

# NEWSLETTER

VOLUME V

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ISSUE 8

## Lincoln AHSGR General Meeting September 14

**H**ELP!  
As you may or may not know, our September general membership meeting will have a distinguished speaker. (Me.) The meeting will be at 1:00 p.m. in the Immanuel Fellowship Hall at 10th and Charleston, and I will be speaking about the North Bottoms, specifically the Bulldog Ring.

I have been talking to fellow Germans from Russia, some of whom I haven't talked to (haven't seen 'em either) for 40 years.

I have talked to GR's as far away as Oregon. I hope this whets your appetite for the meeting. If it doesn't, remember, this meeting is a potluck.

How about bringing some traditional GR food?

Oh yes. Safety. Now, you North Bottoms GR's, you have nothing to fear. We Bulldog Ringers will guarantee your safety. After all, the Bulldog Ring is part of the North Bottoms. You South Bottoms GR's, because my mom was from the

South Bottoms and I still have relatives and friends living there (Robert Burbach said he moved there to give it some class), we will get you a safe conduct pass so you don't have to worry about your safety either. I hope you all take this in the spirit it is intended.

Why did I start the article with HELP? I need help, of course. If any of you have any photographs of the North Bottoms and especially the part labeled the Bulldog Ring (6th

Street to 9th Street, Vine to Y Street) and would be willing to let me see them and make slides of them, please call me at 489-3213. (I will also be at the garage sale working on Saturday.)

If you have any stories, etc., about the Bulldog Ring and want to share them with me, CALL, CALL, CALL! ■

Thanks—Larry Schenkel

P.S. If you have any items you care to donate for the garage sale, call.

## My Part of Town

Written by Harold Bauer;  
photographs by Norma Somerheiser  
(continued from last issue)

**A**nother church at 8th and B Street was known as Amen's church, he had supplied most of the money needed to build it. On 9th and C, there is the Quinn Chapel, a Negro church, but they welcome any one who wants to come there. Friedens Church is said to be the first one built in our area, and I know they had three good bells in the belfry. (continued on page 3)

### The Old Bulldog Ring Days

*The old Bulldog Ring days,  
So dear to my heart,  
Bring back the memories,  
That are stamped on my heart.*

*Just to see the old people,  
As they came down the walk.  
They always had time,  
For a wave or a talk.*

*Their day is over,  
And they have passed on.  
As we too will do,  
And it won't be too long.*

*But when I look back,  
I don't feel sad or bad.  
I try to remember,  
The good times we had.*

*We came from good families,  
Let the record book show.  
They gave us their best,  
And this we all know.*

*We weren't wealthy people,  
But how we were blessed.  
When God gave out parents,  
He gave us the best.*

*These are just some of the things,  
That bring back memories of old.  
But to me they will remain,  
As valuable as silver and gold.*

—Eddie Loos

### A Song of Memories

*The years have slipped by  
Where have they gone?  
It sounds like the verse  
Of an old-fashioned song.*

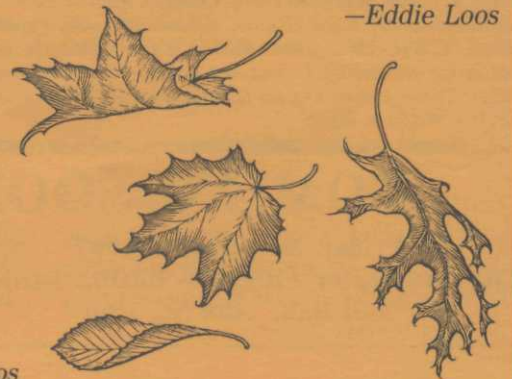
*Let the old song start  
As the first verse begins,  
To bring joy to this old heart  
Of the old Bulldog Ring.*

*As the sun shines on the meadow,  
It turns one's thoughts toward  
spring.*

*I see the butterfly and a  
cottontail,  
As in the old Bulldog Ring.*

*The streams again are flowing,  
And the birds are on the wing.  
Only strengthens my belief,  
I'm in the Bulldog Ring again.*

—Eddie Loos









### My Part of Town (continued)

On Saturday night at five o'clock, my grandfather Bauer would have two of the boys in the neighborhood help ring the bells. I helped a few times by ringing the small bell and in the wintertime it was real cold up there. You had to climb a ladder of about 40 feet and it was best not to look down, as it was scary.

I remember too that a few times herds of cattle were run down F Street. I am not sure but believe they were unloaded on the Rock Island tracks east of town and then herded down to the Burlington on the west end.

Many of the people in the area went to the beet fields to work during the summer. The Burlington would bring in box cars and passenger cars to 6th and F Street, where the people would bring their clothing and whatever they needed and put it in the box cars, and when it was time, they got in the passenger cars and were hauled to western Nebraska. Toward the end of summer Amen's store would drive out with a load of summer sausage and other supplies and sell it to the beet fielders. It did not need to be cash as whatever the bill was would be added to what they owed in the books at the store.

Adam Alles had a small house in the north end of his lot at 402 E Street. It was rented to some people, and when they moved, he made it a headquarters for his business of going house to house selling coffee, tea, sewing materials. Later he moved to the store they had on 6th Street between C and D.



6th Street between C and D (west side). Alles brothers saloon, later Adam Alles "drug."

There he also sold candy and novelties and ice cream. Later his brothers took it over and sold beer there. It was a popular hangout for the young guys.



Barber shop, later an ice cream parlor, east of 301 F Street, owned by John Floth. Played dominoes there.

John Floth at 301 F Street had a small building right next to his house. It started out as a barber shop, and later John put in tables and chairs and had an ice cream parlor. We went there almost every night and played "Shoot the Moon" dominoes. When you won a game, you got a candy bar or could save up enough to buy a pint or more of ice cream.

Jake Strackbein had a beer joint in the building at about 143 F Street. There had also been a small store owned by Duffy Amen, rented to a Mexican man who sold cigarettes, tobacco, and so forth.

The hardware store on 3rd and F later became a beer joint too, with some dancing being done on certain nights.

Hank and John Lebsack had a tavern in the building right west of what is now the Salvation Army building. This was during the war and when a troop train came into the station, their business was really good. As far as I know, they and their brother, Eddie, all served. I got to meet Eddie at a Red Cross Club in Paris, France.

There was also a store on 1st and K Streets owned by Mr. Garcia. This store catered mostly to the Mexican people in the neighborhood.

Friedens Church had what was supposed to be a pipe organ. Mr. George Bauer was the man who did the pumping to enable the organist to play. Emma Lebsack was the organist that I remember. My grandfather Bauer had his special seat in the front of the church and he started all the songs. Someone later complained about this and he had to quit the practice of starting the songs. It hurt him, but he did make the best of it.

Mr. Bauer also came to our house on Sunday afternoons when we would play dominoes, at least during the winter or bad days. During the summer when it was nice we would play horse-shoes. He would bring "peffer mans kuchelian" and give us each whatever color we wanted, pink or white. The white were pretty strong, so I always took a pink.

Almost every night there would be a gathering at 431 E, playing pitch or Schaf Kopf, Coonie Kammercell from 8th and H, Chris Loos from 9th and Sumner, Pete Grass from 3rd and E, Uncle Henry Al Stoehr, and in the summertime the same gang pitched horseshoes. These games were all played free, that is no gambling went on and no drinking.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Coates bought the house from John Floth and the little store became the home of our cousin Robert Amend. He lived there many years and Mrs. Coates also gave Robert some meals or took part of her cooking over to him, and his rent was also cheap at that time.

There was a store at 9th and G Street, [Otto's Grocery] selling groceries, etc. When the store closed, it became a business house for a number of different businesses and the upstairs has always been apartments or living quarters.

The Scheidt Coal and Lumber Company was located at 5th and Washington, selling lumber and coal and so forth. This location is now owned by Jack McKinney who has a garbage collection business and also a haven for horseshoe pitchers, he has some very nice outdoor courts and also an indoor court. Some well-known pitchers had appeared at his place.

The Strasheim brothers, Fred and Henry or Eugene had a grocery store on the corner of 10th and South Street. Later they had a store on 9th between O and N on the west side of the street.

C. H. Bauer had a general market on the corner of 9th and N. He made paint, sold groceries and also had a coffee roasting business, with a large drum into which he put a few hundred pounds of green coffee and then started it roasting. When there was no wind

(continued on page 4)



**My Part of Town** (continued)  
to dissipate it, the air would be full of blue smoke, with a good coffee smell. He later moved to Chicago, and died at that location, but was buried here in Lincoln.

The small grocery store at about 530 C Street had a small area in back where Mr. John Bretzer had his shoe repair shop. The store was first owned by Strasheim and Scheidt, then later was owned by Bernhardt. The store is set up like a real grocery store now, by the AHSGR organization. Some of the shoe repair tools are also on display there.

Marie Willis and Mr. Amen were running the Amen store by themselves for quite awhile. After the store closed, the city and county took over the front part for storing voting booths and other supplies. The AHSGR added a metal building to the south end for storing books and supplies of all kinds.

I remember, too, a small store on the east side of the alley running north and south on E Street, between 8th and 9th Street. One day the teachers gave two of us a list and we went and got the groceries for the teachers. It took us quite awhile to get into the school, the

class right in the room next to the door let us stand out there rather than coming and opening the door or something to let us in. The store was run by Mr. Wambold as far as I can learn.


A store at 1245 South 9th in the 1916 directory was listed as A V Downey and in 1935 directory was listed as Adolph Sell. Uncle Henry Amend had a shoe repair shop at 228 F Street and for a while John Ariolla, a young Mexican jewelry maker had a bench in one corner. As far as I know, he also repaired watches. ■

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
AUGUST 17	18 BOARD MEETING 7:00 p.m. 631 "D" Street	19	20	21	22 GARAGE SALE	23 GARAGE SALE
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	SEPT. 1 LABOR DAY	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	LLCGS 9 7:00 p.m. Dick Ad. Bldg. (lower level) Union College	10	11	12	13
GEN. MEM. MEETING 1:00 p.m. Im. Fellow. Hall 10th & Charleston 14	BOARD MEETING 7:00 p.m. 631 "D" Street 15	16	17	18	19	PAF-LUG 20 7:00 p.m. Family Service Cntr., 3100 Old Cheney Road

**Lincoln Chapter  
American Historical Society  
of Germans from Russia  
631 D Street  
Lincoln, NE 68502-1199**

FORWARDING AND RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED  
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Lincoln Chapter AHSGR  
**GARAGE SALE**  
Friday, August 22, and Saturday, August 23  
Call Norma Somerheiser, 476-8976,  
and Norma or one of her committee  
will pick up your items.  
Remember: your trash is another's treasure;  
your junk, another's joy.