



SIL-TENNIAL BELLES CHORUS which has been singing for various activities; most of them are in the Pageant Chorus. **Front Row**, left to right—Jennie Wilham, Irene Matthews, Ruth Lee, Tess Brooker, Jessie Schaffenacker, Alma Baumann, Eileen Burdick, Nancy Dittus. **Middle Row**—Marie Zebrun, Naomi Curtis, Louella Myrick, Maude Miller, Rose-

mary Fuiten, Stella Hawk, Irma Jean Buckles, Phyllis Meister, and Betty Sams, director. **Back Row**—Margaret Wible, Adalia Downing, Edna Allen, Ruth Havener, Ann Zelle, Ethel Downing, Helen Buckles. Lois Schaffenacker is the accompanist.—Times-News Photo.

DANNERS AMONG EARLIEST OF SETTLERS TO TAKE UP RESIDENCE

Christian Danner was born in the vicinity of the Black Forest in Wurtemberg, Germany in 1785. He was married about 1806 and his wife's name is unknown.

He was a blacksmith by trade and during his early manhood was crippled by the freezing of his lower limbs, which compelled him to drag himself around on his hands. He was the father of seven children, five sons and two daughters. When these sons grew to manhood, many people were leaving Germany to come to America. These boys too, felt the desire to seek their fortune in America, so they left the Fatherland one by one.

The first to leave was "Andrew" who landed at Hagerstown, Maryland in 1832 at the age of 24. He worked at Hagerstown at the blacksmith trade. In 1839 he came to Springfield, Ill. where he worked at his trade for a year. Then in 1840, he walked to Mt. Pulaski, Illinois. There were two houses in Mt. Pulaski at that time when he arrived. Jabez Capps and Dr. Barton Robinson lived in these two houses. Andrew Danner boarded with Mr. Capps until he was married to Magdaline Mergenthaler, who died in 1855. In 1856 he was married to Mary Loeterle. He had nine children, five by his first wife and four by his second wife. They were, Christina, wife of Peter Baker; Marian, wife of John Reinders; John Danner; Margaret, wife of Fred Sommers; Christian Danner; Katherine, wife of Andrew Epting. Three children died in infancy. Andrew worked at the blacksmith trade for 18 years, and he also had purchased 80 acres of land in 1841.

The second son to leave the fatherland to come to America was Christian Danner. He was born Dec. 13, 1810, and came to America in 1834. He worked in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania for six years. In 1838 he married Effie Dorothy Smith and two years later he came to Mt. Pulaski, Ill. The two brothers evidently came to Mt. Pulaski the same year. Christian and Effie's first child was born July 7, 1841 and was named Andrew F. Danner. He was the first white child of German parentage born in Mt. Pulaski and the old home is still standing (1960) and is part of the house now occupied by the Kirby family on South Lafayette St. There were four children born to this wife; Andrew, Henry, John and Katherine (or Katrine as she was christened) who was the wife of John Frederick Bender. He was better known as Fred Bender.

After Effie's death in 1854,

Christian married Dorothy Burkhardt. To this union was born Mary, wife of John Roth; George, Gottlieb, Fred, Christian, and Christina, wife of Frank Guntern.

Christian and Andrew Danner were the first settlers in Mt. Pulaski after Jabez Capps and Dr. Barton Robinson who came from Springfield in 1836. They laid out the townsite and gave the two Danners each a lot. On one they built a frame house. It stood on the south side of the square, now the site of the Danner Building. Christian and Andrew followed the blacksmith trade and they were the only blacksmiths between Springfield and Clinton.

There were no roads, no bridges in the country, just Indian trails. Labor was very cheap by our standards. \$1.50 being the price for shoeing a horse all around with new shoes. "All Around" means all four feet, some youngsters might not understand. They bought the iron from Mr. Capps and made their own shoes. Late in the fall farmers brought pork to Mr. Capps, who paid them \$1.50 per 100 lbs., deducting the amount of the blacksmith bill and also his bill for the raw iron and then paid the balance to the Danners.

TABLES SET FOR 3,000 AT 1882 BARBECUE

The "biggest time" that the old settlers have yet had was in 1882, when they held a barbecue at Mt. Pulaski, on Wednesday, Sept. 13, 1882. The formal exercises were held in the public square, where the space had been fenced in for the old settlers with ropes. The stand was erected at the west front of the old courthouse, where the interlacing catalpas made a grateful shade. Upon a table were displayed a few relics of old times, mainly in the form of homemade linen and coverlids, one of the latter 120 years old. A primitive stove, said to be 50 years old and the first ever used in this county, was also shown. The oldest person present was a Mrs. Hilliard, of the vicinity of Lake Fork Station, 101 years of age.

Tables Set for 3,000

The morning speeches were delivered by Colonel R. B. Latham, of Lincoln, and James H. Matheny and R. W. Diller, of Springfield. The meeting then adjourned for dinner. All the south side of the square was filled with tables, making a total length of 3,000 feet or more.

There was no lack of meat as the enormous steam chest had done duty in cooking 6½ beefs, 12 hogs and 13 sheep. Other sup-

plies were furnished in proportion. The steam chest was 16 feet long, 7 high and 7 wide, made of common pine flooring, with 5 sets of grates or shelving, made of 2x4 oak, upon which the meats were placed. A 40 lb. pressure of steam was turned on the first batch at a little after 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon (the day before the meeting), and the chest was opened at about 7, showing the meat thoroughly cooked. A second batch was cooked between 9 and 12:30 o'clock, immediately after. The chest having been steamed for several days previous, no wood taste was perceptible in the meat. No raw meat was found as usual in roast barbecues. The coffee question seemed a very serious one to all, as apparently no preparation was in sight for its making. But a surprise followed when it was discovered that a turn of the steam pipe was made from the steam chest to an 80 gallon hoghead of ice water, which gave, in 10 minutes, that many gallons of boiling coffee. In all about 400 gallons were carried to the tables.

MOUNT PULASKI HAS REASON TO CELEBRATE!

When as fine a city as Mount Pulaski reaches its 125th birthday, that's something to celebrate. Through the years our town has shown a steady record of growth and improvement to become truly a fine place to live and to do business.

We are proud to be a part of this community, and extend Sil-Tennial Greetings to each and every resident.



HOLMES GARAGE

PHONE SW 2-5617



FAITH IN THE FUTURE

WE TAKE PRIDE that we are among the newer businesses in Mount Pulaski — an evidence of our faith in the future of our city, which has so splendidly been built by other businesses during the past 125 years.

OUR SERVICE to the public is primarily devoted to builders' hardware, small appliances, and other items needed in the modern home. Here you will find a complete selection of the well-known brand items you would expect to find in a modern up-to-date hardware store.

MOUNT PULASKI FARMERS GRAIN & ELEVATOR HARDWARE STORE