

October 3, 1963

Joseph Plassmeyer And The 'Rebels' At Westphalia

by Anthony Willibrand
Norman, Okla.

In the issue of July 7, 1963, the U. D. printed our little piece entitled, "Father Goeldlin and the 'Redels' at Westphalia." Since that date we have found more Civil War notes in our files. We select from them the story about a former citizen of the Westphalia community who became a prisoner of the Confederates during the invasion of General Sterling Price. The name of this prisoner was Joseph Plassmeyer, the father of Colonel Plassmeyer, a retired U.S. Cavalry officer now living near Westphalia.

Joseph Plassmeyer was a member of a German family that settled down on a small upland farm on the Westphalia-Koeltz-town County Road. Largely for economic reasons he and two brothers, Anton and John, enlisted on the Northern side at the beginning of the Civil War. Another brother, Herman, remained at home to help his mother with managing the farm. There was a younger brother, Gerhard, later a prominent citizen of Osage County, who was not old enough to join the armed forces. Joe and Anton joined the 26th Missouri Volunteer Infantry, which began its training under Clonel Boomer at Medora (St. Aubert) in the northern part

of the county. (Colonel Boomer was the founder of Castle Rock.) John served in the 10th Missouri Volunteer Cavalry. He was sent home on sick leave and died in the army hospital in Jefferson City. His remains were brought back to Westphalia for burial. According to the notes we contributed to the "Souvenir of the Centennial Celebration" at Westphalia in 1935, "Corporal Anton Plassmeyer was captured by the enemy at Lookout Mountain and died in the Andersonville prison."

Joe Plassmeyer was discharged from the army for medical reasons. At the time of Price's raiding expedition he held a job hauling freight from the Westphalia Landing on the Osage to Holtschneider's Store at Koeltz-town. One evening at dusk he was stopped by Confederate soldiers who wanted to know if he belonged to the Federal Army. He answered No! Well then, why was he wearing a federal army overcoat? His explanation did not satisfy the Southerners. They took him to General Shelby's tent, which had been pitched near the Martin Bode home at Westphalia. The following morning he was questioned by Shelby, who asked him, "Can you produce a responsible citizen who will vouch for your story?"

The responsible citizen who appeared at the tent was none other than Father Goeldlin, the wart-time pastor at Westphalia's stone church. We surmise that a courteous and dignified conversation ensued between the Confederate general and the humble parish priest. Plassmeyer was released, minus the Federal overcoat, which may well have warmed some Southern soldiers on chilly nights during that ill-fated October expedition through Central Missouri.

Father Goeldlin has figured prominently in our recent bits of historical journalism. Perhaps a

biographical sketch of this pastoral-minded Jesuit would be in place in a future piece.

Joe Plassmeyer's son, who is affectionately referred to as "The Colonel at Westphalia," has been our chief informant for this little story. The combined memories of these two men reach back much farther than the hundred years that has elapsed since the outbreak of the Civil War.

Bridal Shower Honors Miss Velma Grellner

Mrs. JoAnn Edwards, Mrs. Lillian Redel and Miss Elsie Bexten were hostess to a surprise miscellaneous shower honoring Miss Velma Grellner, bride elect, on Sunday afternoon, September 15, at Rich Fountain.

The gift table was centered with a huge white bell, beneath which was a bride doll. Gold and white streamers ascended to the doll from the bell.

The honoree opened the many lovely and useful gifts, following which games were played. Prizes went to Mrs. Lucille Buehler, Mrs. Irene Stegeman, Miss Dianne Rehagen, Miss Marie Bexten and Miss Virginia Feltrop.

A buffet luncheon was served for the occasion. Attending were: Mesdames: Herbert Grellner, Viola Rehagen, Lawrence Rehagen, Irene Stegeman, Delores Markway, Naomi Rehagen, Bernice Heckman, Lucille Buehler, Irma Richter, Lena Boehm, Helen Ar-

News In The Senate

By Safe Senator Don Owens
20th District

Bonnots Mill News

by Dean Perrier
(Written for last week)

Guests in the Louis Bret home last week were Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bret and son Robert of Griffith Indiana and on Sunday Mr. and Mrs. Norbert Wolters and family of Jefferson City. Miss Carol Buhr and Roger

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