

### Lincoln Chapter

The American Historical Society of Germans From Russia

# NEWSLETTER

VOLUME V JULY / AUGUST 1997 ISSUE 7

### Quilt to be Raffled at Broda Dinner



Y ou could be the owner of this beautiful quilt! Enclosed you will find ten raffle tickets and each ticket costs \$1. You can buy them all or sell what you can and return the rest.

The pattern of the quilt is "Radiant Star" and the size is 90" x 110" (queen size). There are 2,321 pieces in this quilt and several ladies to be thanked for this generous gift of time and talent.

The raffle will be held at our Lincoln Chapter AHSGR Broda Dinner, Friday, November 7, 1997, at the WSI Hall. Tickets for the Broda Dinner will be \$7.50 for adults and \$3.50 for children under 12. Tickets

for the Broda Dinner will be available for purchase after August 15. There will be more information in the next newsletter.

Return your raffle tickets with your check to Ann Reitz, 4121 South 30th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68502.



# My Part of Town

Written by Harold Bauer; photographs by Norma Somerheiser

P or a starter, many years ago there was a grade school at about 1st and K or L. At that time, most of that area was occupied by Mexican people, but there never seemed to be any trouble between them and the German people who lived there. Most of the two groups worked for the Burlington Railroad so they got along real good.

There was also a church in that neighborhood—I believe it was the First Church of Zion—and later they built a new church on F Street, between 4th and 5th, on the south side of the street. Later they left this location and built a new church at 9th and D Street. The location on F Street was later occupied by two houses.

There was also a company that made dishes and tile at about 1st

and K Street. I didn't know it at the time but learned of it a few years ago when some archeologists and the University did a lot of digging there and found many pieces, but I am not sure if they ever found any whole pitchers or dishes.

There was a boiler works at G Street, between 1st and west of there about a half block. We could hear them pounding the pipes, cleaning the flues of rust and scale by pounding them with hammers. I went to get a job there one time but did not get it, I was either too young or too small. This business was owned by a Mr. Luedtke.

The church at First and F Street was built and supervised by Mr. Gottfred Schumacher. Don't know if he actualy designed it or not, but he did supervise the building.

There were a number of businesses in the neighborhood years ago. Adolph Lebsack had a dry goods store at about 320 F Street, selling shoes, clothing, overalls, material for sewing—at that time the ladies did do a lot of sewing rather than buying dresses and so forth in town.

Next to Lebsack was the hardware store run by George Strasheim. I remember that Coonie Bernhardt worked there, and I bought some .22 rifle shells there one time. I remember that when I shot the shells in my rifle, I could see them flying, they were so old and weak. I told this to Coonie but he wouldn't believe me until one day we were out hunting. I shot at a jack rabbit on a hill from us, and told him to shoot at him. He did and then admitted seeing the bullets.

Next was the office of George Stroh, Sr., who sold insurance and so forth and also was instrumental

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## From the Editor's Desk

M any of you are packing about now for San Jose. Have a safe and wonderful journey. My ancestral villages are Eckheim (mother Mary Katherine Riffel) and Langenfeld (dad Andrew Lutz). Someday down the road I plan to research my past. The past that has shaped me into the woman I am today.

I receive many comments about this newsletter. Most are very good and thank you for those! Some are not and it is usually about a birthday or anniversary date. It is so easy to miss a date—no matter how hard you try, someone is forgotten. Please forgive me for those errors or omissions and if you will send me a correction, I will try to rectify it by publishing the correct information in the next newsletter. Of special note: A belated happy anniversary wish to Lillian and Edward Loos. They celebrated 50 years on June 21.

This month we have a special treat. Harold Bauer and Norma Somerheiser have put together a history of the South Bottoms. I hope you enjoy it.

Annie Settell, Editor



July 19, 1997—PAF-LUG (Personal Ancentral File—Lincoln User's Group); 7:00 p.m.; Family Service Center; 3100 Old Cheney Road

July 20, 1997—Convention, San Jose, California

August 12, 1997—LLCGS (Lincoln Lancaster County Genealogical Society); 7:00 p.m.; Dick Administration Building; (Lower Level) Union College Campus

August 16, 1997—PAF-LUG

August 18, 1997—Board Meeting; 7:00 p.m.; 631 D Street

August 22-23, 1997—Garage Sale

**September 14, 1997**—Membership Meeting; Pot Luck Lunch

September 15, 1997—Board Meeting

November 7, 1997—Broda Dinner and Quilt Raffle, 6:00 p.m., WSI Hall

# 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.

# **Unser Leute Geburtstag**

(Happy Birthday)

July 1June Kuper	July
Lydia Spomer	
July 2 Jeanne Niederhaus	July
July 8 Esther Heckman	July
July 11 Ann Meier	July
July 13 Jolene McInnis	July
July 17 Carol Chappelle	July
John Lebsock	
July 18Ruth Nuss	July
July 19 Benjamin Deines	
July 21	
Albert Hehn	

July 22 Marty Kaufman
July 24 Virginia Dietrich
July 26 Mary Hardt Schneider
July 29Gladys Herstein
August 1 Mollie Grenemeier
August 2 Mary Froscheiser
August 3 Sharon Fiedler
August 5Lillian Weber
Mary Wunder
August 6 Delores Schwartz
August 8 Heidi Dinges
Edward Schwartzkopf
August 9 Edward Herstein
August 11 Larry Schenkel

# Der Jahrstag (Happy Anniversary)

Congratulations to:

July 6 ..... Lois & Phil Sorensen July 12 .... Dorothy & Jake Sinner July 14...

Jeanne & Henry Niederhaus July 16 . . . . Virginia & James Amen Dorothy & Henry Gruenemeier July 26 . . . . . . June & Al Kuper July 30 . . . . . Jan & Gerald Harris August 10 . Diane & Leroy Butherus Hilda & Carl Schmidt

Don't forget to send in your names for inclusion of the birthday, anniversary, & congratulations section each month. Send all communications to Annie Settell, 333 South 11th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508 (fax 402-476-6532).

## We Get Letters...

...I well remember the Alles
Drugstore. During recess some of my
Immanuel Lutheran School classmates and I would go there via the
alley to buy a little bottle of clove
extract. We would then suck toothpicks which had been soaked in it.
We must have all had nice fresh
breaths—no halitosis.

The location of your business [Settell's Printing] also brings back many childhood memories. My father was the proprietor and chef of Spomer's Cafe across from Townsend Studio on South 11th.... —Lydia Spomer

...Here are some photos of North Bottom GR's, all taken before WWI. There are notes on the backs, with each one....—Lucille Hedges

Editor's note: We plan on running Lucille's photos in next month's issue. We appreciate all submissions! Keep 'em coming!

#### My Part of Town (continued)



6th and F Streets. George Stroh's insurance office. Garage door on the left was the scale entrance or exit for Wagenleitner & Dreith coal yard.

in bringing people over from Russia, along with H. J. Amen. Mr. H. J. Amen had the grocery store on 2nd and F



H. J. Amen grocery store, 2nd and F.

Street, later Rudy opened a gas station and also had a coal yard along with it. They delivered coal and Mr. George Kaufman was their main deliveryman there for a while, too.



West of gas station, 2nd and F. Coal yard operated by Rudy Amen.

Mr. George Bauer had a grocery store t 4th and F Street, and they also sold hay, oats, chicken feed and so forth, in those days almost every family had a cow or chickens. Mr. Bauer also had a coal yard.



4th and F. George Bauer grocery store. Also sold hay, oats, chicken feed, etc. Coal yard in back.

Next up the street was the Lebsack grocery store. I remember that Fred Lebsack was a very good writer or penman.



441 F Street. Jacob J. Lebsack grocery & meats. Mr. Lebsack worked for H. J. Amen, then purchased this building from a Mr. Straka. Mr. Lebsack was a member of Zion Church and president of the Brotherhood for 30 years. He traveled to Washington, Colorado, and western Nebraska and addressed the brotherhood meetings there. Known for his knowledge of the Bible.

Across the tracks at 5th and F was another coal yard owned by Mr. George Strasheim, and he also had two big tanks of oil. His daughter, Martha, ran the accounts in their office. At 6th and F Street there was another coal yard, owned by Wagenleitner and Dreith. After their business was closed, the office was taken over by Mr. George Stroh and his son, George junior. They continued selling insurance of different kinds and real estate. This corner is now owned by Ted Foltz, who has a small garden and also did some work in repairing mowers and so forth.

I also remember that Harry Amen and I were in the same class. One day while being lined up to be dismissed from Park School, the fire department went down F Street. I said, "Harry, that is your store." Sure enough, we went down F Street and the store was burning. Some of the firemen got permission from the Amens to take some of the smoked bologna along to the station. It had been hung in the ice box and nothing wrong with it.

Park School was sort of up on a hill at 7th and 8th and F Street, there was also a row of houses from 6th to 7th and from F to G Street. Our janitor, Mr. Ernst, lived in one of the houses on F Street. I remember that he had a sharp pen knife and he sharpened all the pencils by hand and did a very neat job of it. He also had a handbell about eight inch diameter that he rang to start the school every morning. There was a church at 6th and F Street. We tried to look into it but the interior was always dark, and I don't remember ever seeing any services there. We called it a Catholic church but never did find out just what it was. On the corner of 6th and F Street was a large cistern that held water for the city. It had a wooden top so I never did go onto it. There was also a water pumping station and said to be electric generating station on 7th and F Street. One of the boys threw a wire over some exposed wires at the station and was electrocuted.

Albers had a store and living quarters at 5th and D Street. At that time, for a penny you could buy two or three pieces of candy. I remember buying penny sacks of pink popcorn, which tasted very good. This store was later taken over by the Burlington strikers and was run by Mr. Willman. Jack Albert had a store at 5th and C Street. John Dell had a store at 7th and B (continued on page 4)



John Dell grocery store, 7th & B Street.

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
JULY 13	14	15	16	17	18	PAF-LUG 7:00 p.m. Family Service Cntr., 3100 Old Cheney Road	
CONVENTION SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29	30	31	AUGUST 1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
10	11	LLCGS 7:00 p.m. Dick Ad. Bldg. (lower lvl.), Union College Campus	13	14	15	PAF-LUG 7:00 p.m. Family Service Cntr., 3100 Old Cheney Road	

### My Part of Town (continued)

Street, it is still here but occupied by a business selling antiques and so forth. John Dietz had living quarters at 5th Street between D and C, and also had a bakery there. He, in my opinion, was



1125 South 5th-John Dietz bakery

the originator of the Butter Rolls as we knew them then, and we did buy quite a bit of baked goods from him.

There was a church, school combination at 8th and D Street. We called the kids "German School kids," but they seemed well educated as anyone else, and I do know that they all did learn to write good. The building later was taken over by the American Forward organization. It as also owned at one time by an interior decorator Johnson. He allowed our South Salt Creek organization to use the building for meetings. It changed hands a number of times and is now the A to Z Printing Company.

... to be continued.

(Editor's Note: Harold Bauer's article and Norma Somerheiser's photographs will continue in next month's edition.)



8th and D Streets—Immanuel Lutheran Church and School. Church now located at 11th and Plum Streets. Formerly known as Bader's Church.