? The 1860 Census lists twenty-two coopers and two of them were Henry Busse and Joseph Elbert. These two names are listed as owners of this lot in 1860 and 1865. Also there was a period when Steineman was involved with a cooperage. Whatever the building was originally built for, it was one of the businesses that developed because of the opening of the canal.

Around the turn-of-the-century the property was owned by Charles Herkenhoff, who had built a new house on the lot east of here. This building had many different owners and people say there was a cigar factory here at one time, a men's club called The Passtime Club met here, it was lived in at one time and it was used for storage. In recent years it was a cabinet shop and is now used for storage.



296 North Cleveland Street, Lot 72H 1855

This must have been quite a stylish little house in its day and it is a perfect example of the canal-style. It is a one-story rectangle with a smaller wing to the west. It has a central chimney and the original 6/6 DHS have wood lintels and lugsills. There are quarter fan windows in the gable ends like we find in our larger Federal-like buildings and may very well be the only canal-style in our town to have these windows. The front of the house was towards the canal. Since the canal was a main transportation route through the town, the buildings along here would face the canal. The front of this house has a five balanced bay arrangement. A five or six foot recessed opening used to be where the small central window is today. This recessed opening had a door flanked by sidelights-reminding us of Federal-like doorways. The house has a stone foundation and a full basement or "cooper cellar".

This property, along with three lots south of here, was owned by John Frilling as early as 1853 and it stayed in the Frilling name until about 1920. John Frilling is listed as one of the twenty-two coopers in Minster's 1860 Census. Because of the large porking business, barrels were needed to pack the meat for shipping and cooperages began to appear in town. It seems that most of these cooperages tended to be on the north end of the canal. Barrels were also often used to ship grain. Two types of barrels were made in town. The tight barrel was for liquids and the slack barrel, which was made here, was used for dry products.

This house has a deep stone walled basement under the entire house. This "cooper cellar" was about seven foot high and had a dirt floor. A large timber and peg barn stood on the lot directly south of here. It was town down within the last 50 years. It also had a deep stone walled cellar under it. Barrels were stored in these cellars. The towpath for the canal boats was on this side of the canal and it could be seen along here until fairly recently.

CHAPEL STYLE

Here again we have a German-vernacular style building that we have given the title chapel style. These chapel styles may look very similar to the canal

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style just discussed but upon closer examination, you can see differences. This style is also a 1-1/2 story building. It is usually brick, but this style can also be found in frame. It also has four rooms down and a central hall either the full width of the building or only one-half the width. This style almost always has a segmental arched lintel of several tiers of brick with some projecting to form various patterns. They usually have a stone foundation, a two-room cellar and inside end chimneys. The most noticeable difference between the two styles is the roofline. On the chapel style, there is about five feet between the top of the windows and the roofline, where as the canal-style roofline comes to almost the window tops. Earlier dates can be found on the canal style than on the chapel style.

There are two theories as to why we find this type of house in our area. Professor Hubert Wilhelm of The Ohio University believes this style is modeled after the "camp houses" found in the area of Germany from which our ancestors came. In Lower Saxony Germany it was the custom that only one son would inherit the family farm. Therefore, the sons who couldn't inherit the home farm had to develop a craft to make a living, and they would live on the edge of town. This part of town was called the camp, and this type of house was found there, thus "camp house." It is believed that this is the reason so many of our German Catholic people's names end with "kamp." This also explains why so many of these early German immigrants were skilled craftsmen. Minster, New Bremen, and other early German settlements were noted for their carpentry, shoe making, brick making, brewers, millers, and coopers.

According to Mary Ann Brown and Mary Niekamp who have surveyed Marion Township in Mercer County, it seems the early German Catholics may have copied their house style from the little brick chapels that were built in the area before the large Gothic churches we are accustomed to today were built. Of course, these early settlers could have modeled their chapels after the "kamp" house style that was so familiar to them. As the first log chapels, convents and churches were replaced with brick, so were the homes of the farmers. The impact of Father Brunner and The Society of the Most Precious Blood was so strong in the settlement, religious, social and cultural history of west-central Ohio that it is still felt here today.

Because the church was the center of social activity, it would be logical that the people would model their homes after the religious buildings they were so familiar with and so fond of.

Marion Township, our neighbor, is densely spotted with homes that trace their influence from the early brick chapel and convent styles. They have already been surveyed and are eligible for The National Register of Historic Places. Jackson Township where Minster lies has not been completely surveyed but a partial survey indicates that their buildings are very similar to those in Marion Township.

This charming house is an excellent example of the chapel style. It has a four-bay facade with an off-center door. The 4/4 DHS windows have a rough stone lugsill and a three-tier brick segmental arch which is different from the other buildings of Minster but identical to some of the arches found on the chapel-style houses found scattered throughout the surrounding area. The house has interior end chimneys. On the back is a delightful old wooden porch with decorative sawn brackets. Behind the house is a brick smokehouse that has a large fireplace with the old iron kettle hanging in it and a tiny room is to the back where they smoked the meat that they butchered.



48 North Frankfort Street, Lot 42F C. 1870

This cozy house is quite unusual to Minster because it is one of the few chapel-style houses in the town. This style is often found in the neighboring area of Marion Township and in the rural area around Minster. So far, we cannot understand why this chapel style house is not found more often in the town limits.

Joseph Landwehr came from Germany to Cincinnati and later settled in Minster. He had this house built, and it has stayed in the family over one hundred years, now being owned by his grandson.

VERNACULAR FEDERAL

Some of the early large, rectangular, brick buildings are very hard to categorize and title. Because of Minster's early settlement in this part of the state, it was located in a wilderness far from the mainstream of civilization. The buildings are bound to show more of a German vernacular style, possibly with some high style influence and not as much true high style architecture would be found here so early. Several of our large brick buildings immediately remind you of the Federal style, while others carry many of the same features but only with slight Federal-like detail. Generally, the Federal period is considered 1780-1820. After the Revolution, America experienced a time of great prosperity and expansion. With it came a desire to find a more "American" style. The Federal style was developed, and this style is often considered the first "American" architectural style. This style borrows from the Adams style which is English and retained the basic Roman symmetry and emphasis on a central entrance bay, often with pillars or columns and a flat entablature above, of the preceding Georgian style. Federal characteristics are a low-pitched roof, smooth facade, no arches, simple window framing and an emphasis on the entrance door, which is often recessed and has sidelights and a fanlight or transom

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above. These buildings usually have five balanced bays across the front.

Our large rectangular brick buildings also show similarities to the convent-style houses found in Marion Township although Minster's buildings exhibit a bit more style and symmetry. Both of these styles are similar to the four-over-four houses found in Pennsylvania. As explained in the chapel style, the early German settlers tended to model their homes after the religious buildings built by Father Brunner and The Society of the Most Precious Blood. The convent-style resembles the main building of the convents built by the Society. This style has a gable roof, interior end chimneys, central doorway with transom and sidelights, symmetrically spaced windows, stone lintels or flush segmental arches of brick, four rooms down and four up, and a limestone foundation. This convent style is found in early German settlement communities from the 1830's throughout Northern Ohio and often where Father Brunner and the Society's influence was felt, such as in Minster, New Bremen, Marion Township, New Riegel, Glandorf and Hanover. The small town of Hanover has a street lined with two-story brick houses that sit next to the sidewalk in an old German fashion. All the houses on this street are listed on The National Register of Historic Places and resembles the large brick houses of Minster. One pecularity found by state surveyors mainly in early German communities in this part of the state is two quarter fan windows in the gables of this style house.

We hesitate to call our buildings Federal because when put into a town such as Williamsburg, Virginia, which has true Federal, these buildings would not compare favorably. Yet they are as Federal as you will find in our area. These buildings also seem to have a little too much style to them to label them convent style. They are probably a mixture of styles done by the local people, thus producing a vernacular style all their own. Whichever title you choose, these are fine buildings in their own right and have architectural merit.



106 & 108 North Main Street, Lot 96 C. 1850

This impressive building definitely displays many Federal characteristics. It has five bays across the first and second stories. The striking recessed entrance door has a transom and sidelights, which is typically Federal, and the attractive co-ordinating bay above is also recessed and extra wide to match the opening below. All windows and doors have sandstone flat lintels and lugsills. There is a stone watertable, stone foundation and inside end chimneys. A summer kitchen is attached to the back of the house. This was a common building used by the homeowner of earlier times.

This was the house of a prominent citizen, Dr. J.P. Schmieder. He came to Minster in 1843 and set up his practice. The Schmieder Drug Store was only torn down about 1973. The doctor's territory was large, and he covered most of it on horseback or by horse and buggy. When bottles came into use, he made most of his own medicine. After the canal went through and businesses sprang up along Fourth St., the street that connected Main St. to the canal, he moved his drug store to a more popular location and he moved his family to a larger home on the corner of Fourth and Hanover Sts.



216 & 216½ North Main Street, Lot 83 C. 1850

Here is another lovely home with Federal styling. Although the Federal detail is not quite as pronounced and symmetrical on this house as the one before, it still shows many Federal characteristics. The central entrance door is emphasized by the slight recess and the sidelights and transom with flat lintel above. It has the five balanced bay arrangement on the first and second stories, stone flat lintel and lugsills, stone foundation and inside end chimneys. This is one of the buildings that has the two quarter fan windows in the gable ends. It also sits along the sidewalk in the old German fashion.

The house was in the Ripploh name for many years from 1915-1976. It was finally sold and is now used as apartments. This Ripploh family started a meat market and slaughter house in 1875, and this business was run by the family in various locations until it closed in 1969.

The outstanding brick house on the next page has many Federal details now. It was built in two parts and remodeled probably around the 1870's. The man who built the original part may have intended to add the second part. The tax records show the first building was built about 1852 and it shows quite a large increase in value the very next year. The house has a five-bay arrangement on the front, inside end bridged chim-

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neys, stone lugsills and pressed metal triangular pediments (an 1870's addition). In the gable is a small DHS with a decorative, semi-circular pediment and iron-star tie-rod ends. The porch across the front is a 1920's addition. A lattice section connects the main house to the smokehouse in the back.



8 North Hanover Street, Lot 37D, West Part C. 1852-1854

This is remembered as Dr. P.J. Schmieder's house. He is probably the one who had the 1870's remodeling done. He was quite a prominent man, not only in Minster, but throughout the state. He studied medicine in Germany, came to America in 1842 and started his practice in Stallostown in 1843. He practiced here until his death in 1887. He was Minster's mayor and justice of the peace for over thirty-four years; president of the Telegraph Co.; paymaster for all labor on the Miami-Erie Canal in this area; Trustee of the Ohio Mechanics and Agricultural College (now Ohio State University); and State Senator in the 67th General Assembly; along with many other duties. His real estate holdings were extensive. For sixty years he owned the old Schmieder house on the corner of Fourth and Main Streets which was recently torn down.



162 South Main Street, Lot 28 By 1868

Here we have a house that looks very similar to the preceding ones, yet it does not project as much of a Federal look as the others. Although it is two stories and has inside end chimneys, it has five balanced bays across the first story but only three balanced bays on the second story. There are stone lugsills and flat brick arches above the windows. The house sits along the sidewalk on a limestone foundation. There are two entrance doors with transoms. This house is closer in style to the convent-style houses than the preceding ones.

The house was built by John B. Feldman. Feldman came with F.J. Stallo and five others from Cincinnati to the Piqua Land Office to purchase this land and establish a settlement. He first built a log house south of town and later built this house on Minster's first street. At one time the Feldman's had a store in part of the front of this house. The house was in the Feldman family through three generations.



56 North Cleveland Street, Lot 43H C. 1850



64 North Cleveland Street, Lot 44H 1873

Here are two wonderful houses that immediately remind you of the "canal days". They still retain their original front entrance towards the canal. Although further study is needed to determine the construction of these buildings, they will be included together here because they have been owned by the same family for years and the large house has many vernacular Federal characteristics. It has the five balanced bay facade having a central door with transom flanked by two 2/2 DHS windows. Five bays stand symetrically above these on the second story. The original part of this house was a large two-story rectangle with interior end chimneys and a stone foundation. It seems to have the original siding and the original wood blinds (shutters) are still preserved. From the street side, this

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house looks like an L-shape with a one-story wing to the north. The two-story projection and the one-story wing were added around 1890 or so.

The small house is an earlier house that has a central door with a four-light transom and one 6/6 DHS to each side of it. An unusual feature is the three small four pane square windows above those on the ground floor. These small windows are generally found in the gable ends and this house does have them in the gables. The house has a stone foundation and central chimney and a "saltbox type" addition was put on the west side. This side has a door with sidelights and two 6/6 DHS windows.

Most people know this as the Steineman property and know their brickyard was here. John Henry Steineman came from Germany and settled west of Minster. He had a large general store here. J.H. was a very industrious man and by the late 1830's was already engaged in the making of brick. At different periods, he was involved in the mercantile trade, cooperage, grain trade and pork packing business.

I do not believe a Steineman built either of these houses. J.H. Steineman is first shown as owner of lot 43 in 1873 and he owned a lot or two south of here by 1868. The large house on lot 44 was probably built about 1873 and Steineman did not own this property at this time. J.H. Steineman's son, also J.H., lived in the small house and the tile and brickyard was across Cleveland Street. A sketch in the 1880 Atlas shows Henry Steineman's residence with a lime kiln and brickyard on the lot south of the house. Many buildings in the area were made with this brick including the St. Augustine Church. The Steineman's also shipped their brick out of town by the canal boat. Some of the older residents remember Steineman's canal boat. They also had a cane press across Cleveland Street and the farmers would bring in shocks of sugar cane and leave them to be pressed and cooked and then come to pick up their sorghum molasses.

The large house was probably built by Frank Herkenhoff. Herkenhoff started The Minster Cooperage Co. about 1870. It was the largest cooperage in town and was located on much of the property north of here. Herkenhoff is first listed as owner of lot 44 in 1873. Also one of the Steineman descendants seems to think this was a Herkenhoff home at one time. Around 1884, Herkenhoff bought the property on South Frankfort Street that most people remember as the old Herkenhoff homeplace. By 1885, J.H. Steineman was owner of lot 44. Steineman had the 1890's addition put on this house. The room on the ground floor of the two-story addition was J.H.'s office for the brickyard tile yard. As time passed, some of the property was sold but the two lots that these houses are on still remain in the Steineman name.

These two houses along with the little pork house directly across the canal are all in such an original state that they conjure up images of the "canal days" that played such a significant, almost indispensable, role in the growth of our town. Without the canal, the town may not be here today. It is very rare to find a cluster of old canal buildings in their original state. It is almost rare to find a section of the canal still in existence or without plans to eliminate it. Wouldn't this make a great historic district?

EARLY BRICK STORES



38 & 40 South Main Street, Lot 113 & 114 C. 1848 & 1860
DEMOLISHED

This building stands directly along the sidewalk. It has an indented porch with a central door and a window to each side. When porches came into fashion at the turn of the century, everyone wanted a porch on the front of their house. When there was no room to add a porch because it sat up to the sidewalk, they would often "dig out" one from the front of their house. There are three windows on the second story with bracketed stone lugsills and stone lintels. There's a boom-town front with a half-round window with bracketed stone lugsill and radiating brick arch. Four iron-star tie rod ends form a square around the window. These tie rod ends also show on the north and south sides.

This building shows the German practice of combining the living quarters with a business. The small canal-style section to the south was built first, and it was used as the living quarters. The large two-story part was added later and it was the Kramer Grocery and Drygoods Store. There was also a pork house to the south of this where meat and grain were stored until it could be shipped by canal boat to Cincinnati. This was the store frequented by the "mainstreeters." Minster was divided so that people on the east side were called "mainstreeters" and those near the canal were "canalers." There was no real conflict between these two, but they tended to go their separate ways, Mainstreeters shopped in Main St. stores and had their own fire department.

This early commercial building stands directly up to the sidewalk and is in the area of Minster's earliest businesses. It has a boom-town stepped gable and still has an old storefront which is a rare site in these days and one that many towns and cities throughout the country are trying to reconstruct.

This was Nienberg's Drygoods and General Store with an accommodations barn out back. Much of the store is as it was, and has not been turned into a supermarket. Also, much of the original shelving and fixtures still exist and the store could be a real "old-fashioned" store again. There was a woodburning stove in the center of the store with benches around it

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for the country folk to sit. When they came to town, they could leave their horse at the accommodations barn, their buggy outside, and their supply list with the clerk to measure out and package up their needs. They could sit around the fire and chat or go to church or whatever they pleased.



87 North Main Street, Lot 47 1859

B.H. Nienberg is listed in the 1860 Census as one of Minster's nine merchants. Wm. Nienberg-Drygoods and Groceries was still listed in Minster's 1907 business directory.

ITALIANATE

As we move into the late 1800's or early Victorian era, times they are a changin'! Until the middle of the century the economy of the country was largely based on agriculture rather than industry. Especially after the Civil War, industry developed at an astounding rate. Granted, things were changing at a much faster pace in the large cities of the east, but they slowly made their way to the scattered settlements throughout west-central Ohio. People saw their houses as more than a shelter. They became aware of styles that were sweeping the country. Sometimes a large house was built as a show of wealth.

All of the styles we have seen so far are a vernacular building with the early German settlers possibly drawing on some of the more popular architectural styles of the times, such as with our large brick rectangular Federal-like buildings. Here we find a house of a true architectural textbook style - the Italinate. The Italinate is an arrangement of squared shapes with low-pitched roofs having extended eaves with ornate brackets. It has a very long, slender window usually with a lugsill and decorative lintel. We only find two or three Italinate houses in Minster.

This stately home has many Italinate features - the long windows with stone lugsills and decorative shaped lintels on consoles under the eaves and a mansard roof. The south side has a square protruding bay with a wide window and leaded and beveled glass transom and sidelights.

John Laufenswiler was a prominent citizen of Minster and a respected businessman. He had this house built. A commercial building on Fourth St. about half a block from his home was built for The Laufenswiler Hardware on one half of the building and the Laufenswiler and Bornhorst (a brother-in-law) Shoe Store on the other half.



71 North Frankfort Street, Lot 44 & 45G 1875

John came from Germany with his father, mother, and five brothers and sisters. One of his brothers, Conrad, about ten years his senior, moved to Ft. Dodge, Iowa, around 1860. Conrad was in the furniture and undertaking business. He built a home and business building in Ft. Dodge. A Laufenswiler Funeral Home still operates there and Conrad's home and business building are preserved by a group in Ft. Dodge. Conrad is the grandfather of Conrad Hilton of "hotel" fame.

John's home and business building are amazingly similar to his brother's in Ft. Dodge.



64 North Frankfort Street, Lot 44F & South Part 43F 1875

Here is another lovely Italinate home. It is directly across the street from another of the same style. This house seems to be very much in its original state except for a missing porch on the north front. It has a lovely wide indented doorway with the old wooden door having a paneled bottom and two narrow windows with semi-circular arch on top. There are matching sidelights and above all this is a segmental arched, four-paned transom. A decorative metal segmental arched lintel on consoles tops this. The detail of the tall, narrow windows match that of the doors. There are scrolled consoles under the eaves. The ceilings on both stories reach a height of 11-1/2 feet and the windows must be almost 10 feet tall. The house has

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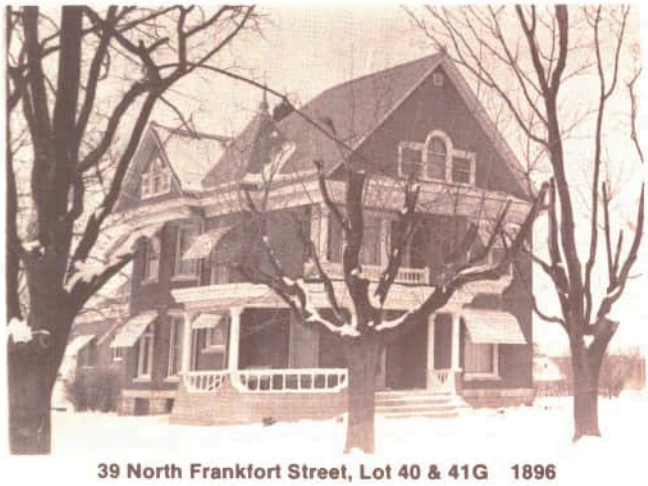
the original plain woodwork with triangular pediment and all of the doors have a three-light transom above.

This house was probably built by the well-respected C.D. Depweg who started The Sprehe and Depweg Flour Mill, although most people remember it as the Herkenhoff home. Frank, son of pioneer baker Heinrich Herkenhoff and one of Stallostown's (Minster's) earliest settlers, owned the house for many years. Frank was a trained cooper and headed The Minster Cooperage Co. for many years. This company was one of the largest employers of labor in the country at that time. He was also president of The Star Brewing Co. and Minster's bank and had a hand in the start of the now world-known Minster Machine Co.

QUEEN ANNE

America first saw the Queen Anne style at the 1876 Philadelphia Exposition. This style dominates the high Victorian era for the next 20 years. When you say Victorian, this is the style most people think of even though there were other styles during this period. Technological advances and industrial growth of cities and towns was enormous. Anything could be mass-produced and marketed. The railroad had connected the country and the small towns could have the latest, most fashionable items of the day just like the city dwellers. This is an era that saw the country transformed from a rural society to an industrial giant. As with any good new idea there comes a point when things start to go in the other direction. There was so much mass-production that quality, design, and craftsmanship began to fade. Many see Victorian architecture as over-ornamented, cluttered, rather vulgar. Even though a particular design may not be pleasing to you, you must stand in awe of the creativity and inventiveness of the people. The Victorians achieved feats of craftsmanship that cannot be duplicated today partly because of cost and partly because it is hard to find a workman today with the creativity and patience.

The simple rectangle of earlier days was gone. Wings, gables, balconies, towers and turrets, bay and oriel windows protruded in all directions. Porches abound. Gingerbread and bric-a-brac was tacked on everywhere. The exterior was covered with many different textures and materials. Colors were muted, dark, somber. Stained glass and ready-made ornamentation was everywhere.



39 North Frankfort Street, Lot 40 & 41G 1896

This wonderful house has all of the Queen Anne features. The large wrap porch has corinthian columns, bric-a-brac, and wood and shingle exterior covering. There are many different types of windows such as palladian, bay, and oriel. Two large windows, one with semi-circular top, have a cut glass design in the frosted glass. The interior has a typical grand entrance hall with spindled, L-shape staircase and carved newel posts. The gorgeous cut glass windows are displayed on the stair landing. The house features its original varnished woodwork and three sets of heavy pocket doors. There are three fireplaces with original mantels of ceramic tile, varnished and carved wood surround with corinthian columns and a shelf and mirrored overmantle.

Charles Herkenhoff, son of Frank and grandson to one of Minster's pioneers, had this house built. It was modeled after a large house near the Goodyear plant in St. Marys (the McKee home). Mr. Herkenhoff was a merchant and ran a saloon, grocery and drygoods store in what is now the present drugstore building. Later he was president of The Star Brewing Co., where the famous "Wooden Shoe" beer was made, president of Minster's bank, and president of The Minster Machine Co. This house stayed in the Herkenhoff family until 1965 when the present owners bought it.

This magnificent Queen Anne is quite unique to Minster. It is the only Queen Anne in town with the only other one a mile west of town. In the neighboring town three miles north, many Queen Anne styles can be found.

TURN-OF-THE-CENTURY WORKING CLASS HOUSES

Many of us today live in houses, although old, that do not even get mentioned in the architectural stylebooks. These houses have their own history and merit respect and preservation. They are a house that is familiar to most of the country. The materials in these houses were generally better quality than the post WWII houses: Walls were plaster, doors were solid wood. The turn-of-the-century was an era of changing attitude in architecture. For the first time in our country's history there was a working class of people that could depend on a weekly wage earned in the small factories and industries that were beginning to spring up. The five day work week began. Before the Industrial Revolution, most people relied on farming or a craft for their living. The growth of the middle class meant more single family houses. These people also wanted a stylish house that they could afford. They wanted a local builder or handyman to achieve the hand carved look of the fancy ornamentation used on the Italianate and Queen Anne styles. The local builder could give a cross or T-shaped house this look by the use of flat sawn ornamentation and the addition of spindled porch railings and aprons. Also the use and placement of paint color became very important during this period, not only for these smaller houses but also for the Italianate and Queen Anne styles. This became quite an art. Today when trying to imitate the multi-color schemes used, one

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must give much thought and study to produce the correct effect. It is hard for the modern eye to adjust to the different colors used on these houses.

All over the country homes were becoming more modest with a turn towards Carpenter Gothic and smaller frame houses with Eastlake inspired detail. At a time when frame was popular, our German ancestors would still sometimes turn to brick for this style, adding porch detail and sawn wood ornamentation. There was a reaction against Victorian excess. By the turn-of-the-century the elaborate Queen Anne and Italianate houses were becoming less popular. But nothing changes overnight. We find large two-story houses that are direct descendants of the Queen Anne with much ornamentation stripped off. The turn towards a simpler exterior. This type of house was also cheaper to build.

Even though these houses aren't elegant mansions, they are quite handsome. They show the skills of the local craftsman and the wants of the middle, working class society who make up the backbone of our country. Vernacular styles had become something in their own right. These T-shape frame houses that were becoming so popular evolved from the vernacular farmhouses that were built in the 19th century. They show the vernacular influence in our area at the time and the popular change in architectural direction of the middle class people during a time when our country started to show enormous change in its work style, building and industry.



122 South Frankfort Street, Lot 22F 1875

Here is a curious little house. Although this is not the turn-of-the-century T-shape farmhouse, it is most similar to these so it is included in this section. Also this house has a direct connection to the T-shape houses that were built in Minster at the turn-of-the-century. This is an earlier house that does not have the proportion of the late 1890's-1900's house. It is almost "one-of-a-kind" in this town, being somewhat similar to the 1869 Brewmaster's house on South Ohio Street. The major portion of the house is brick lined but parts of it have the sawn two by eight boards that were used in the later part of the Nineteenth Century. This led me to believe that this was an old brick lined house that was probably remodeled at the turn-of-the-century. However the timbers are five by five inches instead of the eight or ten inch size used in the old brick lined houses. At this point, I believe this house was built about 1875 and is still very much like it was when it was built. The tax records also lead me to believe this and it is shown as a T-shape house already by 1880. This is the only T-shape sketch shown on the 1880 map. The early timber and peg, brick lined houses are rectangular and have a distinctive look but there are houses found in neighboring areas that are brick lined later period styles. One Sears style in Cassella in Mercer County built about 1901 was found to have brick lining. This is the latest date we have found so far using the brick lined construction. These Germans tended to hang on to their "old ways" of building.

This frame T-shaped house is also unusual because it has a door to each side of the front projecting T-section rather than a central door or a door to just one side, it has no porch and it has very unusual hood moldings (for this town).

This house was Ferdinand Wieman's house. The Wieman's had a booming sawmill business on property near here at the turn-of-the-century. Ferd had two sons, John and Frank, who worked at the sawmill and later owned it. The Wieman Sawmill ran from about 1873 to 1906. Minster's 1880 Business Directory lists F. Wieman-sawmill shaper of hardwood lumber and it is the only sawmill listed in the 1880 and 1882 directories. The Wieman Sawmill was probably like many small town sawmills and lumber companies at the turn-of-the-century. These companies took advantage of the turn in architectural fashion to the frame house with wood ornamentation by supplying the lumber, turned spindles, posts and "gingerbread trim". Often they would get into the building of these homes as there was a good profit to be made on these new styles now in demand. The Wieman's started with a good business and in 1896 the *Minster Post* makes reference to Frank and John Wieman adding a sizable amount of property to their sawmill on South Frankfort Street.

It seems that Ferdinand Wieman bought an already existing sawmill that was operated by Henry Meyer. The 1860 Census lists Meyer as Minster's only sawmiller and early tax records show Henry Meyer as owner of the Wieman Sawmill property from about 1858 to the early 1870's. The *Minster Centennial* states that Clemens Stuve erected the first steam powered sawmill in 1842. Oddly enough, Stuve is also listed as owning this property as early as 1849 with the property valued at over $1500.00! What once was a booming business became obsolete with the passing of the timberlands.

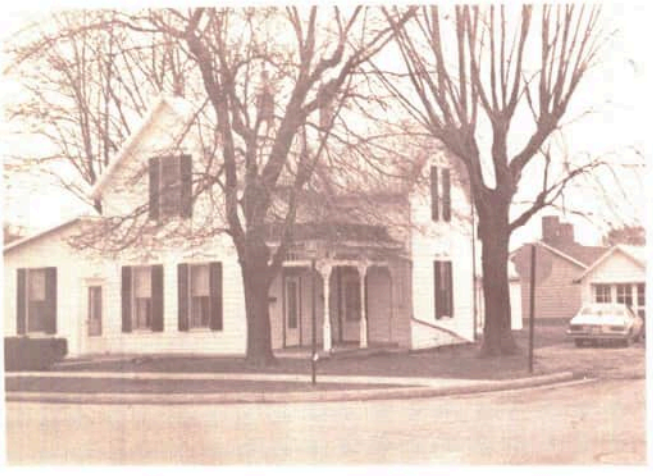
These next two small late Victorian cottages pictured are an excellent example of a vernacular style enriched with Gothic and Eastlake details. They have the steep peaked gables of the Gothic style with tall narrow windows. Although the porch on the house on Hanover Street was changed during a 1930's remodeling job, it was very similar to the porch on Frankfort Street. Both porches have the Eastlake-inspired details of spindled apron, decorative sawn brackets and sawn sawtooth ornamentation with finials. The first house had two such porches and the sawtooth ornamentation is repeated below the window cornice. The second house has decorative appliqued ornamentation on the top framing with center peak topping its windows. Both houses have the original wood blinds (shutters). The first house is in the process of being

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93 South Hanover Street, Lot 25E 1897

carefully restored to its original 1890's appearance and the original porch will be reconstructed from an old photograph. This house has the "old fashioned" color scheme. Since this was a small house only three different colors were used. Three colors were usually the minimum number of colors used and the larger houses could have up to five or six different colors. There were specific rules on the placement of the colors for this period and one of them was that the wood sash surrounding the window glass was to be painted dark.



South Frankfort Street, Lot 24G E 1/2 Late 1890

These houses are so similar because they were both built by The Wieman Brothers Sawmill. The house on Frankfort Street was Frank Wieman's house. It is on property that lies along the east bank of the canal. The sawmill also was along the canal, south of this house, and on some property across Frankfort Street. The house on Hanover Street was owned by Hannah Wieman, an Irishwoman and wife of John Wieman, Frank's brother. It is unlikely that any of the Wieman family lived in this house but probably used it as a rental property. John and Hannah Wieman's house was on the lot directly west of this house and catty-corner from Frank's house. The first person known to live in the house on Hanover Street was Tim Sullivan and his niece, Kathleen Zitt. Sullivan was an Irishman-unusual for this predominantly German community. Sullivan was assistant superintendent for the first school term in the new school in 1895 (the present grade school) and also played the organ for the church.



55 North Hanover Street, Lot 43E 1906

Here are two T-shaped late Victorian vernacular homes that are direct descendants of the Queen Anne style. They are a much simpler house with carefully chosen details of the times. The first one has a brick first story with a shingled second story. A porch curves outward and has brick square pedestals topped by wood columns with the old turned-spindle balastrade missing. There is also a single appliqued design on the porch gable.

This next house was modeled after the first house. Both of the houses have very steep gables with Greek returns, frieze and architrave. This all brick house has columns on the porch. The columns and the returns show classical elements borrowed from Greek architecture. The interior of this house also shows some late Victorian influence with its coal/gas fireplaces with ceramic tiles and wood surround and overmantle, thick pocket doors and varnished woodwork and floors.



85 South Hanover Street, Lot 26 & 27E 1908

The first house was built by J.W. Eiting. J.W. Eiting was born in Minster to German immigrant parents. He worked with his father in the mercantile business until it was sold in 1905. J.W. was quite an industrial and commercial leader in Minster. He was secretary-treasurer of The Minster Machine Co., Strenie Tool & Manufacturing Co. of New Bremen (now STAMCO) and the St. Mary's Foundry Co. He was on the board of directors of the Star Beverage Co. and vice-

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president of the Industrial Equipment Co. of Minster.

In 1926, Anthony Knapke bought the house and the house was in the Knapke family until 1970, when it was sold to the present owners. Anthony Knapke was the church organist and choir director from 1912 until his death in 1943. For two years local residents held the choir together and in 1945, Anthony's son, Luke, was hired to fill the position. Luke maintained this position until his recent retirement in June, 1981.

The second house was built by Joseph Meyer, son of J.B. Meyer, one of Minster's earliest settlers and owner of one of the leading pork packing operations in Minster during "the canal days." J.B. also owned his canal boat the "St. Bernard." The home is still in the Meyer family and is owned by Joseph's daughter.



61 South Main Street, Lot 28 1906

Here we have two houses very similar in shape to the preceding houses and built about the same time but the detail is somewhat different. The two preceding homes took on the feeling of the late Victorian, Queen Anne, and Eastlake styles whereas these homes lean more towards the stick style although they could not be categorized as such. Both are brick with wood gables. The first house has wood shingles in the gables - a late Victorian feature - and the second has a board and batten effect - closer to the stick style features. The first house has a large square window on the front with a leaded and beveled glass transom topped by a three-row header brick radiating arch with Keystone and end stones. It has a two-story bay window on the north. The house has bracketed projecting eaves with decorative end rafters. Both houses have porches with square wood pillars and balustrade.

This second house has two oriel windows - one square - with a decorative panel effect below featuring diagonal straight lines and dentil molding above. There are square consoles under the roofline and decorative end rafters. The interior has flat woodwork and a fireplace with tile, wood surround and overmantle.

As you can tell these two homes are very similar to each other and to those preceding. They are all late Victorian homes. The last two just described have mostly Victorian features but they show a slight indication to a new trend just starting in this country - the stick style. This style features straight lines. Sometimes the Stick Style is divided into two categories the Eastern and Western Stick Style. The Eastern Stick Style started earlier and it featured steep pitched gables, cross gables, exposed roof rafters, verticle, horizontal and diagonally patterned boards, and oversized, unornamented porch posts. The last house described leans towards this "new" style the most. This house was built by John Horst who owned a drygoods store on Fourth St.



48 North Lincoln Drive, Lot 42B C. 1890

Mr. Fred Kramer had the other house built. Fred is the son of J.B. Kramer, a pioneer of Minster. J.B. Kramer had a grocery and drygoods store and pork house in a large, old building across the street from here. This was the store used by the "mainstreeters." Fred and his brother, Ben, had the building on the corner of Main and Fourth St. built. It now houses the Francis J. Stallo Memorial Library and doctor's offices. Originally, Ben kept a grocery and dry goods store in the east part of this building and Fred ran a hardware in the west side.

SEARS STYLE

Another late Victorian style is called the Sears style. The Sears and Roebuck Company of Chicago, Illinois, had a catalog of houses from which you could order plans, lumber, etc. . . to build your own house. With the "modernization" of the country during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, many mail-order catalogs were available to the average person. You could order anything your heart desired - even a house! This is the period that introduced the house as we know it today. Houses were built with larger windows, sanitary bathrooms, kitchens with built in cupboards and central heating was introduced for the first time. These gradually became the standard features in the houses of today. Most of the styles shown in the Sears catalog were large, two-story squarish houses with multi-dormered hip roofs. These homes had a variety of offsets giving an irregularity to their almost square shape. They all had a one-story porch with leaded or stained glass featured on the the entrance door and some of the windows.

During the first decade of the 1900's, rectories were built beside the Catholic churches in Marion Township and the surrounding German Catholic area.

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These rectories had all the features listed for the Sears style. Area people seemed to copy these priests houses, as they did the chapel and convent styles, and the rectory-style house began to spring up through the area. This represents the last known impact that The Society of the Most Precious Blood had on house styles in our area.



69 South Hanover Street, Lot 28E 1911-1914

This house has a porch across the front, originally it had square wood pillars and square wood balustrade. The central doorway has leaded and beveled glass transom and sidelights and the old decorative wooden door. To each side of the door is a large square window with leaded and beveled glass transom. The second story has three bays directly above those below. You may notice that many of these features are found on the houses just described. The interior is almost in its original state. The beautiful entrance door leads into a tiny entrance hall with its own door and sidelights leading to a central hall with a lovely open stairway. All of the original oak woodwork is intact, in excellent condition and probably still has the original finish. The house has three sets of thick oak "pocket" doors, a fireplace in the parlor with its original mantle, and the original oak plate-shelf in the dining room. Many other original features still remain and are in use - the water tank in the attic, the old furnace (converted), old cast-iron radiators and an original 1930's kitchen.

J.T. Haverbeck had this house built around 1911-1914 by Nicholas J. Hogenkamp, a notable local contractor of the times. A niece of J.T.'s says she was always told her uncle drew the plans like he wanted them. J.T. was a bachelor and lived here with his mother and sister. The house stayed in the family until 1963 when the present owners bought it.

J.T. Haverbeck became joint publisher of *The Minster Post (now The Community Post)* in 1902 and sole publisher in 1904. During the time he was owner of the paper, the *Post* changed from a German publication to an all English paper in 1918.

BUNGALOW

The bungalow was a totally new concept in housing design! This style is part of the Arts and Crafts Movement. It is influenced by the American stick style and it is sometimes thought of as the western stick style. The style was first seen in the 1890's and it continued until the 1940's. The bungalow was originally used as a summer or resort house. This low spread out house surrounded by porches worked well in California and the west because it is traditionally receptive to new ideas and has a mild climate to accommodate the use of large porches as extra living space and to provide shade. There was lots of open space to put a spread-out house and to warrant the informal construction that went along with the informal style of living. There was also no traditional style to fall back on as in the east. Therefore, this style started in the west and was later copied in the east and also in Minster.

The bungalow is typically a one story house with gently pitched, broad gables that spread out well beyond the walls to cover a deep porch and has overhanding base with posts of rough, natural materials. The exterior finish is characterized by informal natural materials such as wood, shingle, rough wood, stucco, cement, stone or possibly brick in earth tones with the exposed structural members and trim work being painted. The chimneys are usually of cobble stone, fieldstone, or rubble. These simple but functional houses were to harmonize with their surroundings.

There were many variations to this style according to the locale and fashions of the times, such as the California, Craftsman, Swiss, Colonial, Tudor and Prairie. All were practical, honest, functional and informal. As the popularity arose you could buy $5.00 mail-order plans. This caused sloppy imitations and many old rectangular houses were awkwardly remodeled to this style.

Surprising as it may seem this "modern" style house was being built at the same time as the "old-style" Stick, Sears, Eastlake, and other late Victorian houses. This is truly our first modern architectural style and the ranch style of today is a direct descendant of this.



24 North Hanover Street, Lot 39D 1913

This house is one variation of the true bungalow. It is a marvelous California or Craftsman Bungalow unusual for this town and even the surrounding area. As you can see, it has all of the bungalow characteristics. Often times a Craftsman house is recognized by its interior rather than its exterior. This house shows off both inside and out. In its day, the Craftsman style

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was thought of as a return to a more informal, simple style, although anyone seeing this interior today may think it quite grand compared to the plain-walled, sparcely-detailed rectangular room they are accustomed to seeing in the modern homes of today. The Craftsman's interior featured lots of natural wood, exposed structural elements, and beamed ceilings. This house has lots of beautiful oak throughout. There are beamed ceilings but not the rough-hewn timbers people seem to associate with ceiling beams of old homes. One room features walls with a panel effect created by boards and batten, there is one thick oak "pocket" door. A lovely wood colonnade divides the living and dining rooms, and three rooms contain parquet floors with darker borders. Fireplaces of rock, stone or some rough material without a fancy mantle were a dominant feature of these houses. This house has two stone fireplaces. The exterior has an addition put on the north side around 1920. It is tastefully done and does not distract from the house because it takes into account the design, style, and character of the house. It is covered with natural wood shingle like the dormer and the porch is large and matches up to the original porch. On the south side is a port cochere with stone pillars and wood detail.

A local dentist, Dr. Simpkins, had this house built by Louis Ley, a local contractor of that period. It is said Dr. Simpkins collected all of the stone from local fields and sometimes friends brought him stones from various places. He did not live here long and sold to Dr. H.J. Gudenkauf. Dr. Gudenkauf had his office in one of the front rooms of the house, and he had the addition built for a waiting room.



147 North Frankfort Street, Lot 55G C. 1910

Here is another bungalow of the same period, but it is not of the Craftsman Style. It is painted in appropriate colors and in a way that shows off the style as would have been done in the period in which it was built. The brick red pressed tin shingle roof with a decorative flashing ridge and flush gutters, creamy yellow wood siding of the first story, and green wood shingles in the gable, are a striking combination and show off the different textures often used on this style. The brick porch rail and pillars also add texture. The house also has the wide projecting eaves, exposed end rafters and brackets in keeping with this style. The interior does display the lovely original oak woodwork and "pocket" doors so typical of the bungalow but does not feature the Arts and Crafts styling of the previous house.

Anton and Caroline Herkenhoff had this house built. The contractor was Joe Melcher, a notable local builder, and there is some suspicion that it may have been designed by the famed architects of the DeCurtins family. DeCurtins were well respected throughout the state and built many churches in the area. Anton is the grandson of pioneer baker Heinrich Herkenhoff, one of the early settlers of Minster. Anton's father operated a large cooperage business in town for years. Anton himself formed a partnership with J.J. Dues who then operated a small machine repair shop. This partnership continued for about five years, at which time Dues sold his interest to Anton's brother and Dr. C.L. Dine. In August 1901 they incorporated the business under the name of The Minster Machine Co. Anton was general manager from the beginning until his death in 1928. This business is still in operation today and is the world's most respected mechanical metalforming press builder. In addition to this, Anton was president of the Strenie Tool & Mfg. Co. of New Bremen, now STAMCO, general manager of the St. Marys Foundry Co., member of the town council and board of public affairs, president of the Minster Home Builders Club, one of the organizers of The Minster Commercial Club, and he held interest in The Star Brewing Co.



24 North Frankfort Street, Lot 39F 1926

Here we have a later Bungalow which incorporates some of the stick style elements with its exposed structural elements. The interior shows some detail borrowed from the Craftsman style. The varied exterior finish is of wood siding and stuccoed walls and the porch has stoned cement pillars, stucco apron and wire-cut brick railing. The stuccoed end gables are divided by diagonal boards. Under the projecting eaves are decorative brackets - the rafter ends have been recently enclosed. As you enter through the off-center door with full sidelights, you notice dominant features of the bungalow and, to some extent, Craftsman style. Along with natural wood and rough texture, the Craftsman style used built-in furniture and dulled metal hardware. The entrance room has a brick fireplace with a simple, thick varnished wood mantle on brackets. It has a small wood bench on either side. A natural wood colonnade with built-in bookcases having glass-paned doors opens to the living room. The interior has the original yellow-pine woodwork, "pocket" doors and a set of French doors with beveled glass.

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An old house sat on this lot. It was moved to South Frankfort and then Fred Dues had this house built. It is said that Dues's owned a sawmill in Georgia and that all the lumber for the house came from there. Fred is the son of J.J. Dues. J.J. had a blacksmith and farm implement business in Chickasaw, Ohio. In 1896, he was enticed into coming to Minster to become a partner in the Dues and Herkenhoff Machine Works. Dues eventually sold out and started his own farm implement business. He did quite well in this venture. In the basement of this house part of a hand-painted metal sign saying: "J.J. Dues Huskers and Shredders, Established 1884" still remains. There are also stamped metal signs with Dues advertising on them. This house was built during Prohibition, and it was built with an interesting element. The chimney has two flues - one goes to the fireplace, the other to a small room below the house.

Fred's father was J.J. Dues and he also had a son called J.J. Young. J.J. ran a shop in the garage south of the house where he sold bicycles, motor bikes and scooters.

TUDOR

Most everyone is familiar with the Tudor style, sometimes referred to as Jacobethan style. This style originated in England in the 16th and 17th centuries. The English brought this half-timber style with them when they came to America. The original English Tudor had a half-timber construction with the actual timber framework left exposed and the spaces between were filled with brick, sometimes laid in decorative patterns or sometimes stuccoed over. The style features many steep gable peaks. This style was readily accepted in America and was adapted for use here. Ever since its introduction to America this style has been a favorite, having greater periods of popularity throughout the years. The American Tudor style refers to some half-timbering giving the picturesque look of the old English houses. Besides the exposed half-timber look and brick and stucco, the small, diamond-paned windows are an identifying characteristic. This style was the rage from the turn-of-the-century until the First World War. Another great surge of popularity came during the 1920's and 1930's. The Tudor is still a popular style today.

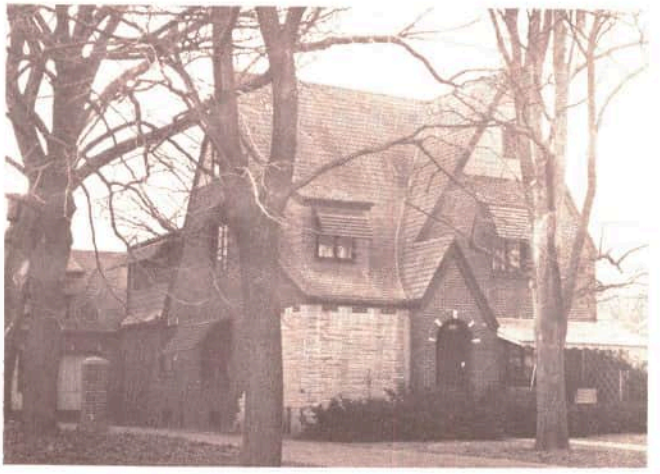
Minster has no early style Tudors but it does have a few good examples of the 1930's revival period, and it also has a few new Tudor styles showing that the style is and probably always will be a popular style.



163 North Frankfort Street, Lot 57G 1937

Here we have two examples of the American Tudor style being built in the 1930's. They feature many steep peaked gables, the casement windows that were popular at this time and the heavy natural wood entrance door. They both have dark brown trim which is the color used almost exclusively for trim on this style.

Frank and Helen Herkenhoff had the esteemed architects, the DeCurtins, build their house on lot 58G. The DeCurtins were a local family of architects originating from Switzerland. They were most noted for building churches and other religious buildings and schools, along with some private residence. They worked from 1854 until the 1940's. The other house was designed by Ferd Freytag, architect and built by local builder, Joe Melcher, for Wilfred (Bud) and Mary E. Herkenhoff. Both of these Herkenhoffs are great-grandsons of the early pioneer Herkhenhoff settlers. There are over nine Herkenhoff homes belonging to various generations within a two block section along North Frankfort St. Today only one of these houses is still in the Herkenhoff family. This is the home at 179 North Frankfort Street.



179 North Frankfort Street, Lot 58G 1947

These are two of the few Tudors found in Minster and make a very striking appearance as they stand side by side.



227 South Main Street, Lot 1 1937

This elegant 1930's Tudor house of brick and stone features a recessed arched doorway with a heavy,

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natural wood door and small diamond-shaped, beveled glass windows. The roofline is made up of many peaks.

This house was also built by Joe Melcher, and the architects Tony Frierott hired to design his house were of Becher Lumber Co., Dayton, Ohio. Tony is the son of Bernard and Anna Frierott. Bernard Frierott was involved in the brewery business in Minster from 1890 until his death in 1903. After Bernard's death, the company was reorganized into The Star Brewing Co. -nationally known for its "Wooden Shoe" beer. Tony was appointed director of this company and was later president and manager.

QUONSET HUT

A Quonset hut was initially a prefabricated, metal building with a semi-circular arching roof of corrugated metal. The interior was weather insulated with wood fiber. The first model was made in Quonset Point, thus its name. Quonset Point is in North Kingston, Rhode Island, on Narragansett Bay. It is the site of the Northeastern Naval Air Station built for WW II use and completed in 1941. During WW II Quonset huts were used for the American armed forces as barracks and for storage of supplies.

There wasn't much building during the wartime, and it did not pick up until after the war ended in late 1945. As a matter of fact, building in this country was set back during the Depression of 1929 and was slow-moving until well after World War II.



256 South Main Street, Lot 140 1946

This modest house is called a Quonset Hut. You can see its direct relationship to the Quonset hut barracks of WW II. After the war there wasn't much money for building. This house was developed by the Rielco Co. as a quick, easy, inexpensive way to build. The kit came with instructions, pre-cut lumber, and the roof came in three rounded sections in a type of laminated wood. The Albers Hardware and Lumber Co., Ft. Loramie, Ohio, did business with the Rielco Co. who handled mostly brooder (chicken) houses. At one time, Albers bought a whole truckload of merchandise from Rielco and two Quonset huts were part of the shipment.

Stan Wuebker bought one of the quonset kits from Albers Hardware and Lumber Co. and built this in 1946 after the war. Bill Albers, part owner of the hardware, built the second quonset kit in 1947 in Ft. Loramie, Ohio, a town three miles south of here.

CLOSING

Through the study of the buildings, we can interpret the historical growth pattern of a town and state. When Stallostown was founded, the first street to be laid out was Main Street. Here is where the earliest settlers built their houses. Each lot was very long and narrow. The front along Main Street was sixty-eight feet wide, and it ran east-west for a length of ten blocks. For example, if you owned a lot on the west side of Main Street, you would own block A on Main Street through block K along Ohio Street. The next area to be built up we find was along North Lincoln Street. It seems that the first owners kept block A, where the house usually was and block B, which usually had a large garden, barn, and other outbuildings they needed to run a self-sufficient household. They would then sell off blocks C and D and sometimes more blocks to another. In the early years, it appears that owning two blocks between two streets was common. By 1845 the canal came to town and brought with it a new avenue for trade to the outside world. Naturally, this brought about new growth along the canal. Prospective businessmen built their houses and businesses near this new, easier route of transportation and sometimes only the business was located along the canal and the house remained where it was. The Minster Centennial states that Fourth Street was laid out soon after Main Street. Fourth Street connected Main Street to the canal. Merchants and businessmen began to move to this now more popular location and gradually the town's business area changed from Main Street to Fourth Street. In the late 1800's, North Frankfort Street was "the" street to live. It was near the canal and Fourth Street. It was the first street in town to be brick paved (from Fourth to Fifth or Sixth Street) even before Main or Fourth Streets. Hanover Street has the greatest concentration of turn-of-the-century-built houses and gradually, as the town grew, the rest was filled in. Of course, you can always find exceptions to this pattern of building but this seems to be the trend.

We regret to say that this survey is not complete. It could not be completed by the deadline set for publication. Additionally, all federal funding for projects of this type has been suspended. Hopefully these funds will be restored and if and when they are, we will continue the project. We are always uncovering new information even on the OHI property forms completed and turned in. This will probably always be the case. There are several streets that have not been surveyed as of this writing. More study is needed on all the information found. When the survey was started, we did not realize the extent of the early buildings that still stand. Some homes have been modernized and were not recognized as the early buldings they are. Minster probably has one of the finest concentrations of German ethnic settlement architecture in the state. This is partly because of the conservative nature of the German people. They are a proud people that were always taught to keep their things in good condition and to re-use rather than throw out. Minster is full of rich German heritage and tradition.

You may wonder what is so outstanding about these simple, vernacular buildings that you have

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grown up with and are accustomed to seeing every day. But what is so common to us, is not so common to outsiders. People have long appreciated the magnificent mansions and classical architectural styles and ignored the building types left by waves of ethnic people who made the strongest impact on the settlement pattern and present appearance of the state. With the present renewed interest by the people in their heritage, genealogy and history, these vernacular buildings are being seen in a new light. We only hope that this study can help you realize that by looking at our buildings we can learn alot about the history of our town. Through this we can learn to appreciate and respect each house style for what it is, whether it be a vernacular brick lined, a high style Queen Anne or a modern ranch style. Everyone prefers a different style. Each style is special in its own right and deserves to show its particular style. You should take into consideration the special character your home has before changing or adding to it. Although we have a few textbook architectural styles, Minster's German vernacular styles are its "glory."

We are sorry we could not include all the houses and buildings being surveyed and all the information gathered on each property. If you are interested in finding out more on the buildings, The Minster Historical Society will keep a file of the Ohio Historic Inventory forms in the library, or you may call me.

Any additions or corrections would be most welcome.

GLOSSARY

Balanced bay facade - all the openings in a wall are everly spaced or balanced on the wall

Balustrade - the combination of small posts (balusters) and the top rail

Bay - a recess in the wall line, as for a window or door

Bay window - a projection with the windows beginning at ground level



Boom-town front - a false front that covers a gable end so that an earlier building takes on the appearance of a commercial block



Bracket - a projecting board, often decorated, which supports or appears to support



Chinking - the material used to fill the spaces between the logs of a log building

Console - like a bracket but heavier and thicker, usually "S" or scroll shaped and usually decorated



Dormer - a vertical structure, containing a window, that projects through a sloping roof



Double hung sash (DHS) - a window that has an outside sash that slides down and an inside one that goes up



Eaves - the projecting overhang at the lower edge of a roof

Entablature - window and doorway treatment consisting of the architrave, frieze and the cornice that in classical architecture rests on the capitals of the columns and supports the pediment or roof plate



Facade - the front or main face of a building

Fanlight - a semi-circular window with radiating bars or tracery in the form of an open fan

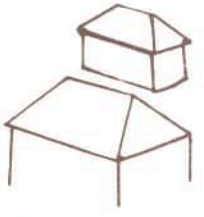


Gable - the portion, above eaves level, of an end wall of a building with a pitched or gambreled roofline; in the case of a pitched roof this takes the form of a triangle



Header - the small end of a brick as opposed to the long edge which is called the stretcher

Hip roof - a roof that has four sloping sides with a ridge



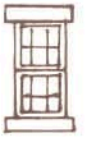
Huckster wagon - a huckster is a peddler and a huckster wagon is a wagon town storekeepers, especially grocers, sent out to make their merchandise available to the area farmers

Keystone - the central stone of an arch



Light - a means by which light is let in; referring to the panes of glass in a window, as in four-light

Lintel - a horizontal crosspiece over a door or window to support the wall immediately above the opening



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Lugsill - a small projecting part of a larger member; esp: the lower part of a window or doorsill that tails into the masonry on each side of the opening

Mansard roof - a roof with two slopes on each side, the lower steeper than the upper



Museum house - a restored house furnished and decorated in the period in which the house was built and usually open to the public

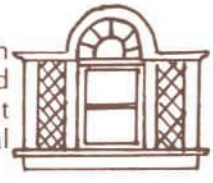
Newel post - the principle post or posts, usually the lowest post of the stair

Oriel window - a projecting bay with windows, which emerges from the building at a point above ground level; it is often confused with a bay window



Overmantle - an ornamental structure (as a painting or mirror) above a mantelpiece

Palladian window - a triple window with the center one having an arched top and the side windows being arched or flat and usually narrower than the central one



Pediment - a decorative gable or triangular piece over a doorway, window, etc. . .



Pocket door - a door that slides into a pouch-like cavity or hollow in the wall

Portage - a route for carrying boats and supplies overland between navigable rivers, lakes, etc. . .

Port Cochere - a carriage porch; a porch which you can drive through

Sash - the framework in which the panes or lights of a window are set

Segmental arch - a broken or sectioned arch as opposed to a semi-circular or round arch



Sidelights - long windows that are on each side of a door



Sill - the lowest horizontal member in a frame or opening for a door or window

Surround - the molded trim around a door, window or fireplace opening

Tie-rod ends - the ends, often exposed on the exterior wall, of a rod that goes through the building to help hold the structure together

Transom - a small window just above a door or window



Quarter fan window - a window that is shaped like half of an open fan, often paired with another of the same in the gable end of a bulding



Wainscot - wood board or paneling on the lower part of an interior wall

Watertable - a stringcourse or similar member when projecting so as to throw off water; esp: the first table above the ground at the top of a foundation and beginning of the upper wall

DID YOU KNOW?

The Henry Heitkamp farm on State Route 363, sold for a record of $514 an acre in 1959 at public auction conducted by H.L. Hirschfeld & Son for executors of the Heitkamp estate, Fred Grieshop and Frank Dahlinghaus.

The 100-acre farm brought $51,400 from John Sommer of west of Minster, whose farm abuts the Heitkamp land.

Bidding for the farm was brisk.

In addition to the farm land the executors offered for sale the Heitkamp chattels, including many antiques and considerable farm machinery.

A poster bed sold for $77; an antique cupboard for $121; spinning wheels, $21 and $22 each. Small dishes sold for extra high prices.

Antique buyers were present from Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky and over Ohio.

The price paid for the Heitkamp farm is believed the highest on record in this area.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1961 you could buy a Shrimp Dinner at Siegel's Landing, Lake Loramie for $1.25 and a Roast Beef Dinner w/whipped potatoes, peas, coffee, tea or milk for $1.00 at the Town House. The Minster State bank was paying 3% interest on Time Certificates.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Crescent Theatre was once closed for several months in 1953. It was reopened Friday, October 2 by Mr. Frank Feltz who leased it from Louis Knostman of Minster, representing the Crescent Amusement Co.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1959 the "Bowling News" would sometimes take a whole page (2 present day size pages) in the Minster Post. That's the year Community Lanes opened.

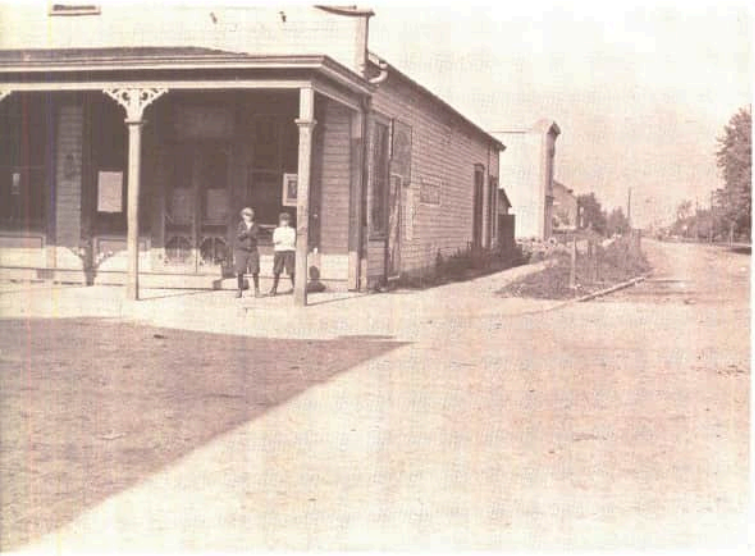
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A new car and good Wooden Shoe beer. Taken on North Hanover Street by the Jackson Township Hall.



A 1932 presentation at Minster High School: (left to right) Gerald Shenk, Louis Fischer, Tony Morsey, Harry Gephart, Frank Oldiges, H. Niemeyer, Hersch Cull, Pete Schwenzer, Chas. Ahrns, Clem Berning, George Clune.

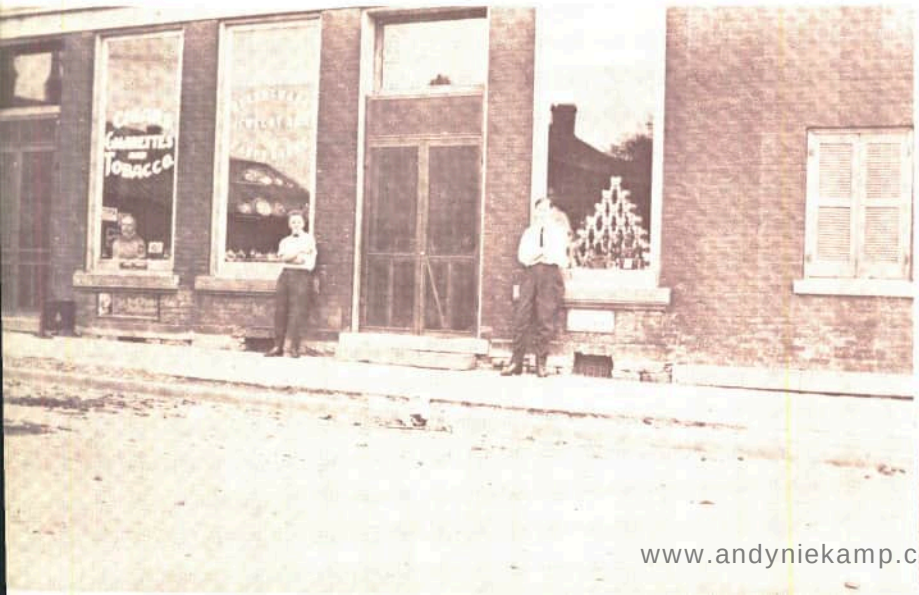


Looking north on Frankfort Street from Fourth before the streets were paved.

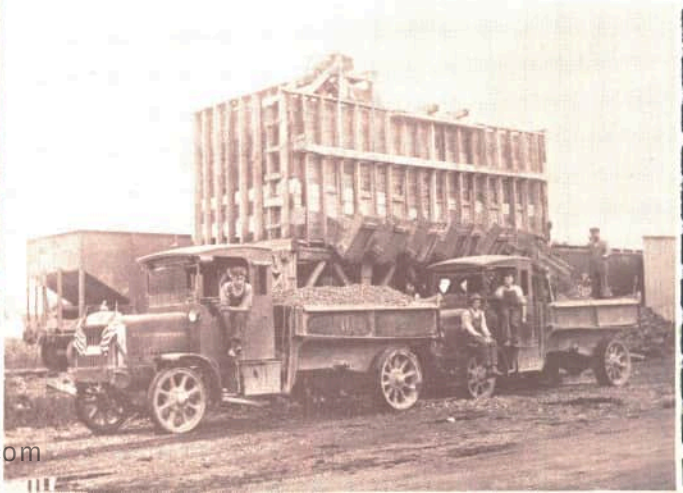


Looking north on Frankfort Street from Fourth after the street was paved with brick.

J. B. Meyer's General Store, now part of Sherman's Drugs. M. Laufersweiler (left) and A. Frericks.



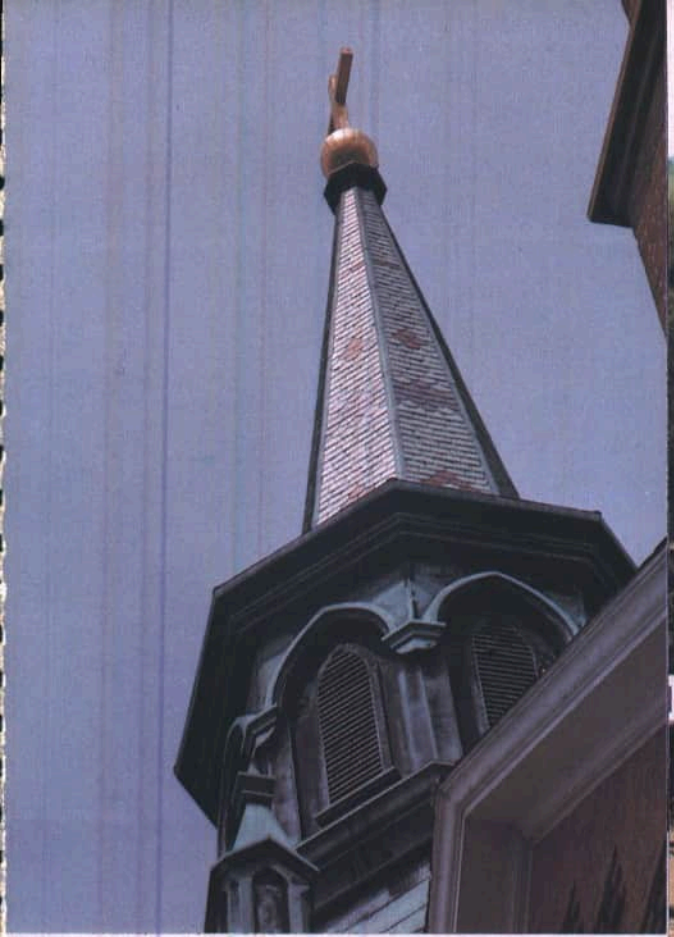
Unloading coal at the railroad.
Look at the spokes on those wheels!



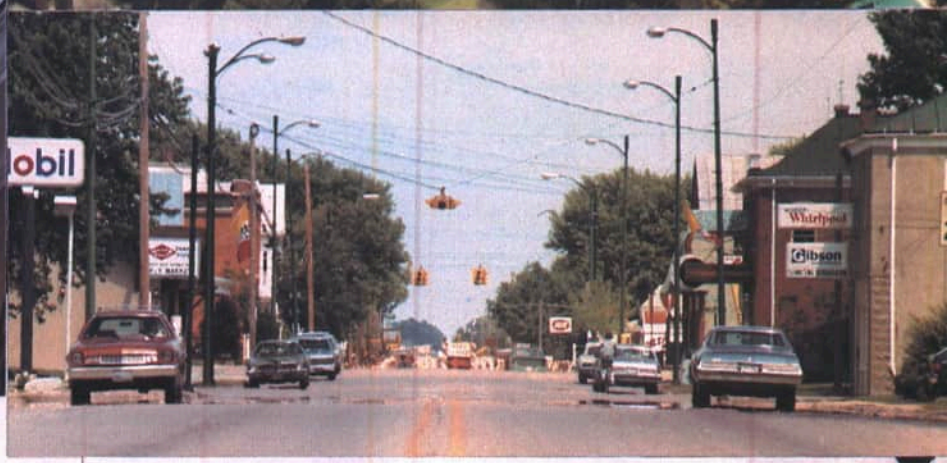
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MINSTER TODAY

Most Color Photos by
Nathan Maltinsky









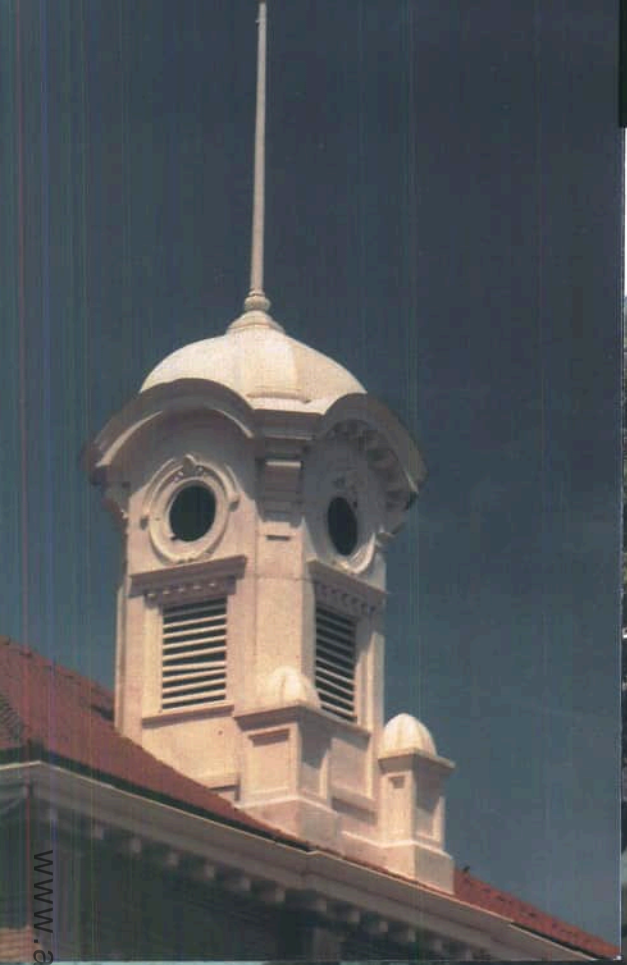


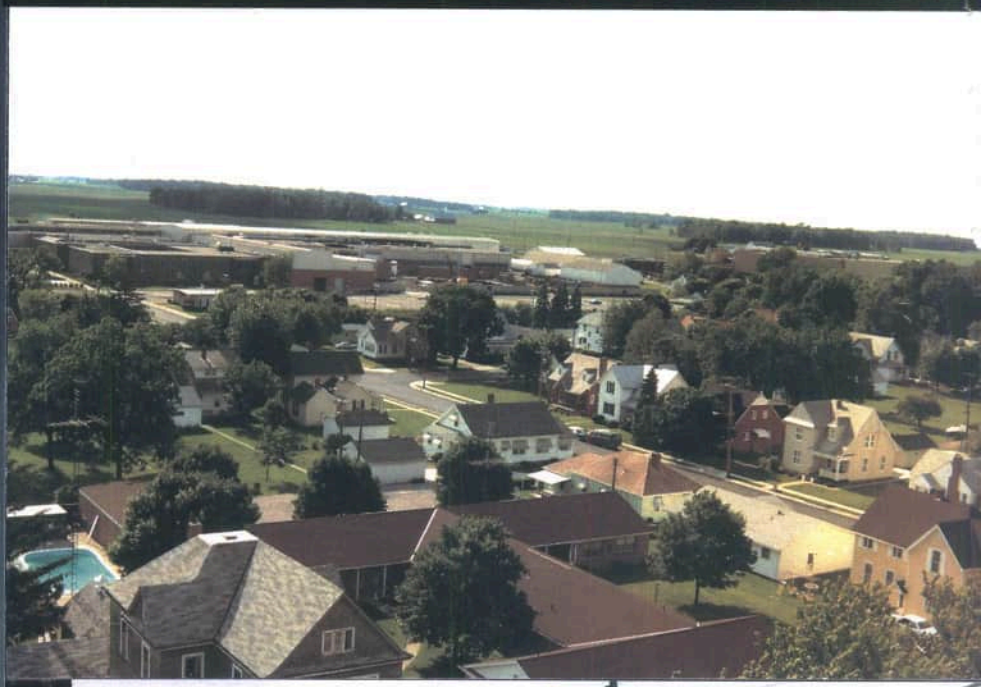




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TODAY







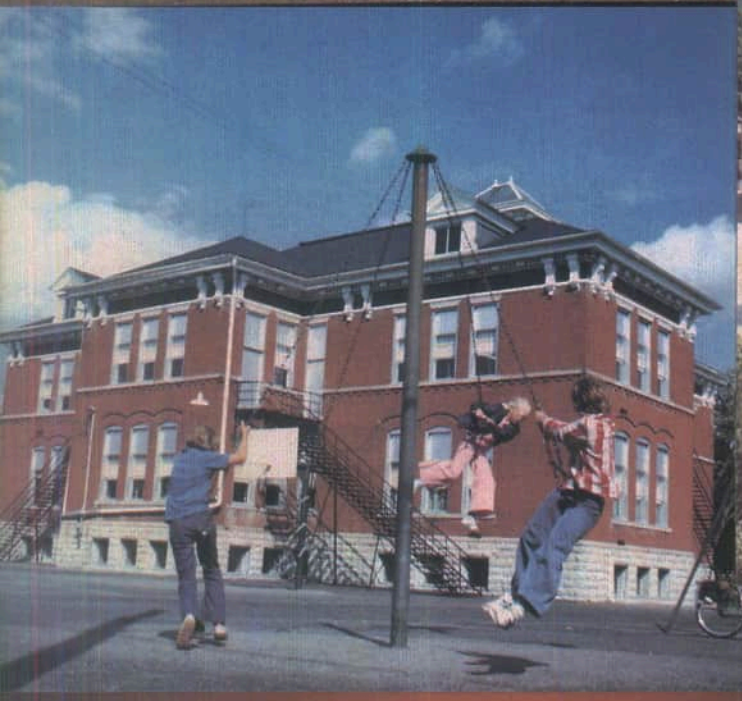


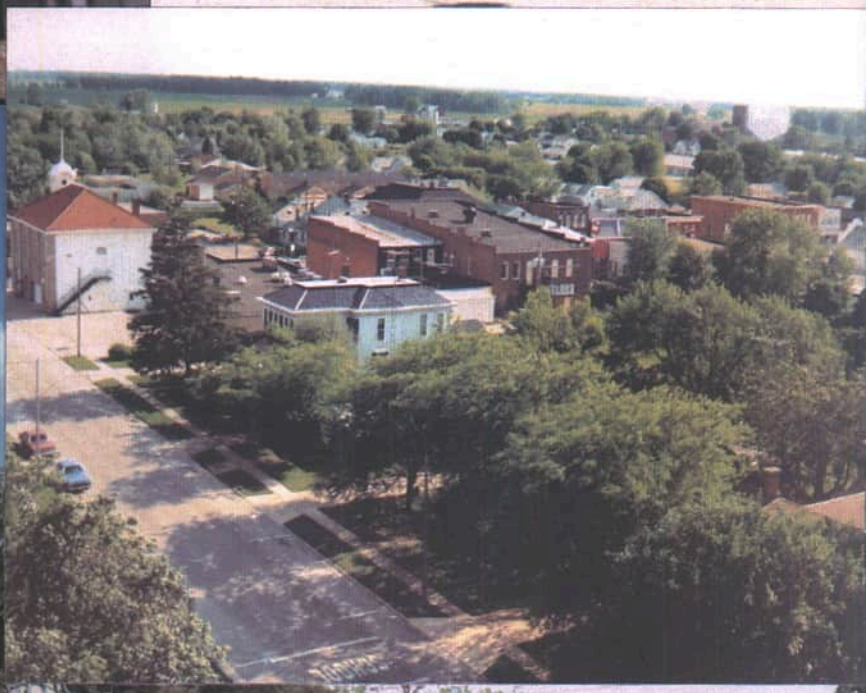


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MINSTER TODAY

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Businesses Past & Present

Baumer Construction Inc.

180 N. Garfield St.

Baumer Construction Inc. was founded after the death of Joseph Melcher, March 12, 1951. On April 1, 1951 Victor Baumer and Fortman started Baumer & Fortman. This dissolved on January 1, 1952 when Victor Baumer started Baumer Construction, a design and building company.

Some of the many accomplishments are Crown Controls Co., Ray Ann Lanes, Lampert's Super Market in New Bremen, Ohio, Community Lanes, Fleetwing Service Station, Boeckman Auto Center, Minster State Bank, Coppess Super Market and many others. He also designed and built the Dannon Products Plant in Minster, Ohio.

Many fine homes were built by this organization in the past 30 years.

In July, 1980 Jerry Baumer, a Civil Engineer joined the organization.

Baumer Design & Engineering

180 N. Garfield St.

Baumer Design and Engineering was organized on January 1, 1981 as a sole proprietorship by Jerry J. Baumer, P.E., a native of Minster. The company serves the public, municipalities and the construction industry in Auglaize County and surrounding areas in the design and engineering of various types of facilities and structures. The first project completed by Baumer Design and Engineering was the New Bremen Municipal Center.

Ben Franklin Store

Eagle Acres Plaza

By Don Smith

The history of Ben Franklin stores was originated in Boston in 1877 when two brothers, George H. Butler and Edward B. Butler pooled their meager resources and formed the wholesale and fancy goods business named "Butler Brothers-Specialties in Small Wares". Before the year was out Charles H. Butler had joined the infant firm.

The brothers started their business by personal selling but to expand their company, January of 1879 they became the first in using the idea of selling by mail. They offered a guaranteed $20 assortment of 5¢ articles on a penny post card to their retail customers and thus the idea of selling at wholesale by mail was born.

Ben Franklin came to Minster, Ohio when Donald and Elaine Smith bought the new store which was to be opened in the Eagle Acres Plaza.

Both Don and Elaine are experienced in their field. Don had 31 years of retail merchandise experience with the F.W. Woolworth Co. He has managed five successful stores with the idea of owning his own business always as a goal. His plans became a reality after the opportunity was presented to him by the Ben Franklin Real Estate Division and his brother William Smith, who owns a Ben Franklin store in Paulding, Ohio. A corporation was formed and the Minster Ben Franklin store Grand Opening took place September 11, 1980.

The object of the store is to serve Minster and surrounding areas with a large selection of quality merchandise from the leading manufacturers of the nation. Ben Franklin hopes to make this store one of Minster's finest shopping places.

M.C. Bernhold Insurance

81 E. Fourth St.



M.C. Bernhold, founder.

The M.C. Bernhold Insurance Agency, Incorporated, was established by Maurice C. Bernhold in 1935. Maurice at age 20 years entered the insurance business on a part-time basis while working as an accountant and business manager for his father-in-law, Dr. E. F. Westerheide, at Westerheide Motor Sales, 155 East Fourth Street, Minster, Ohio.

In 1947 Maurice entered the insurance business on a full-time basis working as an independent agent representing both stock and mutual companies. A rented room in the eastern portion of the Crescent Theatre Building, 135 East Fourth Street, served as his office. At this time Mr. Bernhold also did accounting work for local businesses as well as personal income tax preparation. He served as Deputy Registrar in Minster for the Bureau of Motor Vehicles in the 1950's and the agency continued this service through much of the 1960s'.

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Upon the death of Maurice, his wife, Betty, assumed management of the insurance agency until the eldest son, Roland, could complete his tour of duty with the U.S. Navy on Midway Island.

In May of 1958, Roland Bernhold at age 23, returned to Minster and assumed the role of manager of the M.C. Bernhold Insurance Agency. In 1959 the agency was incorporated. As the business prospered it outgrew the quarters in the theatre building. In March of 1971 the agency moved into its newly constructed quarters, the former site of the Robert and Helen Treon residence, at 81 East Fourth Street, Minster, Ohio.

In 1978 Roland purchased the business from his family. The Bernhold Insurance Agency, an independent insurance agency representing many multiple-line insurance companies, continues to operate at 81 East Fourth Street under the ownership and management of Roland Bernhold, Chartered Life Underwriter (CLU), and Chartered Property and Casualty Underwriter (CPCU).

Blossom Lane Bantams

227 S. Hanover St.

By Louis A. Hoying

Blossom Lane Bantams, Minster, Ohio, was founded by Louis A. Hoying in 1930. Since that time over eighty varieties of standard fowl, bantams, guineas, turkeys and waterfowl have been successfully raised at various periods. In the early years a broiler business was carried on that produced one hundred birds per week at peak operation. Now, Blossom Lane is mainly noted throughout North America for its perpetuation of rare Bantam breeds. Malay, Dutch, Golden Frisian, Lakenvelder, Pyncheon, Yellow-barred White and Mouwen bantams have been featured in the yards in past years. Today the emphasis is centered on the Malays and Dutch. A large percentage of the present bantam Lakenvelder stock in the United States can trace its origin to a Blossom Lane beginning.

Since 1960 the children of the founder and his wife, Rita, have participated in the venture. David, Ruth, Louis, Therese, Ted, Regine and Margaret are all versed in poultry husbandry and all have shown birds at various poultry exhibitions in the Midwest States.

Exhibition of poultry has been a principal function of Blossom Lane during the past ten years. A great deal of success has been encountered with this endeavor and more than a few Grand Champion and Reserve Awards have been won at the leading shows. It is not uncommon for Blossom Lane to participate in as many as fourteen shows within a given year.

In 1980 Standard Light Brahmas have rejoined the Blossom Lane fancy echoing a return to the late 1930's when hatching eggs were sold by mail order from a superior strain of Light Brahmas. The first advertisement of this breed was placed in Poultry Journal in 1937. The Hoying strains of Malay and Dutch bantams, a champion product of genetic development, were displayed at the combined National Show for the American Poultry Association and the American Bantam Association at Columbus, Ohio, in the fall of 1980.

Blossom Lane plans to continue raising poultry for many years to come; bringing enjoyment to all who are attracted to a fancy feather.

Boeckman's Auto Center

23 N. Main St.



In August, 1967, Richard Boeckman held the grand opening of his automotive service business in a new building that he had built.

Initially, the business offered auto service, repairs, and sold tires, brakes, exhaust systems, batteries, etc.

In 1972, SOHIO gasoline pumps and a line of their products were added.

Bornhorst & Meyer Development Inc.

85 S. Cleveland St.

Bornhorst & Hoying, General Contractors opened for business in January of 1953, located at 85 South Cleveland Street.

Founders were Roger E. Bornhorst & Virgil Hoying.

In 1977 Virgil Hoying went into partnership with his son.

In August of that same year Thomas J. Meyer went into business with Roger E. Bornhorst and their business is now called Bornhorst & Meyer Development, Inc., doing business as General Contractors.

Brinkman Service Center

83 N. Main St.

Founder and owners Joseph H. and Kathleen C. Brinkman opened the Shell Service Center in March, 1979 when construction of a new building was completed.

They offer complete automotive and truck repair, & sell gasoline, tires, batteries and related accessories.

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Bud's Bar (Sommer Bros.)

Fourth & Main

By Marjorie Sommer



Bud's (Sommer Bros.) in the 1940's. Note the brick streets and the garage on the left.



This 1941 Crosley was the pride and joy of Sommer Bros. for a number of years. It had a top speed of 45 M.P.H. and averaged 40 miles per gallon!

Bud's Bar (Sommer Bros.), at the corner of Fourth and Main St. in Minster, was first started and owned by Robert Laut. It was a bar and dance hall combined. The building stretched out to the street and the dance hall was upstairs. This was in the 1930s'.

Anna Oil Co. purchased the building and remodeled it into a one room bar, and a wash and lubricating room. They sold Sunoco gasoline and Goodrich tires.

Later Anna Oil sold the building to Pure Oil Co. Paul Sommer and Jonnie Busse were the leasee's in 1937.

Jonnie Busse left the business and that is when Vernon (Bud) and Fred Sommer joined the business and Sommer Bros. was born. They were Pontiac, Hudson, and Crosley dealers until the bar was started. In 1941 Bud bought out his brother Paul, and Fred went to the Marine Corp. Thus was born Bud's Bar.

Bud worked for Pure Oil Co. running the business until 1951 when he bought them out, and thus began the transformation from filling station to Bud's Pizza Parlor.

The building was just two rooms, the bar and grill where our main bar is and the garage was where the juke box and restrooms are located. As a matter of fact the hoist used for working on cars is still under the floor of the renovated room. With years of hard work, the business grew and prospered. Some people and names associated with its growth were Uncle "R" Dick Schmieder, (Stuke) Frank Stukenborg, (Snork) Don Heitkamp, (Sonny) Elton Miering, Tom Schwenzer, Vince Stricker, Joe Schemmel and many others.

As the business grew, so did our family. We had four sons and they later became associated with the business in 1964.

During the time the garage area was torn out, and a room was made into a dining area. Pizza was added and the Meyer garage was bought and torn down to make room for a much larger dining area and a second bar. This gave us over 3000 sq. ft. of floor space and with it the turn to a quality restaurant.

With the help of the four boys, we enjoyed a very prosperous and growing business, specializing in pizza, sandwiches, and home made soups. We are very happy to be able to satisfy the taste buds of our many customers. We're truly thankful to God and the people of this town and surrounding area for your many years of support.

The business was sold to the four boys, Mike, Doug, Greg and Steve. Bud retired after 44 years. It is retaining the name, Sommer Bros.

Buschur Electric

145 S. Hanover St.

By Jack Buschur

Buschur Electric, Inc. begin in 1971 with Jack Buschur wiring homes and doing service work part-time in the evenings and on weekends. The business gradually grew. At this time all of the tools and equipment were kept in the one truck and the basement of his home.

In May of 1978 Jack quit his job and started Jack Buschur's Electric. The business was first located in the basement of his home at 104 South Hanover Street, Minster, Ohio. Jack was the only employee —doing residential wiring and service work and just beginning in the commercial field.

On July 1, 1980, he incorporated to Buschur Electric Inc. The business then relocated to the rear of 145 South Hanover Street, Minster, which is the present location. The business has grown to employ an additional 5 employees who provide all types of residential, commercial, industrial and farm electrical services. They can handle your home insulation needs and also carry a complete line of Winco generators.

Also, for your convenience, they provide a 24 hour emergency service. Buschur Electric, Inc. also employs two secretaries. The company has grown rapidly and its President, Jack Buschur, is anticipating further growth in the future.

Community Lanes

356 E. Third St.

Community Lanes was incorporated in March, 1959. Shares of stock were sold to area residents for $100 to raise the necessary capital to construct a 12 lane bowling alley at the corner of Garfield and Third Streets.

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That the community was very interested in seeing this project move forward is evidenced by the fact that there were over 250 original stockholders who invested an average of $400 each. The 155' x 157' brick veneer structure was built by Baumer Construction.

The original directors were: Norbert Gudorf, President; Ohmer Brandewie, Vice-President; Esther Seger, Secretary; Thomas Morsey, Treasurer; Roger Frericks, Assistant Secretary; Charles Oldiges, Herbert Schmiesing, Thomas Francis and William Barhorst.

Don Kotwica was hired as manager. After one year Kotwica left and his assistant, Joseph Baumer, was appointed as manager. That Joe is doing an excellent job is evidenced by the fact that he retains that position in 1982.

Current directors are: Albert Fischer, President; William Barhorst, Vice President; Esther F. Seger, Secretary-Treasurer; Roy Knostman, Clarence Plas, Ralph Fischer and Marcellus Rentz.

Community Lanes today as in the early days, provides quality bowling facilities for the people of this area.

The Community Post and Post Printing Company

Fourth & Cleveland Streets

By Tom Froning



Post Printing Company today is one of the most complete, modern commercial printing businesses in this part of Ohio.

The following account appeared in the "Souvenir of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Founding of Minster, Ohio", published in 1932.

"The Minster Post, published weekly, was established in 1896 and is now in its thirty-seventh year. It is published by the Post Printing Co., and is a six column, eight page paper, all home print, and covers the field it embraces well.

"An up-to-date printing plant is maintained by the company in connection with the newspaper, and its business in commercial printing covers much more than what might be regarded as the normal field for its activities.

"The first issue of The Minster Post, with Henry Holterman as owner and editor, appeared March 12, 1896. It was of five columns, and was printed in German with the inside pages in English. At this time the Lampe building, at the southeast corner of Fourth and Hanover Sts., housed the newspaper plant.

"Bernard Sherman became owner of The Post on July 6, 1896, and shortly after moved it into that part of the building now occupied by Busse and Berning, on West Fourth St., that is now used for display of automobiles. In 1898 the entire newspaper was printed in German, but for many years now has appeared as a publication in English.

"A part interest was acquired by J. T. Haverbeck from B. Sherman, on March 1, 1900, and in March of 1902 the entire plant was taken over by Mr. Haverbeck, who in 1905 moved into the Kuhlman building, the present site of the post office (in 1932). From 1905 to 1912 the business was conducted in this location, after which it was transferred to the Eagle building on West Fourth St.

"Within a few weeks the plant will be moved into the building, formerly known as the Steinemann property, located at the southwest corner of Fourth and Cleveland Sts. This building was purchased by The Post Printing Co., and is now being placed in readiness for occupancy.

"Shortly after acquisition of the business by J. T. Haverbeck, it was conducted in its entirety as the Post Printing Co., with Mr. Haverbeck as general manager. The business grew steadily, and from July 1, 1918 to January 1, 1923, Louis H. Naber was interested in the business and acted as factory manager. In 1923 Mr. Naber severed his connections here and relocated in Toledo.

"Early in 1923 Harry B. Heckman came to Minster from Cincinnati, and became identified with the company and supervised as factory manager, in which capacity he is now acting.

"The Post Printing Co. has installed the latest and most modern printing equipment in recent years. It is a general commercial printery, turning out such work as office forms and folders and catalog work in one or more colors.

"When the present manager took charge of the business only from three to four persons were employed. Typesetting machines, automatic presses and other up-to-date machinery have been installed since, with the result that the number of employees has been greatly increased."

As was stated in the foregoing 1932 historical account, the company moved into the Steinemann building and about that time Mr. Harry Heckman became a partner of Mr. Haverbeck. The business prospered and the company enjoyed a very good reputation. At that time the company employed twenty-one people in the office and factory and had five salesmen traveling in Ohio, Indiana and Michigan.

Mr. Nathan Fahnestock served as editor of The Minster Post from about February 1921 until 1938, at which time Mr. Gerald Shenk assumed the duties and served in that capacity until 1964. He was succeeded by Mr. Robert Lammers who held that position until September 1967.

Mr. Haverbeck died quite unexpectedly in 1948, at which time his heirs named his nephew, Mr. Harry Gudenkauf, President and appointed Mr. Urban Severin, General Manager. Mr. Severin served in that capacity until July 1963, when he terminated his tenure of thirty-four years with the company. Shortly

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after Mr. Haverbeck's death Mr. Heckman disassociated himself with the company as a stockholder. After this reorganization, it was decided to enlarge the plant by the addition of a new office and doubling the shop area. This was completed in 1951.

In 1959 Dr. Elton Gudenkauf of Columbus, Ohio, acquired controlling interest and the company entered upon a new phase with the acquisition of Offset printing equipment. Slowly but surely this investment reflected in sound financial posture.

On March 2, 1965 Dr. Elton Gudenkauf, the President, died quite unexpectedly and his widow, Mrs. Betty Gudenkauf, became the major stockholder.

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Thompson, Sr., of Hustead, Ohio, acquired the controlling interest from Mrs. Gudenkauf in January 1967. Shortly thereafter the company, in order to remain competitive in the market place, embarked on a modernization program and began to replace old equipment with new. The offset department was enlarged with additional equipment. To support this new "cold type" equipment and a camera for making offset negatives were added.

In 1971 Franklin Kuenning was appointed General Manager and he continued with the modernization program.

On November 19, 1964, with Bob Lammers serving as editor, The Minster Post changed its name to The Community Post, and in July 1966 a "new look" was added when it changed its format to the tabloid size paper. In September 1967 Mr. Richard Moorman took over the duties of editor and held that position until his untimely death in July 1968. Mrs. Sharon Barr then assumed the duties of editor and served in that capacity until September 1971. Mrs. Carolyn Enneking succeeded her and held that position until February 1972, when the present editor, Mr. Richard Bensman, was appointed. Over that period of time the "Post" continued to grow and is now a 32-page paper. The composition and editing are done in house, but the printing, by the Offset process, is done by the Leader Printing Co. of St. Marys, Ohio.

The commercial department of the company, the major part of the business has switched almost completely to Offset printing, with a battery of seven presses, three two-color Heidelbergs, one one-color Heidelberg, one one-color Harris and two one-color Davidsons. Two Heidelbergs make up the Letterpress department. The Offset composition is completed on ten pieces of Photo Typesetting computerized equipment, and is supported by two large cameras to make the offset negatives. A linotype is used for setting type for the letterpresses. In April 1981 a business office was opened in Lexington, Kentucky. Computerized Photo Typesetting equipment was installed which is linked by direct line with the equipment in Minster. This move was made to improve the service to customers in that area.

The company is represented by seven salesmen who travel in Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky. Although a large share of the business is the usual type, all sorts of business forms, stationery, checks, continuous forms and brochures, the major portion is catalog and publications work. This is supported by a variety of bindery equipment and direct mail equipment.

Over the years the company has grown and enjoyed a good reputation and is highly respected by its competitors. At this writing it employs fifty-two people.

Coppess Foods

5 Eagle Drive

By Judy Coppess

Coppess Foods, located at Eagle Acres Shopping Village, had its origin in Minster as Coppess Super Valu. In 1969 Larry Coppess, originally from Ansonia, Ohio, and his wife, Judy, Rockford, Ohio, purchased the existing Minster Food Storage Co-op from its owners. The building and real estate, located at 257 East Fourth Street was purchased by Thomas F. and Mary L. Morsey and leased to the Coppesses. The transaction was completed March 9, 1969, and the business opened on that date as Coppess Super Valu. Six months later the Coppesses were able to obtain housing in Minster and moved to the town with their three daughters: Lori, 6; Julie, 2; and Leslie, 9 months. Prior to that time Larry Coppess had taught eight years as a Band Director and had spent the previous year in partnership with his father, Lowell Coppess, in the family supermarket in Ansonia, Ohio.

During the next 10 years, the facility at 257 East Fourth Street underwent 5 major remodelings. Changes were made in the inside decor. The meat dept. was changed to self-service, new frozen, dairy, produce, and meat equipment were purchased and new shelving along with three electronic cash registers and new automated check stands were added.

The old rental food storage locker operation was phased out as energy costs became prohibitive. An expanded sales area and a new office occupied the old locker area space.

In June, 1978, ground was broken for a new ultra-modern 12,000 sq. ft. facility in the Eagle Acres subdivision on Route 66 north where the Eagles Park and Dance Hall once stood. The land was purchased from Schlenker Development Corporation of Wapakoneta.

The new supermarket, built by Baumer Construction of Minster opened on January 7, 1979 employing 47 people. The old store was closed.

Featuring Minster's first Bakery-Deli, the new supermarket exhibited the newest in meat, produce, grocery, frozen food and dairy design. The building also featured the area's first heat-reclaim system devised to cut soaring energy costs. The store was two years in the planning. During that time Mr. and Mrs. Coppess travelled extensively collecting and improvising on the new concepts of design and operation. The Bakery-Deli is widely known for its carry-out chicken and its own Minster Pumpernickel.

In 1980 Coppess Foods was joined by six other businesses in the Eagle Acres Shopping Village.

Today Coppess Foods is still a family business owned by Larry and Judy Coppess, their three daughters and a son, Eric, age 5, and is happy to be the hub of grocery service to Minster and the surrounding area.

* The first law enacted by the town council on May 11, 1839 was to prohibit the discharging of firearms within a hundred yards of Main Street.

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The Crescent Theatre

131 E. Fourth St.

By Jill Bergman, Mary Jo Berger, Laura Moorman



The Crescent Theatre in 1980.

The successful finish of any enterprise in a town marks an epoch in the history of any thriving community. As a town grows and expands, one enterprise after another becomes necessary. Churches and schools, for its moral welfare, factories, business establishments, paved streets, the modern improvements like electricity and waterworks for its material well-being. Recreation also plays an important part in the daily life of the modern town and a modern theatre ranks in line with its various material necessities. Therefore, the completion of the Crescent Theatre marks a period of time in the history of Minster, fills a long felt want and realizes a long cherished hope on the part of many citizens. With interest, we have watched the progress of the building during these many years and rightfully rejoice with its present status.

Sunday, Dec. 8, 1912, the theatre was to be opened to the general public and with the presentation of the famous musical comedy, "Mutt and Jeff". Combined with this, that is the opening play of the season, the first play of the season and the first play in the theatre. The attendance was said to be a record breaker.

In 1912, the opera house named after its builders, the Crescent Theatre, was and still is a handsome and modern building, a credit to its builders and to the village at large. It measured 50 x 100 feet outside, two stories high except the stage which is three stories. Two small storerooms are in the ground floor and between these the entrance to the theatre proper. The theatre extends the full height of the two stories and measures 48 x 55 feet. It had a seating capacity of 397 and now is 275. The present seats are very comfortable and are arranged in such a manner that everyone seated in the theatre has a clear view of the screen and stage. The stage dimensions are 22 x 48 feet, big enough for almost any show troop striking this neighborhood. The standard scenes are very pretty and cost quite a tidy sum. The dressing rooms are in the rear basement under the stage. The top floor covers the lobby was divided into three separate rooms which consisted of a pantry, kitchen, and a poker room. These rooms were later turned into the headquarters. When the clubmembers started giving their own private movies within the poker house, they decided to charge money which then started the idea of the theatre.

The ventilation was and still is excellent. There are plenty of exit doors provided for a rapid dismissal of the audience. The building in short is modern and up-to-date in every particular way.

The plans and specifications for the building were furnished by Andrew De Curtin from Lima. Ley and Ostendorf were awarded for the concrete and brick work. Knostman and Melcher did the carpenter work, Bd. Vanderhorst the plastering and Theo. Kempker and sons did the roofing and cornice work. The heating, plumbing, and wiring were done by the Minster Supply Company. From the looks of things all the contractors have turned out work we may all be grateful for. All the contractors were local concerns.

No start could have been more significant than that of the Crescent Club. It was 81 years ago on Sept. 23, that a number of boys sat in the park on Sunday afternoon and in the course of a general conversation someone suggested that it would be a nice thing to have a clubroom. The idea struck a responsive chord and that same night the club was formally organized as the Crescent Club. The original members were ten in number as follows: John Karsen, Louis Haffner, Frank Beckmen, Joseph Ritter, Charles Dickman, Louis Marischen, Louis Knostman, Jos. Bush, William Oldiges and Albert Rulman. Chas. Dickman called meetings to order, kept the records such as they were, and collected the dues of the club which were 5¢ a week. After a time, the room at Knostman's became too small and the club moved in a building on Main Street across from the present day Knights of Columbus. The club building then was owned by Ralph Horst. Mr. Horst placed the building on sale and to save their quarters, the club got into the real estate game. It was incorporated as a company "not for profit" on Jan. 30, 1903 and purchased the property on Main Street March 2, 1903. Of the original members, William Oldiges, Albert Rulman, and Louis Marischen had dropped out by this time. The officers of the new incorporation were: Louis Mertzman - president, George Knostman - secretary, Jos. Bush - treasurer.

A machine was purchased and the first show took place August 29, 1907, at the Columbia Opera House. In the start a show was put on every evening but very soon people were saying that our town was not big enough for such luxuries so the shows were then given only on Saturday and Sunday evenings. After a time, the nickelodeon was transferred to the John Eiting property and later back to the Columbia Opera House again, where the last show was given. Then the paraphernalia was moved to the new theatre.

In 1920, the Blue Laws were passed. These laws stated that there would be no movies shown on Sundays. Minster did not obey these laws so they had movies every day of the week and this schedule is followed today.

The boys of 81 years ago and the men of today who stand at the head of this enterprise know that the public is fickle and that the path of theatre owners is not bedded with roses. They knew the ups and downs of the business and that at best it took years to realize on their investments. They are well aware that it means hard work and unremitting attention to the

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business to insure its success.

We like to give our best wishes to Bob Knostman, the present day owner, for making our lives full of enjoyment from *Mutt and Jeff* to *Freckles, Liberty Corner, Our Town, Sound of Music, Grease,* etc.

We would also like to express our appreciation to our own Crescent Players. They have put on such hits as *Our Town, Little Mary Sunshine, Over the Bridge at Midnight, Charlie Brown,* and the latest hit *Oklahoma.* May the theatre's success in the future be as successful as in the past.

Dahlinghaus Garage

154 E. Fourth St.



Portions of this building today houses Dahlinghaus Garage. This picture shows damage to the roof that occurred during a big windstorm in 1908 when it was a Livery and Feed Stable.



Westerheide Ford and Tractor Sales dealership in 1963 shortly before it was taken over by Dahlinghaus Garage.

Harold Dahlinghaus took over the garage business of Westerheide Ford and Tractor Sales in October, 1963. Today the business provides complete truck and automotive repair and sells used cars.

* Friday, Minster Post, April 21, 1922: An ad by the Crescent Club noted that the managers of the theatre were giving away, free, a coupon with every admission ticket to their show house, and that among the assortment of tickets given out there will be one winner of a free basket of groceries worth from $2.00 to $2.50.

Dannon Yogurt

First & Main Streets



The newest Dannon Yogurt building in Minster was built in 1977 by Baumer Construction. The production of this plant, plus the original Minster plant across the street totals millions of cups of the product each week.

A dispute between the states of Ohio and New York resulted in the establishment of a Dannon Yogurt plant in Minster, October, 1969.

Dannon Yogurt began shipping their product into Ohio back in 1965. The popularity of the product increased but by 1968 the state of Ohio informed Dannon to remove their products. Ohio said that there was no reciprocity agreement between New York and Ohio. Ohio wanted to sell its products in New York but New York refused saying the products had to be inspected by New York health officials. Ohio retaliated by telling New York that their milk products couldn't be sold here.

Dannon officials searched for a place where they could build a "token plant". They contacted Meadow Gold in New Bremen and they suggested that Meyer's Dairy in Minster might be interested.

Paul and Wilfred Meyer were very interested and in 1968 the manufacture of Dannon Yogurt began in Minster.

That "token plant" grew and prospered. By 1976 there was no doubt that the building on the north side of First and Main Streets could no longer hold the operation.

In October, 1977 a new $3 million dollar plant was opened across the street.

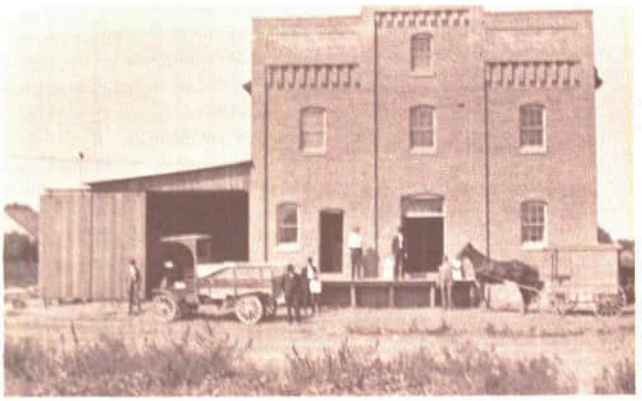
Today the Dannon plant produces millions of cups of yogurt a week for distribution to many states.

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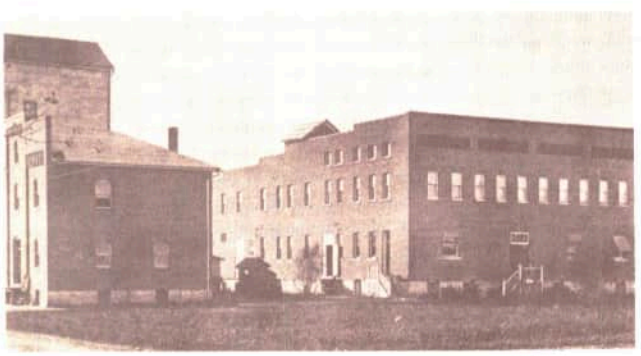
Diamond Savings & Loan

260 E. Fourth St.

By Ken Leugers



The old Midget Marvel Mill on East Fourth Street. Today this is the site of Diamond Savings and Loan.



Today the mill on the left has been replaced by Diamond Savings. The building at the right has been used for (in order) a box factory, cigar factory, box factory, organ factory, shoe factory and most recently a box factory. Today the Specialty Box Co. turns out thousands of school boxes each year along with boxes for other special uses.

The Minster Office of Diamond Savings and Loan Co. was originally opened June 1, 1970 as a branch of Union Savings and Loan Co. of St. Marys, Ohio. Its first manager was Mary Lou Short, with two other employees, David S. Wyen and Kenneth W. Leugers.

In 1974 Union Savings & Loan Co. merged with the Mutual Savings & Loan Co. of Celina, and later the same year the stock of Union Savings & Loan Co. was sold to General Ohio Savings & Loan Co. At this time, the staff of the Minster office was Ken Leugers as manager and Bonnie Brunson (Seger) as teller. On August 1, 1976 the Union Savings and Loan Co. merged with Central Savings Association, with Central Savings as the surviving company. After the merger, the Minster office almost doubled its deposits in one year. The office staff added another girl in 1977, Pat Mangen (Brussell), and its deposits continued to grow. Not only did the merger allow the Minster office to offer more services, but also to service a larger area.

In the spring of 1980, Dana Corporation tendered an offer to General Ohio Savings & Loan Co. to buy its stock. The purchase was approved by the stockholders and on December 31, 1980, the six companies of General Ohio Savings & Loan Co. (this includes Central Savings Association) merged and became Diamond Savings & Loan Co. The end result of these mergers that has affected the Minster Branch, is that it is now a part of a $700,000,000.00 Savings & Loan Co., which has 42 offices throughout the state of Ohio.

The office is located at its original site at the north west corner of Fourth and Jackson Streets. This was not where it was originally to be built, but when a fire destroyed the old flour mill, the location was changed.

Donauer's Barber Shop

131 E. Fourth St.

By Bob Donauer



The building on the right today houses Donauer's Barber Shop and the Crescent Theatre. This shot was taken in 1914 (note the old "crescent" sign) and the barber shop business was owned by Alex Frey.

There has been a barber shop located in the Crescent building at 131 E. Fourth Street since 1913 when Alex Frey opened for business. Mr. Frey barbered consecutively at this location for twenty-two years except for 1917-1919 when he served in the Army.

The following article concerning Frey's shop appeared in a 1923 issue of "The Minster Post":

"Each person who got either a haircut or a shave, or both, at the Alex Frey barber shop on last Saturday was remembered with a smoke at the expense of the proprietor. The reason for this unusual favor, as explained by the proprietor and his helpers, was that he was on that date celebrating his 10th anniversary as the head of one of Minster's popular tonsorial parlors. It was on the 24th day of February, 1913, when this place was opened up and he recalls that the first person who was worked on after the razors were all honed down to a keen edge and the other tools put in order for business, was Mr. Joseph Knostman, well known resident of this city. While the job was being done a visit was made to the place by a Mr. A. Osborne, then interested in the business of the Auglaize Cooperage Co., but now living in Van Wert, Ohio, and this gentleman proposed to pay for the first shave in the new shop. Mr. Frey inaugurated an up-to-date system at his place when he embarked in business and he has kept going in that line ever since, so that there are no smeary shave shops here, but tidy, citified tonsorial parlors."

Some of the people who worked for Frey over the years were Bob Busse, Oscar Rulmann, Oscar Knostman, Elmer Knostman, Maurice Vallo, Henry Kramer, Melvin Vallo, Bob Donauer and Maurice Woehrmyer.

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In 1935 Frey sold the business and equipment to Fred Schmieder who operated it until 1940 when he sold it to Bob Donauer. Donauer has operated the shop continuously from that date except for 1943-1945 when he served in the U.S. Navy.

A number of Minster youngsters ran the shoe-shine portion of the business for Donauer over the years. Among them were Don Hoying, Jim Weghorst, John Sautman, John Holtzauer, Rolly Bernhold, John Bitler, Bob Lammers, John Huelsman and Mike and Jim Donauer.

Far Motors, Inc.

72 N. Main St.

FAR MOTORS, INC., 72 N. Main St., was founded April 4, 1960. The building was constructed in 1946 by Paul Sommer, a native of Minster, who had the Pontiac agency until April 1960. It was sold to Fred Sommer, Alphonse Barhorst, former employees of Paul Sommer, and Ralph (Jess) Doenges, who owned and operated Minster Sohio Service Station, located on the corner of Lincoln and Fourth St., for eight years.

At this time the three incorporated as Far Motors, Inc. Using the first initials of the first names, Fred, Alphonse, and Ralph.

Far Motors, Inc. operated a complete auto service and repair department, as well as used cars and truck sales.

Also in 1960 Far Motors set up and operated an automotive parts store until the fall of 1962.

On September 2, 1962, Far Motors, Inc. became a franchised Ford dealer for new cars and trucks sales. The former Ford dealer was Westerheide Motor Sales. The automotive parts business was purchased by Dixie Auto Parts of Sidney, Ohio and moved to the former Westerheide Motor Sales location on 4th St., Minster and managed by Elmer Rethman of Ft. Loramie, Ohio.

On December 1, 1963, Ralph (Jess) Doenges purchased Fred Sommer's and Alphonse Barhorst's shares of stock and became sole owner of Far Motors, Inc.

In 1981, the business relinquished the Ford dealership, but new Fords and used cars and trucks are still being sold by Far.

Albert Freytag Inc. Masonry Contractors

R.R. 1

The Freytag name in the building industry started with the arrival of Karl Freytag and son Albert into the United States at the turn of the century. The father-son team was responsible for the largest part of the brick homes and buildings in the area. In later years with the help of the other brothers they branched into larger buildings from Sandusky to the Indiana border to Eaton. Upon the death of Albert Freytag I in 1939 the original company was sold to his brothers.

Albert Freytag Inc. was organized in 1943 by Albert II. From it's base in Ft. Loramie the firm's two-man crew did residential work until 1948 when the company moved to Minster. In 1951 the firm built the Annex to the Minster School and since that time have built over 500 churches and schools in Ohio and Indiana. A few of the local projects are Minster High School, Midmark office, Minster Machine complex, Dannon Yogurt, All local service stations, Coppess, K.C. Hall, Union Hall, American Legion, Minster State Bank, Union Savings & Loan, All of the local restaurants, and many of the fine homes.

Nearby projects are Sidney Y.M.C.A., 4 banks and Savings & Loans and factories, New Bremen Schools, Crown Controls and super markets.

Robert Freytag joined the firm in 1947, Marjorie Freytag in 1948 and Albert Freytag III in 1976. Son William assumed leadership in 1980. The 20 year round employees are supplemented with additional seasonal help. Much of the firm's success is due to the dedication of long time employees, many over 25 years.

The firm is well known in the construction industry, particularly for its fine stone, brick and glazed tile work.

Gagel Plumbing & Heating, Inc.

St. Rt. 66

Gagel Plumbing and Heating had its first day of business on October 7, 1963. Wilbert A. Gagel had purchased the former Wilkens Hardware from Norbert Wilkens. The new business, known as Bill Gagel Plumbing and Heating, was located at 52 North Main Street in Minster. At the onset, about half the floor area of the Main Street store was shared with Schmiesing Refrigeration, owned and operated by Lawrence Schmiesing.

The first employees of Bill Gagel Plumbing and Heating were Norb Wilkens, the former owner, and John Plas, a former Wilkens employee. Merinus Puthoff and John Mescher were added as employees through the first winter.

Mr. Gagel continued to operate along the same lines as Mr. Wilkens had, but expanded his services to include electrical wiring and warm air heating. A line of lighting fixtures was also added.

After several years, with both businesses needing more space, Schmiesing Refrigeration moved to the former Ripploh Grocery building, and Gagels opened a second store at 24 North Main in New Bremen. Bill's son Don had just returned from four years in the Air Force, settled with his wife and children in New Bremen, and took over management of that store, with Alice Hartwig working as bookkeeper and clerk.

Because of Don's electronic experience in the service, electric motor repair was added to the list of services offered, and before long a complete air conditioning service became available.

In 1973, the practicality of consolidating the two businesses arose, and once the location was decided upon, it was not long before the new building was under construction. In June, 1974, Gagel Plumbing

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and Heating opened its doors at 4574 St. Route 66 North, Minster, halfway between Minster and New Bremen, where the business has continued to grow.

Through the years, Phyllis Gerkey has taken over the responsibilities of bookkeeper/secretary and sales clerk, Ralph Wolfe has joined the company, and John Mescher continues as a full-time employee. In 1979, the business was incorporated, with Don Gagel as president, and Janice Gagel as vice president.

Bill Gagel died in 1981. His wife Luella, although retired, continues to spend time at the store, contributing much by building and setting up displays, checking merchandise, and handling the advertising.

The company continues to strive to offer the best service available to cover the needs of the people of the area.

Garmann's Store

117 W. Fourth St.

Garmann's Store began operations in 1929 as a dry goods and cleaning and pressing store owned by Robert Garmann and Nick Hogenkamp in a building owned by John Eiting.

In 1939 Mr. Garmann bought the building and went into business for himself.

The store is still in the same location and has been in the business for 52 years. At the present time it is owned and operated by Fred and Ann Thien as a department store selling general merchandise, drapery and shoes.

Gudorf & Sons

126 W. Fourth St.

During WW II Norbert Gudorf was repairing radios and small appliances in his home. Much of his service work was for Hoying and Westerheide Hardware. In August 1946 they contacted Norb about buying their appliance sales and service department. In November 1946 Norbert Gudorf and Paul Moorman (who was an aircraft mechanic during WW II) formed a partnership and bought Louis Hoying and Joe Westerheide's appliance department. On December 7, 1946 Gudorf and Moorman Appliance Co. had their official grand opening with over 1,500 people registering for door prizes. In 1948, Cincinnati, Ohio went on the air with a TV station, and TV sets were now put on display. They didn't sell well until 1950 when Dayton put two TV stations on the air. In addition to the TV business, they also expanded into electrical contracting and heating and air conditioning. In 1960 on advice from his doctor, Paul Moorman decided to leave the business. Because the business was growing, additional space was needed. After some lengthy negotiations, Norb purchased the Busse Blacksmith property from the Busse family in March of 1969. A new 80' x 82' steel structure was erected. The grand opening was November 2, 3, and 4, 1969 with more than 3000 people registering for door prizes.

In 1973 Dave and Marion Gudorf and family returned to Ohio from Richmond, Virginia. Dave was a factory sales rep. with G.C. Electronics and prior to that was an electronic engineer with Western Electric. Prior to that Dave was the electronic service technician for Gudorf and Moorman.

In 1973 the name was changed to Gudorf and Sons Inc., with Dave as president, Ted Gudorf as vice president, and Norb as treasurer. In 1976 Dave and Marion bought Ted and Norb's interest in the business. Norb worked for Gudorf and Sons Inc. until his 65th birthday when he retired. Shortly after Dave and Marion bought the business they phased out the appliance division so they could concentrate on the electronics business. The service department was expanded and Gudorf and Sons now sells every consumer electronics item that is available including computers in their newly completed computer sales department.

Gudorf and Sons now has six full time employees and four part-time. The full time employees are Dave, Greg, Keith, and Cheryl Gudorf, Jim Frey, and Declan Saintignon. The part-time employees are Matt, Lisa, and Marie Gudorf and Mike Turner. Marion Gudorf serves as secretary-treasurer of the corporation.

Hausfeld Motor Sales

Main & Seventh St.

Hausfeld Motor Sales was started by Linus Hausfeld in 1947. In 1950 he purchased the vacant lot at North Main and East Seventh Streets and built a 30 x 45 foot building and opened a repair business to compliment his used car sales.

Hausfeld's three sons, Doug, Brad and Tom are all active in the business.

In 1959 Hausfeld built a 40 x 45 foot addition to his building for cleaning and reconditioning used cars.

Heinl Funeral Home

145 S. Hanover St.

The Heinl Funeral Home opened in Minster, on November 4th, 1931 located at 145 S. Hanover Street. Anthony L. "Tony" Heinl, a Wapakoneta native was owner-operator of the establishment. He was born on August 10th, 1890, the son of C.J. Heinl and Catherine (Brown) Heinl. His father was a Funeral Director and Embalmer and was associated with Heinl and Swonguer. A.L. and two brothers, Michael and Leo worked for their father. Then Tony became interested in the new field of electricity and he and Wilbur Nagel started Heinl & Nagel Elec. Co., even though he was now a licensed F.D. and Embalmer. He received his license after his studies were complete with the Cincinnati School of Embalming. This was in 1910 and his license number was #831. This meant there were 831 licensed embalmers in the State of Ohio.

But the urge to be in the funeral business was still there, and by this time two nephews were, also, licensed. C.J. (Bud) and William were sons of Leo Heinl. Hence the move to Minster, Ohio. He, along with his wife, Edith and six children moved from the County Seat to the Village of Minster. Then electrical requests kept popping up, so in addition to operating the Funeral Home, he was again into electrical contracts, repairs, appliances, etc. One of the largest elec-

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trical jobs, Mr. Heinl contracted to do after his move to Minster, was for the Star Beverage Co., later called the Wooden Shoe Brewery for the President A.W. Frierott and other stock-holders. Electrician Philbert A. Brown came to Minster to help with this project.

When Fr. Paul Raterman was stationed at St. Michael's Church at Ft. Loramie, Ohio, he wanted something special on St. Michael's at Christmas time. Tony suggested a Rosary. So Heinl's electricians, Edward Bruns and Louis Borchers created Bishop Sheen's World Rosary made up of colored bulbs. Several years later the World Rosary was changed to a regular Rosary. Each Christmas this hangs from up near the steeple down the face of the church, with the cross hanging just above the central front doors.

Tony helped to organize the village's Volunteer Fire Department and was an active fireman for many years. He, also, with the support of other local citizens organized the first marching band.

The Heinl Funeral Home went out of business due to Tony's failing health, in 1971.

Hilltop Beauty Shop

Tebbe Rd.

By Jane Schmuecker, prop.

In the spring of 1931, after finishing a business course at Miami Jacobs (business college in Dayton, Ohio) and not being able to find secretarial employment because of the depression, I began getting calls from people whose hair I had comb-waved, round curled and marcelled while in high school. In those days the beautician performed services right in the patron's home. I had no formal education in that field other than that taught me by my cousin Vera Knostman who had attended Marinello's Beauty School in Cincinnati, Ohio.

For my 19th birthday my mother gave me a scissors, comb, marcel iron and hand dryer. I was in business. From the first year on, seminars were all important for the knowledge and skill they taught. At that time the really leading hair stylists in the country were on the platforms at these seminars for the various permanent wave machine companies and all products used in this business.

My first big investment after the first year was a standing hair dryer for $50. A year later I invested $300 for my first permanent wave machine, a "Duart". After several years cold-waving became popular with constant improvements and became a "must" for most women.

After 50 years, the circle is seemingly completed as far as hair cutting is concerned. We have cut hair dry, shaping with a scissors, wet with razor, back to wet and dry with a scissors. Now the "lightning cut" with the old fashioned shingle is popular. The curling iron too has come back to its own but is quite different from the irons I first used.

The first 8 years I had my shop in a room in my parents home, the next 13 years it was in the Schmuecker building on W. Fourth St., operating all this time under the name of Jane's Beauty Shop. Then in 1947 and 1949 our daughters Carol and Paula were born. In 1949 I sold the shop equipment to Elmer Weaver and in 1952 we moved into our new home. Here, 2 years later, I opened a small shop in the utility room operating as "Hilltop Beauty Shop". Later we added half of our two car garage to the shop giving me more space and in so doing I could have additional help. Three of the girls that worked with me for 3 to 7 years and that I would like to thank are Linda Pleiman, Rosie Koverman and Jean Watercutter my present co-worker.

I have had a very happy and successful career and I'm grateful to have this opportunity to thank all the people that have been my patrons and friends.

N.J. Hogenkamp Sons

61 S. Hanover St.

By Suzanne Deters, Leanne Hemmelgarn, Teresa Prenger

N.J. Hogenkamp Sons, Inc., was started in 1874 by Bernard J. Hogenkamp, great-grandfather of Nicholas A. Hogenkamp who is now in charge of the funeral home in Minster.

Bernard J. Hogenkamp, a native of Holland, resided on Frankfort Street where the Minster State Bank parking lot is now located. Bernard usually did the embalming in the kitchen of the home of the deceased. The viewing was also held in the home, thus the body was not removed from the home until church services and burial. There was a constant vigil for 24 hours, and the church service was followed by a walking procession to the cemetery with the coffin being carried on a wheelbarrow. The horse-drawn hearse did not come into use in this area until about 1915.

Bernard J. also ran a furniture and undertaking business with Kohner and later with Knostman who was located on South Main Street where Tom's Barbershop is now found. Caskets were made of wood, which is probably why the furniture maker often served as the undertaker. The casket with the body was placed in a larger container. This held ice to keep the body cold, and had a small hole in the bottom to drain the water from the melting ice. The body was continually watched to insure its safety and to protect it from the devil, an old superstitious practice. Hogenkamp sold his share of the furniture business to Knostman in 1904. Mr. Knostman continued in the furniture business.

The building which is the present funeral home in Minster was built in 1903. A sign was placed on the house to distinguish it from other houses. In 1949 the porch was closed in; in 1956 the carport was added; and in 1962 the second story was renovated into a modern home.

Bernard J. Hogenkamp died November 20, 1916, and the business was passed on to his son, Nicholas J. Hogenkamp. Nicholas P., son of Nicholas J., passed his embalmer's examination at Cleveland University in October of 1932. He then took over the business after his father's death on March 4, 1937.

In the late 1940's, funeral services and viewing began to be held in the funeral home located on South Hanover Street. In 1956 Nicholas A. joined his father in business. Together they bought the Romer

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Funeral Home in St. Henry on July 10, 1960. On February 4, 1965, they purchased the G.P. Desch Funeral Home in Coldwater.

B. Jay, another son of Nicholas P., attended the Cincinnati College of Embalming in September of 1960, and joined his father in 1963. B. Jay presently runs the home in Coldwater. Nicholas P. passed away on January 20, 1967. The business was then incorporated as "N.J. Hogenkamp Sons, Inc."

N.J. Hogenkamp Sons also ran an ambulance service in the Minster area. This service was advertised in the Minster Post as early as 1929, but the service was halted on June 30, 1975, because of new laws which had been passed in 1967, and also because of the high costs of providing all the services required by these laws.

Many other advertisements were placed in the Minster Post. Some of these were: "It costs no more to have the very best"; "We serve all suitable, just as they wish to be served"; and "Your goodwill is always appreciated". The last of these is the present slogan of the funeral home.

Home Service Cleaners

271 N. Main St.

By Marty Barhorst



Home Service Cleaners location 18 W. Fourth Street, from 1946 until 1980.



The current location of Home Service Cleaners.

Home Service Cleaners became a reality in 1937, according to Vernon Westerheide, when he started the first drycleaning establishment in Minster. He opened his business in the old Kroger building which now houses Farno's Grocery. Along with the dry cleaning business he also sold suits for Superior Tailoring. He operated in that location under the name of HOME SERVICE CLEANERS until 1940 at which time he sold the business to his father Ray Westerheide, deceased.

Ray Westerheide moved the business to a two car garage behind his residence on S. Frankfort St. and continued to operate from that location until 1946 when he moved it to 18 West Fourth St. next to the Town House Restaurant. This building was part of the Rulmann complex and for years had served as a bowling alley. Mr. Westerheide did business at this location until September of 1957 when he sold the business to a young man by the name of Alvin Wiest of Botkins, Ohio. Mr. Westerheide passed away in 1981.

Alvin Wiest took over ownership the day after Labor Day in 1957 and operated the business in that location for 23 years. During this time Mr. Wiest states he saw many changes in drycleaning process. Modernization of equipment, along with new and improved solvents are the biggest changes. In his early days in business, all the equipment was manually operated and this required a lot of hard and heavy work. As time progressed this was all replaced with automatic equipment. In May of 1980, he sold his business to Al & Marty Barhorst. They constructed a new building at 271 N. Main St. and the business was moved to that location on September 22, 1980. The new building increased the floor space from 1200 sq. ft. to 2400 sq. ft. They also added several new pieces of equipment to better and more efficiently serve their customers. They offer a full and complete line of drycleaning services, including household items such as bedspreads, drapes, tablecloths, napkins, blankets, etc. They also offer a complete line of suede, leather, and fur cleaning and storage. Alterations and repairs are also available on all types of garments. Also available to the customer is the rental of the Steamex Carpet Cleaning Machine. Delivery routes are available to not only in Minster but also New Bremen and Ft. Loramie areas. Mr. Wiest has remained with the firm and continues to handle the cleaning operations for the Barhorsts.

Jenni's Hallmark Shop

Eagle Acres Plaza

Jenni's Hallmark Shop was opened for business in Eagle Acres Plaza with Jenni Dahlinghaus, as manager, January 18, 1980. The business is owned by Mr. Fred Grimm, Toledo.

Jenni's carries a complete line of Hallmark cards and gifts and offers a bridal registry service and wedding and social announcements.

* In 1923 the Ku Klux Klan made a major effort in this area to organize people. In December 1923 there's an article in the Minster Post about a Mr. A.J. Cummins, Portland, Indiana, who spoke to a group of people from the village of Minster in the Minster Commercial Club rooms, and urged these gentlemen to join the Ku Klux Klan.

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Kuehner's Bakery



An early method of delivery for the bakery products.

Kuehner's (pronounced Keener's) Bakery originated in Minster in 1908 by the late Karl Kuehner (1881-1967).

Karl, born in Austria of German lineage, ventured across the Atlantic at the tender age of 15 years, as a stowaway, unable to speak a word of English. And, although he was void of any considerable cash, he was armed with a trade — the knowledge of baking German pastries, breads, and his specialty — pumpernickel. After landing in Annapolis, Maryland, Karl discovered his pumpernickel recipe was much too sour for English, Irish, and other ethnic groups. He moved on. After several years of traveling the East and working his way to the Midwest, Karl landed in Minster. Apparently, as the story goes, he was attracted to this village because of the "beautiful women and the town and the surrounding area were full of Germans who loved to sing and gather for picnics." This German man quickly adapted to Minster.

His first establishment was located at 52 S. Main St., on the present site of BANK ONE OF SIDNEY, NA, Minster Office. When some outdoor ovens were hit by a tornado, the bakery moved to 54 W. Fourth St. At that time, a stoker oven was purchased and continued in use until 1956, when a gas-fired oven was acquired. However, in the meantime, 1912 to be exact, the bakery again relocated directly next door in the Fraternal Order of Eagles Building at 40 W. Fourth St.

During the early years, Karl lived in a local hotel. The daughter of the innkeeper was a good friend to Edna Kramer and it was through this friendship that Karl and Edna met and were later married. They had three children.

Tom, the youngest of the Kuehner children, started working full-time at the bakery in 1946 when he returned from service in the U.S. Air Force. He then took over the full operation in 1957. The bakery has always been a family business. Tom's wife, Alice, has worked there since the early 50's. Their three children helped with door-to-door deliveries. Tim and Mike, the two sons, helped with the baking early in the morning before school and would return after classes to "clean the pans" and sweep. Other relatives worked at the store at various times in various capacities. Mike, the youngest child began working full time in the business in 1972.

Through the years, pumpernickel has always been the specialty of the bakery. Pumpernickel is described as a coarse, dark, sour dough bread made from unsifted rye, with a major ingredient being black New Orleans molasses. It is defined as a Westphalian rye bread (Westphalia is a former province of Prussia, and since 1945, the region is a part of North Rhine Westphalia, West Germany). This bread has been sent to every one of the 50 states, in addition to several foreign countries. A 100 miles radius accounted for the majority of the bakery's market. Health food stores were the most likely place to find this bread, particularly because of its absence of both preservatives and sugar. To this day, the original recipe remains unchanged. Other products of this German style bakery included white breads of all kinds, whole wheat and rye, sandwich buns, Zwiebach, a type of rusk, and sweet rolls, donuts, and cookies. Buns and dinner rolls were sold to many area restaurants.

Kuehner's Bakery has always leased space from the Fraternal Order of Eagles, owner of the building. In 1979 the Eagles voted to take over the bakery portion of their building for expansion. The business was listed for sale, but no terms could be agreed upon. The doors closed in early 1980.

The Kuhlman Building

53 W. Fourth St.

By Mary F. Brown



Philamina (Minnie) Kuhlman is pictured in the Kuhlman millinery store about 1910.

The Kuhlman Building on the south side of West Fourth Street has a long and, fortunately for history buffs, a very detailed written history.

Henry Kuhlman, a native of Ankun, Hanover Germany and his wife Elizabeth (Laufersweiler) moved to Minster in 1844. In 1890 they purchased Lots 35 and 36 from Henry B. Schmieder. Lot 36 had a building on it which is standing today and is Marcy's Beauty Shop. Lot 35 is behind it to the south. Mr. Schmieder had purchased them from John H. Meier in 1877 and Mr. Meier purchased them from Henry Myers in 1851. Henry Myers had purchased them from the executor, G. Lammers in 1850.

Henry Kuhlman moved his business into the building at 63 W. Fourth St. His daughter, Mary A., married

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Frank Depweg in the year 1891 and they lived upstairs in that building. Frank died 3 years later in 1894, leaving a son Leonard 2½ years old and Neoma to be born in April of '95. Mary A. Depweg moved back into the homestead at 79 N. Frankfort St. with her father and mother and 2 sisters Philamina and Celia.

The building on 53 W. Fourth St. was erected between the years 1890 and 1895. Records show renting the rooms in the year 1895 to John Dorsten, a barber. There is a barber shop in the same rooms today, owned by Ed Ahrns.

Mr. Kuhlman and his daughters opened their business under the name of Kuhlman Co. They had a complete line of shoes, repaired shoes, and a millinery business of making hats and wedding veils, and selling dry goods. In 1907, Henry Kuhlman borrowed $800.00 from the Minster Savings and Loan Co. to raise the building and put a basement under it. Two years later at the age of 14 Neoma (Depweg) Wetzel joined her mother in the store to learn the millinery trade and later help her Aunt Philamina do the buying in Cincinnati each season and study the new styles and designs of hats.

Henry Kuhlman died in the year 1917 which ended 29 years in the business. Mary A. and her sister Philamina (Minnie) carried on with Neoma and their sister Celia as the housekeeper. Neoma married in 1920 to Urban Wetzel (a hat salesman from Cincinnati) and they lived in Minster above the store.

She stayed active for one year and then assumed part-time responsibilities in the store, as her family became her main interest. She sewed on hats at home until 1928. Urban and Neoma had 13 children. Mary A. and Minnie carried on in the store till Minnie died in 1952. In January, 1953, Urban and Neoma purchased the business and Mary A. retired at the age of 85. Urban and Neoma remodeled and continued selling hats, and ladies wear and childrens apparel. Urban died in 1956 as did Celia Kuhlman. Neoma continued with her daughter Patricia (Wetzel) Young. From 1953 on it was called the Wetzel Millinery Store. They were noted for their line of hats such as Jami, Lazarus, Miss Mitzi and SusAnn hats also Stetson gloves, Gossard bras and girdles, the famous Carter Infant and Toddler line, Scout-Tex knit wear, Billy the Kid, blouses, Botony shirts and Buster Brown to name a few. Neoma was in the business 10 years and sold it to Mary Ellen Winklejohn on June 1, 1966. Neoma retired at the age of 71. The Meyer Hat Co. in Cincinnati said that this store sold more of their hats than any store they had as a customer.

Mary Ellen enlarged the store in 1969 after the Post Office moved to their new building in 1968. (They were in the building from 1914 on.) Mary Ellen then sold the business to Irwin and Eileen Baumer in 1971. They are the present owners under the name Eileen's.

Mrs. Wetzel sold the buildings of 53 and 61 West Fourth St. to David B. Shuffelton and James L. Overman on the 12th day of Dec. 1977, after it had been in the family for over 87 years.

Business places that rented in the Kuhlman building from the year 1895. Taken from the handwritten ledger of Mary A. Depweg (nee Kuhlman).

This is the address of 53 W. 4th St. Barber shop 1895 Started by John Dorsten in 1895 to 1910.

1910- to 1944 Son Fred; 1944- to 1956 Albert Barhorst; 1966- to 1982 Ed Ahrns; (86 years)

Kuhlman Co. 1894 or 95 to 1966 in one family. 1966 to 71 Mary Ellen Winklejohn. 1971 to 1981 Irwin and Eileen Baumer. Post Office from 1914 to 1968. Rent was $15.00 a month in 1914. John Haverbeck Printing Co. 1905-1912.



The store front of the Kuhlman building in 1966. Mary Ellen Winklejohn (left) and Neoma Wetzel. At the time the picture was taken (1966), the Minster Post Office was located in the area just to the left of Wetzel's.

63 W. 4th St.

Henry Kuhlman shoes and dry goods 1890 till he built the larger building on 53 W. 4th. Wyen and Grieshop tin shop 1915 till 1924. Dr. Will 1934-1937. Beauty Shop 1938-1981: Enid Dorsten Bernhold 1938-1942; Juanita Wetzel Schmieder 1942-1952; Shirley Hausfeld; Peggy Ritter; Marcy's 1981, 43 years.

Residence: George Clune fire chief 1910-1921; Nick Hogenkamp 1929-1939; Ray Auspaugh 1916-1939, 23 years; Philbert Brown 1937-1962, 25 years.

Luthman's Bike Shop

393 E. Fourth St.

Luthman's Bike Shop had its beginning in the fall of 1952 when Bill and Dorothy Luthman opened their business at the family residence, 127 N. Cleveland Street.

In 1969 they sold their home and built a new one at the present location. The bike shop, still a part-time business-hobby combination, is behind the house and faces Jefferson Street.

Over the years, Bill has handled various brands of bicycles including Huffy, Schwinn, and Vista. Today he handles Concord. He's been through the transition from the old single speed, balloon tired models to today's ultra-light 12 speed bikes.

Bill and Dorothy both are active in the business.

* For many years it was a tradition that almost all retail establishments in Minster were closed on Thursday afternoons. Today a few of the downtown merchants still cling to that tradition.

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Magellan's Travel Agency

West Fourth St.

Magellan's began operations in May, 1978 when Barbara Frilling and Connie Prenger opened their full service travel agency on the lower level of the Minster State Bank building.

They handle complete arrangements for airlines, cruises, escorted and independent tours, Amtrak, car rental and hotel reservations.

Maltinsky's Clothing & Lettering

111 W. Fourth St.

By Chris Maltinsky, Jenny Sommer, Kae Westerheide and Pam Ernst



What's the occasion? A demonstration of the first sewing machine in Auglaize County. There's no date on this picture but there are no cars in it and the streets aren't paved either. This building still standing at Fourth and Frankfort Streets today houses Maltinsky's Clothing and Lettering in the right half and Farno's Market in the left. The building was constructed in 1880 by John Laufersweiler in which he ran a hardware store in the left half.



The Laufersweiler building today. Paul Maltinsky completed an extensive restoration on the right portion of building after he purchased it in 1979.

Ownership of building past & present:
Bernard Bornhorst (9-28-1851 — 1-11-1935)
Charles Bornhorst (4-7-1880 — 4-19-1971)
Nora Bornhorst (12-22-1882 — 7-24-1970)
Mr. & Mrs. E.L. Grapner (Mildred & Elton)
Mr. & Mrs. (Grace) John Diener
Mr. & Mrs. (Ann) Paul Maltinsky

Bernard Bornhorst came to Minster at the age of 16 to learn his trade from Henry Luckman. He then went to Hillsboro to work for a shoe firm. Soon after he formed a partnership with Henry Luckman. He started his business on Dec. 7, 1880, because he had the ability to fit abnormal feet.

Bornhorst majored in making shoes for the crippled, and orthopedic shoes which usually cost $20. The canal was a major factor in transporting raw materials to the store and shipping them out (shoes).

They made buckskin shoes for nuns and wool-lined shoes for the children who had to walk to school in the wintertime.

Bernard died at the age of 83 at his home. His son Charles and daughter Nora took over the business until they sold it in 1964 to Mr. & Mrs. E.L. Grapner.

The Grapners came from Celina where they owned a shoe store also. The cost of their shoes ranged from $6.99-$13.99.

Grapners then sold it to John Diener in 1968 who operated it as a shoe store until 1976, when the business ceased operation.

The building was on the market until Paul & Ann Maltinsky bought it in 1979.

Paul Maltinsky was born and raised in Wheeling, W.V. and attended Wittenburg U. in Springfield, Ohio and graduated from Ohio State U. in 1946 and enrolled in graduate school in June of 1946.

In 1947 Paul came to Minster as a teacher-coach, and taught in the local school system for 32 years. On July 31, 1948 he was married to Ann M. Barhorst (daughter of Anthony Barhorst and Josephine DeBrosse) of Ft. Loramie. This marriage was blessed with six children - Pricilla Ann, Anita Marie, Lynn John, Gregory Angelo, Nathan Robert, and Christine Ann.

In 1950 Paul began selling custom tailored suits going to the homes of his customers, wedding rentals were also added that year.

At the behest of his customers and friends the Maltinky's established a menswear business in a little summer kitchen (14 x 24 feet) at 240 N. Main St. in July of 1961. In 1962 a 20 x 32 ft. addition was built on the north side of their house and featured both mens and boys wear.

Norbert and Freda Gudorf erected a new building in 1969 at the site of the former Busse-Berning Blacksmith shop. Maltinsky's leased a portion of that building at 112 W. Fourth St.

On July 1, 1979 Paul retired from teaching and devoted full time to the building restoration and expansion of the lettering and embroidery facet of the business.

In 1979 Paul and Ann purchased the west portion of the Sphere building across the street. This historical building has been completely restored on the inside and the outside. At the 111 West Fourth location they feature mens wear, wedding rentals and a complete lettering and embroidery service. This last added service includes T-shirts, transfers, ball uniforms, jackets

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and all kinds of lettering and embroidery work. This latest feature began in 1968, on a limited basis and today we have the necessary machines and equipment to give fast, efficient and above all quality control of our work.

We wish to thank our patrons, past and present, in the area for being a contributing factor to our expansions.

Joseph Melcher, Contractor

Joseph Melcher was a contractor who built over 85 homes in the Minster area before his death in 1951.

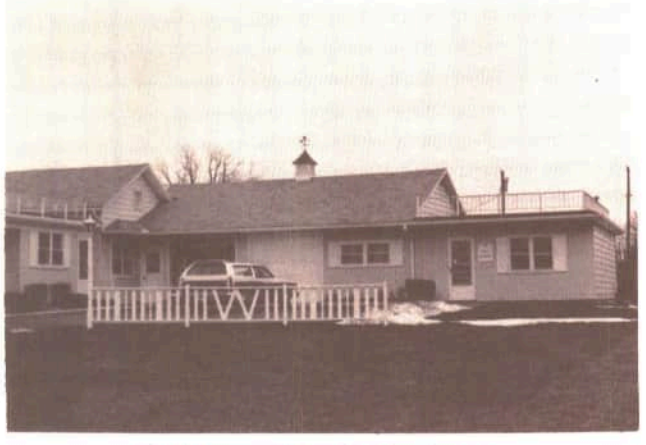
He began his construction career in the early 1900's building barns, the first of which was on the farm owned by Karl Wacker, south of Minster.

Melcher also worked remodeling churches at St. Marys, Newport and the schools at Minster and Russia.

The original development of Melcher street in Minster was done by him.

Mel's Decorating

248 N. Cleveland St.



Mel's Decorating on S. Cleveland St.

Melvin K. Woehrmyer, founder and owner of Mel's Decorating, opened his showroom for business on July 1, 1974.

This came about after a total of 24 years of service to the Minster and Auglaize/Mercer County areas, in both interior and exterior home decoration. Mel's background included 13 years of owning his own painting business and 11 years experience as an interior sales consultant for a St. Marys, Ohio based firm.

Mel's Decorating is a full line home interior decorating business specializing in floor, wall, and window covering. However their consultants are able to offer assistance to their clients in all areas of interior decoration.

* Grocery ads in 1953 saw 39¢ lb. hamburger, Wooden Shoe Beer selling for $2.49 a case, 12 bottles of Coke for 25¢, 2 loaves of bread for 33¢.

THE NEW ——

PUMPERNICKEL

THE KEENER KIND
KING of ALL BREAD



WHOLESOME, NUTRITIOUS
AND EASILY DIGESTED.

A TRIAL CONVINCES YOU TO BECOME A STEADY USER.

Pure Food Home Bakery
Minster, Ohio.

OX TEAM 1832 — AIRPLANE 1932

One Hundred Years of Progress

Centennial Day

Wednesday, Sept. 28

MINSTER, OHIO.

TIME FLIES and SO DO WE

Commemorate this event by taking a ride in a government licensed plane, piloted by Orville Winoyer, licensed pilot, credited with 7½ years of flying.

STUNTS – BY DARE DEVIL-EDDIE, THE FAMOUS WING WALKER.

This is the same crew from Toledo, who thrilled you with safety, two years ago.

Landing Field on Robert Steinemann's Farm.

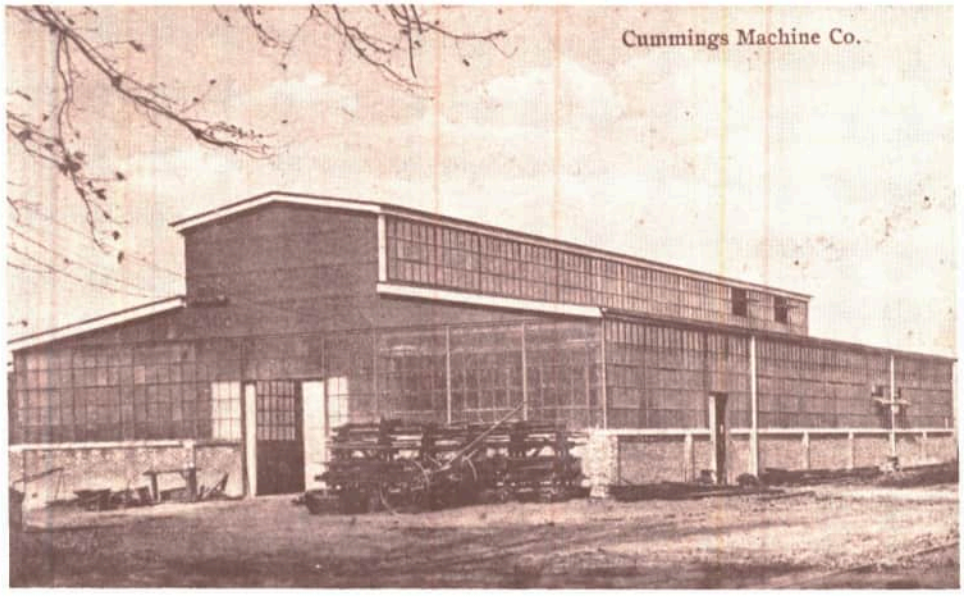
West of Corporation Limits.

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Midmark Corporation

115 N. Ohio Street

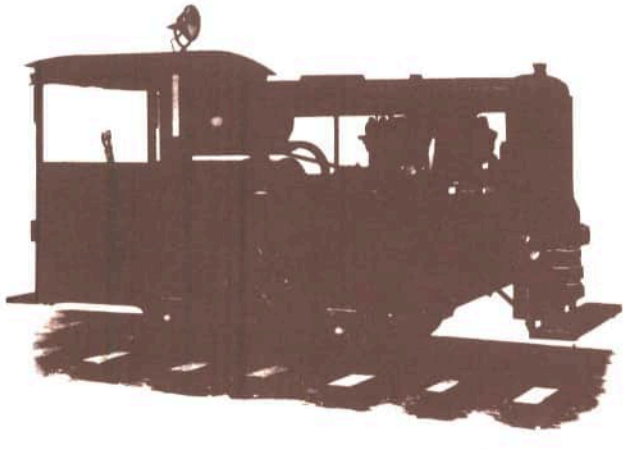
By Anne Eiting



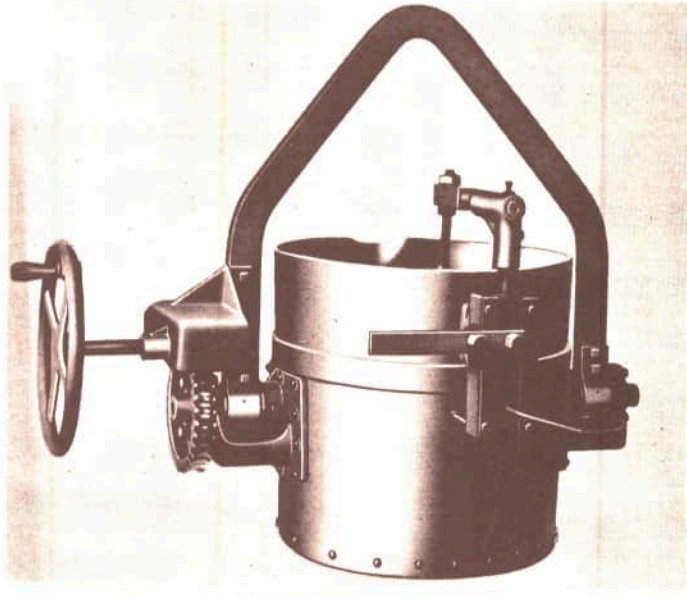
People. Hard-working, dedicated, innovative, young, dynamic, results-oriented people. Men and women with these characteristics comprise the Midmark Corporation of today, giving the company the necessary stamina for achieving its success in both the business world and the community. It is these people who are strong enough to withstand the toughest competitor — change.

Midmark Corporation was founded on April 1, 1915, when E.C. Cummings incorporated the Cummings Machine Company. The original plant consisted of 14,000 square feet located on North Ohio Street. E.C. Cummings, Frank Schmueker, F.J. Thieman, C.L. Dine, and John W. Eiting all served on the first Board of Directors, with Cummings acting as President and General Manager as well. The first product -a line of concrete mixers.

By 1921, change had set in and the company already saw the need to diversify. Cummings Machine Company became the Industrial Equipment Company and a year later began producing small gasoline-powered locomotives for use in mines and amusement parks. These locomotives were successful because they were much easier to understand than the steam engines of the period. During this time (1921-1923), Mr. Frank J. Thieman served as President.



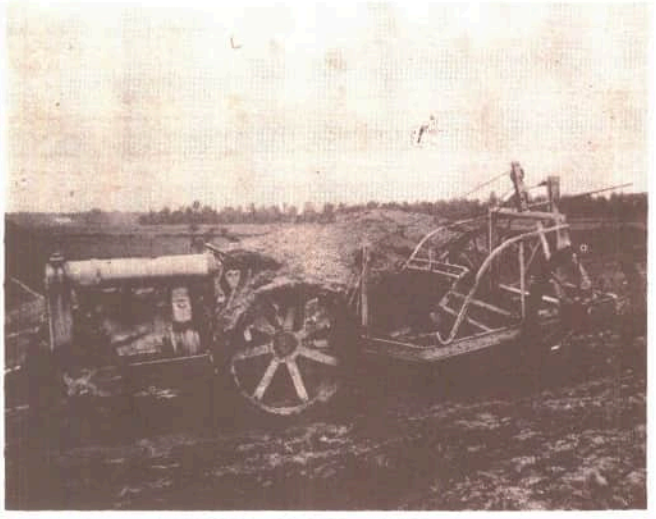
1920 — Model F 6 Ton Locomotive



1923 — Geared Bottom Discharge Crane Ladle

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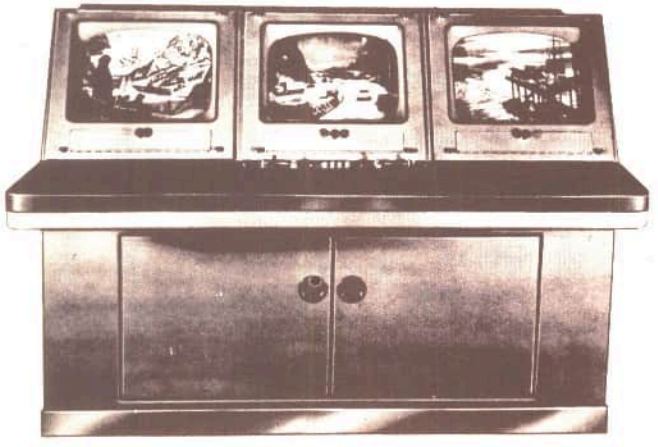
The company again diversified in 1924 and began producing ladles for foundry use, a product line still manufactured by the company today. The company was under the leadership of August Schunck at this time (1923-1925).



1924 — Earth Mover, One of our First Contract Jobs

In 1925, John W. Eiting was elected President, and 1926 saw an expansion at the plant on Ohio Street. Change was a key word at this time as the company began to branch out and become more involved in foundry equipment, as well as engineering and building custom metal fabrications.

The '30's and '40's were a period of stability for the young enterprise. Their products were making a name for themselves and the plant on Ohio Street was expanded more than once. Louis G. Fisher became President in 1934 and held the position until 1939 when Eugene A. Frey took over. In 1953 Carl F. Eiting assumed this position and headed the firm through a period of growth (1952-1969). During these 17 years the plant was expanded twice and the company began producing control enclosures for the electronics industry as well as manufacturing metal fabrications to meet any specifications. The company's flexibility and willingness to grow proved to be quite an asset.



1965 — A Control Console Finished in Baked Enamel

By 1960 the Industrial Equipment Company and its people were a team of far-sighted industrialists who saw the need for a broader market base. It was time for another change.

The change came in 1967 when the Industrial Equipment Company acquired the former product line of the American Metal Furniture Company, a line of medical examination-room tables and equipment. Industrial also bought the furniture store on the corner of Fourth and Main Street in Minster (where the present library is) in which to build their new product. More change - on April 1, 1968 the Industrial Equipment Company became IE Industries, a new name stressing "innovative engineering" and one that would compliment their new product.

Later in 1968, IE Industries introduced its completely redesigned line of medical equipment consisting of four items - an exam table, an operator's stool, a treatment cabinet and a waste receptacle. This suite proved to be not only functional and well-liked by doctors, but won a coveted national award for design as well. This prompted IE to begin building a 21,500 square foot plant on ten acres of land between Route 47 and State Route 185 in Versailles, Ohio for the Medical Equipment line. This plant was completed in 1969. Also, 1969 saw Carl Eiting retire after almost 43 years with the company and move up to become Chairman of the Board. His son James succeeded him as president.

At this point in time, IE consisted of three separate divisions within the company. The Foundry Equipment Division manufactured ladles and other pouring devices for the casting industry. The Fabrication Division produced metal parts to customer's specifications as well as building control and other enclosures. The Medical Equipment Division was responsible for the new medical examination-room line. These three factions combined to give IE market latitude in areas where their skilled craftsmen could work to their potential - a very satisfying and profitable balance.

Things happened fast in the next few years for the company. Expansions were completed at both plants, and a group of young, enthusiastic salespeople and talented engineers were beginning to make their mark in the manufacturing world. In 1972, the Medical Division introduced the new Trend II power exam table, the first of its kind in the field, while the Fabrication Division produced some pollution control equipment.

The biggest growth occurred in 1975, however, when the company again diversified and introduced its line of Midmark service trenchers, the first straight-frame, fully hydrostatic trencher in the world. Backhoes and trailers were included in the line, which was made available to the construction, rental, and utility industries. The program met with success in the field and it was a personal victory for the company as well — it represented the first product line completely developed within the corporation. IE personnel conceived, engineered, manufactured, and marketed the entire program.

Meanwhile, the Medical Division was moving ahead in leaps and bounds. The Versailles plant was expanded, then re-expanded in 1976. Salespeople sold the 10,000th IE table, and also that year, tables were being manufactured for a British brain scanner.

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At this time, IE was involved in many civic activities. In 1976, the company produced the slide presentation, "Munsterland, Our Heritage Minsterland, Our Home," for use at the Oktoberfest. A similar project was completed at Versailles for their Poultry Days celebration.

On September 17, 1978, IE Industries officially became Midmark Corporation. Company officials had made this decision four years before when the name received such a positive reaction with the introduction of the trencher line. 'Midmark' itself tested as a strong word and indicated a high level of product sophistication, as well as pointing out the company's Midwest location.

Other changes resulted. The Foundry Equipment and Fabrication Divisions consolidated to become









Midmark today manufactures a full line of trenchers (upper left) for the rental and construction industries, medical examination tables, chairs, stools, lighting and cabinetry (upper right), molten metal handling equipment for foundries (lower left) and a variety of custom metal fabrications for numerous diverse products on a national basis.

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Midmark Steel and the emphasis shifted to building quantity items rather than producing just one or two pieces. The Medical Division became Midmark Medical, a dynamic name for the aggressive people working behind it, a name more suited to the largest manufacturer of medical examination room furniture in the United States. Midmark Power, the name for the trenchers and Work-mates, kept the same name but expanded its sales area to include all of the U.S. and overseas.

In keeping up with its young, successful image, Midmark Corporation recently announced its largest change to date - the purchase of the former Argosy plant in Versailles and the moving of the entire Midmark operation to that spacious facility. The company plans to move in the fall of 1982, with Eiting noting that the plant will give the company a 50% increase in space, consolidate the divisions for economical reasons, and enable more expansion as the company sees necessary. Midmark will comprise about 200,000 sq. ft. on over 36 acres at the new location.

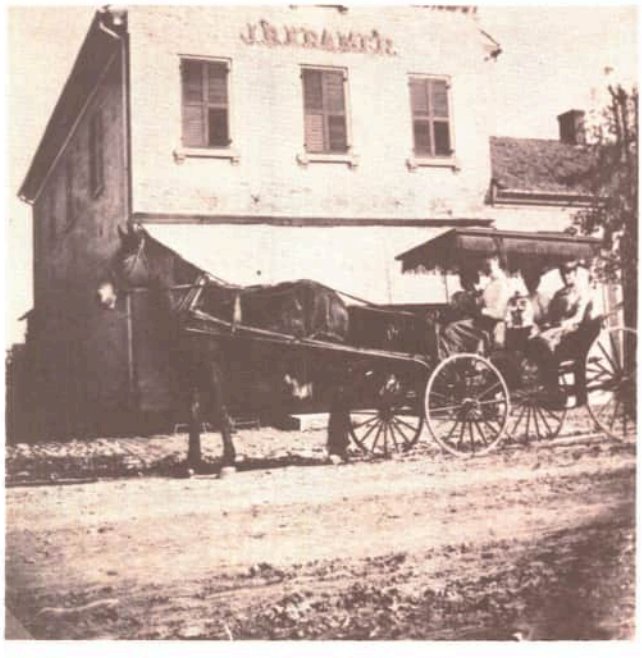
As Midmark exemplifies, change and flexibility are vital components to a successful operation. That coupled with aggressive, hard-working, innovative people, has given Midmark Corporation a formula for success in the past and a strong future.

Officers of the company currently are: James Eiting, President; Frank Brinkman, Vice President and Treasurer; Dennis Meyer, Vice President Operations; and David Bester, Vice President Marketing.

Minster Branch Bank One of Sidney

S. Main St.

By Andrew W. Bertsch



J.B. Kramer's Store on Main Street. The building was razed for the Bank One branch.



Bank One's modern facility in Minster.

BANK ONE OF SIDNEY is Shelby County's oldest financial institution. The bank was originally founded as the Citizens Bank in 1870, beginning business in July of that year. James A. Lamb and Louis E. Mathers were at the head of the enterprise with Lamb serving as the first president and Mathers as the first cashier.

Initial expansion of the financial institution beyond the immediate confines of Sidney came with the merger of the First National Bank of Jackson Center with Citizens. Completed on August 1, 1959, this merger resulted in a change of the institution's name to Citizens Baughman National Bank.

On October 1, 1974, Citizens Baughman officially became affiliated with First Banc Group of Ohio, a statewide bank holding company with headquarters in Columbus, Ohio.

In 1979, First Banc Group embarked on a program to develop a new unified identity for the corporation and its affiliated banks. On October 22 of that year First Banc Group became known as BANC ONE CORPORATION and Citizens Baughman as BANK ONE OF SIDNEY. The new common name provided for better recognition statewide and facilitated more efficient marketing and greater potential for expansion under Ohio's new branching laws.

In December of 1980, BANK ONE OF SIDNEY expanded its market beyond Shelby County by establishing its seventh branch office in the Auglaize County community of Minster. A modern banking facility was constructed just south of Minster's main intersection, and the doors were opened for business on December 1 with Grand Opening ceremonies being held the following Sunday.

Tim Kuehner has served as manager of the branch since the beginning.

* The Minster Post was published on Fridays until February 7, 1957 when it moved to Thursday publication. The move was made to allow for advance advertising of the many retail activities that occurred on Fridays.

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The Minster Canning Co.

S. Ohio St.

By Harold Thieman



The canning factory on N. Ohio street in 1951.



The old Wooden Shoe Brewery on S. Ohio street today is the office and warehouse of the Minster Canning Co.



Today tomatoes are often harvested mechanically. Pictured is Wilfred Bruns, farm manager with a Parterway harvester.

Minster Canning Company dates from 1929 when partners Vanderhorst and Hammel started canning whole, peeled tomatoes. Ownership changed in 1931 when a group of local businessmen took over the operation. They continued until 1943 when Beckman & Gast Company purchased the plant. In 1951 changes again were made and the business once more became the Minster Canning Company. This is the way it has remained to the present time. One of a few family businesses left in the canning industry, the present officers are Luke Beckman, Harold Thieman, and Thomas Niekamp. Another officer, Wally Post, died in early 1982.

During the 1950's, the company began general farming operations. Instead of tomatoes produced by individual growers, they were raised on company farms. This is a practice now being carried out by many other tomato processors. Peeled tomatoes and tomato products in a full assortment of both retail and institutional sizes are the primary items processed. Prepared mustard in glass containers has been steadily increasing in volume since the early 1960's. Mustard seed imported from the Canadian provinces is processed and the finished products sold as far away as the Middle-East. Generally, the marketing area for tomato products and mustard is within a 500 mile radius. Products are under buyer's label or packer's brand. Transportation to wholesalers and supermarket chains is made by either customer's or Minster Canning Company trucks.

With the interest of the consumer to have a fine product at the most reasonable price, Minster Canning Company has been active in State and National Trade Associations. In 1970, Luke Beckman served as President of the National Food Processors Association.

To provide additional processing space, a building north of the processing plant was erected in 1957. By 1964 additional warehouse space was required and the former Wooden Shoe Brewery buildings were rented. Three years later the option to purchase the buildings and 12 acres of land was exercised. Extensive remodeling of the 85,000 square feet of floor space was made to utilize most of the building for palletizing. The main office location was changed at the same time.

Four high pressure boilers ranging in size from 150 h.p. to 750 h.p. with three sources of fuel (natural gas, coal, fuel oil) along with the building were destroyed in a 1975 fire. New convertible natural gas-fuel oil boilers were set up for the following canning season.

Looking to the future this vertically integrated company sees continuing changes and improvements. Direct seeding will replace transplanting. Machine harvesting increases each year. Processing technology will keep flavor very near to garden fresh. More direct marketing to save freight and be more in contact with consumers is essential.

Presently the United States is the solid world-wide leader in tomato processing. Ohio is second to California so we have to try a little harder.

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* September 7, 1917. NOTICE TO PATRONS: We hereby wish to serve notice to our patrons that the daily wagon routes for peddling meat have been discontinued. Orders can be placed by phone or in person and deliveries will be made promptly. Orders for meat given up to 7 a.m. will be delivered by 9 a.m.; orders given from 7 to 9 a.m. will be delivered by noon. All orders given for afternoon deliveries will be delivered from 4 to 5 p.m. No later delivery. Kindly govern your meat orders to be delivered according to the above ruling. Very respectfully yours, William Ripploh, Frank Busse.

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The Minster Farmers Cooperative Exchange

292 W. Fourth St.

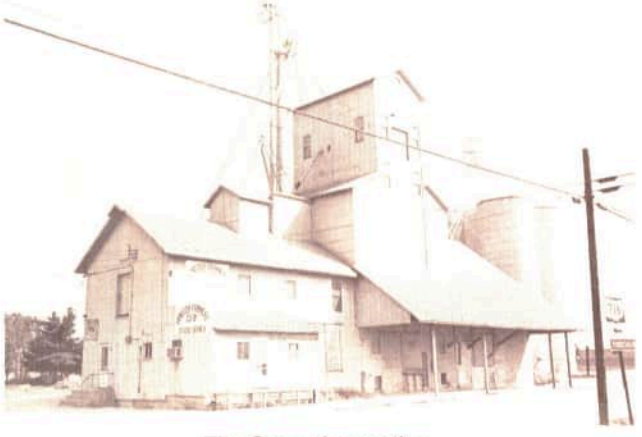
By Bill Homan



Minster original office.



The Minster Farmers Co-op Exchange in 1981.



The Osgood operation.

In the year 1919, several farmers in the Minster area got together for the purpose of seeking better facilities in the handling of the farmers' products. A committee was formed to organize and to start what was to be called The Minster Farmers Exchange Company. The first stockholders meeting was held June 23, 1920, and the first board of directors were elected. The first President was George Thieman and Julius Woehrmyer was elected Secretary-Treasurer. The other board members elected were J. H. Heitkamp, John Kremer, Alex Meyer, Charles Nagel, John Prenger, Sr., Ben Senger, and Ben Severin.

On July 1, the Board of Directors met with Mr. John Wernsing to purchase his elevator and it was decided to buy it for $12,750. Mr. Ben Hegeman was hired as the first manager and the farmers exchange opened its doors for the first day of business on July 6, 1920.

The first six years were only in the feed and grain business, but in 1926, a lot was purchased and the company went into the coal business. The next step was to expand into the liquid fuel business. In 1932, The Niemeyer and Bensman Oil Company was purchased and also a 600 gallon bulk delivery truck.

At a special stockholders meeting on April 25, 1939, the members voted to change the Articles of Incorporation to conform with the Cooperative Marketing Act. At this time the name was also changed to The Minster Farmers Cooperative Exchange which is what it is called today.

The first major building and expansion program took place in 1942, when the present grinding room was built. At that time this was one of the most modern feed mills east of the Mississippi River. With the ever increasing demand for more services and more room the company purchased additional land in 1946, where our present petroleum and liquid fertilizer tanks are located. A contract was let in 1949, for a new block building for bagged fertilizer and seeds and also a seed cleaning operation.

With the demand for more grain facilities, a 55,000 bushel grain storage and a grain dryer were erected in 1950 and 1951. As the business kept on growing, a new office and scale were needed, so in 1955, a new 70,000 lb. scale and the present office and feed warehouse were built.

To meet the ever increasing demand for more and better services, the company expanded into bulk fertilizer and bulk feeds in 1959. With the bulk facilities, brought the need for bulk feed trucks and fertilizer spreaders.

As the farmers increased their production, the co-op again added more grain storage in 1967 and 1969. The last major expansion at the Minster location took place in 1973, when 235,000 bushels of storage and an additional grain dryer were installed.

On January 15, 1977 we expanded outside of the friendly confines of Minster and opened our first branch operation at Osgood, Ohio. The Alexander Bros. Feed Mill was bought and put into operation to better serve our customers in the Osgood area.

In 1979, a $500,000 grain and drying operation was put into use at the Osgood branch. With this addition the local Co-op now has storage capacity of over three quarter million bushels.

A second branch operation came into existence in 1979, when the fertilizer blend plant at New Bremen was purchased and put into use on March 1, 1979.

With these types of facilities we have seen our volume grow from $79,000 to a little over $13 million in 1980. During the 60 years of operation the Company has always showed a profit, with the lowest year being $1,960 and a high of a little over $300,000.

The Company has had five General Managers. They were, Ben Hegeman, for 2 years; Frank Severin, for 7 years; Urban Wetzel, for 18 years; Elmer Fischer, for 23 years; and Bill Homan since 1970.

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The present 1980 Board of Directors are, Ivo Osterloh, President; James Heitbrink, Secretary-Treasurer; Carl Steinemann, Vice-President; Ed Giere, Nick Grieshop, Dennis Heitkamp, Jerome Heitkamp, Celestine Hoying, and Harvey Schmiesing.

At the present time the Company has 33 employees to serve the better than 1,400 members who own the Company, plus anyone else who wants to do business with us. All of these things have only been possible through the fine cooperation of the employees, the Board of Directors, the town of Minster, and also the many people that patronize us.

Minster Insurance

68 W. Fourth St.



Present employees of Minster Insurance are (left to right) Marvin Huber, Jane Knapke, Donna Moorman, Jan Otting & Paul Albers.

Around 1909 Joseph E. Schmieder, father of Velma Schmieder, became an agent for the selling of insurance. Later his daughter became active in agency operations. She and H.M. Hare as the Schmieder & Hare Agency were the forerunners of the present Minster Insurance Agency. They were active as agents and officers in the new corporation which was incorporated in 1928. In those years very few insurance agencies were incorporated. It was their foresight which has allowed the uninterrupted continuation of the business.

H.M. Hare left the business in 1931. However, Velma Schmieder continued and was active until 1964.

It was in 1935 that Al T. Frey became an agent. He was active for 23 years until his retirement in 1958.

In the years from 1951 to 1955 Frank Brinkman was also an agent.

Presently the active agents are Marvin Huber and Paul Albers. Both are college graduates, Notre Dame and Bowling Green respectively. Mr. Huber since 1957 and Mr. Albers since 1977.

The staff of 5 gives a combined experience of 80 years in selling of insurance and offers a complete portfolio of insurance through various independent insurance companies.

The building occupied by the agency has gone through many changes. At one time there was a fire that damaged a part of the roof. Date unknown.

Apparently in its first years it was a combination grocery and dwelling. After that it was used as a plumbing shop by a Mr. Bollheimer. The business is located in the former Minster Mutual Fire Insurance Company building. It was about 1925 that it was completely remodeled with a beautiful terra cotta front. F.A. DeCurtains of Wapakoneta was the architect. Until 1955 it was occupied jointly by the insurance company and the insurance agency. In 1956 the company was purchased by Central Mutual Insurance Co. In 1969 the building was remodeled as it now stands.

The Minster Lumber Company

253 W. Sixth St.



The sawmill of Frank Thieman located just south of present Minster Lumber Company. The picture was taken around 1915.

The Minster Lumber Co., Inc. located at 253 West Sixth street, had its origin as the Moeller Lumber Co. in 1911. Mr. Peter Boehmer, originally from Maria Stein, came to Minster in 1911, and in association with Louis and Peter Moeller, built and began business as the Moeller Lumber Co.

In 1915 the business was purchased by a group of local residents and incorporated as the Rabe Lumber Co., Inc. Ferd Rabe of New Bremen was president of the firm, with Peter Boehmer as manager.

In 1944, Charles and Richard Ahrns owners of the Ahrns Trucking Co., purchased the Rabe Lumber Co. and the name was changed to the Minster Lumber Co. Richard became active in the business in 1944, with Peter Boehmer being retained as the Manager. In 1947, the Ahrns Trucking Co. was sold to Ray and Clarence Winner. At this time Charles Ahrns became actively associated with the Minster Lumber Co. and Peter Boehmer became a partner. In 1955 Peter Boehmer retired and his interest was purchased by John B. Ahrns, the present manager.

The business today employs eleven. It carries a full line of quality lumber with delivery of material to the job site. Their cabinet shop features custom made cabinets and formica work. Small remodeling and vinyl siding application can also be handled by their trained personnel.

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Minster Machine Company

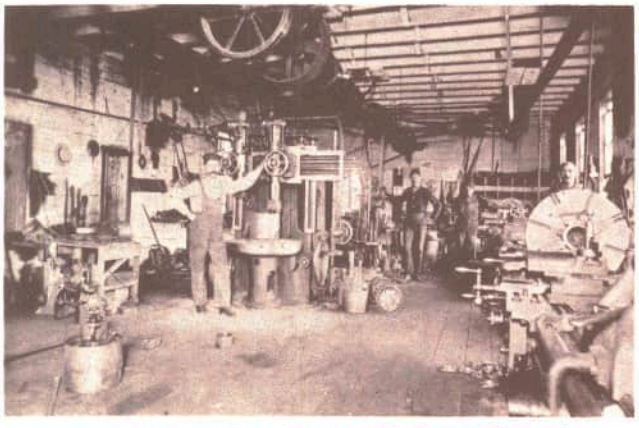
N. Cleveland St.



Minster Machine Company employees, 1902.

The Minster Machine Company opened for business in a little corrugated iron covered frame building on August 1, 1901.

The actual foundation of the company dates back to a partnership formed by Mr. J. J. Dues and Mr. A. L. Herkenhoff in 1896. Operating as a blacksmith shop, Dues and Herkenhoff's Machine Works eventually became a repair shop for the oil well equipment which was plentiful in Ohio at that time.



Interior of the machine shop near the turn of the century.

One of the major causes of trouble on the shallow well oil pumping units was the clutch. A study of the faults of this clutch led to the designing of a better one by "Minster" and we found ourselves in the oil well pumping unit business, and incidentally, in the start of the clutch business which was to be an essential part of our production down through the years.

The "Fields Pumping Power" which was built in 1904, could pump as many as thirty wells at one time. This, and a similar smaller unit, were very popular products and were built until the oil fields of the area were becoming non-productive.

The company was also manufacturing line shaft pulleys and clutches to turn the wheels of industry. The first clutch, designed and built for line shaft drives, was called the "Minster Clutch."



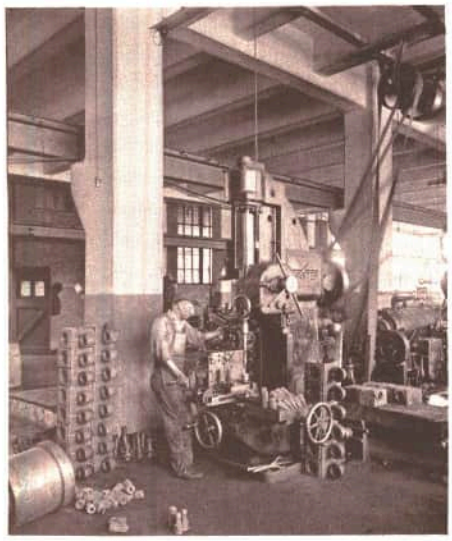
"Fields Pumping Power."

The "Herken Gas Engine Clutch" of 1908 proved to be the answer to the weaknesses of gas engine clutches. Thus was established a line of clutch development which has followed through every Minster product, making the company a recognized leader in clutch design and manufacturing in its field.

By 1915 the demand for oil pumping equipment being built was beginning to lessen; electric motors were beginning to appear and replace stationary engines; industry was beginning to think in terms of mass production; and "Fords" had been coming off the assembly lines for three years. Times and products of those times were changing.

1915 also saw the start of the Minster "High-Duty Drill Press" line; a line which we continued to manufacture until 1924 when it was sold to NATCO.

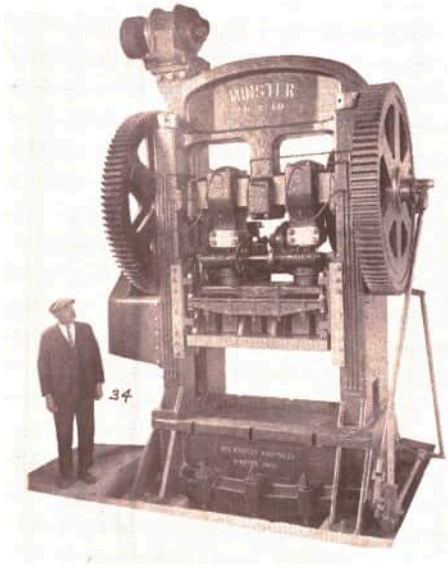
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Minster "High Duty" Drill Press, circa 1920.

In the early twenties the sheet metal industry was beginning to grow with remarkable rapidity. Mass production in automobiles, various home appliances, and farm equipment was showing tremendous possibilities. Having this in mind, the management of The Minster Machine Company was swinging into production on a Press Brake as the Drill Press went out in 1924.

Then, with what seemed to have been an insight into the future methods of production and demand for metal parts needed by American Industry, the Press Brake was discarded in favor of Mechanical Presses.



Our first large straight side press.

In 1926, the first Minster Press came off the assembly floor. It was a No. 5 Open Back Inclinable of 45-ton capacity; a far cry from its trim precision built counterpart of today. Our first large Straight Side Double Crank Press was completed in 1928. This 300 ton press, a No. 50-8-60, was built for the Tokheim Pump Company of Fort Wayne, Indiana. From that time on, the company was in the press business to stay.

Press working of metals is a mechanical process of cutting, bending or pushing metal, step by step, and under pressure, into a desired shape. Metalforming is the fastest growing segment of the metalworking industry and definitely the backbone of the assembled metal products of this nation. The people of The Minster Machine Company have grown with the metal stamping industry, continuously developing products to meet the changing needs of customers.

In the 50's, Minster high-speed automatic production presses made deep penetration into the metalforming field and the company expanded its manufacturing facilities several times, adding large assembly and machining bays, to keep up with increased business.

When the 60's arrived, we were producing quality presses ranging in capacity from 16 to 1500 tons, in a wide range of categories serving nearly every facet of metalforming. Up till this time we were purchasing our weldments. However, in 1962 volume had grown to the point where the company decided to add its own weld shop facility. This was done to control quality and delivery requirements. Having its own facility gave Minster complete control, a manufacturing advantage which avoids mis-applications or poor designs in fabricated members.

Anticipating its needs to meet and serve growing markets, and confident in the future of our new product developments, Minster management continued to add to its facilities. In 1969 we created a contemporary working environment for our people by building one of the most modern office buildings in the machine tool industry. A substantial addition to this building was finished in 1980.

Despite the economic recession of the early 70's, the decision was made to invest in a multi-million dollar, high technology casting facility. It opened in 1973. This new facility uses all the latest concepts of casting and is one of the most modern in the world. Ecologically it exceeds standards projected far into the future. Also in 1973, a new, 25,000 sq. ft. assembly area was being constructed and more machine tools were on order. To us, these additions mean assured capacity for future growth. To our customers, they guarantee a reliable source for high quality castings and presses.

Early in 1980, a new 37,000 square foot machining bay was completed, and several new machine tools have been added to help increase productivity, increase accuracy and add flexibility. Another 15,000 square foot machining bay was completed later that year. The combination of these two areas increased machining area by approximately 30%.

Also in 1980, construction was completed on a new 40,000 square foot plant in Beaufort, South Carolina. The Precision Tool & Machine Company (a subsidiary of the Minster Machine Company) has now begun production of a new, Minster-designed roll feed for automatically feeding coiled steel into a press with great accuracy.

Late in 1981, Minster will begin shipping what will prove to be an unequaled breakthrough in the ultra high-speed press market. The introduction of the "Pulsar" will mark yet another first for Minster in press design and efficiency. The most comprehensive study in Minster's history was conducted to determine exactly what precision stampers wanted and needed in press performance and design features. From that study, Pulsar evolved from the initial design

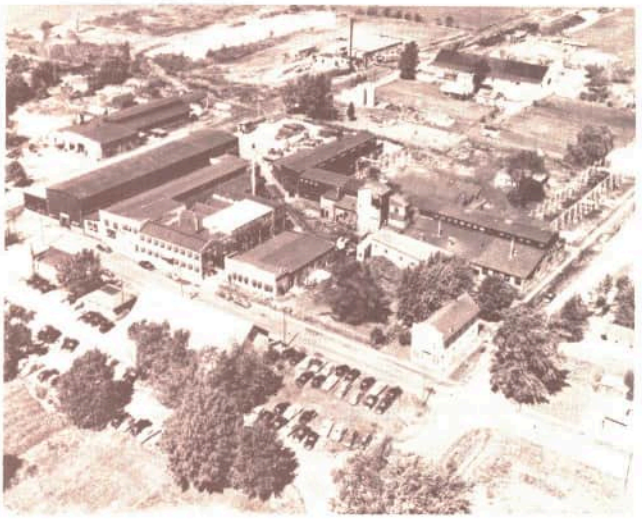
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concept to an awesome system for reliability and productivity capable of speeds up to 1400 strokes per minute, with extreme precision necessary for production of parts for the electronics industry.

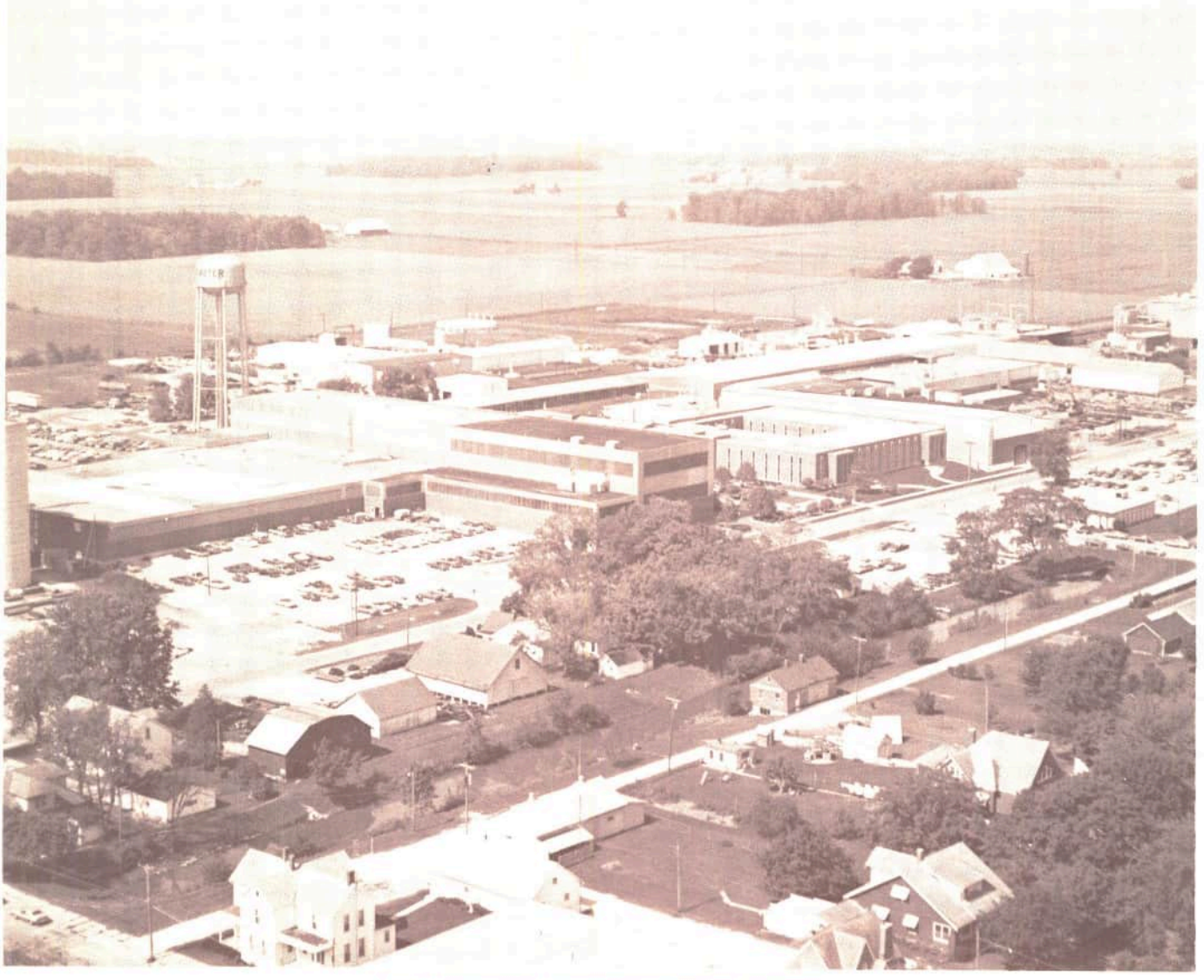
The result of this capital investment and new product development is improved quality and better customer service. It represents an investment in our long-term future to assure that The Minster Machine Company will continue in the forefront of tomorrow's metalworking industry.



Our latest design, ultra high-speed & precision press for the electrical/electronics industry.



1951 Aerial view of The Minster Machine Company.



1980 Aerial view of The Minster Machine Company.

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The Minster Mutual Fire Insurance Company

68 W. Fourth St.

By Velma Schmieder



The home office of the Minster Mutual Fire Insurance Company. The terra cotta front was added about 1925. In 1969 it was remodeled again and today houses the Minster Insurance Agency.

On February 21, 1849, the General Assembly of the State of Ohio passed "An Act to Incorporate the Minster Fire Insurance Association". Authorized by this act of incorporation a group of seventy-nine men and seven women, all property owners, met on December 15, 1849 to adopt a constitution and to elect officers to conduct the business. The original constitution was written in German. Buildings to be insured were appraised and premiums were computed on this appraised value and two thirds of this amount was collectable in event of a loss.

By the Act of Incorporation the capital was limited to $5,000.00 and therefore in 1872 when the Treasurer reported a balance exceeding this amount a dividend of 50¢ per hundred valuation was paid. In 1888 the Association was exchanging reinsurance with prominent stock companies such as The Columbia, The Teutonia, The Cooper, The Miami Valley all of Dayton, the Amazon of Cincinnati, The German Fire & Marine of Wheeling, West Virginia, The Washington F & M of Boston and The Commercial Union of London, England.

The first office building was erected in 1893. The Association's first big loss was in December, 1896 when eight buildings were destroyed in Coldwater, Ohio. In 1908 the name "Association" was changed to "Company" and business was conducted on the Contingent Liability Plan and the Company was thereafter examined by the State Insurance Department. The rates published by The Ohio Inspection Bureau were used and the Company returned a dividend of 20% annually. Business was conducted throughout the State of Ohio through approximately two hundred agents. It is noted that no assessment was ever levied to pay losses. The fact that the original charter limited the surplus accounted for the small size of the Company.

In 1909 Joseph E. Schmieder was elected Secretary which office he held until his death in 1924 when he was succeeded by his daughter Velma F. Schmieder.

In 1926 the Company erected a new home office building on Fourth Street in Minster. Due to a change in the Insurance Laws and Regulations to which the Company could not comply because of size, it ceased business in June, 1956 and all policies were reinsured, and the building sold. The Company at that time had been in business successfully and continuously for 107 years.



This set of buildings known as the Minster Milling Company stood on S. Frankfort Street (site of today's laundromat). It was completely destroyed by fire about 1912.

* In the 1900 Minster Census there were:
  11 dwellings on Garfield St.
  89 dwellings on Main St.
  46 dwellings on Fourth St.
  15 dwellings on Lincoln St.
  1 dwelling on Fifth St.

* Minster Post, Friday, August 18, 1922. Story about a jug of embalming fluid that was stolen from N. J. Hogenkamp's car as it was parked at Eagles Park in Minster. The fluid is colored like unto some of the homemade wines that people drink in these bolstead days. And it is likely that the men who rummaged the car summized that the owner had carried a quantity of the stimulating goods along with him to the dance. The jug was recovered intact. The article ends - It has come to be a common practice for sneakers to disturb the cars that are parked at the dancing place and the movement has enlarged itself to such proportions that the governing members of the Eagles brotherhood are getting just a little bit concerned about it. They are not hopeful that anybody will drink undertakers oil in order to break up the practice but they wouldn't feel sorry for the fellow who while hunting around under car seats and through packages to get his hands on a bottle of something that would trouble him for several days.

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The Minster Oil Company

185 W. Fourth St.



This home built circa 1861, today houses a portion of the Minster Oil Company. It served as a rooming house for many years.



The Minster Oil Company was located on N. Ohio Street, in 1924.



The present location of Minster Oil Company as it looked in 1952.



Leo A. Aselage, (left) former owner of Minster Oil Co., accepts a plaque in November of 1979 for 50 years of service from Douglas P. Archambault, Shell Oil Co. district manager. Aselage died in December, 1981 and his wife, Geraldine took over the business operation.

Minster Oil Company was originally formed as a partnership on April 11, 1924 between Bernard Kuhlman, Dr. Edward F. Westerheide, and Henry J. Fortman.

Their first station and bulk plant was located on North Ohio Street, Minster. All products came in by railroad tank cars which necessitated their being located by a railroad siding.

They began purchasing an unbranded product from the Solar Refining Company of Lima, Ohio.

The first tank truck was a 300-gallon tank with two compartments (equipped with 2 five-gallon buckets and funnel) mounted on a Model T Ford chassis.

The first delivery was made on July 4, 1924.

On November 29, 1929, the first contract was signed between Shell Oil Company and Minster Oil Company. "Silver Flash" was the Shell jobber's brand name at that time.

In April of 1926, Walter J. Hausfeld was hired as a tank truck salesman and became a partner in February of 1944. Leo A. Aselage was hired as a tank truck salesman in April of 1947 and became a partner in July of 1953 after the death of Bernard Kuhlman.

In June of 1952 a new bulk plant was built at the corner of First and Cleveland streets in Minster and the retail outlet moved to the corner of Fourth and Cleveland streets where they are presently located.

Westerheide died, October 1, 1955. Upon his death his wife, Ida Westerheide, became the surviving partner and upon her death in November of 1959, the partnership absorbed her interest.

Upon the death of Henry J. Fortman, November 4, 1962, all the original partners were deceased. Minster Oil Company continued on as a partnership between Hausfeld and Aselage.

Hausfeld retired January 1, 1964.

On January 24, 1978 Aselage and his wife, Geraldine M. purchased the interest of Hausfeld and his wife, Ruth, and became the owners of Minster Oil Company. Tank truck driver salesmen are James H. Cordonnier and Louis F. Aselage. Leo Aselage died in Dec. 1981. His wife continues to be involved in the operation of the business.

The location of the Minster Oil Company retail outlet at the corner of Fourth and Cleveland streets is a two story rectangular Colonial style historical building which measures approximately 60 by 32 ft. The upstairs has hand-hewn log pillasters, random wood walls and floors, exterior walls are brick over shingle. The basement has hand-hewn log stringers and a brick floor. The foundation is of quarry stone. One chimney, fireplace, shutters, and front porch have been removed. Gasoline pumps, an awning, and cement driveway have replaced the porch and lawn. The east door leads into the restrooms instead of the stairs to the bedrooms. (See attached photo taken in 1914). There is a private residence in the rear.

According to the tax records in the Auglaize

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County Auditor's office, the property valuation of Lot 36 jumped to $857 in 1860 from a total listing of $372 for Lots 34, 35, 36 in 1858 and 1859. This indicates that a building of large size has been erected on the lot owned by J. H. Vocke, presumably the rooming house or hotel listed above.

There is one storage shed (truck garage) located east of the main building along the Miami-Erie Canal.

According to the title records in the Auglaize County Recorder's office J. H. Vocke acquired the deed for Lot 36 from John Zimmer (who, among others, received title to the Stallotown lots after Francis Stallo's untimely death, through a bill in chancery filed in the Common Pleas Court of Mercer County in 1836) on October 23, 1839 at which time the name of Stallostown had been changed to Minster. In 1863 this property was sold to Clemens Stueve whose family owned it until 1880 when it was sold to Peter Niemeyer.

Canal trade was flourishing in the 1860's when this house was built, and, the elderly Minster residents tell that rooming houses were much in demand by farmers and traders who traveled quite a distance by horse and wagon to ship their wares on the canal boats and to buy supplies. There were nine bedrooms (five at the present time) upstairs which could be reached directly from the outside through the east door. All the rooms open into a central hallway.

When Peter Niemeyer bought the lot in 1880 there was also an old brick shed behind the rooming house. He bought and sold animal hides which had to be salted down and stacked in piles. He also dealt in eggs which could be stored in the cool, brick building with the hides. The hides and eggs were shipped to Cincinnati and Toledo via the canal. In November, 1910 Peter Niemeyer died as the result of being bitten by a rat while salting the hides. He was 62 years old. His widow, Anna, deeded the property to her son, Henry, in 1924. He converted it into a filling station in 1928 which he operated until his death in 1946. In 1952 the Minster Oil Company purchased the property and have operated their business from this location up to the present time.

Minster's Post Office

By Chuck Dickman, Bruce Monnin, Andy Oldiges & Tom Feldman



The Minster Post Office today.



Ben Meyer - US Mail messenger from Post Office (now Eileen's) to the Western Ohio Railway depot (now Wooden Shoe Inn).

On October 21, 1839, Minster's first postmaster was appointed. In the early years, the home of the postmaster usually served as the post office in small villages, and this was true in Minster. But by the end of the 1800's, the Post Office was located in a small frame building just west of the present Woehrmyer's Market. In the early 1900's it was moved into the east part of the former Luckman Shoe Store (a site now occupied by the Minster State Bank). In 1914 it was again moved, this time to the Kuhlman building which is now occupied by Eileen's. This remained its location until removal to the present site in 1968.

Until 1854 the salary of a postmaster depended upon how much postage was sold by his office. He received a 60% commission on the first $100, 50% on the second $100, and 40% on the next $2000.

Rural free delivery service was inaugurated on June 1, 1904. The first carriers here were Robert C. Schmieder and Ferdinand C. Luthman. Village delivery service was begun on August 1, 1923, with Elmer B. Gerwels as the first letter carrier. The second letter carrier, Julius F. Budde, was assigned to duty on November 21 that same year.

Minster's Post Office advanced to Second Class on July 1, 1928, but was relegated to Third Class on July 1, 1931. It attained First Class status on July 1, 1971.

On February 27, 1968, the U.S. Postal Service authorized the Minster Post Office to start soliciting bids for the construction of a new building. Construction was begun on July 5, 1968. The new building was completed and occupied by November 30, 1968. The new Post Office was officially dedicated on February 2, 1969, and was hailed as "the newest and certainly most impressive building on Fourth Street".

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Minster village routes were motorized by the assignment of two jeeps from Lima on November 15, 1975. The jeeps helped greatly to facilitate the delivery of ever-increasing amounts of mail.

Several new services have been added over the years to the old stand-by First, Second, Third and Fourth class services. They are Certified Mail, Registered Mail, Express Mail, Special Delivery, Money Orders, C.O.D., Third-class permit imprint mail, Third-class special rate mail, Controlled circulation, Presort Mail, Certificates of Mailing and Return Receipts.

The present employees at the Minster Post Office are:

Thomas Feldman, Postmaster; Donald Oldiges, Supt. Postal Operations; Mildred Lunz, Part Time Clerk; Roger Schoch, City Carrier; Eugene Heitkamp, City Carrier; Wilbur Hoying, Part Time City Carrier; Donald Nagel, Rural Carrier; Bernard Boecker, Rural Carrier; Roland Hausfeld, Sub. Rural Carrier; and Elizabeth Eiting, Sub. Rural Carrier.

Minster's Postmasters:

John H. Gossman, Oct. 21, 1839; Edward von Beseler, July 19, 1848; Bernard A. Wendeln, Nov. 10, 1848; Herman H. Busch, Dec. 16, 1850; William Balgneort, July 19, 1853; Fritz Kramer, Sept. 20, 1854; John Eiting, July 27, 1861; Fritz Kramer, Aug. 31, 1861; William Roetge, Mar. 18, 1869; Fred K. Kramer, Mar. 11, 1873; Anton Friedrichs, Jan. 6, 1881; John B. Tangeman, Aug. 14, 1885; N.J. Koch, Oct. 1, 1885; Anton Friedrichs, May 15, 1889; John B. Goecke, May 8, 1893; Anton Friedrichs, June 8, 1897; Joseph F. Meyers, May 24, 1901; A.W. Herkenhoff, June 23, 1910; H.B. Thieman, July 11, 1913; Ruth A. Wendeln (acting) Dec. 1, 1914; Bernard Sherman, Dec. 31, 1914; Karl H. Sherman, Mar 6. 1916; Benjamin Hegeman, June 4, 1924; Ruth Brinkman, Feb. 26, 1934; George Busse (acting), Dec. 28, 1963; Thomas Feldman, Nov. 5, 1965.

Minster Printing Co.

56 N. Hanover St.

Harry B. Heckman, along with his son, Robert J., opened The Minster Printing Co. in 1950.

Bob and his father were associated with The Post Printing Co. in Minster for many years before opening their own shop.

Harry Heckman became a printer apprentice in 1905 at the Post Printing which was owned by J.T. Haverbeck. In 1910 he furthered his printing experience and training in Cincinnati.

After 15 years, he returned to Minster and two years later became a partner in the Post Printing Co. He attended monotype school in Pennsylvania for further training.

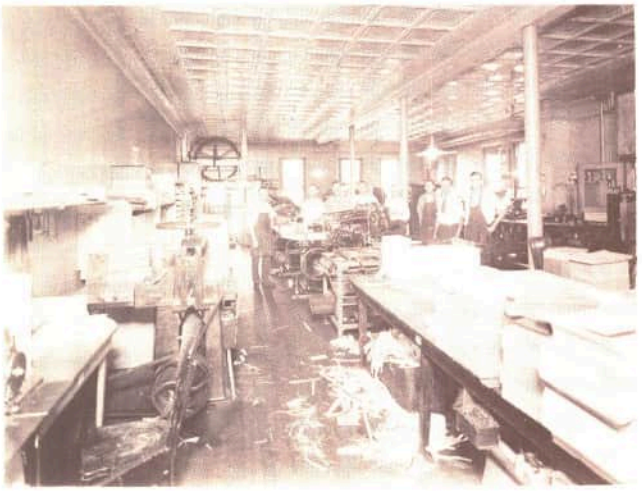
Robert "Bob" Heckman worked for his father at the Post Printing Co. when he was still in high school. Robert worked in the plant on a small hand-fed press until 1944 when he assumed the duties of salesman, a job previously held by his Uncle, Homer Woehrmyer who moved to Colorado.

The Post Printing Co. was first located in part of the building currently owned by the Minster Eagles. In the early 1930's, the operation was moved to the corner of Fourth and Cleveland Streets, its present location.

After Mr. Haverbeck's death in 1948, Harry Heckman, along with his wife, Catherine, sold their interest to the Haverbeck heirs and a year later, started his own business called The Minster Printing Co. He employed three full-time people at that time and his son Bob worked as a salesman, in addition to his full-time job in sales for The Wolf Envelope Co. of Cleveland.

Harry Heckman died in 1967. His son and daughter, Reginal Stucke took over the business.

To this date, 1982, Bob manages the business at 56 N. Hanover Street. Working with him presently are Rosella Niekamp, Elizabeth Smith, Jerry Meyer and Joan Heckman, his wife. Also working there part time are his son, Ted Heckman and Roger Steinemann, a high school student.



The Post Printing Company interior when it was located in the Eagle building. Left to right: S.H. Froning, Clem Feldman, George Busse, Adolph Hoying, Gust Bernhold, Jerry Meyer, Harry Heckman, and Maurice Schulte. Harry Heckman went on to form Minster Printing Co. in 1950.



The interior of the Fred Dorsten Barbershop. Notice the old shaving mugs. Today Ed Ahrns has a barbershop in this building located on the south side of West Fourth Street between Hanover and Frankfort.

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The Minster State Bank

Fourth & Lincoln Streets

By Melvin G. Vallo



This building served as the first Minster State Bank from 1914 to 1924. After 1924 it was occupied by the American Legion.



The Minster State Bank from 1924-1963. This property was then completely remodeled by the Minster Machine Co. They used it as a data processing center. It was repurchased by the bank in 1979.



The present Minster State Bank, occupied in 1963.

The Minster State Bank was chartered January 27, 1914 and commenced business on February 10, 1914. It succeeded the Citizens Bank, a partnership banking house which had been established in 1888 as the Minster Banking Association.

The first officers were John W. Eiting, president, O.E. Dunan, vice president, August Schunck, cashier, J.T. Haverbeck, asst. cashier, and Bernard Nagel, Frank J. Thieman, Joseph E. Schmieder, C.H. Dickman, and John C. Halsema, directors. August Schunck was in charge of operations. At the end of 1914 total assets were $215,000 and total capital was $30,000.

The first building was located between 78 and 96 West Fourth Street, on the site of the present bank building. In 1924 a new building was built at 78 W. Fourth St. immediately east of the first building. Assets at that time were $450,000 and total capital was $65,000, number of employees, three.

John W. Eiting died in 1935 and August Schunck was named president. At that time Leo H. Frericks, who had come with the bank in 1923, was named cashier. Upon the death of Schunck in 1939, J.T. Haverbeck became president and Frericks assumed the management of the bank. He was assisted by Alfred B. Fischer who came with the bank in 1940. Frericks remained in charge until his retirement at the end of 1962. Fischer retired in 1966. In 1948 J.T. Haverbeck died and was succeeded as president by Carl F. Eiting, son of John W. Eiting.

By 1962 the bank had outgrown the facilities at 78 W. Fourth St. and construction was started on a new building at the northeast corner of Fourth and Frankfort. The building at 78 West Fourth St. was sold to the Minster Machine Company. The new building was opened for business on February 23, 1963. Assets at that time were $5,000,000, total capital $430,000, number of employees, six.

On May 1, 1962 Melvin G. Vallo came with the bank as cashier and at the end of that year succeeded Leo H. Frericks as its manager. In April of 1965 Vallo was

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named president and Carl F. Eiting became chairman of the board. Eiting remained in that position until he retired shortly before his death in November of 1972. At the end of 1972 total assets were $12,000,000, total capital $1,000,000, number of employees, eight.

In 1976 approval was obtained from the Superintendent of Banks of Ohio to open a branch at New Bremen. A building was built immediately south of New Bremen on the west side of State Route 66 and was opened for business on August 1, 1977. Richard Bergman was named branch manager. By that time assets had increased to $22,000,000 capital to $1,750,000, number of employees was thirteen.

In 1979 the bank undertook an expansion program and the building at 78 W. Fourth St. was bought back from the Minster Machine Company. This building was connected to the one at the corner of Fourth and Frankfort Streets and both buildings were remodeled extensively. A second drive-in facility was added at that time.

In 1981 the officers are Melvin G. Vallo, president, W.J. Herkenhoff, vice president, Kenneth A. Heitkamp, vice president, Lester J. Prenger, cashier, Richard L. Bergman, Kenneth J. Wuebker, and Rose Ann Beyke, assistant cashiers and Harold A. Dorsten, John R. Eiting, Howard H. Fark, Marvin Huber, Richard G. Knostman, Paul H. Meyer, and Thomas F. Morsey, directors. Total assets are $36,000,000, total capital $2,500,000, number of employees, twenty.

From its beginning in 1914 to 1981 The Minster State Bank has had only three people in charge of operating the bank. August Schunck 1914 to 1939, Leo H. Frericks 1939 to 1962, and Melvin G. Vallo, 1962 to 1981.

Others who have served as directors of the bank are: C.F. Herkenhoff, C.L. Dine, Henry Wendeln, L.G. Fischer, J.F. Kramer, William Nagel, Frank Eiting, Oliver Morsey, Frank Dine, Paul Dine, Charles Dine, and Norbert Knostman.



John W. Eiting
Minster State Bank President
1914-1935.



August Schunck
Minster State Bank President
1935-1939.



J.T. Haverbeck
Minster State Bank President
1939-1948.



Leo H. Frericks
Minster State Bank Manager
1939-1962.



Carl F. Eiting
Minster State Bank President
1948-1965.



Melvin G. Vallo
Minster State Bank President
1965-1982.

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Minster Supply Co.

30 S. Garfield St.

The Minster Supply Company was formed in April of 1963, with the purchase of assets from the General Supply Company. The business was moved to South Garfield Street at the former Kramer-Dickman Creamery Company location.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Hegemann owned and operated General Supply Company many years on North Cleveland Street at the Steinemann Brick Yard site where they sold building materials and coal and also made sorghum. The property now serves as a parking area on the south end of the Minster Machine Company complex.

Minster Supply Company has four employees and represents many leading brick, glazed tile and allied building product manufacturers for the surrounding Ohio and Indiana territory. They have earned the reputation of being one of the largest brick suppliers in the state. Tool rentals to individuals, contractors, and factories are also a part of their business.

Some of the building projects the Minster Supply Company has been a part of are: Minster Machine Company; Minster High School; Fort Loramie High School; Way International; Dannon Yogurt complex; Minster-Jackson Township Fire Department; Y.M.C.A. and 1st Federal Savings and Loan in Sidney; Auglaize School and the Municipal Building in New Bremen; plus the residential market in an eight county area.

Norman Stueve has acted as the president and manager since the company was formed.

The Minster Telephone Company

By Lynda Meyer, Pam Bernhold, Gina Albers



This building on East Fourth Street, was the home of the Minster Telephone Co. for many years. Today it is a residence and the home of the Meiring Insurance Agency.

Could you imagine being a telephone operator back in the 1930's and 1940's? Have you ever wondered what it would look like to see the switchboard light up when a fire has been reported? Many folks don't know anything about what it was like back then using the old switchboard or picking up the phone to make a call to one of your friends and having an operator say "number please." Well, we knew about as much as you did until we did a little investigating of our own to give you a little bit of a better understanding of how life really was back then.

The first telephone was installed in 1895. To eliminate people subscribing to both Bell and the Minster Telephone Company the Home Telephone Company leased the Bell lines in 1905 and on June 10, completed the purchase thereof. A long distance toll line was then installed in the local exchange through the Bell lines.

The Minster Home Telephone Company was organized in 1902 as the Minster Home Telephone Company by C. L. Dine, J. W. Eiting, Bernard Frierott, F. J. Maiser, C. F. Herkenhoff, Fred Kramer, J. W. Laufer-weiler, M. Osborn, Frank Schmueker, and George Van Oss. The officers were C. L. Dine, president; Bernard Frierott, vice president; J. L. Hauerback, secretary and treasurer; and J. W. Eiting, director.

Augustus Shunk was the first manager of the exchange here, operating it until 1909 when he resigned. Frank M. Oldiges took his place. Mr. Oldiges resigned in 1934. The Telephone Company then named Louis Hafner, a previous linesman, as successor to Mr. Oldiges.

In 1925, for the purpose of bringing a change in its name, the company was reorganized with the same directors and stockholders in its office as the Minster Telephone Company.

There were many other changes that took place over the years. This caused the company to revise its directories several times such as in 1937 and 1955. The rates were also changing. In 1927 they were a dollar and fifty cents. This was enough to pay a month but they raised them a dollar, making it two dollars and fifty cents. This abrupt raise in price caused many customers to discontinue the use of their telephone. After a few months of doing without a telephone many saw how vital it was to have and use the phone, decided to begin using them again. The rates have changed many times since then as you can compare to today's rates of ten dollars and fifty-cents a month for a private line.

The number of subscribers has grown also from sixty-six in 1902, two-hundred fifty-three in 1909, four-hundred seventy-five in 1937 to above twelve hundred at present. It served the area which is now considered the area of Minster.

The Minster Telephone Company was sold to the General Telephone Company of Ohio on December 31, 1938, after 35 years of service, it was signed over to the General Telephone Company of Marion, Ohio. The cause of the sale was because of the fact that none of the present stockholders were thoroughly acquainted with the business which is necessary for the thorough and one hundred percent competent operation.

Of the original stockholders only Dr. Dine, who was

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president, and Mr. Osborn, who served as director from 1903 to 1938, were still living at the time of the company's sale in 1938.

Minster also added a pay station which is like today's telephone booth, many businessmen came and made calls because of a lower cost.

In 1960 the company converted magneto type telephones to the dial system. Direct distance dialing was provided in December of 1964. These modern changes were brought to us almost seventeen years ago. But many of you are probably wondering who did all the work before the direct dialing was provided? You are probably saying that was the operators but back then they were known as "Central." They were located in what is now the Meiring Insurance building. They worked for a pay of ten dollars a week for seventy hours and seven dollars a week for sixty hours. Some of these ladies were Alvina Frierott, chief operator; Geneva Mehmert, Clara Riethman, Leona Meyer, Marie Feldman, Joan Earley, Josephine Laut, Clara Frierott, Mary Oldiges, Bernadine Feldman, and many more.

You also can't forget Louis Hafner and Butch Coone the devoted linesmen. They really showed their devotion in 1931 when an ice storm tore down all the lines and they worked day and night to fix them.

With the help of these people the telephone company was much more efficient in those days than we think.

Operators were a help then and were a help to us with this report. Some of the previous operators that helped us were Geneva Mehmert, Marie Feldman, and Leona Meyer.

Our other sources of information were Charles Oldiges, son of the president Frank M. Oldiges, the General Telephone Company, and the microfilm machine at the Public library. These were from the old Minster Post issues.

The telephone has been a good source of information to look up. This communication system has been a help to us for many years and will improve over the years I'm sure. It is one of the most convenient type of communication. The telephone had troubles back then and we still have troubles. One such being the "teenage tie up."

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* It was announced in 1960 that Minster would get a dial phone system.

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* In 1961 Minster's telephone numbers changed from **MA**dison 8-2299 to all numerals.

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* When did Minster begin blowing the fire siren at noon each Saturday? In 1925, a new fire siren was purchased. The officers in the fire company suggested that there should be assurance that the apparatus is always in working order and the councilmen decided that the suggestion was practical. They then voted that it should be tested at 12:00 noon on every Saturday of the year. This practice continues today in Minster.

Mobil Service, Inc.

29 S. Main



Mobil Service, 1981.

In 1938 the Schroer family sold their house located at 29 South Main Street to Ed and Oliver Morsey. The Morsey Brothers built the present building which is now Mobil Service. The service station was opened in 1940 and was operated by Les Woehrmeyer. Ben Hemmelgarn took over in 1941 and he was joined by Rich Boeckman in 1946. They sold their business in 1966 to Bob Prenger and Norb Otting. In 1972, Bob Prenger sold his share to Norb Otting.

Mobil Service is now operated by Norb Otting and his son Bob. They sell Mobil gas and oil and do general car repair. They also offer tuneups, brake repair, air conditioning, exhausts, oil changes, and lubrication and offer a complete line of tires and repairs for cars and trucks.

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* Friday, June 6, 1924, The Minster Post: There is a chance that the pages of the Minster Post will soon be as greasy as a hunk of fat bacon for an oil boom is in its embryonic state here. The company has already leased some land in the vicinity of Egypt and they will put down some test wells during the summer months. The first hole will be made on the farm that is now owned by Joseph Meyer and that lies northeast of the Egypt church. This place was formerly known as the Joseph Meiring farm.

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* The Red Star Transportation Company began operating buses between Minster and Piqua in April, 1924. There were six trips each day, the buses leaving from the New City Hotel. The company has ordered that the drivers make a one way trip in 1 hour and a quarter. The buses pass through Ft. Loramie, Newport and Houston. The fare to Piqua was 85¢.

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* The manager of the Minster Telephone Co. from 1909 until 1933 when the company merged with General Telephone was Frank M. Oldiges.

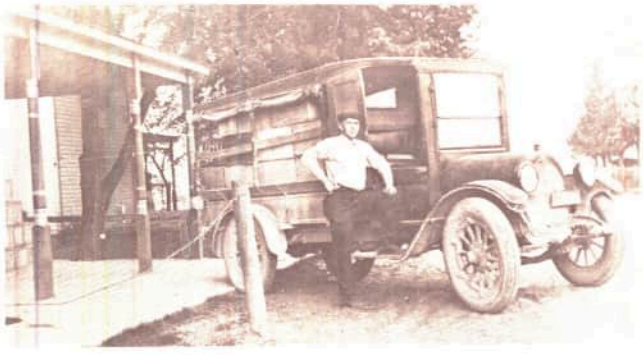
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Frank Morsey & Sons

55 N. Garfield St.

By Tom Morsey



This 1919 photograph shows Oliver F. Morsey, original owner of Frank Morsey & Sons with one of his trucks.



This May, 1980 photo shows three generations of Morseys who have been associated with the business. From left to right: Thomas, Oliver and Jay Morsey.

Frank Morsey & Sons was started in 1914 by Oliver F. Morsey when he shipped 25 cases of eggs to New York City by railway express in response to an ad in a butter & egg journal.

The name of Frank Morsey & Sons came into being when Oliver applied for a bank loan and the banker, Mr. Schunck, needed the signature of Oliver's father, Frank Morsey as co-signer on the note.

Mr. Schunck also demanded that the name of the company include Frank Morsey since he was the co-signer.

The company continued buying eggs along with poultry & hides and in 1924 Edmund F. Morsey, brother of Oliver, was taken into the business as a partner. In April 1929 Frank Morsey & Sons shipped 32 refrigerated railway cars of eggs to the east coast and was at that time one of the largest egg packers in the state of Ohio.

In 1939 Frank Morsey died and the business continued on as a partnership by his two sons Oliver and Edmund until 1960 when they both retired. In July 1960 Thomas Morsey, son of Oliver Morsey, who was brought up in the egg business and Wallace Oldiges a 25 year employee at that time took over the business and incorporated it into Frank Morsey & Sons, Inc.

In 1965 poultry & hides were discontinued and more emphasis placed on eggs. The original location at 241 East 4th St. soon became too small and obsolete so in 1966 the business was moved to 55 North Garfield St. where a new building along with modern egg processing equipment was installed.

In Feb. 1981 Wallace Oldiges retired with 46 years of service and Thomas Morsey became the sole owner.

Jay T. Morsey, son of Thomas, the 4th generation in the egg business has been with the company since his graduation from college in 1971, and is now in management.

Since its beginning in 1914 and into the 4th generation Frank Morsey & Sons has enjoyed continuous employment, having never missed a week's work.

Precision Strip, Inc.

Third & Ohio Sts.



Precision Strip founded in 1977 has already undergone expansion. The size of the plant has doubled.

This company is engaged in the cutting of its customers' wide metal coils, which they receive from the steel mills, into narrower ones that are then fed into his stamping presses or roll forming units. This operation is known as slitting in the metalworking trade. Since it is not economical for steel mills to produce narrow coils to feed into presses, slitting has been a necessary operation ever since the creation of the first coil of metal in the early 1920's.

Mr. Jack Eiting, President of Precision Strip Inc., founded the company in January, 1977, and with three other former associates, rebuilt a 25 year old Stamco slitting line. The equipment is capable of processing .005 to .040" thick metal strip, 54" maximum width, from coils 20,000 pounds in weight at speeds 500, 1000 and 2000 feet per minute. The line is capable of cutting multiple strips from such coiled metal as steel, tinplate, galvanized, stainless and aluminum, as narrow as 1/2", with inside diameters of 16", 20" or 24".

The company refurbished the line with certain new technological developments recently created at Stamco, including a driven slitter, looping pit and retensioning system. This technology guarantees to provide all coils without filler material, and each one is round and hard, capable of being transported many hundreds of miles without damage.

Precision Strip operates in a 100' wide x 300' long Armco metal building leased from Minster Rentals at Third and Ohio Streets in Minster. The building has a floor elevation loading-unloading area, plus a submerged optional loading dock area. A 30,000 pound crane operates in the coil storage area, which is capable of holding approximately 15,000,000 pounds of steel coils.

The company slit its first coil in August of 1977, and expanded its list of clients to seven by the end of that year. By mid-year 1978, production had grown to an average of 685 tons per month on a single shift with 12 clients. By the end of 1978, it was averaging 915 tons

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per month with 17 regular customers. On April 1, 1979, a second shift was started, and by the end of the year production averaged 2,155 tons per month with 23 accounts. Production in 1980 averaged 2,791 tons per month with 33 clients, plus the company slit coils for seven steel mills on a contract basis.

The company delivers its products into a five state area with its own fleet of three semi-tractor trailer units, with certain isolated deliveries as far away as North Carolina and Nebraska.

Precision Strip is known within its market area as a specialist in slitting thin tinplate, blackplate, galvanized and motor lamination stock. Some of its typical customers are Crown Controls, Hobart Brothers, Westinghouse Electric, Union Carbide, Dow Chemical, Fram, Continental Can and Alcoa.

The company currently has 18 employees, including three truck drivers, and operates on a two shift basis five days a week.

Precision Strip will soon begin building its second slitting and coiling line as phase two of its expansion program. This will be finished within the next year and will increase the plant's processing capacity to 7,500 tons per month.

Progress Tool

93 S. Cleveland St.

Progress Tool was founded and first opened for business on N. Garfield Street in June 1968 by Lee Westerheide and Ed George.

Today Westerheide is the sole owner of the S. Cleveland Street business. Progress provides tool and die manufacturing services for many industries in the area.

Ranly Ad & Tech Art Studios

132 N. Main St.

Jerry Ranly began his business in May, 1979. He offers technical art and advertising services for business, industry and the general public.

* The Minster Post, Friday, December 24, 1920. **Six Million Cigars Made in Minster.** The Minster branch of the Diesel-Wemmer Cigar company passed the six million mark in the manufacture of cigars this week. This factory was given exception good credit in production in accordance with its number of employees. They employ 135 people here at present, and the Minster branch has the least fluctuation among its employees of the various branch factories of the company. This proves that our people are good steady employees and their able manager Mr. F. J. Ziegenfelder knows how to manage a cigar factory, which is no small task.

Ranly Cabinet And Supply

52 N. Main St.



The present location of Ranly Cabinet and Supply.

Ranly Cabinet and Supply was established in September of 1957, with Paul J. Ranly as proprietor, and his wife Erma Ranly as bookkeeper.

At this time the business was located in the basement of their residence at 263 North Hanover St., with one part time employee on the payroll.

The rapid growth of the business caused the company to expand and move their operation in 1958 to South Frankfort St., where the laundromat is presently located.

The business remained at this location until 1960. Mr. Ranly and seven employees then moved to 55 East 4th St. where they remained until the purchase of their present location at 52 N. Main St. in 1974.

Upon purchasing the new building a 28 foot extension was added to the existing building. In 1979 Mr. Ranly added another 80 feet to be used as a storage area for lumber and formica.

In addition to operating a full time business, Mr. and Mrs. Ranly were the parents of 12 children, 9 boys and 3 girls, all the sons live in Minster, and have worked part time for their father while living at home. Two sons, Jim and Marvin are following in their father's footsteps, by remaining as full time employees of the business.

In the coming year of 1982 the company will observe their 25th year in business, an open house is being planned. Mr. Ranly and his employees hope to continue serving Minster and the surrounding areas by carrying on their tradition of quality, in building their custom made kitchen and bathroom cabinets, and in all phases of the remodeling business.

* Friday, November 21, 1924: The former Mr. Ferd Goeke property on Frankfort Street was dedicated as the home of the Minster Commercial Club. That the event was a major one for the village of Minster is evidenced by the fact that the story takes up 2 full columns on page 1 of that issue. The Minster Commercial Club was organized on February 16, 1909 for the purpose of leading in any movement that had a progressive tendency.

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Schmiesing Refrigeration

93 E. Fourth St.

Schmiesing Refrigeration had its beginnings in the family garage of Lawrence and Vera Schmiesing, E. Fifth Street, in 1960. Prior to that time Lawrence was part owner in the Minster Implement Co., started in 1944 by his father and brothers, Herbert and Thomas.

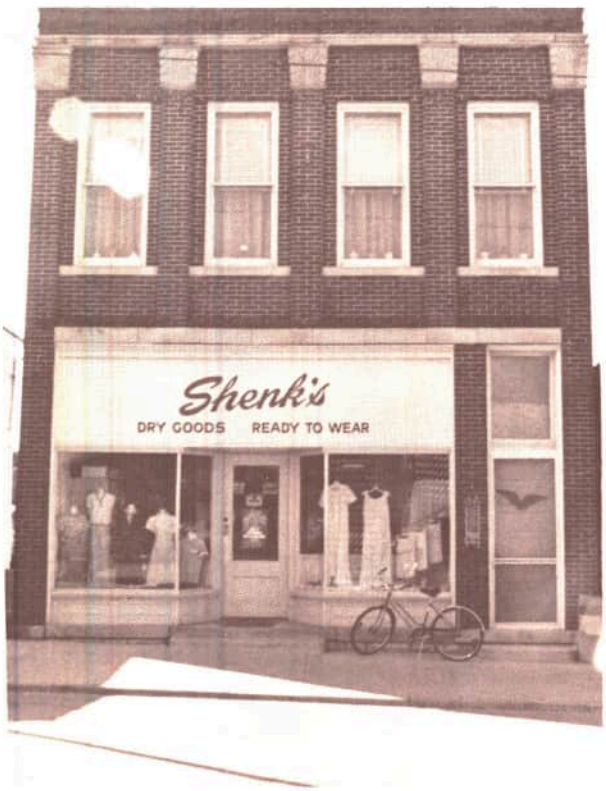
By 1962 Schmiesing home and commercial cooling, air conditioning and appliance business had outgrown the small garage and he moved it to 56 N. Main Street.

Growth of the business continued and in 1970 it was moved to its current location, the former Ripploh Grocery and Meat Store.

In 1974 Lavern J. Wente, an employee since 1971 purchased the business from the Schmiesings. Later that year Wente added Litton microwave ovens to his product line and in 1976 he acquired the complete Whirlpool franchise.

Shenk's Fabrics & Fashions, Inc.

79 W. Fourth St.



Shenk's has been in business in its present location for a number of years following its founding by Viola Shenk.

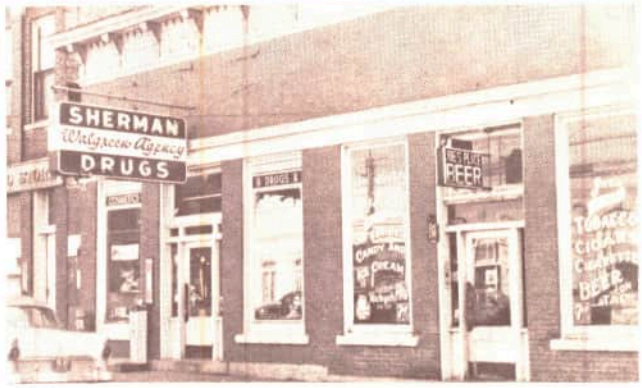
The business is located in a brick building that formerly was the home of the Minster Building and Loan. A safe belonging to that business can still be seen in the building.

In August, 1978 Mildred Piening and Rita Walters purchased the business and they continue to operate it today.

Sherman Drug Store

91 W. Fourth St.







Three views of the building that today houses Sherman Drugs. Top - Early 1900's; Center - about 1950; Bottom - 1981.

The present Sherman Building, as far as historical records indicate, dates back to 1833 and was owned by Mr. F. Heckman and was listed on the village plot as Lot #4. From that time to now there have been many owners of which included Mr. John Zimmer in 1837, Mr. John H. Vocke in 1840, and Mr. Francis Lammers from 1848 thru 1850. At that time Anton Gohr purchased the building and must have made expansions on it. Later in 1852 he sold the East portion of the building and in 1853 the West portion of the building to Mr. Henry Schneider. From that point it was termed the "Schneider Building" and housed several types of different retail businesses. In 1900 Mr. H. Schneider died and the building was left to his wife and sons. Mr. C. F. Herkenhoff, then in 1901, purchased the building from the Schneider's and retained

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ownership until 1903 at which time he sold the building to Mr. J. B .Meyer. It wasn't until 1958 that the ownership once again changed hands and was purchased by Mr. & Mrs. Cyril J. Sherman who were then operating the pharmacy in the building. The ownership is currently under Mr. & Mrs. Joseph R. Sherman, the son and daughter-in-law.

The history of the drug store portion of the building dates back to 1852 when the Schneiders used a portion of the building as a drug store along with groceries and other general merchandise. In 1896, the local drug store was known as the "City Drug Store" and was listed with J. M. Rulman as proprietor and Dr. R. H. Rulman as the manager. In 1914 Mr. Clarence V. Purvis purchased the store from the Rulmans and held ownership until 1922 when the store was purchased by Mr. Roll Ayers. He retained ownership of the drug store until September 7, 1935 when Cyril J. Sherman became owner of the drug store. Mr. Cyril J. Sherman passed away in 1981, the ownership was then released to Mr. & Mrs. J. R. Sherman.

Prior to this, two major remodelings occurred to increase the size of the drug store from its original space to double and then triple in size to its present areas. The first remodeling was instituted in 1960 followed by a second remodeling in 1968. At that time a major face-lifting of the structure was undertaken to give it the up-dated look. Prior to these mentioned remodelings many varied businesses were included in the Sherman Building such as grocery stores, furniture stores and various saloons and bars occupied floor space.

Stallo Memorial Library

By Elsie VanOss



The original 1963 members of the F.J. Stallo Library Board were: (seated, left to right) Mrs. Ray Bergman, Mrs. Joseph Bornhorst, head-librarian, Mrs. Ted Purpus. Standing: Jim Eiting, Marvin Huber, treasurer, Joseph Schlater and Ted Purpus, president. Not present when the photo was taken were Ed VanOss and Frank Brinkman.

Located in the basement of the Minster State Bank, Francis J. Stallo Memorial Library opened its doors to the public Saturday, November 23, 1963. Mrs. Joseph Bornhorst was appointed head librarian and Jo Ann (Dillehay) Heil, assistant librarian. The local Library Board consisted of 8 members. Ted Purpus, President, Marvin Huber, Treasurer, Jim Eiting, Frank Brinkman, Mrs. Ray Bergman, Mrs. Ted Purpus, Joseph Schlater and Ed VanOss. Ed VanOss resigned May 1965, Bob Lammers replaced him. Joe Schlater resigned January 4, 1965 and Joan Eilerman became the new member. Eleanor Bornhorst resigned as head librarian November 1, 1966. On November 8, 1966 Elsie VanOss was appointed head librarian. Jo Ann Heil resigned March 5, 1970 and Mary Knapke was appointed assistant librarian.

In April 1976 the library moved to its present location at the corner of 4th & Main St. in the re-furbished Kramer Building, built in 1912. The building was purchased by the village of Minster from I.E. Industries for $65,000. The Auglaize County Library of which Stallo Memorial is a branch, pays the village $400.00 per month rent for the east-side of the building.

The history of the site of the library today is interesting. In the drawing for lots at the founding of the village, Francis Joseph Stallo drew Lot 37 and this lot was in the name of F.J. Stallo Heirs for a long time. When F.J. Stallo died on July 23, 1833 in the epidemic, he was buried on the south edge of this lot. Later the body was removed to the old part of St. Augustine's Cemetery from which it was later removed without record.

In 1912 the dwelling belonging to Anton Haverbeck located on the corner of Fourth and Main was razed as was the frame hardware store building belonging to Mr. Haverbeck which was located on what is now the Library parking space. Construction on the present brick building was begun in 1912 and when finished it was occupied by The Kramer Company as a dry goods and grocery store on the east section and by a hardware store in the west section. The grand formal opening of the Kramer Company was held on March 15th, 1913 in conjunction with Minster's first Booster Day.

Francis Joseph Stallo was a book binder by trade and it is said he was a partner of William H. McGuffey who later published the famous McGuffey Readers.

The collection of books found at Stallo Library consists of approximately 20,000 volumes. Books circulated in the 1980 year were 34,885. The circulation in 1964 (1st year) was 10,086. An average of 800 books per year are added to the collection. The library is used not only by Minster residents, but by neighboring communities; students from various high schools in the area make use of the excellent reference facilities. Books not available in the local collection can be borrowed from any library in the county through the computerized inter-library loan system.

Large-print books, records, films, cassettes and magazines can also be lent to patrons. 40 magazines are received monthly. A micro-film reader is also used by patrons. The Minster Post from year 1894-1964 are on micro-film (1964-1980 in bound volumes) and are used by patrons. Census Records from 1840-1900 are also micro-filmed and are used for genealogy research. Luke Knapke, of the Minster Historical Society has compiled Funeral Memorial Cards numbering over 8,000 which provide assistance to the genealogy department.

The village of Minster, until the year 1963, had access only to the County-Book-mobile, lending library at the Fischer Market, plus the School Library during school term. The community owes a great deal

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to the first Minster Library board members who worked so diligently to finally obtain a public library, 131 years after the founding of our village. One outstanding member has been Marvin Huber having served 17 years as local board member and as a County board member for 15 years. His efforts and time spent during those years has added to the growth of the system.

Streacker's Inc.

19 South Main St.



This building was erected in 1928 and was known as the Motor Inn Garage.

Streacker's Inc. was originally founded by Herman F. Streacker in 1927 on West Fourth St. in a building owned at that time by Baumgardner & Lehman and presently owned by Minster Farmers Exchange.

In 1928, the building at the present location was erected and business was known as "Motor Inn Garage" with a Pontiac Sales & Service franchise. Later, he became a De-Soto-Plymouth dealer and in 1934, Oliver Farm Equipment became an important part of the business. The automobile franchise was eventually phased out and only retail farm equipment remained.

In 1961, the business was incorporated as Streacker's Inc. Following the death of Herman F. Streacker in 1969, the business has remained in the family and has continued to function as dealer of White Farm Equipment, allied farm equipment and lawn and garden equipment lines.

Thieman Machine Company

State Rt. 119 East

By Marcella Thieman

The Thieman Machine Company was established in 1967 at 53 South Garfield Street, Minster. The automatic screw machine company was founded by Cletus J. Thieman and operated in a garage for four years at the Minster address. As expansion took place and more machines were added it became necessary to move to the present location on a farm at 5395 E. St. Rt. 119. The manufacturing company began there in a building 960 square feet. In 1975 a new addition of 3,200 square feet was built on to the existing building with a total of 4,160 square feet of manufacturing area at the present time.

The company has expanded from 2 to 15 automatic screw machines that form the machined parts. Other secondary machines such as drill presses and grinders are used for special finishing work. The machine company manufactures all types of small parts from metal bar stock up to 2-3/8 inches in diameter. Ordered parts are comprised of small quantities of 50 and up to 7,000,000 pieces of one item in a year. Parts are manufactured for many companies throughout this area and as far away as Tennessee.

The company began as a sole proprietorship until September 1, 1978, when it was incorporated in the state of Ohio. The company has been a family operation throughout these years. At the present time there are five employees.

As Thieman Machine Company celebrates its fifteenth year in business it would like to thank the many customers who have contributed to its success.

TRI-STAR Packaging Products

31 Jackson St.

Tri-Star is located in a building owned by Specialty Box Co.

Co-owners and founders of the business are Robert Thieman and Rick Little who established the business Nov. 12, 1980.

Tri-Star manufactures folding cartons and designs packaging for a wide variety of businesses in Ohio, Indiana and Michigan.

Weaver's Beauty Shop

86 S. Frankfort St.

By Elmer Weaver

April 4, 1949, I came back to Minster to operate Jane's Beauty Shop, owned by Mrs. Frank Schmuecker. The shop was located in the rear of the Schmuecker building on West Fourth Street. The entrance was off the alley on the west side of the building.

In August I purchased the business. In October my wife entered beauty school. Following her graduation we ran the shop together.

By 1951 the business had outgrown its location so we moved it across the street to the Zumbroegal building.

In 1956 we built our present shop and home and became known as Weaver's Beauty Shop.

In the 33 years we've been in business, we curled many a head of hair, changed blondes to brunettes, and brunettes to blondes, cut and styled lots of hair and thoroughly enjoy our work.

* John J. Enneking, an extremely famous New England artist, was born in Minster in 1840.

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Western Ohio Hardware

131 W. Fourth St.

By Louis A. Hoying



Interior of Hoying & Westerheide, 1921. (Left to right) Joseph I. Westerheide, Fred Knostman, son-in-law of Theodore Kempker and Louis I. Hoying.



Stanley Kuenning (l) and Scott Kuenning, 1977.

Western Ohio Hardware became established in Minster on January 1, 1977, when Stanley and Donna Mae Kuenning with sons Tim and Scott purchased the business of William Whipp known as Minster Pro Hardware. Whipp had acquired the enterprise from his father-in-law, Adolph Smith, who had bought the old Hoying-Westerheide Hardware Company in August of 1971 from Louis I. Hoying and Louis A. Hoying. The building housing the hardware store was acquired by the Kuenning Brothers in 1980. It is situated on Lot 3, Block G and H, of the Sprehe Subdivision.

The original section of the structure was probably built about 1850 before Sprehe sold Lot 3 to Westbrock and Kohues, undertakers and furniture workers. The second story of this pin frame building served as a dance hall in the early years. Louis Meyer acquired the property in 1896 and subsequently sold it to Theodore Kempker in late 1903. Kempker placed a handsome brick front on the building soon after he acquired it, and it then became known as the "Kempker Building."

Kempker continued in the hardware and sheet metal business until March of 1921 when Louis I. Hoying and Joseph I. Westerheide, who were brothers-in-laws, purchased the operation. The business prospered, and following a disastrous fire in 1926 that destroyed the warehouse and part of the tin shop, a new warehouse and store addition were completed in 1927. The building immediately to the east, housing the John Bollheimer Plumbing Shop, was purchased in 1932 and converted into an appliance department featuring the Frigidaire, Maytag, Estate, Boss, Quick Meal and Florence trademarks. This appliance department was later sold to Gudorf & Moorman who then operated an appliance and TV business for many years at this location.

The firm of Hoying-Westerheide Hardware at the height of its enterprise consisted of an appliance and furnace department; garden, paint, plumbing, electrical, harness, farm supply, builder's hardware, lawn mower, tool and housewares departments; a tin shop; and a roofing department that employed three crews who kept themselves busy doing roof and cornice work in the area from Ft. Recovery to Sidney. Following WW II the roofing warehouse was rented to G & W Tool and Die Co. for several years.

Joseph Westerheide retired in 1962 after forty-one years of dedicated service, and his stock in Hoying-Westerheide Hardware Co. was purchased by Louis A. Hoying who continued in the hardware operation with his father. At this time the Bollheimer building was sold to Fred Thien and the warehouse was sold to Norbert Gudorf.

Louis I. Hoying celebrated his golden anniversary in the hardware trade in Minster on February 25, 1971, and in August of this same year the business was sold to Adolph Smith.

Western Ohio Hardware, an independent family operation with stores in Minster and New Bremen who currently serve the hardware needs of the area, was founded in New Bremen on February 16, 1953, when Stanley Kuenning purchased the hardware store on Monroe Street owned by Richard Tontrup and Lester Neuman. This business had been started in 1926 by Harry Schroeder and was originally known as the New Bremen Supply Company.

Tim Kuenning who manages the Lawn and Garden Departments from the New Bremen location joined the Western Ohio firm in 1969. Scott Kuenning, his brother became active in 1975 as manager of the Minster Store. Western Ohio Hardware is a modernly equipped establishment that operates on the principles of friendly helpfulness and reliable service. The concept of complete hardware requirements readily available is embodied in the many fine departments featured by the company. Lawn and garden supplies, lawn mowers, chain saws, paint, electrical and plumbing supplies, housewares, sporting goods, camping equipment, tools, fasteners, sundries, nails, glass, gifts and small appliances as well as a window and screen repair section from the merchandising core of this progressive company.

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Wildlife Studio

N. Paris St.



Some of the big game mounts at Wildlife Studio.

Wildlife Studio was founded by Werner H. Schmiesing, President and Bonnie L. Schmiesing, V.P. and Treasurer.

Located in the Minster area since 1957, the studio specializes in custom big game and fish mounts for sportsmen hunting in Africa, Asia, and North America.

To study wildlife, Werner personally has hunted and traveled to Africa and other areas photographing and collecting wildlife. Through the studio you may rent or purchase exotic wildlife items, wildlife paintings, skins, and ivory scrimshaw.

Woehrmyer's Meat Market

106 W. Fourth St.



The building at the far right used to house one of Minster's many saloons. From 1919 to 1980 it was Boecker's Market. Today it houses Woehrmyer's Meat Market. The building in the center was the home of Busse & Berning Implement Company while the building at the far left housed the Joseph Busse Blacksmith Shop until 1970. Today Gudorf & Sons and The Arcade are located on this site in a modern building.

Willard and Donna Woehrmyer bought the Boecker's Market business at this location in November, 1980. They operated the business as a general line grocery store for a short time, then remodeled and turned the business into a meat market.

Most all present day residents of Minster remember Boecker's Market. It had its beginning in July, 1913 when Andrew Boecker and Harry Brinkman purchased Meyer's Grocery at 53 E. Fourth Street (presently the location of Schmiesing Refrigeration). In October of that same year Boecker bought out Brinkman and began to operate the business as the A. W. Boecker Grocery Store.

In May, 1919 Boecker purchased the building at 106 W. Fourth Street from Charles Laufersweiler and moved his business to that location. In 1920 he expanded his grocery store to include a meat market. It was the first store in Minster to offer both meat and grocery items under one roof.

The business prospered for many years. In January, 1954, Boecker turned over the day to day management of the business to his son, Wilfred B. Boecker and the name of the business was changed to Boecker's Market.

Wyen & Cotterman

55 E. Fourth St.

Wyen and Cotterman was formed in 1978. James Wyen, who had worked for Wyen and Sons, established the business with his brother David and brother-in-law, Max Cotterman.

Wyen & Cotterman Inc. estimate, install and service heating and air conditioning units, specializing in Lennox and Carrier Brands.

They have 2 certified servicemen, both graduates of R.E.T.S. Tech Center, Dayton, Ohio.

Metal fabrication is also done according to specifications.

In the roofing area of the business Wyen & Cotterman Inc. estimate, install and repair Industrial, Commercial and Residential roofs of all kinds.



Although the flood waters of 1913 did not cause major damage to most of the residents of Minster it did affect some. This photo is of a home at 37 S. Ohio Street next to the "Dues Ditch".

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Wyen & Sons

180 W. Fourth St.

Wyen & Sons Inc., a family business with a continuous line of service for sixty-five years, forty-seven years of which while located in Minster.

It was 1916 when the late Peter A. Wyen quit Delco Products tin shop in Dayton and established a business in the building now occupied by Marcy's Beauty Salon in Minster. Business being profitable in 1918, another step was taken to expand. Pete bought out his brother Fred Wyen's firm of Wyen & Grieshop in New Bremen and moved his shop there.

During the 1920's, while in New Bremen, Pete was joined by John Steuve as a partner in Wyen & Steuve. The partnership was prosperous because of their workmanship, ingenuity, and a new dealership with the Farquwar Automatic Coal and Wood Furnace. In New Bremen Peter developed a metal roll-up awning (patented) to replace the canvas item. Several farmhouses and businesses in the area had this awning or a similar metal version.

Werner, Peter's oldest son, joined the firm in 1935. The following year the Wyen & Steuve partnership was dissolved. Peter bought Hoying & Westerheide sheet metal & roofing business and returned to Minster. A new shop was built behind his North Frankfort residence beside the canal.

Several events occurred during the 1940's. 1940-41 a new building was erected, the present location, to house the tin shop and a residence of Werner. More of Pete's ideas were developed, an elevator to carry roofing material from the ground to the roof (patented), a portable scaffold (patented), the use of V-metal Valley (unsuccessful patent) and T-metal bottom strip for roofing (unsuccessful patent). Also two more of Peter's sons Victor and Stanley joined the firm in 1947. A new Lenox dealership was acquired. The new furnace promised conversion burners — no more wood and coal, modern oil and gas fuels would be used.

It was not until 1952 when P.A. Wyen became P.A. Wyen & Sons when the three brothers Werner, Vic, and Stan bought Pete's interest. The business now included furnaces, roofing, sheetmetal, gutter and air conditioning. Built-up roofs, asbestos shingles and siding, along with air conditioning were some of the modern things which Wyen & Sons helped pioneer in the area. The traditional tinner was still needed to form hand-made gutters in 1952 for St. Augustine Church and repair hog trough and farm equipment.

Stan Wyen quit in the late 1960's because of illness. Vic and Werner then formed a partnership. Wyen & Sons was incorporated in 1974 just prior to Victor Wyen's death. Werner and his wife Irene (Tony) bought out Vic's interest in 1977 from Cleona Wyen.

It has been 65 years as of 1981 that Wyen & Sons Inc. has existed. Werner, who has been in the business for 45 years, turned it over March 18, 1981 to his oldest son Robert.



Downtown Minster at Fourth & Hanover street looking west. This photo was taken prior to 1914 when the street was paved with brick.

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Organizations

American Legion Auxiliary #387

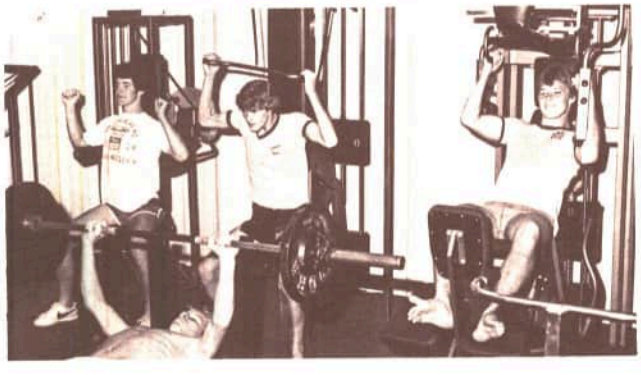
The charter is dated August 13, 1923. The president was Sophia Laufersweiler, Vice-President was Clara Busse, Mary Vallo was Secretary and Loretta Busse was the Treasurer.

The Auxiliary over the years has contributed to Veterans Hospitals, either money or material items, like gowns, lap robes, pads, bags, cards, etc. Community service includes assisting at Memorial Services, visiting shut-ins, visiting Auglaize Co. Home and presenting Christmas gifts to members of the community residing there. For over 40 years the Auxiliary sponsored a Santa Claus treat on Christmas eve. Flags are donated to organizations, cookies for the bloodmobile, Government tests offered in school, Buckeye Girls State, and its members are all engaged in volunteer work for the community, church and veterans, and also assist the Post in their endeavors.

The Officers for 1980-81 are Martha Arling, President; Mary Stueve, Vice-President; Sally Thieman, Secretary; Dorothy Riethman, Treasurer.

The Booster Club

By Marlene Sturwold



Knowing of a desire in the community, and the success of other towns in helping further the athletics of our young people, the formation of a Minster Booster Club was conceived in 1970.

Under the direction of the following dedicated charter members; Vic Baumer, pres.; Dick Zimmerman, vice-president; Bob Prenger, secy.; Vernon Nabor, treas.; Audrey Meyer, rec. secy.; Mark Wenning, publicity; Gary Watercutter, Vince Stricker, Sparky Baumer, trustees; the ground work was laid for the club.

These people saw a real need for a new athletic field. The years between 1970-1975 were formulative years spent projecting this idea into the community, gathering ideas, help and contributions.

The complex included a dual track and football field. A sprinkler system was introduced in 1970, cinders were placed on the track in the spring of 1971 and during the summer of 1975 the high jump and discus area was installed.

In 1976, through benefactors, bleachers were secured from Boujan Field, at the University of Dayton. A group of volunteers from Minster spent an entire day dismantling the bleachers in Dayton.

Through community pride and volunteers in cooperation, our Minster Memorial Field was completed and dedicated in the year of 1976.

We have a Nautilus program and building second to none, that we can all share and be proud to have. It is staffed by booster volunteers.

1980 officers were: Dave Ahrns, pres.; Leo O'Reilly, vice-pres.; Ester Meiring, rec. secy.; Ronnie Heitkamp, financial secy.

Anyone wishing to participate in the Booster Club, admission is always open, help is always needed, and new ideas help the club prosper.

Meetings are the second Thursday of the month at 8 p.m.

Cataract Fire Company

By Jim Winner



The fire bell for the old Cataract Fire Co. was removed from the company's old headquarters building and placed in front of the current fire department in 1977.

The Cataract Fire Company was formed about the late 1800's although current records only date back to 1929.

The name Cataract was chosen for the department because the term means a very large waterfall, a great downpour.

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Minsterite Joe Schemmel Sr., one of the oldest living members of the organization that is now a social one, joined in 1915.

He recalls that initially fires were fought by a bucket brigade. Later a horse drawn fire wagon and a hand pumper were used. The organization became a social one in 1928.

Current officers are Wilfred Riethman, President; Ken Heitkamp, Vice-President; Jim Winner, Secretary; and Dick Thaman, Treasurer.

Catholic Ladies of Columbia Council #211

The organization of the Catholic Ladies of Columbia, Council #211 of St. Augustine Parish took place at the K of C hall on November 4, 1946.

The officers elected were as follows:

President	Florence Grogean
Vice President	Rosella Hogenkamp
Rec. Secy.	Joan Heckman
Fin. Secy.	Juanita Wetzel
Treasurer	Bernadette Gaier
Trustee	Mildred Bruggeman
	Clara Belle Bertke
	Grace Warnock
Monitor	Frances Ahrns
Inside Guard	Vera Woehrmyer

The meetings were held the 2nd Monday of each month at the K of C hall.

In August of 1947 the CLC held a bake sale at the Legion Hall and also raffled a blanket to raise money to send to the missions. Members also saved and counted sales tax stamps which they redeemed for money, which was given to the missions.

The first initiation of the CLC was held on Nov. 16, 1947.

On May 10, 1948 the CLC held a linen shower for Rev. Boecke, who was starting a new parish in New Bremen, The Holy Redeemer Church. Father Boecke received many gifts for his new parish house. Several cake walks were held with the proceeds also going to Fr. Boecke for his new parish. Each year at the November meeting of the CLC the members would hold an auction of home baked goods, crocheted items, etc. made by council members. In the early spring a dance was held and also a bake sale. The proceeds from these events were used as follows:

Gift donations to: St. Augustine Parish house; Auglaize Co. retarded children fund; Minster Music Club; Polio Fund; Minster Athletic Fund; Our Lady of Mercy Hospital, Coldwater, for the Altar Fund; The Red Cross; The Franciscan Convent, British East Africa; furnish room at The Relic Chapel at Maria Stein; The March of Dimes; The Holy Father; The Cancer Fund; Donation for CYO softball uniforms. Bought Pro-Life books for the school library and also donated to the Ottawa Valley Rehabilitation Center.

In May 1963 it was voted not to give to Service Organizations as we are a mission organization. Since that time the proceeds from our dance were sent to the missions and also some given to our own parish for such things as a mass kit for home masses and also donations for stained glass window in the church entrance and for a video cassette recorder for religion classes.

In 1975 the first Oktoberfest was held in Minster. The CLC members voted to have a booth at the Oktoberfest. Each member was to donate 5 items (such as baked items) to be used as prizes for the paddle wheel. After two successful years, at the Oktoberfest, it was decided to cancel the dance and have the Oktoberfest as our money-making project for the missions.

After six successful Oktoberfest's with each member donating 5 items for our booth and many other generous people of our parish donating items to our cause we have been able to send the missions over $4,000.

As of May 1981 our membership consists of 80 members. Our monthly meetings are now held in the rectory basement the 2nd Monday of each month.

The first Sunday of December we have an annual mass for the living and deceased members of our council, which is followed by a breakfast.

Each January our meeting begins with a potluck supper followed by installation of officers.

The present officers of the CLC are (1981):

President	Mrs. Merlin (Mary) Bernard
Vice President	Mrs. Ted (Norma) Purpus
Treasurer	Mrs. John (Dorothy) Smith
Fin. Secy.	Mrs. Tom (Dorothy) Bensman
Rec. Secy.	Mrs. Roland (Mildred) Piening
Monitor	Mrs. Virgil (Alice) Moorman
Inner Guard	Mrs. Mark (Velma) Wenning
Cheer Committee	Mrs. Albert (Dorothy) Wolf
Scribe	Mrs. Ray (Lucille) Berning
Trustees	Mrs. Clarence (Virginia) Boerger
	Mrs. Robert (Rita) Heyne
	Mrs. Jim (Doris) Cordonnier

* Friday, April 25, 1924, The Minster Post: Mr. William Wolfred, manager of the Industrial Equipment Company's business brought to light a scrap of paper that once had value in this city and he gave it over into the hands of the Post Publishers as plunder for a short news story. The ruffled up piece proved to be a part of the "Minster Home Light" of the date of Saturday, October 6, 1888. This newspaper was a local commodity of more than 30 years ago and it was conducted according to the plans in vogue of that day and age. Mr. Wolfred uncovered it while making a cleanup about the building where his company's offices are located and he preserved it because he believed that it would have some attractions for people who have lived in this community for many years. It was so badly curled up and torn that it was almost impossible to read any of the newspaper items or advertisements although it was possible to make out the names of some businessmen who had patronized its pages. Mr. D. Ritter and Dr. R.A. Rulmann both carried advertising cards but they are about the only persons whose names could be made out when the paper was carefully spread over a table.

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Fraternal Order Of Eagles Aerie #1391



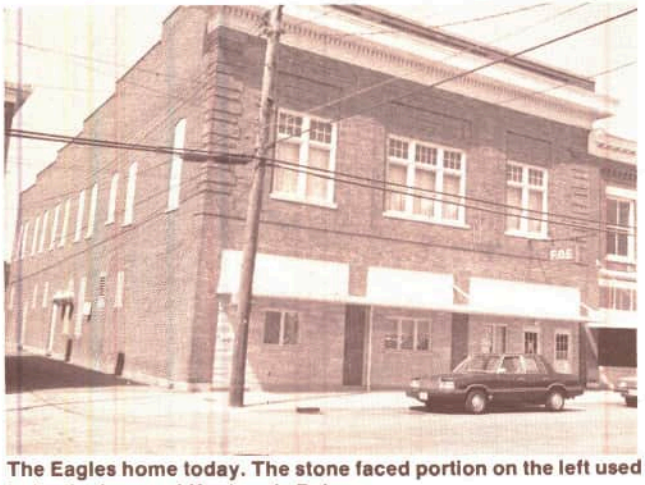
The Fraternal Order of Eagles was at one time housed in the building that today is occupied by The Dutch Mill on West Fourth Street. Pictured outside the Eagle Buffet are, left to right, Charles "Pert" Laufersweiler, John Hoelscher and Ben "Pit" Dorsten.



Eagles Park Dance Pavilion was built in the summer of 1920. (Bob Schmiesing photo).



Eagle Park - Spring 1976. (Bob Schmiesing photo)



The Eagles home today. The stone faced portion on the left used to be the home of Kuehner's Bakery.

The Minster Aerie #1391 Fraternal Order of Eagles is proud to be a part of this community and its one hundred fiftieth anniversary. We too are celebrating a milestone. Just 75 years ago the FOE was charted in Minster on April 26, 1906. Mr. Charles C. Reed was the deputy state organizer. The original charter listed 62 members. Today we have over 750 members from the entire surrounding area on our active roster. The first Worthy President was Joseph E. Schmieder.

The only permanent home site is still the present 50 x 107 feet two story building, at 42 West Fourth St. The Aerie purchased this site from George Schmieder for $1500.00, which at that time was thought to be a pretty extravagant price. The second floor was used by the Eagles for its meetings, private affairs of the Aerie, and also for dances. The lower floor was rented out to private businesses. In 1951 the Aerie opened its first social room in leased space, adjacent to our building, and above, at the time, Wagner Grocery Store. This soon became too small and it was decided to take over two of the first floor rooms. This was completed with much remodeling and redecorating on September 16, 1954. The social rooms remained much the same, until late 1979. At that time we took over the entire building and expanded the social rooms to its present beautiful surrounding. This was completed on May 1, 1980. The upstairs has also seen several remodeling programs, with the latest being completed in 1974. On September 28, 1952 a women's auxiliary, with Betty Budde the first Madam President, was formed to give additional support to the men. Today, under Madam President Rosalie Luebke, they have over 200 ladies that always have that extra hand when we need it so badly.

For many years, people from all over Ohio and parts of Indiana came to Minster to attend weekly dances by big band sounds at the Eagle Pavilion. The Pavilion was located on the present site of Eagle Acres, just north of Minster on State Highway 66. This consisted of 13½ acres of land, which was purchased for $3,333.33 from Henry Holliet in 1920. The original building was 80 x 100 feet. In 1922 a 20 ft. addition was added. Another 20 ft. addition was added in 1933. In 1936 the building was modernized to include inside restrooms. In 1938 a 40 x 100 ft. addition was added to the west side, along with a loud speaker system. 1955 saw the last of the major improvements, which when completed provided for seating of 850 patrons. Due to the age and some deterioration of the building, the expenses were becoming insurmountable. With no alternative, the end of a much famous and talked about era came to a sad ending in 1974, with the sale of the land, building, and all furnishings at a public auction.

Throughout these past 75 years we have always strived to uphold the four great principles under which the Fraternal Order of Eagles stand for. LIBERTY, TRUTH, JUSTICE, and EQUALITY. These are exemplified in our impressive Ritual of Initiation, given to all new members.

LIBERTY means individual independence-freedom from restraint by others. It is subject, however, to this restriction, that it must not interfere with rights and welfare of others.

TRUTH is "conformity with fact". It suggests fidelity, consistency, steadfastness, faithfulness and sincerity.

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JUSTICE is the object of government and civil society. It demands that government not only shall insure to its subjects, security of life and personal liberty but shall also grant them opportunity for the pursuits of happiness.

EQUALITY in the Fraternal Order of Eagles means that one or more members shall not be exploited for the benefit of one or more of the other brothers. All are equally free to express their opinions, make suggestions or stand for office.

Again we are proud of what we stand for, and are just as proud to be a part of this great community. Without you as a community, we could not survive.

The present officers (1981) are:

Past Worthy President	Don Bowerman
Worthy President	Lee Moeder
Worthy Vice President	Jim Winner
Worthy Chaplain	Francis Mader
Worthy Secretary	Ben Budde
Worthy Treasurer	Andy Poeppelman
Worthy Conductor	Bob Farno
Worthy Inside Guard	Pete Otting
Worthy Trustee	Dick Luebke
Worthy Trustee	Bill Ripploh
Worthy Trustee	Walt Fry

Jackson Township

By Clifford Kempker



Jackson Township Hall.

Jackson Township was organized from German township in 1858. This belonged to Darke County. The first permanent settlement was Minster in 1833. Francis Stallo of Mercer Co. founded Minster and for years it was known as Stallotown. Jackson township contains 19½ square miles.

Jackson Township, is situated in the extreme southwest part of the county. Its soil is rich and the farming community reflects the progressive and modern methods of farming.

Jackson Township is one of the four townships of the Joint Township District Memorial Hospital in St. Marys.

It was the first township in the county to enact township zoning.

The roads are blacktopped and maintained in excellent condition.

The Village of Minster is located in Jackson Township. Its manufacturing and industry are known world wide.

The volunteer fire department and equipment is maintained jointly with Minster Village. It has a Class Six (6) rating. The equipment is modern and updated regularly. The oldest fire truck is of 1961 vintage and newest is a 1978 model purchased in December, 1978. The Fire Chief is Don Lampert.

The following is a list of officers of the township since 1917.

Trustees: Henry Westerheide, 1918-1922; Casper Riethman, 1918-1920; Joseph Thieman, 1918-1920; Joseph J. Stueve, 1920-1924; Fred Steineman, 1919-1924; John Woehrmeyer, 1922-1926; Anton Meyer, 1924-1928; Joseph J. Stueve, 1926-1930; Fred Sommer, 1928-1932; Robert Steineman, 1930-1935*; Alex B. Meyer, 1930-1936; August Heckman, 1934-1940; Stephen Schmitmeyer, 1935-1940; Henry Senger, 1936-1938; Robert Bensman, 1938-1946; Fred Steineman, 1940-1948; Ferd Bockrath, 1942-1950; Ray Meyer, 1946-1954; John Enneking, 1948-1956; Henry Senger, 1950-1954; Joseph C. Stueve, 1954-1966; Elmer Bensman, 1954-1962; Albert Liesner, 1956-1964; Norbert J. Meyer, 1962-1977*; August Heckman, 1964-1972; Aton Woehrmeyer, 1966-incumbent; Adolph Tebbe, 1972-incumbent; Maurice Heitbrink, 1977-incumbent. Township Clerks: Julius Dillman, 1918-1924; Henry Senger, 1924-1934; Joseph Sommer, 1934-1937; John Sommer, 1937-1940; Urban Severin, 1940-1944; Walter Helmsing, 1944-1956; Clifford J. Kempker, 1956-incumbent. Township Treasurer: Edward Busse, 1918-1922; Lawrence Naber, 1922-1923

*Died in Office

The Kiwanis Club of Minster

By John Westerheide

The Kiwanis Club of Minster was formed in 1972 under the leadership of Carroll Grimm, who was acting Governor of Ohio Division B-E at the time. The sponsoring club was the Kiwanis Club of Fort Loramie, under the leadership of Lester J. Barlage, President.

A "Charter Night" program was held on Thursday evening, November 16, 1972, at the Union Hall in Minster. The charter officers installed at that time included the following: John B. Ahrns, President; Mike Meiring, 1st Vice President; John T. Westerheide, Secretary-Treasurer; and Trustees Larry Coppess, Roland Hausfeld, Thomas Schmiesing, Mark Wenning and Leroy Westerheide. A total of 29 members were inducted. The club's charter was presented to President John B. Ahrns by Harold Graafmeyer, Past Governor of Kiwanis Clubs of Ohio. The board of directors selected the Wooden Shoe Inn as their weekly meeting place, and the day selected was Wednesday, at 12:00 noon.

Some of the projects undertaken by the club include "Father's Day Chicken Fry", monthly "Fellowship Sunday" (the last Sunday of each month), "Palm Sunday Breakfast", "Red Cross Appreciation Party and Ladies Night", Planting of Christmas Tree in village park (decorated by the children of kindergarten through third grade), "Oktoberfest" weekend (a joint venture with the Jaycees), "Safety Patrol on Beggers Night", donation of $1,000.00 to the Minster High School Scholarship Fund Inc. started in 1979, year

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around "Popcorn Sales" (profits used for youth projects), to name a few.

Current membership stands at 46, and the 1981 officers are Jack Eiting, President; Paul Albers, 1st Vice President; Scott Kuenning, 2nd Vice President; John T. Westerheide, Secretary-Treasurer; Bob Donauer, Chaplain; Roger Bornhorst, 2 Year Trustee; Mark McCalla, 2 Year Trustee; William Farno, 1 Year Trustee; Tim Kuehner, 1 Year Trustee; and Ken Leugers, 1 Year Trustee.

Knights of Columbus Father Andrew Kunkler Council #2158

By Norbert Gudorf



History of K. of C. Home. Built by Frank Bernhold in 1935 with grand opening New Years Eve dance in 1935. Approx. cost $40,000.00 furnished. Bought by Louis, Samuel and Bessie Ostrou April 15, 1938. Leased to Myrtle Barnes in 1938. Leased to Mr. & Mrs. Cliffert Hemmert in 1944. Purchased by Mr. & Mrs. Cliffert Hemmert in 1946. Purchased by K. of C. April 13, 1948.

THE FORMATIVE YEARS (1909 - 1920)

In 1960, as the Knights were preparing for the 40th Anniversary celebration, the records somehow had been misplaced when the moved from their old headquarters on West 4th St. to their new home on North Main St. in 1948. After several weeks of searching, they were discovered in the loft of the town barn behind the present scout house. A large trunk was discovered among piles of debris. On opening the trunk, we found all the records of the Council's humble beginning.

Having no doubt, working silently and unnoticed, the first Secretary, John T. Haverbeck, left for our benefit and edification, a record so complete that most of this early history could not have been written without it. To him, then, we are indebted for the following information.

The first ripple of local interest in the Knights of Columbus must be attributed to a handful of men who, early in this century, affiliated themselves with the then recently established council in Wapakoneta, Ohio. According to the records, it must be remembered, that the meetings which were held here in Minster by this group, at that time, were somewhat of a social nature, as a sort of branch of the council at Wapakoneta.

To function as a true society, it soon became apparent that it would be necessary to adopt a set of rules and to elect officers. Minutes of a meeting held on August 18, 1909, read in part as follows:

"It was then discussed that the members of the K. of C. in Minster form an organization for the closer affiliation of its members. It was moved by Brother Dr. C.L. Dine that a permanent organization be established in Minster, which carried by a unanimous rising vote. It was then moved by Brother Dr. C.L. Dine and seconded by Brother T.B. Steinemann that the chair appoint a committee of three to draw up rules and a constitution for the government of this organization and to report to the chair when ready. Motion carried. The chair appointed Brothers Dr. C.L. Dine, Frank Schmuecker and J.T. Haverbeck to this committee."

"This committee reported to the membership at a meeting held on November 2, 1909, and the constitution and rules proposed by them were adopted at this meeting. They read as follows:

1. The name of this organization shall be K. of C. of Minster, Ohio.
2. Any K. of C. living at Minster is entitled to membership upon paying of regular dues and fees.
3. The object is closer affiliation among its members as Catholic men.
4. The officers shall be a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer, to be elected annually at a meeting called within the week preceding October 12th, Columbus Day, and the elected officers are to take charge of their respective offices at once after the election.
5. The officers shall control all arrangements for meetings of a social or other nature.
6. The annual dues shall be 25 cents per member to be credited to stationary and postage fund.
7. All money needed shall be contributed by each member for his pro rata share. Any contributions above the pro rata share shall be placed into a reserve fund which shall not be drawn on for any purpose for a period of three years from the date of organization.
8. Meetings and sessions are to be called by the president.
9. Members attending initiations or sessions out of town must pay their own expenses.
10. Additions to these rules or changes of any section except section 7 may be made at any meeting when (3/4) of the members are present and all vote in favor.

Officers: President - George Van Oss; Vice-President - T.B. Steinemann; Secretary - J.T. Haverbeck; Treasurer - C.H. Dickman; Committee on Constitution and Rules - Dr. C.L. Dine, F. Schmuecker, J.T. Haverbeck.

From these records, it can be ascertained, that at this point it was not yet an accredited, but rather a union entertaining such hopes and ambitions.

THE LIGHT OF DAY

For a period of ten years, this group struggled along without any noticeable change, but the meeting which was held on December 21, 1919, changed all that. The Secretary John T. Haverbeck recorded it as follows:

"The question of organizing a council in Minster seemed to be uppermost in the minds of the members present. It was stated that some of our neighboring villages were taking the question of organizing a council under careful consideration. It was moved by Brother Frank Schmuecker and seconded by Brother Frank M. Oldiges that a vote be taken on the question. Results: yes - 17; no - 2."

At this same meeting it was reported that the J.E. Schmieder building on W. 4th St. was for sale. On Dec. 22, 1919, it was agreed to purchase the Schmieder building for $4270.00. The purchase was finalized on Feb. 15, 1920. No doubt this must have been a first as to purchasing a home before the council was formally organized.

Father Andrew Kunkler Council No. 2158, of the Knights of Columbus gasped its first real breath of existence on the evening of Friday, June 11, 1920. This was the first actual step in the formation of the council. A class of 63 members received the first degree. On Sunday, June 13th this class received the second and third degree.

The first officers of the new council were: Chaplain

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- Rev. Anthony Pax; Grand Knight - Frank Schmuecker; Deputy Grand Knight - Frank W. Dine; Financial Secretary - F.M. Oldiges; Recorder - Henry B. Boecker; Treasurer - Charles J. Herman; Lecturer - A.H. Knapke; Advocate - C.H. Dickman; Physician and Chancellor - Dr. C.L. Dine; Warden - Urban Wetzel; Inside Guard - Lawrence Naber; Outside Guard - Charles Ahrns; Trustees - August Schunck, John Wernsing, J.W. Eiting.

Why was our council named Father Andrew Kunkler? This is not recorded in the minutes. However, it is no surprise as he was our saintly priest for thirty three years (1852-1885).

Like any new organization, the Knights had their financial problems, but through various fund raising activities, managed to survive. In 1942, a sound program for providing was started, namely Bingo though it was not legal. This made it possible to start activities to enlarge our membership. It also made it possible to remodel our hall in August of 1947 at a cost of $4200.00, making the hall into one big room and adding a new kitchen. In the same month the State Council Activities program was adopted with the following chairman:

General Program Chairman - Norbert Wilkens; Catholic Activity Chairman - Dr. L.H. Backs; Council Activity Chairman - Norman Stueve; Fraternal Activity Chairman - Raymond Kuhn; Membership Chairman - Arthur Mescher; Publicity Chairman -Joseph Borchers; Ticket Chairman - John Westerheide.

THE GOLDEN ERA OF OUR COUNCIL (1947 to 1960)

The above adoption of the State program in 1947 marked the beginning of an era of renewal to make our council one of the leaders in Ohio. In the summer of 1947, Brother Don Hoying was appointed to organize a softball program and Brother Robert Heckman was appointed to organize a basketball program. Brother Arthur Mescher, Membership Chairman, organized an aggressive membership program. The athletic program was limited due to playground facilities. At the November 13, 1947 meeting the Council approved a donation of $1,000.00 to start a fund drive for improving the school playing field and for a lighting system for night baseball. Brother Herman Streacker was appointed chairman of the fund drive which resulted in $35,000 in the first phase which resulted in a combination baseball and football lighted field. $2500.00 out of this fund was given to our high school coach to buy equipment for Minster High School's first football team. Over the succeeding years, an additional $20,000.00 was raised to complete what was considered one of the finest lighted fields for miles around.

The highlight of the athletic program came in 1950 when the K. of C. basketball team won the State K. of C. tournament. The members of that team were Brothers Richard Bensman, Wilber Hoying, Wilfred Hoying, Urban Bensman, Anthony Winner, Wilfred Bensman, Lindy Hoying, Paul Moorman, and Donald Hoying. Ted Purpus was coach, John Westerheide, timekeeper, and William Ripploh, Treasurer.

In 1953, bowling was added to the athletic program and in 1955 golf was added.

In the spring of 1950, the K. of C. Athletic Association was formed to coordinate the ever-increasing athletic activities. Vern Westerheide was elected President and Carroll Grimm, Secretary-Treasurer. From this point forward the K. of C. athletic program was put on a self-supporting basis through stag parties and dances.

We believe that our council had an athletic program not matched by any council in the State of Ohio. All the sports activities were 100% K. of C. sponsored and the participants were K. of C. members in good standing. The entire program was self supporting and more than 70 members were active in these programs.

With the above programs, plus many of the other council programs, our membership increased rapidly. In 1948 we obtained the century club with 105 new members brought in. By 1960, we peaked with 513 members.

With our expanding bingo program, we were able to rent the Wonder Bar in March of 1946 and due to their dances on Sat. and Sun., we changed our Bingo to Friday night. It had been on Sunday evenings. Our rent was abruptly cancelled when the owner of the Wonder Bar had a liquor application come up for review. On January 14, 1948, we resumed our bingo games at the Eagle & K. of C. Hall. In February, 1948, we were informed by Brother Hemmert, owner of the Wonder Bar, that his application was rejected. After negotiating with Mr. Hemmert for purchase of the Wonder Bar, for the sum of $20,000.00, it was presented at the March 11, 1948 meeting. It was approved and it was decided to offer our hall for sale. Both deals were consumated April 13, 1948. At the November 11, 1948 meeting, a motion was approved to build a kitchen and small meeting room to our new hall. The total cost was $9333.42. At the December 2, 1950 meeting, a motion was approved to sell 63 feet off of the east part of our land to Auto-Kraft Corp. for expansion of their plant.

THE 1960'S RE-DIRECTION

In the early part of 1963, St. Patricks and McCartyville members of council organized their own council. This took quite a few of our members and many of our athletic programs faded away. Today bowling is the only athletic program that is active. The athletic activities have been replaced by numerous charity, fraternal, and civic programs. The proceeds of the bingo program are given to tax exempt organizations including many religious groups and the needy. Our present membership is 290.

1970'S CONSOLIDATION

In 1970, the 2158 Home Corporation was formed and on Dec. 12, 1970, the Knights of Columbus Council 2158 transferred the property and land to the 2158 Home Corporation. The Home Corporation is in charge of operating and maintaining the property of the Knights of Columbus. The then trustees of the Knights of Columbus Council 2158 Walter Vondenhueval, Raymond Prenger, and John T. Westerheide transferred to the 2158 Home Corporation trustees Richard Lochtefeld, Richard Wuebker, Leonard Wuebker, Lester Bornhorst, John Albers, Ed Bohman, Cletus Horstman, Harvey Schmiesing, and Leo Albers. Richard Lochtefeld was President and Leo Albers, Secretary.

Present officers are Cletus Horstman, President; Lou Goettemoeller, Vice President; Joseph Stang, Secretary; and Vernon Vondenhuevel, Treasurer. In the last ten years, the Home Corp. have done an

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outstanding job of maintaining the property of the K. of C. and in 1978 made a major improvement with a new front, cloak and storage rooms for an expenditure of approximately $50,000.00. Those serving as President of the Home Corporation are:

Richard Lochtefeld 1970-1971; Richard Wuebker 1972-1979; Clete Horstman 1980-Present.

THE BROTHER KNIGHTS WHO HAVE SERVED AS GRAND KNIGHT

Frank Schmuecker 1920, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1928; Andrew Lampert 1920; Charles B. Heckman 1921, 1922, 1929, 1935, 1936; Harry B. Heckman 1926, 1930; C.H. Dickman 1928; Ben Lehmkuhl 1931, 1932; Leo A. Albers 1933, 1934; Urban Severin 1937; Harry G. Lehmkuhl 1938, 1939; Henry J. Hageman 1940-1941; Norbert Wilkens 1942-1943; Charles E. Bowerman 1944-1945-1946; Norbert H. Gudorf 1947-1948, District Deputy, State Lecturer, Faithful Navigator of the 4th degree; Arthur L. Huecker 1949; Walter Arling 1950-1951; Frank M. Oldiges 1952; Carroll E. Grimm 1953-1954; Vernon L. Steinke 1955-1956, Faithful Navigator of 4th degree; James O'Reilly 1957; Arthur Mescher 1958-1959, Member of 4th degree; Aloys Voskuhl 1960-1961, 1970; Paul Moorman 1962-1963; Paul Ritter 1964; Richard Lochtefeld 1965-1966, Faithful Navigator of 4th degree; Walter Vondenhuevel 1965-1966; Ray Prenger 1968-1969; Clem Enneking 1971-1972; Elmer Riethman 1973; Julius Bender 1974-1975, District Deputy; Oscar Eifert 1976-1977; John Schmiesing 1978-1979, Member of 4th degree; Joseph Wuebker 1980-81.

Present officers: Council Chaplain, Rev. Joseph M. Pax, C.PP.S.; Grand Knight, Joseph Wuebker; Deputy Grand Knight, Len Wuebker; Recorder, Adolph Hoying; Chancellor, Ray Prenger; Financial Secretary, Elmer Riethman; Treasurer, Art Bensman; Chaplain, Father Pax; Lecturer, Rich Wuebker; Advocate, Rich Lochtefeld; Warden, Bernard Stueve; Inside Guard, Art Drees; Outside Guard, Roger Wyen; Trustee, Oscar Eifert; Trustee, Lester Bornhorst; Trustee, John Schmiesing.

SPECIAL NOTES

In the early 1950's we had Father Richard Schwieterman Circle No. 1177, which was part of our council. It is a national organization dedicated to high school young men and its chief purpose is the promotion of Catholic leadership among young. During its brief existence in our council, its Chief Squire was Charles Cozad. Its Circle's Chief Counselor was Virgil Moorman. The Father Prior was Rev. Donald Vogl, assistant pastor of St. Augustine Parish.

The St. Gaspar Del Bufalo General Assembly of the fourth degree of the Knights of Columbus which encompasses the Sidney and St. Marys Deanery of the Cincinnati Diocese is served by this assembly. Their headquarters is the Minster Knight's hall. There is approximately 130 members.

The Father Andrew Kunkler Council 2158 of Minster has lived up to its high standard of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism over the unofficial and official 72 years of service to our church, community, and country and has met all the high standards set by its national organization which is celebrating its one hundredth birthday in 1982.

Such in brief, it an admittedly very sketchy history of the Father Andrew Kunkler Council No. 2158, Knights of Columbus of Minster, Ohio. In undertaking a task such as this, it is inevitable that various activities and events will be overlooked. It is also unavoidable that sufficient credit will not be given to many persons who in past and present have contributed so mightily to the successes of the organization. For these omissions and negligences, we offer our sincere apologies. We hope, however, that if we failed to recognize the many individuals who have been the flesh and bone of this council, we have, at least, paid sufficient tribute to the sterling qualities of courage and foresight, loyalty and devotion, charity and fraternity, that have been its soul and spirit. Names will come and go, old members will fade from the scene to be replaced by new faces, but the strength of character, the love of God and devotion to country, will, we trust, remain forever and will guarantee that generations to come will, in future years, enjoy the benefits of membership in or association with our beloved order. For what has been accomplished, our heartfelt gratitude to our Divine Commander. May our only reward be the reward which only He can give, which treasure "neither rust nor moths consume, nor thieves break in and steal".



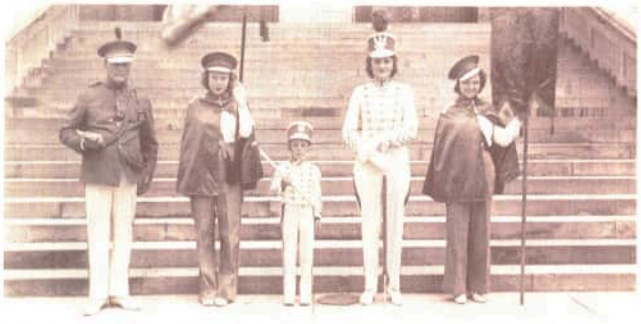
The "Wilkens" farm east of Minster about 1910. Left to right: Bernadine Wilkens, Dick Wilkens and Ferd Wilkens. In 1971 the Wilkens farm sold for just over $900 an acre to Cletus Thieman. It was reported that this was the highest per acre price paid for land in this area at the time.

* Effective January 1, 1970 Ripploh Meat & Grocery will go out of business. This building is presently occupied by Schmiesing Refrigeration. The Ripploh Market, a landmark in Minster since it was first opened by William Ripploh in 1875, has been a family operation since that time. Following the founder's death in 1932 four sons, Ed, Joe, August and Harry Ripploh took over the operation. The market later split into the present two Ripploh stores the other still being located on N. Main St. in Minster. The market was established in several locations throughout its 94 year history. It was founded on N. Main St. in 1911 and moved to Fourth St. at the location where H & S Market now stands. The grocery later moved to a location next to the Crescent Theatre and in 1926 was established in its present location on the corner of Fourth & Lincoln Streets.

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The Minster Band
1935 - 1941

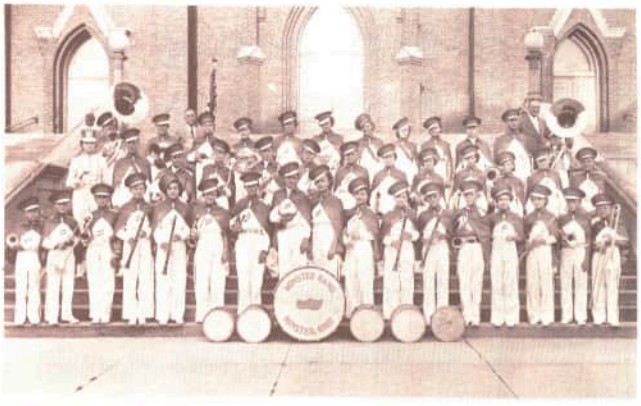
By Joan Heckman



(Left to right) Prof. Joseph DePere, Director, Rita Westerheide, flag carrier, Mascot Drum Major, David Heinl, DRUM MAJORETTE, Anita Busse, and Banner carrier, Ronnie Schwenzer.



Anthony L. Heinl, one of the organizers of the Minster Band.



Front Row - Donald Hoying, Leonard Wetzel, Roger Knob, Velma Oldiges, Mary C. Westerheide, Joan Heinl, Robert Bernhold, Robert Heckman, Anita Thieman, Teresa Wetzel, Geneva Dues, Tom Wetzel, Robert Stueve, Alice Heinl, Juanita Wetzel, John Wetzel and James Hoying. 2nd Row - Drum Majorette, Anita Busse, Arthur Meyer, James Westerheide, Elton Heckman, Wallace Wagner, Paul Meyer, Bud Busse, Adele Hoying, Lorena Dues, Ella Mae Wagner, Rosemary Oldiges, William Donauer, and Joe Dues. 3rd Row - Donald Piening, Louis Hefner, Vernon (Bud) Heckman, Mary Lou Bornhorst, Marty Sommers, Dorothy Heckman, Margaret Bruggeman, Rogene Laut, Audrey Frierott, Louis Hoying, Fred Ortman, Richard Niemeyer. In the Back - Manager, Mr. Tony Heinl on the left and Director, Prof. Joseph DePere on the right. This picture was taken shortly after the arrival of the new uniforms, in 1936.

The Minster Band was first organized June 28, 1935 through the efforts of Anthony L. Heinl, Harry B. Heckman, Fred Dorsten, Joseph Schwenzer and Louis Hafner. Mr. Heinl was selected as manager.

Heinl, along with his wife, Edith, operated a funeral home in Minster since 1931. He was born in Wapakoneta in 1890 and resided in that city before moving to Minster with his family.

Mr. Heinl played drums in the Citizen's Band of Wapakoneta. After moving to Minster, he discovered there was no band and decided to change that situation.

The band began playing together as an organization August 7, 1935 and held their first concert September 25, 1935.

The group's first concert appearance with new uniforms was conducted at the public square in Minster August 26, 1936. The new uniforms consisted of white trousers with gold braid trim, white ties with gold braid, white shirts, purple caps and capes, also accented with gold braid.

Uniforms were purchased by the Minster Band Mothers July 10, 1936. The supportive organization raised money for this purchase by sponsoring card parties and other fund raising events.

Uniforms were purchsaed at a little over $9 a piece, paying about $400 for the 43 members' new apparel.

The first Minster Band consisted of the following people:

Trumpet - Eunice Frierott.

Clarinets - Tom Wetzel, Velma Oldiges, Geneva Dues, Mary C. Westerheide, Teresa Wetzel, Paul Meyer, Anita Thieman.

Trombones - Lenord Wetzel, Fred Ortman, James Hoying, Richard Bensman, Donald Wendeln.

Cornets - Vernon (Bud) Heckman, Adele Hoying, Donald Hoying, John Wetzel, Lorena Dues, Rosemary Oldiges, Roger Knob.

Altos - Mary Lou Bornhorst, Louis Hefner, Dorothy Heckman.

Saxaphones - Elton Heckman, James Westerheide, Wallace Wagner, Robert Bernhold, Robert Heckman, Joan Heinl, Robert Stueve.

Baritone - Louis Hoying.

Piccolo - Alice Heinl.

Flute - Juanita Wetzel.

Malophone - Ella Mae (Mazie) Wagner, Marty Sommer.

Bass Sousaphones - Richard Niemeyer, Donald Piening.

Cymbals - Bud Busse, Connie Sherman.

Drums - Audrey Frierott, Arthur Meyer, Joe Dues, Rogene Laut, Margaret Bruggeman, Ruth Ritter.

Bass Drum - William Donauer.

OUR FIRST DRUM MAJORETTE - Anita Busse - - - - -1937 Norma Severin.

Flag Bearers - Ronnie Schwenzer and Rita Westerheide.

David Heinl, Anthony's four old son, participated in the band as a combined drum major and mascot. He was one of the first preschool drum majors in this area.

Many new members joined the group after their first concert in uniforms August of 1936.

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A.J. Bennett directed the band briefly followed by Professor Joseph DePere of Lima, a former Sidney band leader and member. DePere was director of both the Minster and New Bremen village bands and also conducted the Wapakoneta and St. Marys City bands. All four musical organizations played "en masse" at the Auglaize County Fair grounds Sunday, August 30, 1936 under DePere's direction.

DePere traveled from Lima each week. He charged a wage of $5, plus $5 for traveling expenses and 50 cents for individual lessons.

Band members gave manager, "Tony" Heinl a beautiful watch on his birthday August 10, 1938 in appreciation for the time and effort he donated to the organization.

Heinl continued to manage the Minster City Band until October 3, 1941, when the group was turned over to the jurisdiction of the local high school. Superintendent Fred Burns and Mr. Hopkins, Band Director, managed the band at the school.

Probably one of the most inspiring and enjoyable parades for the band members was the Peony Festival in Van Wert. The group was invited to the festival for many years and increased their musical knowledge through their experiences there.

About 40 bands were invited and given music pieces to practice in their home towns. During the festival all 40 or so bands gathered at a football field to play the same numbers under a single director.

One year the Minster band won first place in the parade competition. David Heinl was mascot drum major that year for the first time and was well received by both the judges and observers. The following year at the Peony Festival, many bands had added mascots to their line-up, hoping it would help them win a first place rating.

In reminiscing about the thrill of winning first place in the festival, Mr. Heinl was once quoted in a local newspaper as saying, "No trophies or money were given; the honor of placing first was the real award".

In 1972, Anthony "Tony" Heinl was honored as "Outstanding Citizen of the Year", largely due to his role in organizing the first Minster band in addition to his other activities in the community. This presentation was made during the Civic Association's annual Fall dinner-dance. Many of the original band members attended the event. The award was a complete surprise to Mr. Heinl.

Since his death in April of 1977, the Heinl family keeps his name associated with the local band by giving a "Tony Heinl Band Award" each year for service to that organization. Mick Giere, the present band director, makes all the decisions as to the recipient and the purpose of the award.

In 1980, the award was given to Ken Thieman and in 1981 Pete Schrepfer was selected as recipient.

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* In July 1924 voters in the village of Minster overwhelmingly voted for a change in the electric current from a 25 cycle direct current to a 60 cycle alternating current. The matter had been a point of contention and the subject of much discussion in the village since early in 1923.

Minster Boy Scouts

By Orville Borgert



The scout house at Fourth and Garfield street was extensively remodeled by the village of Minster in 1981.

The Minster Boy Scout Troop 44 was started in 1945, under the sponsorship of Minster Recreation and Playground Association. The original troop was under the leadership of Robert H. Bernhold - Scout Master and Howard Warnock - Assistant Scout Master with the following boys making up the troop membership:

Donald Backman	L. Behrns
Thomas Frericks	Tom Fogt
Nick Hogenkamp Jr.	Tom Holtzhauer
Robert Hoying	Harry Kohnen
Kurt Lammers	Don Oldiges
Dale Poeppelman	Ted Wilkens

Their original meeting place was the Minster Grade School. The Troop has had a continuing and on going conservation project of collecting used newspapers for the town and themselves since 1945. This project also serves as their main source of income, and is still used today.

The main purpose of scouting then and now is to provide for boys an effective program to build desirable qualities of character, to train in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and to the development of an American citizen.

On May 22, 1948 the foundation was poured for the original Scout House located on the corner of East Fourth and Garfield Streets. The approximate cost of the Scout House for materials was $3,500. Labor was donated by the following men:

Clarence Huelsman, Ed Wilkens, Ed J. Meyer, Robert Bernhold, Charles Bowerman, Donald Hoying, Charles Hoying, Louis Hoying Sr., Charles Heinl, Ed Oldiges, W. Wyen, S. Wyen, T.H. Will, Alfred B. Fisher, Joseph Kuhn, Lawrence Kemper, Vance Fogt, A. Westerheide, Aloys Bertke, Ed Sherman, M.C. Bernhold, S.H. Froning, Peter Boehmer.

The building was completed in January of 1949. They held their first meeting on February 3, 1949 with their parents invited. Meetings are still held there today. Ownership of the building has since been transferred to the Village of Minster. In 1981 the village completely renovated the Scout House. The Scout House is also being used by the Minster Girl Scouts.

The Minster Recreation and Playground Association sponsored the troop from 1945 to 1948. It was

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then taken over by the Knights of Columbus until 1971. The current sponsor is the Minster Civic Assn.

The following men served as Scout Master and Assistants:

1945 - Robert H. Bernhold, Howard Warnock; 1946 - Robert H. Bernhold, Herman Dillman; 1947 - Robert H. Bernhold; 1948 - Robert H. Bernhold, Herman Dillman; 1949 & 1950 - Robert H. Bernhold; 1951 - Robert H. Bernhold, Robert Hoying; 1952 & 1953 -C.E. Bowerman, Robert Hoying; 1954 - Herman Kolkup; 1955 - Herman Kolkup, Robert H. Bernhold; 1956, 1957, 1958 & 1959 - - Ben Martin, Robert H. Bernhold, Sam Love; 1960 - Ben Martin, Robert H. Bernhold, Ed Meyer, Charlie Huelsman; 1961 - Charlie Huelsman, Robert H. Bernhold, Ben Martin; 1962 - Charlie Huelsman, Robert H. Bernhold; 1963 & 1964 - Charlie Huelsman, Gary Grimm; 1965 - Charlie Huelsman, Gary Grimm, Carl Wieging; 1966 - Gary Grimm, Carl Wieging; 1967, 1968 & 1969 - Gary Grimm, Joe Berning; 1970 - Gary Grimm, Don Nagel; 1971 & 1972 - Don Nagel & Gary Grimm; 1973 - Don Nagel; 1974, 1975, 1976 & 1977 - Joe Eilerman, Dan Dunlap; 1978 - Henry Olberding, Orville Borgert; 1979 - Henry Olberding, Joe Berning, Orville Borgert, Gary Oldiges; 1980 & 1981 - Orville Borgert

Over the years, there were many committee members who donated their time and effort to Scouting that are not mentioned even though their help was fully appreciated. Carl Schmieder was one such individual who was recognized by receiving the Silver Beaver Award (1967). He is the only Minsterite to receive this award.

Minster Troop 44 has produced eight Eagle Scouts (the highest award available to scouts), and they are:

1948 - Ted Wilkens
1961 - Larry Kramer
1961 - Bill Walters
1969 - Jim Berning
1970 - Bob Walters
1971 - Mike Berning
1971 - Greg Bergman
1981 - Dave Heuker

The main event each year is a week long camp experience at Camp Lakota near Defiance, Ohio.

The Minster Civic Association

By Bud Swink

THE MINSTER CIVIC ASSOCIATION had its beginning in the early 1900's when it was first known as the MINSTER COMMERCIAL CLUB.

The object of the association is the same as when started, that is - to promote the general welfare of the village and the surrounding area. In the earlier years it was more of a businessmen's club, but in the later years, the membership has been rounded out to include all interested persons in all walks of life. More recent, area farmers have taken an interest in the association.

Seven members comprise the board, each with three year terms. The officers are elected by the board members each year before the January membership monthly meeting. The association is non-profit. Present membership stands at 100.

Prospective members may obtain information on joining by writing to P.O. Box 218 or contacting any member.

A Doctor Procurement Committee formed several years ago, resulted in finding needed doctors. This committee has also worked on plans for future needs.

Yearly donations to community programs and school activities are given as needed.

Minster Cub Scout Pack 44

By Bob Huecker

The Minster Cub Scouts were organized February 28, 1959. The sponsoring organization was Minster Eagles. Bob Hoying served as the leader under the title of Cubmaster. During their 22-year history, Minster has had 11 different Cubmasters. Bob Hoying, Carl Wieging, Jack Heyne, Charlie Hoying, Jim Hegeman, Don Hemmelgarn, Tom Oldiges, Harold Heuker, Penny Reilly, Gary Watercutter, and Bob Huecker.

The 1980-81 officers are Bob Huecker, Cubmaster, Paul Albers, Treasurer, John Kemper, Ed Lachey and Diane Hausfeld, Committee Members.

The American Legion is the sponsoring organization and the Pack Meetings are held in the Legion Hall the 1st Monday of each month at 7 p.m. There are currently 32 boys ages 8, 9, and 10 in the Minster Cub Scouts. These boys are divided into three dens which have weekly meetings in the Den Mothers Home. Rita Olberding, Barb Borgert, Mary Stein, Janet Luthman, Sue Prenger and Eunice Ernst are the Den Mothers. The 10 year old boys have their own den known as Webelo Den. They are led by Werner Schmiesing and Larry Kinninger.

Cub Scouting is a program of the Boy Scouts of America and has been in existence 51 years. The objective of the Cub Scouts is Character Development, Citizenship Training, Mental and Physical Fitness.

* Ever wonder why there are so many hard maple trees planted along Main Street? In 1961 the Minster Civic Association and the Future Farmers of America planted 100 of those trees.

* November 14, 1968. The Minster Civic Association presented its first citizen of the year award to Louis Hoying Sr.

* Friday, June 13, 1924, Minster Post: The Crescent Theatre closed its doors on Sundays in response to a demand from the Reverend Niles who is a field officer for the Lord's Day Alliance. He called their attention to the fact that the Supreme Court had declared that motion picture shows come under the head of theatrical productions and that as such they have no legal right to open up for business on the night of the first day of the week and commonly called the Sabbath.

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The Minster Gazebo Club

By Shirley Shenk

The Minster Gazebo Club was organized in the spring of 1978. The by-laws were adopted and the purpose stated: "The objects of the association shall be to promote and encourage talent and ability through the public display of local and area talent in the visual and performing arts; to provide entertainment for the enjoyment, relaxation, and enhancement of cultural experiences for the public; to make appropriate use of the Gazebo and the Village Park; to provide a well-rounded community; and to promote family togetherness.

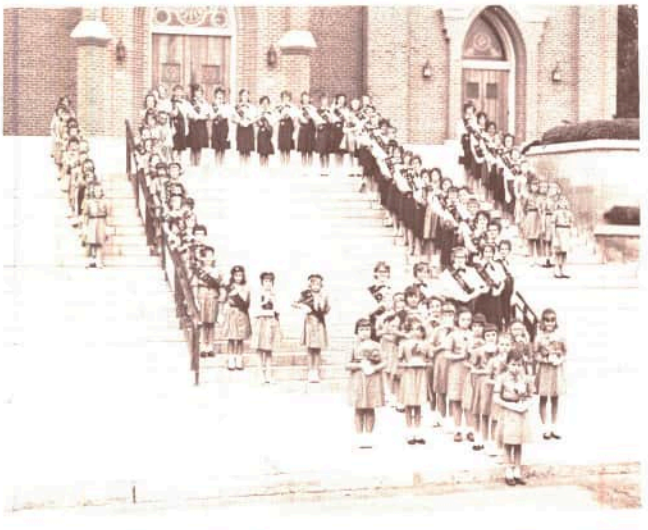
The Board of Trustees was established to "control and manage the affairs of the Association". Any person interested in promoting the purposes of the organization was enrolled as a member upon receipt of the $2.00 dues. These dues helped support the first "Gazebo Showcase" which consisted of four programs throughout the summer of 1978. The following year, contributions from individuals, businesses, and the Ohio Arts Council made it possible to expand the program. Ten performances were held on Sunday evenings from June 17 to August 19, 1979.

Because of the limited amount of funds and talent, the decision was made to have programs scheduled on every other Sunday evening in 1980. Five programs were held.

The Minster Gazebo Club does not necessarily operate as its name implies — "Club". Therefore in the future, this organization may change to a Minster Community Arts Council. But regardless of the name, the organizers hope to keep the purpose alive so that people of Minster and the area will continue to be entertained from the Gazebo in the park.

Minster Girl Scouts

By Donna Quinlin



In 1963 the Minster Girl Scouts took part in presenting a "living rosary" at St. Augustine's Catholic Church.

The first troops were organized in the Fall of 1960 by Mrs. Vernon (Jane) Busse.

The first Brownie Troop #324 was a group of 16 girls. Of the 16 original members, 8 completed the entire program & graduated as Senior Scouts (2nd grade thru 12th grade of school.) The girls were Jill Busse, Teresa Boerger, Sarah Froning, Marge Huecker, Denise Meyer, Jayne Sacksteder, Ann Wenning & Mary Westerheide. Mrs. Robert (Peggy) Etgen was the leader, Mrs. Irwin Baumer assistant leader. Mrs. Etgen remained as their leader for five years.

The 2 year Brownie program and a 3 year Junior Scouting program. This is followed by 3 years Cadet and 3 years Senior program taking in the years of 2nd grade through 4 years of high school.

Miss Paula Schmuecker took over as troop leader in 1966. She had been troop aide. After the girls graduated from high school in 1967 Mrs. Mark (Velma) Wenning became their leader, Mrs. Ray (Sharon) Barr assistant leader and Angie Heckman, aide. They remained their leaders through the remaining 4 years of the Scouting program and graduation.

One of the highlights in the early years of Minster Girl Scouting was the Living Rosary in 1963. Bishop Fulton Sheen suggested this, representing the World Missions. They would gather together and recite the rosary every week during the month of May asking for World Peace.

The first group of girls to reach the "First Class" level which is comparable to the "Eagle" award in Boy Scouts were: Terri Quinlin, Diane Thieman, Ruth Hoying, Jean Severn, Jane Brockman, Nicki Bergman, Betty Frericks & Ann Bender. They had joined as Brownies in the Fall of 1965 and attained "First Class" after completing all the requirements during their Junior & Cadet levels, climaxing in May 1973. Their leaders during this 6 year period were Mrs. Thomas (Donna) Quinlin and Mrs. Cletus (Sally) Thieman. Kendra Schnelle was an aide for 1 year and helped these two leaders get started. She had been a girl scout for 5 years.

May, 1975, another group of 8 girls became First Class Scouts: Sheila Heitkamp, Terry Wyen, Barb Wenning, Gay Huelsman, Terry Hoying, Jean Stueve, Karen Monnin, Dorothy Huecker. Their leader at this time was Velma Wenning.

"Our Cabana" the International Girl Scout Center in Mexico was visited for the first time by Minster Girl Scouts during the Summer of 1977. This group included Kelly Ernst, Cris Gudorf, Sheila Heitkamp, Dorothy Huecker & Kris Prenger. Mrs. William (Ann) Ernst was one of the 3 leaders accompanying the 16 girls. The rest were from New Bremen and New Knoxville (girls & leaders).

After 2½ years of planning, saving and hard work, 15 scouts traveled abroad during the summer of 1980, another first in scouting history for Minster. This 20 day trip included sightseeing through London, England, 10 days at the International Girl Scout Center, "Our Chalet" in Switzerland, on to Vienna, Austria and climaxing in Frankfort, Germany. Minster girls were Virginia Bender, Jill Fogt, Julie Monnin, Gretchen Grimm, Kris Westerheide and Michelle Quinlin. Chaperones were Mrs. Thomas Quinlin, Terri Quinlin, Beverly Poppe & Sheree Topp. Five New Bremen girls, Shirley Art, Linda Hoffman, Linda Stammen,

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Michelle Dicke and Brenda Schaefer also went.

Organization of Minster Girl Scouts Fall 1960:

Neighborhood Chairman 1960 — Mrs. Vernon (Jane) Busse; Second Grade (Brownie level) — Leader - Mrs. Robert (Peggy) Etgen, Assistant - Mrs. Irwin (Eileen) Baumer; Third Grade (Brownie level) — Leader - Miss JoAnn Dillehoy, Assistant - Miss Martha Seger; Fourth Grade (Junior level) — Leader - Mrs. Robert (Joan) Heckman, Assistant - Mrs. Ted (Norma) Purpus; Fifth Grade (Junior level) — Leader - Mrs. Thomas (Bernie) Froning, Assistant - Mrs. Jack (Marie) Eiting; Sixth Grade (Junior level) — Leader - Mrs. Orville (Annie) Winner, Assistant - Miss Mary Boecker, Assistant - Mrs. Elmer (Dorothy) Otting.

Neighborhood Chairmen: Jane Busse, fall of 1960; Mrs. Paul (Geneva) Kerber, 1961 thru 1969; Mrs. Roger (Jeannie) Perl, 1970 thru 1975; Mrs. John (Barbara) Schemmel, 1975 thru 1976; Mrs. Murray (Rose) Chalk, 1976 - present.

Minster High School Alumni Association

By Velma Schmieder

On February 23rd, 1937 a group of graduates of the Minster High School gathered in open meeting in the school building to discuss the organization of an Alumni Association. The meeting was well attended and ideas and opinions were exchanged freely. Those present felt that an association of this kind was much needed and their enthusiasm led to the formation of a permanent organization.

All graduates of the Minster High School are eligible for membership and shall become members by paying an annual fee of $1.00. Meeting to be held quarterly with the annual meeting sometime in May.

The officers elected at this meeting were: Velma F. Schmieder '15, President; Werner Heil '28, Vice President; Genevieve J. Dickman '22, Secretary; Hilda Frericks '14, Treasurer; Robert Hogenkamp '32, Thelma Laufersweiler Cull '19, Mary Shirack '27, Trustees.

An attempt to organize an Alumni Association had been made in 1918 and at that time a Constitution and By-Laws were adopted. This same Constitution and By-Laws were approved and adopted in 1937.

The first annual meeting, Dance and Reception was held in the High School Auditorium on May 29th, 1937. Music was furnished by Jack Walkup, Class of 1913, and his orchestra. Souvenir programs were distributed. The Treasurer reported a balance of $112.44 on hand. After the singing of Auld Lang Syne the grand march was led by the officers, then the Class of 1937, followed by other classes in order beginning with the Class of 1909.

Since that first meeting, the Alumni Association has continued and has been active and has given generous support to the school.

The object of this association today as in the past is to unite in common bond all graduates of the Minster High School. Proceeds from the Annual Alumni Association Dance help to co-sponsor with the Civic Association, the Scholastic Dinner. An annual contribution is also made to the Minster Scholarship Fund.

The current officers for 1980-81 are:

President	Ken Sommer
Vice President	Ken Heitkamp
Secretary	Connie (Swink) Heitkamp
Treasurer	Gayle (Meyer) Kuehner
Trustees	Brenda (Wuebker) Young
	Sue (Schmitmeyer) Bornhorst
	Don Kitzmiller

* The Superior Cigar Box Company was organized in the year 1911. Their first place of operation was in the building that is now known as the Crescent Theatre Building. The business was moved to the present site of the Minster Specialty Box Company when that building was built in the year 1914. In 1923 their average output per day was 5,000 boxes.

* Friday, August 8, 1919, The Minster Post: Service on the Minster-Loramie Railroad Discontinued. Running of passenger coaches over the Minster-Loramie railroad was discontinued by the W.O. lines during the last few days. This was in accordance with the decision of the State Supreme Court which ruled that the owners of the road, The First National Bank of New Bremen, is not bound to maintain the service which according to their statement was done with a loss. The mail if we are correctly informed is brought to Ft. Loramie by a mail carrier from New Bremen. Negotiations are entertained between Ft. Loramie interests and the Lake Erie and Western Railroad Company in order to have the said company run at least freight cars over the lines, but we do not know how far these efforts were successful or what will be the outcome. It is our sincere wish that our neighboring town may be so fortunate as to get some railroad connection with the outside world.

* The electric service in the village of Minster switched from DC service to AC service on Sunday evening, January 18, 1925. Businessmen regarded this as the most important movement that had been made in Minster since the time of the present generation of people. And it was believed that the advantages will be so manifold that the individual expenses will be regarded as of slight consequence. Minster was one of a very few towns in the country that was operating on a DC system and in fact the method had become so obsolete that officers at the local plant were finding it difficult to revive patrons with supplies to keep their domestic and business affairs in running order. At the same time boulevard lights or street lights were installed along the entire stretch of 4th Street in Minster. This would have been the first street lights within the village. There are 46 street lights distributed along the street. To operate the lights cost the village $3.31 per night.

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Minster Historical Society

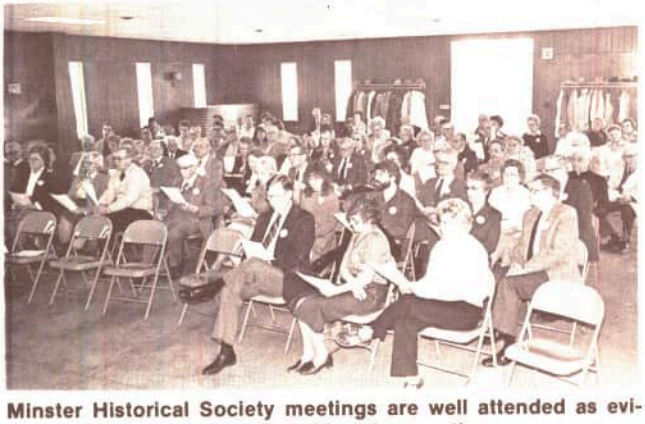
By Luke Knapke



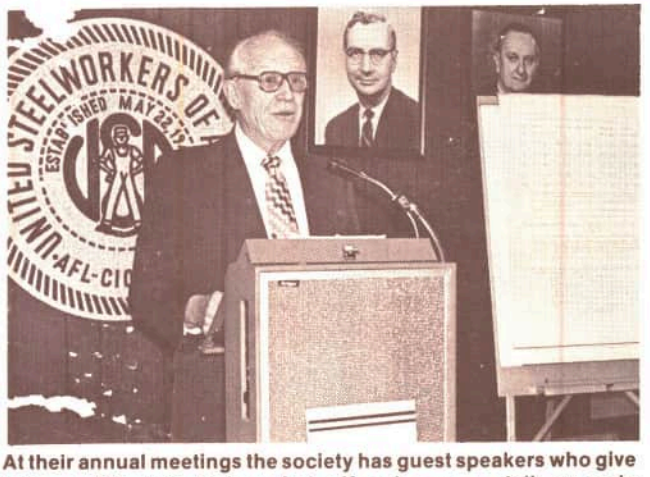
One of the activities of the local historical group is to present plaques to those people or groups who help preserve & restore the older buildings in the community. Here, Fr. Pax C.PP.S. (left) pastor of St. Augustine's church accepts a plaque from society president Dave Moorman.



Two items sold by the Historical Society to mark Minster's 150th year are shown here. Mary Oldiges (left) displays a special button and Mary Stueve shows the commemorative decks of cards.



Minster Historical Society meetings are well attended as evidenced by this group at the 1982 spring meeting.



At their annual meetings the society has guest speakers who give talks on Minster's history. Luke Knapke gave a talk on early Minster in 1982.



At the urging of the Minster Historical Society, village officials posted the old German street names once again in 1982. Ed Roetgerman erects a sign as Bob Lammers of the society (left) and Mayor Edmund VanOss look on.

The initial thrust towards forming a local historical group was an effort to preserve the old Minster Hotel building. This historic building was in need of much repair, but was offered by the Minster State Bank as a gift to a society which would restore it. A group of citizens, approached with this idea in January of 1976, made a formal application to incorporate The Minster Historical Society in February of the same year.

The first officers and trustees, elected in April of 1976, held many meetings with the public, with contractors, with representatives of the Ohio Historical Society. Finally, realizing that at least $50,000.00 would be needed to properly complete the restoration, and not able to foresee adequate financial support, the Society decided to abandon such plans.

This now left the fledgling Society able to devote its efforts elsewhere. It was soon decided not to attempt a museum-type operation, but rather to intensify a search for and preservation of old records, photographs, stories of our community and historical documents . . . all with the purpose of encouraging interest in and study of our heritage.

The Society has participated in all Oktoberfests with: parade entries; displays of old photos; displays of Minster Post reproductions; Germany trip raffles,

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operation of a booth, slide presentations; sound-film presentation (developed by Midmark); awards for Heritage Window Displays; and hosting Mrs. Sorber, great-great-granddaughter of Franz Josef Stallo.

They also microfilmed the Minster Post (1896-1965); sponsor a growing collection of funeral cards (about 8500); purchased all available US Census Records for three counties (1840-1900); purchased various maps, pamphlets and books (All of these items are available at the Stallo Library for historical and genealogical research.)

They present cast iron plaques for buildings restored in authentic fashion; conduct public meetings with programs of local historical interest; foster publication of early stories of our community, its buildings, businesses, institutions, citizens; reproduce old photos of general interest; sponsor local historical research by school pupils; encouraged and aided research of local buildings; assisted individuals and businesses in historical research; promoted and aided Sesquicentennial plans and programs.

Current officers are: David Moorman, Mary Oldiges, Mary Stueve, Albert Freytag, Steven Grimm, Luke Knapke, Velma Schmieder, Connie Schafer, Robert Lammers, and Roger Thieman.

Minster, Jackson Twp. Area Life Squad

By Vernon Naber

Enactment of a State law requiring more rigid training for persons handling sick and injured people, created a problem, because funeral homes decided to discontinue ambulance service on July 1, 1975.

This decision left the community and surrounding area without ambulance service, and therefore the Jackson Township Trustees and Village Council met in late 1974 to discuss the problem. The decision made was to notify the entire area, of the situation and call a public meeting for their input. Results of this public gathering was the beginning of the Minster-Jackson Twp. E M S Squad.

The persons in attendance at the initial meeting appointed a temporary chairman who conducted the proceedings in establishing an Advisory Directors and Squad Committee.

The function of the Advisory Directors was to take responsibility for funding the organization and to assist in any manner to help the organization operate efficiently. The Squad Committee officers took the responsibility to supervise the volunteers who make the runs and see that equipment is in good working condition.

The Advisory Directors, all volunteers, whose names appear on the Non-profit Incorporation Papers are: Chairman-Richard J. Kaiser, Vice-Chairman-Norbert Otting, Secretary-Vera Dorsten, and Treasurer-Charles Hoying, Trustees-Sue Clune, Helen Kempker, Marsha Oldiges, Thomas Schmiesing, Eugene Schmitmeyer and Charles Wolf.

They next proceeded to acquire finances and requested that if every family in the Village and township pledged $60 to be paid over three years all the required minimum equipment could be obtained. Volunteers canvassed the territory and initially collected $30,000. Within a year, sufficient donations were received from Fraternal and Civic associations, anonymous donors and the $25 fee for a run to have the debts retired.

The Advisory Directors contributed an innumerable number of hours to guide and establish an efficient procedure to keep the organization in a sound financial position.

The Present Directors as of April 1, 1981, are Richard J. Kaiser-Chairman, Rose Ann Beyke-Vice Chairman, Betty Gaerke-Secretary, Kenneth Olding-Treasurer, Trustees-Bernard Stueve, Ned Sielschott and Tony Wolf.

The duties of the Squad officers initially were to get the required persons trained to staff the vehicle and obtain the equipment to handle the assortment of calls expected. They interested thirty persons to take the first training course of sixty hours, and twenty more completed the training, attending classes on evenings and Sundays by May 25, 1975. This first group of volunteers or charter members were divided into two classes and are named below.

Richard Ahrns *	Ben Martin
Mary E. Brown *	Julia Martin
Kathleen Bertke *	Mike Missler
Ted Enneking	Vernon Naber *
Patrick Fullenkamp	Norma Otting *
James Hartings	Doris Prenger *
Dan Huelsman	Robert Prenger *
Emma Huelsman	Edward Prenger
Nancy Jay *	Bernice Westgerdes
Joseph Kappel	Daniel Westgerdes
Kenneth Kitzmiller*	Lois Wimmers *
Marjorie Kitzmiller *	Rose Mary Woehrmyer *
Herman Kohlhepp	Lillian Zimmerman *
Katherine Kohlhepp	Richard Zimmerman *

Second class completing the required training by approximately October 1975 were:

Donald Bohman	Susan Prenger
Kathleen Bohman *	Jeannette Schmiesing
Marvin Monnin *	Dorothy Smith *
Lawrence Murtz *	Norma Thompkins *
LaDonna Quinlin *	Marie Wendeln
Terri Quinlin	Mary Ann Weiskittel *
James Lehmkuhl	

Other persons subsequently taking the training and being active members on April 1, 1981 are as follows:

Betty Bergman *	Sue Doenges *
Terri Kemper *	Betty Huelsman *
Mark Eley *	Eugene Burke *
Marlene Tebbe *	Dave Stricker *
Ruth Hinker *	Betty Dahlinghaus *
Barbara Monnin *	Tom Meyer *
Dave Moorman *	Ruth Bitler *
Dolores Fortman *	

* Designates active members on April 1, 1981.

The organization serving with volunteers has over the past five years gained the respect of the citizens, by responding in a professional manner to all types of calls and treating the patients within the scope of their training at all times of the day and night.

This has been a community project and the future will prove it to have been worthwhile. New volunteers will always be needed and hopefully will always step forward to adequately staff the squads.

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Minster-Jackson Township Fire Department

By Linus Hausfeld



This building was constructed and dedicated as the Minster-Jackson Township Fire Department in 1974. It also houses the Minster Area Life Squad.

Fire protection for the village became a reality about 1872 when the Citizens Fire Company was formed by "men strong enough to render service on emergency occasions." In those days when the fire bell rang the able-bodied men grabbed their buckets and headed for the fire. It didn't take long for the village council to purchase a hand pumper for use at a fire.

Minster resident Joe Schemmel, now 90 years old, remembers those hand pumpers. He joined the village's second fire company, known as the Cataract Fire Company, in 1915 and says the company was formed about the turn of the century. "Cataract had a hand pumper too," relates Schemmel, "and with eight men pumping on each side it could shoot a sizeable stream of water." "As the firemen began to tire the stream would diminish," chuckled Schemmel.

Cataract's fire station was where the present Edmund Morsey house now stands at 22 S. Main St. It was a frame building with a second floor meeting room. There were 60 men in the company and each paid 10 cents dues at monthly meetings at which not much was accomplished except talking and playing cards, remembers Schemmel.

The charter members of the department had blue uniforms with brass buttoned coats and billed caps.

A village ordinance passed by council March 16, 1928 created the Minster Volunteer Fire Department and authorized the mayor to appoint a chief for two years with the rest of the department to be volunteers. At that time it was the intent of the Village Council to purchase a motorized piece of fire equipment.

In January 1929 the Citizens Fire Company located at the corners of Fourth and Hanover Sts. decided to disband and the company's treasury of $200 was divided among its members.

The Cataract Fire Company disbanded as an active fire department when the Minster Volunteer Fire Department was formed, has since been just a social organization, meeting four times a year.

When the new fire department was created in 1928, located at the old Citizens Fire Department, its only piece of firefighting equipment was a Reo fire truck. On August 18, 1939 due to a new state law requiring townships to provide fire protection for property owners, Jackson Township Trustees entered into a contract with the village fire department to provide fire protection in the township.

That same year two International fire trucks were purchased, one with 500 GPM pump and a 350-gallon water tank for village fires and the other with a 400 GPM pump and a 500-gallon water tank for rural fires.

In 1956 the name was changed to Minster-Jackson Fire Department. In that year, a 1956 F800 Ford 600 GPM pumper was purchased through joint purchase by the trustees of Jackson Township and Minster Village council. With joint ownership of the fire department equipment, the name was so changed to reflect proper identification.

A new fire station was dedicated on Oct. 13, 1974 at 5 West Fourth St. and it has a meeting and training room, chief's office and radio room, apparatus room which currently contains the following equipment:

1978 Hahn tanker body with Warner-Swansey cab and chassis and a 1,250 GPM pump. 1972 Ford pumper with 1,000 GPM pump. 1962 International pumper with a 750 GPM front mounted pump. 1976 Chevrolet Rescue and equipment truck with the latest of essential equipment for heavy rescue work.

Also housed in the fire station is the emergency ambulance of the Minster Area Life Squad, an independent organization.

The department has fire protection responsibility for about 26 square miles and has mutual aid contracts with surrounding fire departments for help with major fires or when other special services are needed.

The Minster Fire Department has had the following men serve as Fire Chiefs. The first was George Clune who served until 1939. In 1939, the Fire Department decided to elect and have a fire chief for shorter terms. The following served from 1939 to 1944. Clarence Busse, Anthony Heinl, Frank Schmuecker, and Edwin Meyer. In 1944 Ralph Poeppelman was elected chief and held that position until his retirement in 1968. Linus A. Hausfeld who served as assistant chief since 1960, was elected fire chief. Chief Hausfeld served as chief until his retirement on Sept. 19, 1981. Upon his retirement Donald Lampert became Fire Chief.

1981 department personnel presently consisted of Chief Linus Hausfeld, Chief-Designated Donald Lampert, Assistant Chief Virgil Arling, Platoon Chief Jerry Eilerman, Captain Douglas Hausfeld, First Lieutenant Ralph Voskuhl, Second Lieutenant Kurt Kremer, President Dale Dues, Vice President Jon Woehrmyer, Secretary Bud Winner, and firefighters Jerry Arling, Roman Baumer, Norman Bertke, Joseph Bruns, Jack Buscher, Roland Hausfeld, James Hinker, Bob Kemper, William Luthman Jr., Ted Meyer, Henry Olberding, Eugene Phlipot, Edward Roetgerman, Robert Schmiesing, Mike Schwartz, and Robert Wente.

The department keeps itself updated on the latest firefighting techniques with monthly training and meeting sessions and weekly maintenance training sessions for alternating crews.

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* In 1877, the Lake Erie & Western Railroad came to Minster.

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Minster Jaycees

The Minster Junior Chamber of Commerce was officially formulated on October 23, 1962 with 42 charter members. Charter officers were: President, Joe Sherman; Int. V.P., Ed Schubert; Ext. V.P., John Bitler; Trustee, Tom Feldman; Treasurer, Ken Heitkamp; Secretary, Richard Ahrns, Jr.; Director, Don Deters; Director, Leo Finnen. Prior to official acceptance into the Jaycee fold the local chapter had started several projects for the community: the foremost being the teen-age dances for the High School students after the football and basketball games.

The chapter saw many community action projects started that year with the re-opening of the Crescent Theatre as one of the prime projects completed. Another annual project started was the light-bulb sale, which added much needed revenue to the budget.

At the end of the first year's programming the Minster Jaycees were the recipient of the "Outstanding New Jaycee Chapter" for Ohio. This was mainly due to the programming in community development and internal affairs.

Over the years the Minster Jaycees have completed numerous worthwhile projects for the benefit of the community. One project that continues today is their co-sponsorship of the organization and running of the Minster Oktoberfest celebration each year.

1981 officers are: Ken Wuebker, President; Dale Mescher, Internal Vice President; Dan Westgerdes, External Vice President; Fred Sommer, Secretary; Gene Ranly, Treasurer; Dave Kemper, State Director; and Al Homan, Local Director.

Minster Livestock 4-H Club

By Judy Dircksen

The Minster Livestock 4-H club had its beginning in April, 1952 as the Minster 4-H Calf Club. The first officers and advisors were: President - Tom Liening, Vice President - Mary Jane Beckman, Secretary - John Wuebker, Treasurer - Dale Sharp, Recreation Leader - Louis Albers, Reporter - Lester Albers, Advisor - Bill Beckman, Ass't. Advisor - Charles Steinemann. Chairman for this meeting was Phyllis Kilmer.

The name of the club was later changed to the Minster Livestock 4-H Club as members acquired other animals and projects. There are presently 57 members in the club.

Present officers and advisors are: President - Brian Thobe, Vice President - Mark Knapke, Secretary - Regine Hoying, Reporter - Diane Thobe, Recreation Leader - Steve Liening, Treasurer - Jill Feldman, Health - Tom Wehrman, Safety - Kevin Osterloh, and Energy - Jay Feldman. Advisors are: Thomas Dircksen, and Dave Osterloh, Ass't. advisors are Ken Thieman, Woodworking; Doug Zelinski, Photography; Judy Dircksen, Me, You, and Others, TLC, and Living and Learning With Children, and Teen Scene.

Projects include livestock of all kinds, human development programs, fishing, woodworking, field crops, creative arts, and photography. Projects also include dyeing Easter eggs, Speak up for Safety Contest, team and individuals giving demonstrations at the Auglaize County Fair, swimming and skating parties, and a family picnic.

The club also sells cabbage rolls, coffee and souvenirs at the Oktoberfest.

St. Augustine Choirs

By Luke Knapke



St. Augustine Men's Choir in 1981 with Luke Knapke, director and organist.

Our ancestors brought with them a strong faith and a desire to worship God with song. That they soon organized choirs is evidenced by a comment of an early pioneer in 1839 which says, "Our farmers sang the Magnificat and they sounded very fine." Undoubtedly these were mixed choirs. Over the years various children's choirs were regularly used as well.

In 1907, in accordance with the "Motu Proprio" of Pope Pius X and the directive of the U.S. bishops that women no longer be allowed to sing in choirs, the present St. Augustine Men's Choir was established by Mr. F.J. Boerger. This was not a popular move, but local churches had no choice but to comply with the new ruling and the new Men's Choir made its debut on Easter Sunday of 1907. The next issue of the Minster Post reported: "The new Men's Choir sang here at Mass last Sunday for the first time. They sounded quite nice, but the women's voices were missed, and one cannot so soon forget them."

In 1912 Professor Boerger left Minster to become organist and choir director at Sacred Heart Church in Indianapolis. Mr. Anthony H. Knapke became organist and choir director here in June of the same year. Under his guidance the choir became firmly established and gained a reputation for its outstanding ability. In 1917 the St. Augustine Men's Choir was organized as a permanent parish society and since then has operated under a constitution with regular meetings and monthly dues. In June, 1932, F.J. Boerger along with some of his choir members from Indianapolis returned here to help celebrate the choir's silver anniversary with a special church ceremony followed by a social gathering.

The Choir was saddened by the untimely death of Anthony Knapke in April, 1943. His leadership and persevering guidance had led to the notable success of the group, and would be sorely missed. Because of its fine spirit and solid foundation however, the Choir was able to function despite the handicaps of war time

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conditions, with many members in the armed services and without the services of a permanent director.

Fr. Otto Mueller, with his devoted interest and discriminating appreciation of good music, contributed much to the success of the Choir at this time, and beginning with Christmas of 1945 hired Luke B. Knapke, newly returned from military service, a son of Anthony Knapke, to take charge. In September, 1948, Mr. Knapke took leave of absence to forward his musical education. Fr. Mueller then secured the services of Mr. Adolph L. Morman.

In 1950 a new epoch in the Choir's history began when Mr. Luke Knapke returned to serve as director with Mr. Morman as organist. This proved to be an ideal arrangement. It was during this period that the Choir celebrated its 50th Anniversary on July 28, 1957, with a special morning Mass and with an evening banquet for members, their wives, and guests consisting of former pastors and assistants and members of other men's choirs of the area.

Mr. Morman gradually devoted more and more of his time to a new business until in 1961 he moved to Toledo to work fulltime for Field Enterprises. At this point Luke Knapke resumed all of the duties of organist and choir director.

Success in choir work depends on the inspiration and effort of the leader and the cooperation of the members. The Minster Choir is outstanding in this regard. The members consider it a distinct honor to belong. Attendance at weekly rehearsals is excellent, and the spirit is one of unity and purpose. Being continuously available for regular and special divine services is, of course, the purpose of the choir. However, many extra experiences over the years have done much to contribute to the spirit of our Choir.

During its history the Choir has presented numerous programs such as operettas and concerts. The group has combined with other choirs, from Cincinnati, Dayton, Indianapolis, Celina, Wapakoneta, Glandorf and St. Joseph's College among others, for liturgical and social functions and concerts. It has responded to numerous requests of organizations of the area to provide music for anniversaries and social functions. These activities have served well to unify the group and enhance its vitality, enthusiasm and esprit de corps.

Over the years the Men's Choir has combined with the Children's Choir - currently the 50-voice Girls' Choir - for the more important liturgical celebrations of our parish with exemplary results.

During the 1950's Fr. Meyer encouraged the formation of a Ladies' Choir to provide singing during the Sunday 8:30 Low Mass. This group served until liturgical requirements were changed by Vatican Council II upon which it was disbanded. In recent years a new Ladies' Choir has been faithfully providing music for funerals in our parish.

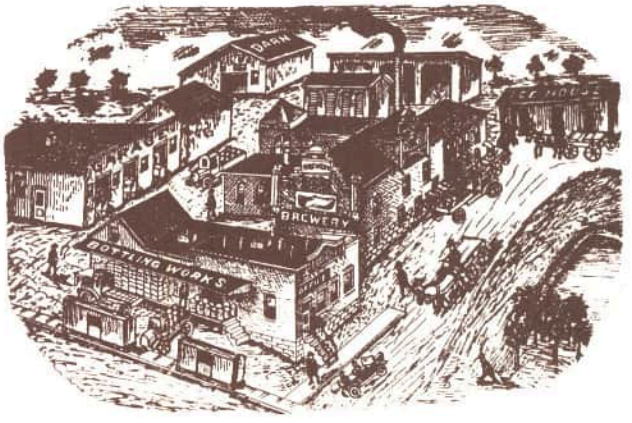
In charge of St. Augustine's Choirs have been:

1850-52	Bernard Niehaus (earliest identified)
1852-58	Charles M. Schertzinger
1853	Conrad Niehoff (3 months)
1858-67	J. Henry Renfort
1867-70	C. Becker
1870-73	Nicolaus Collett
1873-80	J.V. Schiffer
1880	Emil Tidner (a few months)
1880-95	John Horst
1895-1912	F.J. Boerger
1912-43	Anthony H. Knapke
1943-45	Mr. Kessler, Sr. Solina, Francis Kinney, Rita Magato, Mrs. Gudenkauf
1945-48	Luke B. Knapke
1948-61	Adolph L. Morman
1950-81	Luke B. Knapke

Note: It was recently learned that Mr. Gerhard Panning directed the Minster Choir when it sang for a special High Mass on January 6, 1840 at St. John for the Feast of the Epiphany.

St. Augustine Men's Choir - 1981

Luke Knapke	Jim Brown
Jim Cull	Denny Hemmelgarn
Jess Doenges	Nick Hogenkamp
Ron Eiting	Gary Oldiges
Ben Hemmelgarn	Dan Ranly
Bob Huecker	Paul Ranly
Jim Kronenberger	Don Schmitmeyer
Denny Meyer	Jerry Wissman
Tom Froning	Dick Kaiser
Harold Heuker	Rich Kemper
John Kemper	Paul Moorman
Bob Knapke	Roger Schoch
Paul Maltinsky	Ben Thieman
Dave Moorman	Mel Vallo
Jerry Ranly	Len Wuebker



An old drawing of Star Brewing Co.

* The Minster branch of the Diesel-Wemmer Co. cigar manufacturers began operation in Minster July 23, 1917. They employed 23 people when they began operation. By the end of the first month of business they had manufactured a total of 83,000 cigars. In 1923 their monthly output was at least 315,000 cigars. In 1925, an announcement was made in Minster by the officers of the Deisel-Wemmer Cigar Co. that the company was out of business in the Minster plant.

The building that was occupied by this company is owned by the Superior Cigar Box Company. Some of the women who were employed in the cigar shop will be added to the payroll of the box factory.

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St. Augustine Orphan Society

By Clifford Kempker

In 1849 the Cholera epidemic swept through Minster claiming 247 victims, and left very many orphans.

On May 26, 1850 a group of men met to determine what could be done in regards to this situation. A Society was formed to care for Orphans and held its first meeting on August 28, 1850, after attending a High Mass in the St. Augustine Church.

The men starting this Society incorporated it under the laws of the State of Ohio, by an Act of the State Legislature, and are named in the Act.

> "Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio, that J.M. Drees, Anton Vagedes, Bernard Wendeln, B.H. Adel-Meier, J.P. Schmieder, B.A. Kooper, H.H. Helmsing, J.H. Steinemann, of the town of Minster in the County of Auglaize, together with such, as may hereafter be associated with them, be and they are here-by declared a body corporate and politic, by the name and style of the St. Augustine Catholic Orphan Institute of Minster in Auglaize County with perpetual succession and capacity of contracting and being contracted, with sueing and being sued, of answering and being answered, of pleading and being impleaded, defending and being defending and being defended in all the courts of law and equity in this State."

With sections 2 thru 6 specifying the number of Officers and terms of Office, the annual elections and other requirements of the Society, including the power to make and execute rules and regulations for the government of the Society.

This Act was signed by:

John F. Morse
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Charles C. Convers
Speaker of the Senate

February 7, 1851

Secretary of States Office
Columbus, Ohio, March 1, 1851

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a correct copy of the original roll on file in this Office.

Henry W. King
Secretary of State

A Constitution was formulated, this detailed the duties of the various Officers of the Society, admission of members, fees of members, care of Orphans, etc.

The annual dues of the Society were set at fifty cents per year, this figure has never been increased.

The Society has had no Orphans to care for, for many years. However the financial aid of the Society is still geared to help children in need. The major recipients being the Auglaize County School for Retarded Children, Joint Twp. District Memorial Hospital Teddy Bear Fund, Miami County Rehabilitation Center and other cases of need.

The present Members and Officers of the Society owe many thanks to the Founders and all of the past Officers for the competent and conscientious maintenance of the records, especially to the late Frank Meiring, a past Secretary who must have spent endless hours translating many of the records from German to English. The present officers (1981) are, Clifford Kempker, President, Cletus Koverman, Vice President, Marvin Huber, Secretary, Mike Meiring, Treasurer, David Hackemoeller, Trustee and Leonard Schmiesing, Trustee.

St. Boniface Commandery No. 270, Knights of St. John

Through the cooperation of some good Catholic men among the citizens of Minster and parishioners of St. Augustine Church, a meeting was held on September 17th, 1895 for the purpose of organizing a Knights of St. John commandery in Minster. Rev. Albert Voag, pastor of St. Augustine parish, was chosen to be the Spiritual Director. An application for a Charter was then sent to the Supreme Secretary, M.J. Kaue, Buffalo, N.Y. Supreme Commandery, Knights of St. John.

On September 24th, 1895, a Charter was granted by the Supreme Board and known as St. Boniface Commandery No. 270 of Minster, Ohio. The following members signed the Charter: Frank Schmuecker, Sr., Charles F. Herkenhoff, August W. Herkenhoff, Dr. R.A. Rulman, C.H. Dickman, J.H. Wilkens, J.B. Meyer, Frank Sunderman, Fred Goecke, John Wernsing, Barny Sherman, and Henry Zumbrogel. By the hard work and good leadership of these men, the membership grew in large numbers. On December 9th, 1895 of the same year, a Uniformed Rank was organized with twenty-eight members entering in the military activities of the organization, taking part in many church functions, conventions and street parades. The Knights of St. John is a fraternal organization, having sick benefits and insurance. Commandery No. 270 holds their meetings regularly on the second Monday of each month in the Jr. high school.

Officers for the year 1981: President, Vernon L. Gudorf; 1st Vice-President, Aloys Bertke; 2nd Vice-President, Leonard Thieman; Recording Secretary, Walter Thieman; Financial Secretary-Treasurer, S.H. Froning; Trustees, Edward Sherman, Camillus Droesch, Albert Seger.

St. Boniface Ladies Auxiliary Knights of St. John

The St. Boniface Ladies Auxiliary #265 of the Knights of St. John was organized January 26, 1932 with 55 original beneficiary charter members as follows:

Ahrns, Frances
Baumer, Bernadine
Budde, Belle
Boecker, Celia
Brandewie, Louise
Busse, Henrietta
Bensman, Dorothy
Busse, Jane
Busse, Mathilda
Bruns, Marcella
Bornhorst, Nora
Kemper, Alvina
Knostman, Fannie
Meyer, Alvira
Massing, Clara
Morsey, Anna
Nagel, Cecilia
Nagel, Odelia
Naber, Elizabeth
Osterloh, Rose
Oldiges, Celia
Piening, Agnes

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Dues, Katherine
Dues, Alvira
Dorsten, Gladys
Dickman, Genevieve
Donauer, Carrie
Froning, Florence
Frey, Isabelle
Garman, Ida
Hoying, Tharsilla
Hegeman, Irene
Hogenkamp, Rosella
Hogenkamp, Carolina
Heckman, Alice
Herkenhoff, Loretta
Heyne, Lorena
Kamper, Bernadine
Kuhn, Bernadine
Poeppelman, Ida
Riethman, Philomena
Stueve, Emily
Schwieterman, Leona
Sommers, Anna
Schmieder, Velma
Seger, Leona
Schwieterman, Mary
Streacker, Marie
Thieman, Bernadetta
Vallo, Margaret
Vallo, Velma
Wendeln, Viola
Weiskittel, Agnes
Westerheide, Laura
Wissman, Stella

The original officers were as follows:

Genevieve Dickman, Pres., Bernadene Kuhn, Rec. Secy., Isabel Frey, Fin. Secy. and Gladys Dorsten, Treas.

The organization was formed as an auxiliary to the Knights of St. John through the efforts of Charles Ahrns and Sylvester Froning. In 1936, the Ladies Drill Team was organized. They performed for many formal and parade functions. The number of members grew rapidly in the years following and has continued to function as a charitable, fraternal and social organization for Catholic women. Its charitable function has been primarily to support mission work through local religious members.

Over the years, the organization has held their meetings in the old Knights of St. John Hall, the Eagle Hall, the Knights of Columbus Hall and presently meetings are held the fourth Monday of each month in the St. Augustine Rectory Basement. The present officers (1981) are: Eleanor Stueve, Pres., Eleanor Wuebker, Rec-Secy., Edna Enneking, Fin. Secy. and Vera Boekman, Treas.

St. Monica Sodality

This Sodality was organized in 1848 and was first known as the St. Theresa Society. In 1914 the name was changed to the present one. The purpose of the Sodality is the beautifying of the church and altars and to help provide articles used in church, also vestments, cassocks, surplices and whatever else is needed.

As this is a Catholic society, the resident pastor has the spiritual direction of same.

Seven members are elected every two years to serve as officers, four as council, one president, one secretary and one treasurer.

This society has given much to the church, the most memorable of which was the gift of the clocks in the towers.

The officers were:

Mrs. John Feldman	President
Mrs. Fred Steinemann	Secretary
Mrs. August Luckman	Treasurer

The present officers for 1981 are:

Mrs. John (Margaret) Slonkosky	President
Mrs. Ben (Joan) Stueve	Vice-President
Mrs. Walter (Rita) Harting	Secretary
Mrs. Ronald (Betty) Gaerke	Treasurer
Mrs. Dale (Shirley) Sharp	Council Members
Mrs. Nick (Thelma) Hogenkamp	
Mrs. Waldo (Norma) Burchett	
Mrs. Mark (Sharon) Brandewie	
Mrs. Jerry (Betty) Huelsman	
Mrs. Ray (Betty) Bergman	
Mrs. Ken (Veronica) Heitkamp	
Mrs. Vernon (Vera) Eilerman	

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6432

The Charter of William Thieman, Jr., Memorial Post 6432 was established March 31, 1946.

Joe Miller and Bob Brinkman were instrumental in organizing the VFW in Minster, Ohio. The first meetings were held in members homes until they were able to establish their home upstairs in the Town Hall building. The VFW remained upstairs until October of 1959, when they purchsed Rulman's Restaurant and moved their home downstairs in the rear of the restaurant.

The original officers of the VFW were: Joe Miller, Commander; Verlett Bollheimer, Adjutant; Tom Froning, Quartermaster; Robert Donauer, Sr. Vice Commander; Richard Niemeyer, Jr., Vice Commander; Ben Massing, Judge Advocate; Alvin Dillman, Chaplain; Robert Brinkman, Surgeon; Tom Kuehner, Office of Day; Herman Dillman, Trustee; John Brinkman, Trustee; Cliff Frericks, Trustee.

A perpetual charter was awarded the Post for having the required number of Life Members on December 10, 1967.

The purpose of the VFW is the furtherance of fraternal, patriotic, educational, historical and welfare programs of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Activities of the VFW Post include Memorial Day Services held at the St. Augustine Cemetery, making donations to worthwhile causes and an annual St. Valentine's Day dance for members and their wives.

Present officers of the VFW are: Stan Nagel, Commander; Thomas Feldman, Adjutant; Donald Nagel, Quartermaster; Wilbur Hoying, Sr., Vice Commander; Charles Hoying, Jr., Vice Commander; William Farno, Judge Advocate; Mark Prenger, Chaplain; Vernon Busse, Surgeon; Bob Brinkman, Officer of Day; Mark Prenger, Trustee 3 Year; Bob Brinkman, Trustee 2 Year; Gene Smith, Trustee 1 Year.

* In a 1918 issue of Minster Post: Mrs. Kate Koetter and family of Minster, received the following telegram announcing the death of their son and brother, Bernard John Koetter in France. "Deeply regret to inform you that it is officially reported that Private B. J. Koetter, field artillery, died of bronchial pneumonia. Mr. Koetter was the first Minster boy to die in the service of his country.

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Did You Know?

DID YOU KNOW?

A Minster ordinance of 1883 regulated the **observance of Sunday.** Among its provisions:

No sales of intoxicating beverages between 10:00 a.m. & noon, and after 10:00 p.m. Penalty: up to $50 and not less than $5.

No singing or playing of musical instruments on the streets after 10:00 p.m. Penalty: up to $10.

No dances, picnics, or other public recreational gatherings. Penalty: up to $100 and not less than $20.

DID YOU KNOW?

Main Street was **not always** the **State road.** In 1837, the town petitioned the Mercer County commissioners to reroute the State road from where it left the Section line just north of Minster (near the house of Bernard Ortmann). They asked that the route proceed south along the Section line to the north edge of town, then continue southward along Main Street (which is on the Section line). From the south edge of Minster it was to continue along the Section line to rejoin the old road near the Shelby County line.

??Where did the old road pass through Minster .... to the east or west of Main Street??

DID YOU KNOW?

For three months in 1913, the hotel at 4th and Main Streets was called the **"Antler's Hotel".**

DID YOU KNOW?

The **Miami-Erie Canal opened** to Piqua on July 4, 1837. In August of the same year contracts for the extending of the canal to St. Marys were let.

DID YOU KNOW?

Minster's electricity was changed over from **Direct Current to Alternating Current** on January 16 & 17, 1925.

DID YOU KNOW?

Around the turn of the century, some local businessmen were members of an organization which was promoting the conversion of the Miami-Erie Canal into a **deep-water canal** capable of allowing large ships to travel from the Great Lakes to the Ohio-Mississippi river system.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Western Ohio Railway Company operated an **electric railway** for both passengers and freight from 1902 until January 1932. Passengers from here traveled to St. Marys or Wapakoneta to make connections for various destinations. An extension of the line to Ft. Loramie was completed in 1911.

(Various proposals for an electric had been under consideration for almost ten years before the first one arrived.)

DID YOU KNOW?

In January 1925 the Deisel-Wemmer Company **closed** its **cigar factory** in Minster. The plant had started in 1917, and by 1924, 80 persons were on the payroll. Some of the employees began to work in the company's plant in St. Marys. (The building was immediately used to manufacture boxes.)

DID YOU KNOW?

Speed limits were **established** in 1882 when a new ordinance forbade driving horses or other animals faster than an "ordinary gallop or trot" on the streets or alleys of Minster. Except for an emergency, the penalty could be a $10 fine.

DID YOU KNOW?

Lincoln Street was formerly called **"Zweibrucken". Cleveland Street** was called **"Freiburg". Garfield Street** was called **"Schweitzer". Fourth Street** was also known as **"Columbia".** (These German names were changed during World War I).

DID YOU KNOW?

An ordinance of 1897 made it unlawful to ride a **bicycle or tricycle on** any **sidewalk** in Minster. It further outlawed riding after dark unless equipped with a lantern and an alarm bell. Penalty: up to $10.00 fine & costs.

DID YOU KNOW THAT?

In 1879 a **telegraph line,** from the north to the south of Ohio was constructed along the banks of the canal.

DID YOU KNOW?

At one time, in this very park, the village of Minster operated an official **hay-weighing scale.**

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1893 an ordinance established a **curfew** to keep **minors under 16 years** of age off the streets of the town after 9:00 p.m. except when accompanied by parents or legal guardians, or in case of an emergency.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1905: Minster had 11 **saloons,** New Bremen had 11 saloons. Wapakoneta had 18 saloons. St. Marys had 27 saloons.

DID YOU KNOW?

The **two worst fires** in Minster's history were:
The school fire in 1905, and the mill fire in 1912.

DID YOU KNOW?

In November, 1901, the new **lift bridge** over the canal on Fourth Street was opened.
Fifth Street had a **jack-knife bridge.**
First Street had a **swing bridge.**
(Earlier bridges were high enough to let boats pass).

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DID YOU KNOW?
Franz J. Stallo purchsed the land for our town on September 28, 1832. Less than three months later, in the "Piqua Gazette" of December 22, 1832, an advertiser, CHRISTIAN WILHELM SUDHOLZ, gave his address as **"1¼ miles from Stallostown** in Mercer County.

DID YOU KNOW?
A thrice-weekly **stage** from Piqua via Minster to St. Marys began service on August 15, 1837.
Lv. Piqua: Tue., Thu., Sat. - 8:00 a.m.
Lv. St. Marys: Wed., Fri., Sun. - 8:00 a.m.

DID YOU KNOW?
Charles H. Lau operated a tavern at his home in Stallostown in 1836 at the **location** of the **present Wooden Shoe Inn.** Later this corner was the location of a general store owned by Frank Fischer. Still later it served as the passenger and freight depot of the Western Ohio Railway. (The Wooden Shoe Inn opened in June of 1933)

DID YOU KNOW?
The **earliest tavern keepers** of Minster included:
John Henry Gossman - **renewed** his license: November 1835
Bernard Klues - obtained his license: May 1835
Charles H. Lau - obtained his license: October 1836
(Licenses to sell "ardent spirits" were obtained at the county seat, St. Marys, then in Mercer County, and cost $5.00.)

DID YOU KNOW?
The **parsonage** built in 1837 (once located just south of the church) still stands on 4th Street, the former home of Schunck's Jewelry.

DID YOU KNOW?
Starting in 1882, **cisterns** were built in town for storage of water to be used **for fighting fires.** These cisterns were quite large . . . able to hold about 45,000 gallons . . . and were placed at particular locations near street intersections.

DID YOU KNOW?
In 1877 the Lake Erie & Western **Railroad** came to Minster. At one time it furnished two passenger trains into and out of Minster each day. (Locally, the L.E. & W. RR. was irreverently called the "**L**eave **E**arly & **W**alk".

DID YOU KNOW?
An 1896 ordinance of Minster required all able-bodied men of the Village to perform **two days labor upon the streets** or alleys of the corporation each year under the Street Commissioner's direction.
The only way to avoid this was to furnish a substitute or pay $3.00 for each day. This law replaced an earlier one which required only $2.00 payment. Inflation! (Firemen were exempt.)

DID YOU KNOW?
That the present site of Eagle Acres was sold Saturday, August 10, 1974? The sale included a 140' x 114' frame dance hall with an 80' x 60' hardwood floor and 15.08 acres of land. Price $73,000.

DID YOU KNOW?
In 1900, Minster was the home of **37 coopers,** some of them self-employed, most of them employed by the **Minster Cooperage Company** at Fifth and Cleveland Streets. In the same year, **20 men** were employed at the **stave factory** at Second and Cleveland Streets. (From the U.S. Census - 1900).

DID YOU KNOW?
Beginning in 1883, Main and Columbia (4th) **Streets were lighted** by coal oil lamps. Other streets were soon lighted also. In 1889 natural gas replaced coal oil.
This required lamplighters who lit and extinguished the lamps daily, and kept them in repair . . . for which they were paid about 20¢ per lamp per month.
Various men served as **lamplighters** until 1898 when electricity was used. Those with four or more years at the task were: John Vanderhorst, John Rakel, G. Henry Pieper, Henry Bockrath, G.F. Lammers and Theodore Oldiges.

DID YOU KNOW?
That the old weekly newspaper The New Bremen Star had its beginnings in Minster? Owner and founder J.V. Schiffer started the "Stern des Westlichen Ohio" in Minster in 1873. In Dec., 1879 it was purchased by Theodore Purpus and moved to New Bremen. The paper's name was changed to The New Bremen Star.

DID YOU KNOW?
That the present F.J. Stallo Memorial Library and Doctor's office building was purchased by the village of Minster in August, 1974 for $65,000.

DID YOU KNOW?
That Minster High School published its first yearbook in 1950? Editor-in-chief was Don Bachman.

DID YOU KNOW?
That Minster High School won their first county basketball tournament in 1950?

DID YOU KNOW?
In the 1950's Free Frozen Food Demonstrations were being held at places like Minster Implement Co.? Today we have microwave cooking demonstrations.

DID YOU KNOW?
In the 1950's, dances were being held at Eagle Park, Lindhaus Park, Kempers Grove, Edgewater Park, Eldora Park and Crystal Ball.

DID YOU KNOW?
In 1950 Minster's population was 1728.

DID YOU KNOW?
July 11, 1968: H.A. Dorsten Inc., general contractors recently moved into their new facilities on North Main St., Minster. The company began in business in May of 1952 in St. Henry and moved to Minster in July 1963.

DID YOU KNOW?
The Bornhorst apartments located on North Hanover Street in Minster were constructed and opened for occupancy in August 1966.

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DID YOU KNOW?

In 1951 Shuffleboard was "the rage" in area bars. The Wooden Shoe Brewery had a "National Shuffleboard League" with eight teams. Teams were from Philipot Tavern, Yorkshire; Brucken's Cafe, Ft. Loramie; Bohman's Tavern, McCartyville, Newport Tavern, Newport; North Star Cafe, North Star; Tony's Place, Ft. Loramie; Joe's Place, Minster; Koverman's, Koverman Ldg.

DID YOU KNOW?

Minster's Wildcats played in their 1st state basketball tournament in March of 1952. They were 24-1 on the season, then lost in the state semifinals to Lockland Wayne.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Kroger Co., after 30 years of operating a retail food store in Minster closed its doors Saturday, January 24, 1953.

DID YOU KNOW?

February 27, 1969: Don Thieman, President of the Board of Directors of the Minster Food Storage Cooperative announced that the stockholders gave approval to offer the building, inventory equipment and fixtures for sale. The grocery store had been operated in the village for the past 29 years. The building subsequently became Coppess Super Valu then Wagner's Market.

DID YOU KNOW?

A Kuck Real Estate ad in a 1966 issue of Community Post advertised several fine homes in Minster and New Bremen in the $8,000 to $14,000 price range.

DID YOU KNOW?

An early 1966 issue of the Community Post shows the American Legion Hall in Ft. Loramie offering all the fried chicken you can eat for $1.00.

DID YOU KNOW?

Community Post Thursday, April 18, 1967: The newspaper received a telephone call from U.S. Senator Steven M. Young in Washington D.C. at 11:20 the previous Tuesday morning to inform Minster that a new post office building would be constructed in the community.

DID YOU KNOW?

An ad for Maltinsky's Mens and Boys wear in 1965. Men's short sleeve dress shirts in stripes and colors regular price $4.50, sale price $2.99. Men's summer sport coats regular price $35.00, now $27.50. Boy's swimming trunks, regularly $2.99, sale priced $1.79. Men's washable dress slacks regular $9.50, now $6.99 cuffing included.

DID YOU KNOW?

Do you know how the Town House restaurant got its name? The business, known as Rulmann's Restaurant was purchased from the Rulmann family in 1959 by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The VFW held a contest to pick a new name for the business. The contest winners were Jim Eiting and Jean Buschur who both suggested "The Town House." They split the $10.00 prize money.

DID YOU KNOW?

Foul Play?? The Minster Post, 1940: August Bensman residing 1½ miles east of Minster drove his automobile into town about 9 a.m. one day turned into the drive of the Sommer Brothers service station and ordered his tank filled.

Vernon Sommer, the station attendant, reached mechanically for the cap to the gasoline tank and while feeling around for the metal tank top grasped what to his amazement turned out to be a 3 lb. hen.

Sommer held on to the fowl and called excitedly to Bensman who investigated and found a 2nd bird roosting complacently on the tire cover.

The two hens made the return trip with Mr. Bensman a short time later.

DID YOU KNOW?

April 1965: An ad for Super E Market, located where the present Wagner's IGA market is, advertised celery for 19¢ a bunch, 5 lb. flour for 39¢, round steak 79¢ a pound, fresh or smoked sausage 49¢ a lb.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1967 a group of over 40 Minster and New Bremen area residents formed to provide live dramatic entertainment for the area. The group was known as the Crescent Players. Their first production was held August 19 and 20. The play, "Our Town".

DID YOU KNOW?

The Minster Jaycees in January 1968 were promoting a Mustang Mardi Gras Dance. Tickets $25.00 per couple which included a dinner dance and free refreshments all evening plus a chance to win a new 1968 Ford Mustang. Only 250 tickets were to be sold.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Community Post, Thursday, October 30, 1969: Vernon Seger, 20, is first village Vietnam war casualty. Word was received here Sunday by Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Seger of 255 N. Garfield St. that their son, Vernon J. Seger, 20 had been killed in action in Vietnam. Seger was sent to Vietnam in August.

DID YOU KNOW?

Thursday, February 9, 1967 issue of the Community Post carried an article and photograph of the groundbreaking ceremonies for Arrowhead Park Clubhouse. On hand for the groundbreaking were: Frank Brinkman, President of the Club together with Harry Winch, Don Wehrman, Ray Bergman, Harold Dorsten and Virgil Hoying and Roger Bornhorst of Bornhorst and Hoying and Al Schwieterman.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Auglaize Cooperage and Lumber Company went out of business in about July, 1923. Mr. F.J. Thieman was the company's manager, ever since July 1914. Before the time when he took charge the company had been known as the United Cooperage Company. The product of their factory along the south end of Cleveland Street where the mill was located was slack barrels originally. But immediately after it was incorporated and given the name The Auglaize Lumber and Cooperage Company such machinery was added as to permit the regular old time sawmill business.

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Village of Minster
29 S. Hanover, Minster, Ohio 45865

Minster 1832

Village of Minster

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS

1982 marks the 150th year of the founding of the Village of Minster, and

. . .

WHEREAS

The German ancestry of the founding fathers and settlers of the village has remained the predominant characteristic of the citizens to this day, and

. . .

WHEREAS

That characteristic involves a commitment to hard work, industriousness, and a loyalty to family, community, state, and nation, and . . .

WHEREAS

That commitment has resulted in religious, educational, industrial, business, residential, public parks, cultural, and recreational development worthy of some considerable pride, while thanking God . . .

NOW

THEREFORE I, EDMUND G. VAN OSS, MAYOR OF THE VILLAGE OF MINSTER, OHIO, PROCLAIM THE YEAR 1982 AS THE SESQUICENTENNIAL YEAR OF CELEBRATION, AND . . .

I HAVE CAUSED THE SEAL OF THE VILLAGE OF MINSTER TO BE HEREWITH AFFIXED THIS DAY OF 12 JANUARY, 1982



Edmund G. Van Oss

Edmund G. Van Oss, Mayor

Phones: Village Clerk - 628-2595 • Utility Dept. - 628-2850 • Street Dept. - 628-3404 • Police Dept. - 628-2377

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JAMES A. RHODES
GOVERNOR

THE STATE OF OHIO
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE HOUSE, COLUMBUS 43215

January 19, 1982

TO THE RESIDENTS, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF MINSTER, Ohio:

On behalf of the State of Ohio, it is a great pleasure for me to extend congratulations to the residents of Minster, Ohio, on your 150th anniversary.

We all are proud of you and your fine community and what it stands for. From its beginning a century and half ago, the residents of Minster have shown faithfully to all the fundamental human values of a God fearing and industrious ancestry and heritage.

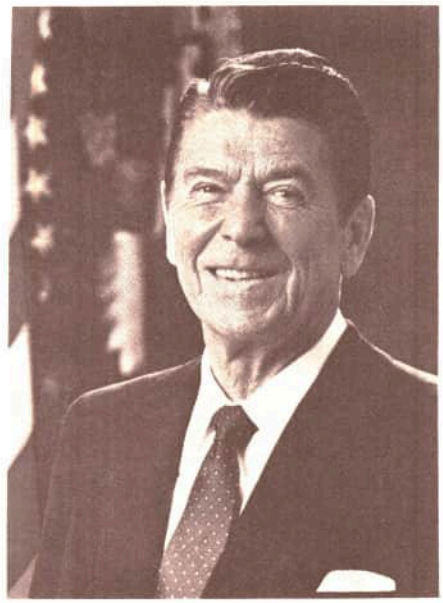
Our great state and, indeed, our nation can look to Minster as an enduring example of what makes a society strong and happy - your abiding faith in family, church and school, and in hard work at worthwhile endeavors.

On this 150th anniversary, may you rededicate yourselves to your great heritage and continue on into the future with all of God's blessings. From all Ohioans, our very best wishes.

Sincerely,

James A. Rhodes
Governor

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 23, 1981

To the Citizens of Minster:

I am pleased to join all those gathered to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Minster.

Minster is a shining example of the American spirit -- a place where men and women, working together, have built a community in which commerce, culture and freedom thrive. Best of all, it is home to many who love it dearly.

The spirit which has built your community is worthy of the utmost pride as an example to those around the world of the blessings of liberty.

My hearty congratulations on this joyful, historic occasion.

Ronald Reagan

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Epilogue

And, so, here we are . . . 150 years from when it all began.

We can be proud of our ancestors, because what they built, they built for the future . . . and they built well.

Their heritage is ours . . . and as they built . . . so must we continue building.

(Munster-Land our Heritage — Minster-Land Our Home, 1977 slide presentation by Midmark Corporation).

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