

Besancon, Indiana Chronicles

Issue No. 11

November 1999

President's Message

Bonjour et salutations!

I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving and a blessed Christmas. May God grant you good health and a fruitful New Year.

I want to thank our elected officers for their dedication and support over these last two years. They have done a tremendous job for the society. They never faltered when asked to do special tasks, and I appreciated this. The same applies to our volunteers. Teamwork, dedication, and a positive attitude is the "key" to any successful organization, and we have it!

Our society is fortunate to have members with so many talents and experiences. This is such a big plus when working on projects or performing a particular task. The society's archives is one area of which I am especially proud. There are two divisions in the archives: 1. the photo gallery maintained by Barb Gorney and Judith Schroff, and 2. the library and research division maintained by Jeff Hoffman and myself. By the end of November we will have all books catalogued and indexed.

What are the projects for next year? The most important one is the records project (St. Louis Church). This project will be completed at the end of the year 2001. Volunteers working on this project are Jeff Hoffman, Theresa Martin, Barb Gorney, and Judith Schroff. Another project is to have more workshops and speakers on Wednesday mornings. This is being done so that more people can get involved in the society's activities. The regular business meetings will continue to be held on the last Saturday of each month. (Continued on page 4)

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Besancon Historical Society will conduct its election of officers for the next two years on Saturday, 27 November 1999. The election will be held in the St. Louis parish conference room at 9:00 a.m. This is an extremely important meeting; we will be electing officers for the next millennium! Please try to attend. Other agenda items include a discussion of the feasibility of graveyard restoration at St. Louis and a change of dates and times for future meetings of the society. A luncheon will follow the meeting at Richard's Restaurant in New Haven.

Membership dues must be paid by January 1, 2000.

To be considered a member in good standing of the society and to continue receiving the Chronicles, you must pay your dues by the first of January. Except for lifetime members, all members of the society--no matter when they joined the society--must renew their memberships by that date. A membership renewal form is included with this newsletter.

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Barbara Gorney, Vice-President
Theresa Martin, Secretary
Ralph Violette, Editor of Chronicles

The Society maintains a web page at:

<http://www.ipfw.edu/ipfwhist/historgs/besancon.htm>

GENEALOGY DEPT.

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Allen County Public Library

The Roussel Trip to Cedar Rapids, Iowa in 1918

by Joan Jacquay Monnier

Author's note: This story was related to me in a phone conversation by my uncle Louis Roussel, Jr., several years prior to his death in 1996 and in a letter from my mother Juanita Roussel Jacquay, dated 29 May 1991. Additional information was obtained from Wilbur (Bill) Pepe in an interview in June, 1999.

A Trip on the New Lincoln Highway

LOUIS ROUSSEL, Sr. had purchased a new Dodge four-door touring car, and preparations followed for an auto trip to Cedar Rapids, Iowa to visit his sister MARIE ROUSSEL MULLER and brother-in-law WILLIAM MULLER. Eight people prepared to make the trip. They were Louis, Sr., his wife IDA GLADIEUX ROUSSEL, Louis' sister ANNA ROUSSEL DIXON, and Louis' five children



Back row: Louis Roussel, Sr., Lilliosa, Aldon (baby), and Ida Gladieux Roussel

Middle row: Juanita

Front row: Wilbur, Louis, Jr.

LILLIOSA ROUSSEL, JUANITA ROUSSEL, LOUIS ROUSSEL, Jr., WILBUR ROUSSEL, and ALDON ROUSSEL. "I don't know how we all got into that car!" wrote Juanita in 1991.

Louis, Jr., who was seven years old in 1918, remembered that the road was not paved all the way to Cedar Rapids. He said that the trip took two days. The first night, someplace in Illinois, Louis, Sr. saw a large farmhouse and stopped to knock on the door to inquire about a place to sleep for the night. The farmer invited the travelers to stay with his family. All eight people were fed and bedded for the night at this farmhouse on the Lincoln Highway. The two families corresponded by mail for many years thereafter. After a fond farewell to their new friends, the travelers arrived at Cedar Rapids the next day to be greeted by Uncle Bill, Aunt Marie and their children.

A Second Trip

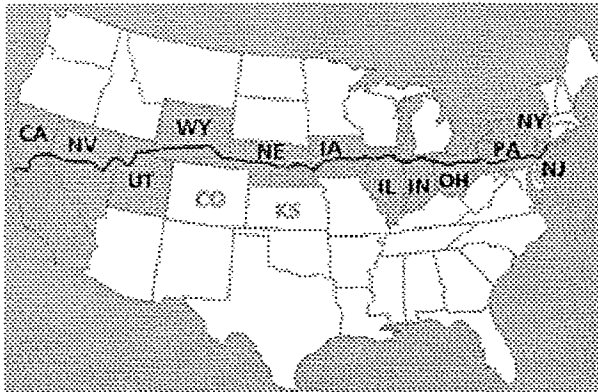
In 1929, related Louis, Jr., "I bought a new Chevrolet, paid \$649 cash for it. I worked in Fort Wayne and stayed with Lilliosa who was my banker. She saved my money! I worked at Dudlo [*editor's note: Dudlo was the original magnet wire manufacturer in Fort Wayne*], and then for about three months at Indiana Service, a power company in Fort Wayne until I heard about a lay-off. I got a job driving (a) truck for Texaco and was with them for fourteen years."

Louis and three of his friends BILL PEPE, ALLEN LOMONT, and LEONARD RYAN packed their bags and supplies into the 1929 Chevy and headed to Cedar Rapids on the Lincoln Highway for a two-week vacation. From Cedar Rapids, they went to Yellowstone National Park. "We had a lot of fun!", said Bill Pepe, with a smile on his face, during a recent interview. "This was the first time any of us had seen a mountain. We could see the mountains way off in the distance and made friendly bets as to how far away they were. None of us was right! They were a lot farther!"

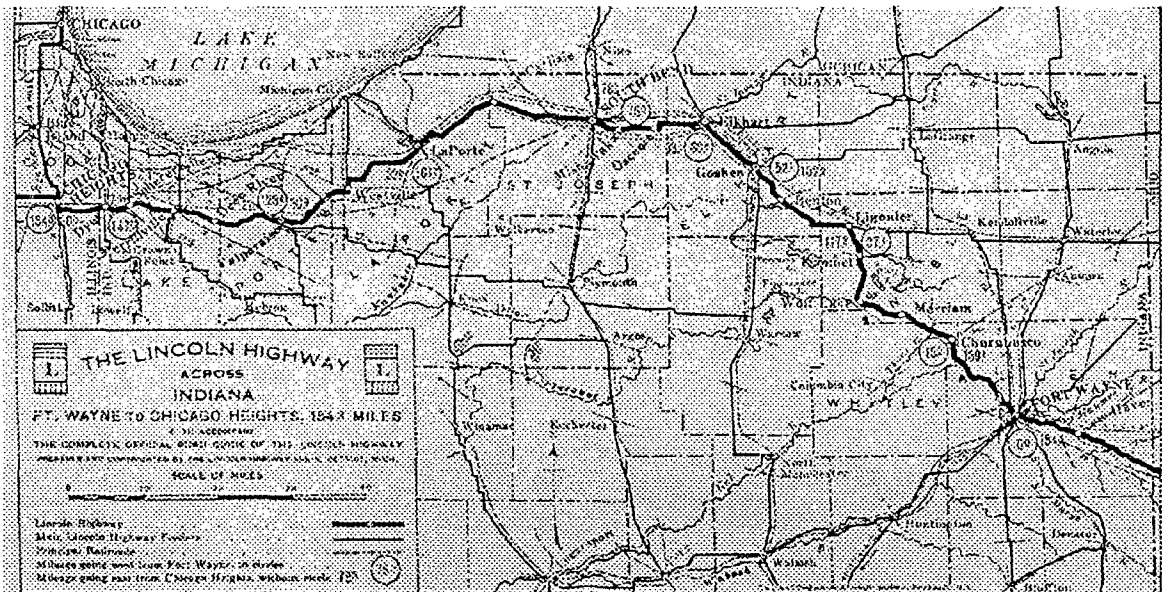
When asked about daily routines on the trip, Bill replied that, "We changed drivers every fifty miles. Except for staying with Louis' relatives in Cedar Rapids, we pitched a tent every night. This became a problem farther west where there were no trees to tie the ropes to. We took a ham from home and acquired other food along the way." Bill then laughed and said: "When we finished the ham we were in Yellowstone. As a joke, Leonard took the ham bones and spread them around our campsite to 'attract bears.' The joke was on him, though, when he was the one who was the most scared when the bears came."

About the car he said that, "We patched tires with our tire kit, but still had to buy one new tire." There were seventeen flat tires on the trip!

The Lincoln Highway



Traveling cross country, as the people in the previous story did, in the early decades of the twentieth century was a major undertaking. Today, if one drove from New York City to San Francisco (about 3,305 miles), it would take about 46 hours. Before the First World War, the driving time coast-to-coast was two to three months! There were no good roads across the United States and maps were not reliable. Begun in 1913, the Lincoln Highway was the first transcontinental highway in the United States. Stretching through twelve states, the highway took about ten years to complete and cut the driving time from New York City to San Francisco to about 20 to 30 days.



President's Message Continued--

As many of you know, Ralph Violette has requested to be relieved as editor of the Chronicles. His experience and hard work as editor will be missed, but his continuing support of the Society is appreciated. Thanks Ralph! Joyce Crowl has volunteered to serve as editor and publisher beginning on January 1, 2000. All contributions to the Chronicles should be sent to Joyce.

Someone recently said to me: "the generation of today and its behaviorisms relate to the past." How very true! So I would like to make the "theme" for our society in 2000--get to know and understand your "roots." Merci et Joyeux Noel.

Gene

Pepe Genealogy

Information submitted from the Besancon Historical Society Archives, Gladys Lomont, and Gene Yoquelet.

MARC PEPE and AUGUST PEPE, whose names appear on a window on the west side of St. Louis Church, were father and son. The family came from the village of Arcey in France. The Pepe's first settled in Washington Township, but later purchased land in Jefferson Township east of St. Louis Church.

MARC PEPE, born 7/12/1805, France, died 3/2/1884, Allen County, Indiana. He arrived in New York in October 1853 and his citizenship was declared on October 9, 1856 in Allen County, Indiana. He was listed in the 1860 census of Adams Township (page 518, #563, line 9). Marc Pepe later settled in Jefferson Township near Besancon. He is listed in the 1870 census in Jefferson township (page 468b, #77, line 15). Marc is recorded in the 1868 Register of St. Louis Catholic Church in Besancon. He married THERESA JANE FRENE in France. She was born on October 5, 1805/6 in France and died at the age of 87 years, 9 months and 24 days on April 22, 1892 in Allen County, Indiana.

The children of Marc Pepe and Theresa Jane Frene were:

- AUGUST PEPE born April 19, 1838/40 in France, died April 14, 1917 Allen County Indiana. Married CAROLINE CELENA GROSJEAN on December 5, 1861 in Allen County, Indiana.
- CELENA (SARAH) PEPE born November 16, 1840 in France, died January 16, 1916 Allen County, Indiana. Married FRANCOIS BOITET.

August Pepe, born April 19, 1838/40 in France, died April 14, 1917 in Allen County, Indiana. He was the son of Marc Pepe and Theresa Jane Frene. He was listed in the 1870 census of Jefferson township (page 468b, #78, line 17). He was recorded in the 1868 Register and 1870-71 Pew Register (Pew #53) of St. Louis Catholic Church. August settled upon an eighty acre farm located one-half mile east of St. Louis Church. He was also a superintendent for Allen County roads for thirty years and helped direct the construction of the Lincoln Highway. Caroline Celena Grosjean was born on June 1, 1844 in Indiana and died February 17, 1910 in

Allen County, Indiana. She was the daughter of FRANCOIS and JOANNA GROSJEAN, residents of Allen County.

August Pepe married a second time to MARIE JEANNE TRIMPELL on June 13, 1911 in Most Precious Blood Catholic Church in Fort Wayne.

The children of August Pepe and Caroline Celena Grosjean were:

- FRANCIS PEPE born October 6, 1862 in Jefferson Township, died November 4, 1895 in Allen County, Indiana. Married MARTHA GIRARDOT ON May 25, 1886 in St. Louis Church. She was the daughter of ALEXIS GIRARDOT and ANNA JOSEPHINE URBINE.
- JULIAN AUGUST PEPE born July 5, 1864 in Jefferson Township, died July 11, 1951 in Allen County, Indiana. Married MELISSA BOWERS on January 27, 1891 in St. Louis Church.
- ADOLPH J. PEPE born April 17, 1866 in Jefferson Township, died December 31, 1884.
- MARY HENRIETTA PEPE born December 28, 1868 in Jefferson Township. Married GEORGE S. CAMPBELL on November 10, 1887 in Allen County, Indiana.
- EDWARD PEPE born December 23, 1870 in Jefferson Township, died August 22, 1877.
- CLARA CECELIA (CLARISSE) PEPE born March 9, 1872 in Jefferson Township, died 1876.
- AUGUSTE EMIEL (AMIEL) PEPE born October 11, 1874 in Jefferson Township, died September 24, 1957 in Allen County, Indiana. Married LAURA (LOMONT) HENRY on July 20, 1904 in St. Louis Church.
- HENRIETTA EUGENIA PEPE born November 6, 1877 in Jefferson Township, died 1965 in Allen County, Indiana. Married CHARLES EDWARD HUGUENARD on April 21, 1892 in St. Louis Church.
- MARIE FRANCISCA CLARA PEPE born July 14, 1882 in Jefferson Township. Married HENRY MASON on October 26, 1919 in St. Louis Rectory.
- ELIZABETH (ELISA) M. JULIETTE PEPE born November 13, 1888 in Jefferson Township. Married FRANK E. PRANGER on September 24, 1912 in St. Louis Church.

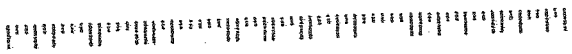
HELP US IDENTIFY THE PEOPLE IN THESE PHOTOGRAPHS!!!!

Largely as the result of the Album in the Attic project, the Society has acquired a significant collection of old photographs. Many of the people in these photographs remain unidentified. The following photographs are reproduced on a large scale for ease of identification. If you can identify anyone in these photographs, please contact the Society with the information.









Historical Genealogical Collection *cml*
Allen County Public Library
900 Webster Street
Fort Wayne IN 46802-3966

Besancon Historical Society
15535 Lincoln Highway East
New Haven IN 46774

