## Clintun Independent

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ST. JOHNS. NICHIGAN

OCTOBEL. 1977

OCTOBER TO BE BUSY MONTH FOR SOCIETY MEMBERS WITH PARADE, MARKER DEDICATION, SCHOOL DAYS AT OUR REGULAR MEETING.

- Oct. 3 GENE LOGY COMMITTEE Meets in the History Room of Bement Library (St. Johns) at 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 4 MUSEUM MEETING . Meeting at Museum 7:30 p.m.
- Cet. 7 HOMECOMING PIRIDE

  Join the St. Johns, Michigan

  "Mew Bicycle Band" at 4:30
  p.m. at Cibbs Street where
  Parade assembles. All welcome.

  (Story on Page Four)
- Oct. 9 MIRKER DEDICATION

  East M-21 and Shepardsville

  Road where marker conner
  ating Michigan Hushers game
  will be dedicated.
- Oct. 20 SOCIETY HESTING

  Meeting time is 7:00p.m.

  at Gunnisonville School

  which is at intersection

  of Wood Boads and Clark

  Boads.

(Story on Page four)

In 1852 the first postoffice in the township of Bingham was established in the home of George W. Estes, who was appointed post-master. It is said that the first mail brought to St. Johns was carried in the mail riders hat, and that the first postmaster kept his office in a cigar box.

COMMITTEE FOR THE TOPING OF INTERVIEWS OF RECOLLECTIONS MEETS OCTOBED 24 TO THE MUSIUM 'T 7:30. "LL INVITED TO STEED

MICHIGAN RUSHERS MARKER TO BE DEDICATED OCTOBER 9

"In the field south of this spot, a professional football team, "The Michigan Mushers", played on July 4, 1895 what was, undoubtedly, the first professional football game in highlyan and the nation."

So reads the Historic Sites'
marker to errected in a special
ceremony on the grounds of the Alder
man's Grocery Store at the corner
of M-21 and Shepardsville Head, Oct.
9 at 5:00 p.m. Ron Huard will act
as master of ceremonies. Special
guests have been invited.

In the 1950's some 55-60 years after this historic game was played. Leo J. Grove, manager-player of the team, tried in vain to gain official recognition for Shepardsville as the birthplace of professional football. He petitioned sports authorities, Congressmen, and other officials, and received widespread pubmicity in the national press.

His claim after Latrobe, ra.
was recorded as being the site of the
first professional game, sugust 31,
1895. Grove knew that the mushers
had played their first game nearly
two months before that. Eventually
Latrobe was dropped from the record
book and the League took the stand
that there would be no official
recognition of a "First Professions"
Game."

Tom Tears of the Historic Datacommittee had conducted a two year
investigation and has made a trip
to the Football Hall of Fame in
Canton, Ohio There the desearch
Director, Jim Campbell, acknowledges
that although the shared proceeds
of the game were small (\$3.00 collected by passing a hat) technically

(continued on Page four)

ESSLY CONTEST: The second place winner in the grade school division of the essay contest sponsored by the Historical Society is Terry Thelen. Terry was a sixth grade student at St. Pary's School in Westphalia when this essay was written. Terry wrote about ancestors who came to this county in September of 1881.

Mr. and Mrs. Notz lived in Asanto, Germany in the providence of Westphalia. Three children, Albert, Julius and my great-grandmother Magdelin shared their home. While in Germany, Mr. Motz was in the newpaper business. This was during the Pranco-Prussian war or sometime around the year of 1880. Mr. Motz and his family wanted nothing to do with the war, so they set out on a journey to find a new way of life in merica.

On the afternoon of September 10, 1881, the Motzes arrived in New . York on the steamship Alba, The Motz family made their way through Canada where two more children were born, and finally reached Detroit where their children were baptized. From Detroit, Mr. Motz and the "amily made theor way to Fowler and there they settled down on a farm

Once in Fowler, Magdelin traveled back to Detroit where she met seph Werner. Joseph was a widower with four children. In 1889 raddelin and Joseph were married and moved back to Fowler. With four tep-children already, Lana (as she was known) gave birth to hartha, Fony, Roman, Dorothy, Mosaline, Helen, and my grandmother, Anna Werner-Joseph died in 1933. His wife Lena built a house in 1939 and lived there the rest of her life until 1964.

My grandmother, anna erner, soon met Joseph Thelen. They were married on the date of June 13, 1921. They had tweleve children, Betty my father Paul, Leon, Ivin, Jerome, Stanley, Donald, Doris, Marie, Francis, Loretta, and Therese. The Thelen family lived on a farm three and one half miles south of Fowler. Joe and onna stayed there until 1959 when they built a house in Powler and lived there for the rest of their lives. Anna died in 1967 and my grandfather died in 1974.

Joseph Thelen's ancestors can also be traced back to Germany. Joseph's grandfather was bichael Spitzley who came from Germany in the middle 1800's. "e became an area business man in westphalia. Later he married and amony his children was my great-grandmother Margeret Spitzley.

Margeret was born in 1865. Later she married another Westphall by the name of John Thelen. John and Margeret had three children. Among them was my grandfather Joseph with his younger brother saw and John Jr. The Thelen family of John and Margeret lived and was all on a farm in Westphalia. Unfortunately, John Sr. died in 1893. soon married John Rademacher and they had three sons, with the name of Louis, William and Leonard.

Paul was born in 1923 to Joe and Inna Thelen. He served in the army as a sergeant during World War II. On June 15, 1949, Paul married Mary Jane Harr from Powler. The new family moved to a farm on Taft Road where they still live and farm today. While on the farm, Faul and Mary Jane had six children with the names of Jean, Dave, Ruth,

Judy, Dan and myself, Terry.

From the 1800's to 1977 the Thelen's have come a long way from Germany to their first dream when they crossed over to merican soil

on that special date of September 10, 1881.

We are proud to add this family tree to our collection of local genealogies. This one submitted by arlene Ingalls Schrader.

## INC LLS F MILY

County, I have recently become interested in tracing my "roots." Some of my ancestors are Stevens, Craun, Pillmore, Howe, Nutting, Vedder, Marten and Ingalls. Here is a brief history of one of my grandfathers, John D. Ingalls.

John D. Ingalls migrated to Hichigan, Ionia County, from Canada, and was listed in the 1850 census as living with his sister, Mrs. Lockwood Clark (Hary Jane). Thier parents names were John C. Ingalls and Jaura from New York state.

In 1865 John D. purchased land in section 10, watertown Township, Clinton County, and also took a wife. He married Delina Vedder, who was born in Belina, New York and came to Michigan in 1855. Three children were born to them, Charles S. Mellie (Mrs. G.a. Williams of Dewitt) and Minnie (Brs. E.M. Grinold of Grand Ladge). John was a former.

In 1661 he enliated in Company L. 5 Hichigan Reg. and served in many skirrishes in the Civil Mar. and was discharged in 1865. He referred injuries during the war and after his death in 1880, Delia was able to obtain a possion. She later married indeed indeed and a later for indeed indeed and the second of the later for indeed indeed and the later for indeed indeed indeed indeed indeed indeed indeed in the later for indeed indeed in the later for indeed indeed in the later for indee

Charles Sebastian Ingalls son of Jan D. continued to own the farm in Waterlan and married Manie Serie. Three callfron were born: Hornor D, and Esther ( ego of t t twins, one aging in childbirth.)

Herbert D, took up the family farm of carried meble Croun to whom five children were born: Den D. Slied in World Mar II. Charles, Duane, Thene and Larry. Herbert E. was a farmer and water well driller. His sons have followed in his footsteps, and two are currently in business on the farm. The farm was designated as a centennial farm in 1956 and is still in the family. Charles and Duane have homes on the original eighty-acre farm. Larry resides in Alley township. Thene resides in Riley township on a farm and is married to Vernen Schrader.

Others who wish to submit a similar genealogy are welcome to do so, Please contact Goldie Moore.

who came from Freidenstadt, Jurtemburg, Germany C. 1854. They were related to Keb; er (Kabler) Schee, hohrer, families of Germany and Clinton County.

NEED HELP getting your family history together? Your place is the Genealogy Committee meeting at the Bement Library (History Hous) at 7:30 on October 3. They can help you get started and the group ways has some interesting projects under way/ COME THE ST. JOHNS, MICHIG N'NEW BICYCLE B'ND" TO PL Y IN HOMECONING P'A: DE ON OCTOBER 7 SPONSORED BY THE HIST ORIC'L SOCIETY --- MEMBERS INVITED TO FOLLOW THE BIND.

If you were visitng Troy, Mich. on Sept. 11, you would have seen the on Sunday October 9 will at localest St. Johns, Mich New Bicycle Band. give recognition to the men of the Being from this area you might have Tondered what those strangers out there were doing with St. Johns as THEIR name. It really isn't hard to by going east on M-21 from St. Johns explain.

In 1956, a high school student lon Higgins read in the centennial dition of THE REPUBLIC N NEWS bout the St. Johns, Mich Bicycle and. Higgins, a member of the H.B. SCHOOL ON OCTOBER 20 AT 7:00 P.M. alson band and an avid lover of the te, didn't forget that article. wars later when he was a member of Dicycle club and thinking about a Bloantannial project, he came up with the idea of recreating that same bi- We will, however, not be ten o'closs eycle band which he read about 20 scholars because this meeting will years before.

With such an enthusiatic organ' lzer as Ron Higgins, the band was due success from the beginning. He sought to come to St. Johns during the Bicentennial, but dates could ant be coordinated and the thought

However, Higgins's band became not only a Bicentennial project of a was built in the 1950's. The school few week's duration, it became an over-night sensation and the group appeared in many parades in Oakland and when the Lansing Schools sought and surr unding counties. The Hist- to use this building as a recreatorical Society will present the ot. Jouns, Michigan New Bloyce Band at the Homecoming parade. it long last the New Bicycle Band vill come home to where it all began gone to school in this old building The parade is at 5:00p.m. on Friday Oct. 7 in downtown St. Johns. one who wants to dress in costumo of the 1880's and walk-bohind the band (we'll carry our banner) is welcome. This should be a fun time. Commission. The parade assembles on West Gibbs Street at 4:30 p.m. If you don't want to dress up, be sure to view this recreation of the St. Johns Michigan Bicycle Band.

ALSO HEEDED THE TANDEM BICYCLES AND A PEW ADULT THICKCHES METCH WE HEED FOR THE I TOURS.

DEDIC TION CEREMONY (continued from Page One) it was the only game on record that could qualify as the first pro-fessional game. The dedication Michigan Rushers and bring to a clos-Tom Teare's long quest.

The dedication can be reached to Shepardsville Road. The ceremony will be at that intercection.

HISTORIC L SOCIETY MEMBERS TO GO B CK TO SCHOOL .T GUINISONVILLE

Society members will have an opportunity to go back to school on October 20 when the Historical Society meeting takes place in the restored Gunnisonville School. begin one hour earlier than usual t 7:00p.m. due to regulations con-

cerning the use of the building. The old Gunnisonville school was restored by the Lansing School District as a Bicentennial project. The old school, built of brick at of being in St. Johns was put aside, the turn of the century, was used until the new building on Clark Ad. annexed to the Lansing Schools. he old building was left vacant pd claser ow so that students could view school life as it was at the Thus turn of the century, they restored it. Many Lansing area students have and felt what it was like in "oldon Mays." This school was the recepitent of the first tri-county marker. The marker was sponsored by the Clinton County Bi-Centennial