



# Swiss Heritage Society Messenger

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Berne, Indiana 46711

## Large number of families takes trip back in time at Heritage Festival

This year's Heritage Festival on September 9 proved to be one of the outstanding family outings at the village in recent years. Thanks to generous participation from community residents, there were more activities to get involved in and more volunteer support to assist with the work.

From carding wool to cross-cutting wood, many young people had the opportunity to participate in activities that had only been legends passed down by ancestors. There was also plenty of music and, of course, good eating.



"This is one of the best attended festivals we've had in several years," noted Swiss Heritage committee member Fred Lehman. "Everything worked together, the weather, the people, and all of the helpers. It's the kind of festival you walk away from really feeling good.

"I was especially impressed with all of the families that came," added Lehman. "It was a time for safe, clean fun and enjoyment, which is why we have the festival in the first place."

Lehman noted that many young people

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Jennifer Austin and Fred Lehman display the silver glass ornament.

## Austin decorates museum

Jennifer Austin, granddaughter of Dr. and Mrs. Amos Reusser, has donated a silver glass ornament to the Swiss Heritage Museum. The ornament once hung in the display cabinet of the Ruesser home.

"I remember going there as a child and admiring this silver glass ornament," said Austin, who currently resides in Plantation, Florida. "My grandmother, Clara Bixler-Reusser, was born in 1877 and

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## Steps Increase Toward Brick Road

Doyle Lehman expressed enthusiasm at the recent Swiss Heritage Appreciation Banquet concerning the progress of the village's "Create a Legacy" project.

The project, which includes memorial and honorary bricks making up a walk of legacy to the village's covered bridge, had sold 135 bricks at the time of this printing. Lehman said there are others who are interested in becoming involved.

"We have had good community support for this. One of the most touching bricks is one in which Fred Lehman paid tribute to the five-week daily vacation Bible School,"

said Lehman.

Village officials suggested that recognizing a family member or friend with a memorial brick would be an excellent suggestion for a Christmas gift with lasting worth. Brick purchase options include a regular size (4 x 8). Cost is \$125 for the first brick, \$100 for the second brick, \$75 for the third, and \$50 for each additional brick.

A second option is the large size (8 x 8) which prices at \$300 for the first brick, \$200 for the second, and \$100 for each additional brick.

The deadline for this year's walkway is

Dec. 31, 2006.

Your purchase is fully tax deductible. The bridge was built and donated to the Swiss Heritage Village by Amos B. Schwartz Construction.

Read more about the brick road on page 6.



# Liechtys donate Hahnemann replica to village

Imagine crossing the Atlantic Ocean on a cotton freighter 22 feet wide and 123 feet long, enduring storms, rough seas, and the misery of cramped accommodations in the lower part of the boat.

The Hahnemann sailed in 1852 and brought 80 people who were emigrating from Switzerland to America, their land of promise. The cost of a ticket for the 41-day journey was \$37. Many became ill. Three children died and were buried at sea.

The Swiss settlers traveled first to Kidron in Holmes County, Ohio. Land was \$2.50 an acre. When the immigrants learned that land was available near Vera Cruz for only \$1.25 an acre, many made the decision to go there instead. The land (west of Berne) was swampy. Clearing it was hard work, but the new settlers persevered.

Loren Liechty, with his love of history and genealogy, constructed this scale

model of the Hahnemann for the Sesquicentennial parade in 2002 that marked Berne's 150th anniversary. The Liechtys donated the model to Swiss Heritage Society.

Loren's great-grandfather was one of the early settlers who came to America on the Hahnemann. He built Berne's first wood building, the general store. Loren's grandfather, Emanuel J. Liechty, was five years old when he immigrated with his parents. He later became a carpenter, as did his son, Robert, who was Loren's fa-



Loren Liechty stands in front of the Hahnemann replica.

ther. With Loren and his sons following in these footsteps, there are five generations of Swiss carpenters in the Liechty family.



## How to observe Thanksgiving

Count your blessings instead of your crosses;

Count your gains instead of your losses.

Count your joys instead of your woes;

Count your friends instead of your foes.

Count your smiles instead of your tears;

Count your courage instead of your fears.

Count your full years instead of your lean;

Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.

Count your health instead of your wealth;

Count on God instead of yourself.

## Land cleared for sawmill

Land has been cleared as village workers continue to make progress in preparing for the Ervin Werling Sawmill at the southeast corner of the woods at Swiss Heritage Village. By the time this newsletter goes to print, the foundation for the structure will have been installed.

The sawmill, the newest member of the Swiss Heritage family of restored buildings, has been owned by Ervin Werling, who lives near Tocsin. The structure was originally owned by Werling's father.

"This is another one of many goals that

we've met along the way in our continuing effort to document local history through buildings," said Swiss Heritage Board member Fred Lehman. "Over and over, our society members have had a vision, and it has come to pass.

"We are grateful for all who have donated money, time, and energy, to bring this project around. We eagerly anticipate seeing the finished product in the near future," Lehman added.

The sawmill currently sits on two wagons in our barn.

## Austin decorates museum — continued from page 1

acquired this ornament as a young girl. My mother, Norma Josephine Bagley, gave this to me and now I wish to donate it to the Swiss Heritage Museum."

"Many of the elderly people in the area have fond memories of Dr. Ruesser. Many other people in town have heard stories that have been passed down concerning his practice," commented Gretchen Lehman, executive director of Swiss Heritage Village.

"Jennifer stopped and presented this ornament to museum officials when she was passing through the area. It is indeed an honor to have such an artifact, now well over 100 years old, in our museum," added Lehman.

Dr. Reusser was known to many as the "horse and buggy" doctor. Many children in southern Adams County were delivered by him in their homes which he visited with his carriage. A horse and carriage marker hangs by his grave in the MRE Cemetery.

# A big "Thank You" to volunteers

Those who have volunteered faithfully to Swiss Heritage Village were recognized on September 26 at the village's annual appreciation banquet. The Lavern Troyer family provided a great meal of Swiss cooking, and John Eicher had everyone laughing at light-hearted stories from his memory notebook.

"It was a great celebration of our community and all of the work that everyone has put into our society," said Swiss Heritage director Gretchen Lehman. "We really appreciate all of the hard work of our volunteers. It's amazing how many

people figure into the hard work that makes the village successful.

Lehman praised those who come on a regular basis to work at the museum and on the grounds. She also expressed appreciation for those willing to donate time working on special events and projects.

"I've especially been impressed with the young people who have gotten involved this past year," said Lehman. "From our scouts to school students and individual volunteers, it's al-



ways a joy to see our youth become interested in our historical heritage."



## The steps of a good man

By JIM LANGHAM

One of our family relatives, Manes Hirschy, who grew up in a log cabin southeast of Berne, lived to be 103 years old. In his later years, he stayed with relatives in southern Michigan.

In spite of his age, Uncle Manes, a deeply God-fearing man, read his Bible daily, with the use of a magnifying glass. One of his bits of advice in growing old successfully was, "read your Bible every day and keep walking."

Uncle Manes lived out that advice to the best of his ability, walking nearly a mile a day when he was approaching the century mark.

In his home, he left a special trail on the floor from his bedroom to the table where

he read God's Word. There were drag marks on the floor indicating the pathway where he walked many times a day to read and even write memories of his 100 years of living.

It's not hard to compare the memorial bricks leading to the bridge into Swiss Heritage Village to those of Uncle Manes leading to the place where he read the Bible. Each brick is a memory or salute to someone who has made a deep impression on another. For those who have passed on, those steps are symbolic of that individual's journey to the "final bridge" that crossed over to their Heavenly home.

In Psalm 37: 23-26, King David referred to those whose steps were in line

with God's footprints for their lives.

"If the Lord delights in a man's way, he makes his steps firm," wrote David. "Though he stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand. I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging for bread. They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be blessed."

It's a tall order, walking in the footsteps of those who have laid down Godly examples for our lives. But the God of those who brought our ancestors to religious freedom has also promised to make our steps firm, keep us from falling completely, and will uphold us with His hand.

## Large number of families takes trip back in time at Heritage Festival — continued from page 1

participated in the event, including the Berne Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, FFA students, and South Adams student council. There was also a group of students from Taylor University that volunteered their services.

"You could feel the spirit of the entire community out here all day," said Swiss Heritage Village executive Gretchen Lehman. "I felt that everyone that attended had a good time and learned some positive things about their heritage."

On Friday, 1530 area elementary students came from nine counties and 26 schools visited the village for a day of history education and hands on. Most area schools have adopted this special occasion as a field day for their classes.

"We were encouraged by all the teachers and students that expressed appreciation for this," said Gretchen Lehman. "And a big thank you is in order to all of the volunteers that helped make this successful."

# NEEDS AT THE VILLAGE

## IMMEDIATE

- ✦ Windows in the church need replaced.
- ✦ Roof repair in the cheese house
- ✦ Roof repair in the school house
- ✦ Window repair in the school house
- ✦ Paint exterior of church, house, summer kitchen.
- ✦ Complete railroad.
- ✦ Complete saw mill.
- ✦ Log cabin repair
- ✦ Pay off the Museum mortgage of \$52,488.00
- ✦ Need plank bottom chairs
- ✦ Need updated computer for cataloguing artifacts

## LONG RANGE

- ✦ Complete Main Street as in the late 1800's.
- ✦ Heat & climate control in the museum.
- ✦ Replace ceiling and lights in the museum.
- ✦ Stone path on opposite side of bridge.
- ✦ Landscaping around the bridge entrance
- ✦ Repair the museum parking lot.
- ✦ Museum stain and paint.
- ✦ Fencing around the perimeter for better security
- ✦ Reside the west side of the cheese house.

## A living gift to Swiss Heritage Village

Did you realize that you could give a living gift to future generations through remembering Swiss Heritage Village in your estate planning?

Any gifts left through estate memorials are deductible for state and federal estate

tax purposes and will be used for continued maintenance of our heritage through the museum and the village.

For further information about how you can establish such a gift, call Swiss Heritage Village at 589-8007.

## Annual business meeting

The Swiss Heritage Society will hold their annual business meeting on Tuesday, January 16, at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium at Swiss Village. There will be a short business meeting, election of officers and an update of the village activities. All are invited to come for fellowship and refreshments.

## Thanksgiving Prayer

By SUSAN D. ANDERSON

I'm thankful for my mother, and  
 I'm thankful for my dad.  
 I'm thankful for my sisters, and  
 For all the fun we've had.  
 I'm thankful for my brother, Tom,  
 (even when he's jerky.)  
 But most of all, I'm oh-so-thankful  
 Not to be a turkey.



## *Special Thanks*

Special thanks go to Clair and Lanetta Christener for the countless volunteer hours they spend at Swiss Heritage Village mowing and trimming the grounds. You are most appreciated and we thank you for your dedication!



Lizzy  
 213 S. Jefferson  
 Ossian, I.N.  
 9-14-06

Dear Historical Society,  
 I loved the Bern Festival!  
 I liked the fun especially  
 when there were soft. And I liked  
 walking through the woods.  
 I also liked the way they set up  
 the rival war camp, with fake  
 wooden guns and the pond  
 beside it is beautiful.  
 Climbing up Jacob's ladder was  
 awesome! Walking on stilts was  
 fun too. Next year I would like  
 to go again. When I left I  
 thought, I'll never forget this day,  
 thank you Historical Society!

Sincerely,  
 Elizabeth Moser

Our flag Bell Gun Corn Wagon



*The crew lays down more bricks.*

## Special brick response

Earlier in the summer, Swiss Heritage official Madelyn Wurster called Don Neuen, director of the Crystal Cathedral choir in Garden Grove, CA., (of the Hour of Power ministry) and told him about the Swiss Heritage brick project.

That call prompted the following response from Neuen, "Thanks so much for the call with this great idea. We are thrilled to be a part of this idea. Sue and Don Neuen."

Neuen is originally from Berne and is the son of Erma Neuen. He is currently recuperating from a heart attack and would appreciate our prayers.



## *Christmas Eve Services Planned*

Once again, the traditional Swiss Heritage Village Christmas Eve services will be held at the Baumgartner Church at 6 and 9 p.m. There will be plenty of Christmas music and atmosphere fitting to help us all celebrate the birth of the Christ child in our hearts.



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*Keep your heritage alive through seeds of estate planning...  
...remember us in your will!*

To:

Dated Material – Do not delay!