

Modesto, California. Feb. 17, 1974.

Mr. Fred C. Koch
Olympia, Washington.

Answer to letter - P1 -

Dear Fred:-

First I wish to apologise for postponing this answer to your inquiry of Jan. 20th and you have probably given me up as a bad job. However I have thought of you every day and have also given your question some thought too and I am afraid I haven't much to give you. I do know of some who have written pamphlets, articles, autobiographies, histories mostly of families, reminiscences, trip editorials etc etc but a standard book length work is information that has not reached my attention up to date. I will say that getting such information out of people for your records is like "PULLING TEETH" and I know about how hard that is as I have "PULLED" several 100 thousand of them in my 50 year practice. I write, beg, hope, yearn steal anything I can get out of letters, papers, clippings I can get about our graduates graduates but I am loath to say how few take it seriously enough to even acknowledge hearing from me. On the other hand I can't blame them as in the first place it is none of my business where they are what they have done and are going to do. I sometimes feel like an imposter but I asked for it and no one owes me anything.

I really don't believe I can give you one name of anyone who will answer up to the standard you have set for them viz, a work which has been influential in giving them any kind of a degree, in fact I don't think I am cognizant of anyone who has such a degree altho there must be hundreds who have. I will list below those things which I have received in the past which have any semblance of a "work" as I recall and looking thru the books:

1. Smith, Newell E., Class of 1906. a short story writer for years fiction short stories for magazines for fees. I influenced him to write more and he wrote a 54 page (typed written) a sort of autobiog of his life story starting in Mich and ending in Ritzville including his parents and family entitled, "I lived there" mention Ritzville or Adams County. He gave me the right to put it in the Book and it is in the 1906 Book. en toto.
2. Hoefel, David In 1965 Dave published what he called an album, a 97 card board paper covered 97 page book as he said in the preface, "In remembrance of our family and for the enjoyment of our families and friends. He presented me with 3 copies so I would have 2 to use for descriptions of the books and one for reference. I really don't think he made this book to sell rather to present it to his friends to enjoy. Dave wasn't a graduate of RHS but he went to school up to high school but and Jake as you know was in your class and two sisters, Ruth in 1925 and Edna in 1930 graduated. Also four children of the Hoefel family later on. I enjoyed this account very much as I knew and grew up with the family a fine group of highly intended folks, hard-working, honest, Christian and lovable people. I have over half of the book in Jake's section of the book of 1921 and more under the other Hoefels.

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Fred

3. Harder, Annine "Opportunities of the Golden West". Cardboard cover attractive 75 page book prefaced with this. "I am going to dedicate this book to my late husband, Jacob Harder, and to my children, Carl, John, Ann and Rex."

MAX is a graduate as is 4 other Harders, John, Judy, Christine and Rex. I purchased a book from Annine in 1960 for \$1.50 which she autographed for me.

Wiffin, Zora, Class of 1910. (Mrs. Harold Peckenbaugh) 2307 Chambers Lake Drive Lacey, Washington. (98503). Together they wrote a book entitled. "Nuggets and Beans". 122 pages either hard or paper cover book cost \$3.95. I bought one from Zora in 1973. A Hearststone Book published by the Carlton Press New York. This is a story of their experiences while living in Alaska.

Leonard, Wallace M. Class of 1915. Wallace wrote me a very complete story of his life and his family history. He was identified with Wildlife thruout the West and must have written many articles altho I couldn't get the information out of him about that. His address is Rt 1 Bx 103 Cathlamet, Wash.

OTT, Judge Richard B. Retired Justice of the Supreme Court of Washington. Class of 1915. I have carried on quite a correspondence with Ritchie during the past 10 or 15 years. I don't know of any book he has written but I have urged him to do so. However, he has written several quite noted decisions one entitled the book of Washington Decisions. He lives right there in Olympia and I presume you are more familiar with him than I am altho I was a contemporary with the Ott family in Ritzville and Rich was the youngest and quite a brilliant man. I would consider him the most noted graduate we can brag about in RHS. He has several degrees too I think. I have devoted 24 pages to him in the 1915 Book.

In a few days I should be out from under an avalanche of pressing obligations and at that time I want to write you at length and send you material perhaps germane to the nature of your wonderful project. Stay in there!

Warm regards

Fred

RHS '21

2/24/74

Dear Mrs Gilson:

Your grand letter of 2/17 together with interesting enclosures arrived yesterday, for which I am deeply indebted to you.

Freese, Judge George H. Class 1916. Address: 315 East 5th, Ritzville, Wash.
George is quite a prolific writer especially of his many trips and they usu-
ally appeared in the Journal-Times which I have cut out and put in the 1916
book along with many other articles he wrote about Court procedures and dec-
isions. I have 21 pages on his doings. He quite often went to Olympia to sit
in on cases and I am sure he could enlighten you more than anyone on this
subject.

McCollow, Ivan N. 1696 View Way, El Cajon, California. 92020 Assistant Prof-
essor of Psychology, San Diego State College. The list of his writing looks
like the who's who in Southern Calif. He wrote me a complete letter on his
life and experiences and has several degrees. He is quite a brilliant man.
I had a wonderful visit with him when he came back in May, 27, 1972 for his
50th reunion. His Class 1922.

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This is only a smattering of those of our grads who have done great things
in the field of written works and I don't think I am capable of giving you a
real good rundown of these people for the main reason I have been gone from
the Ritzville vicinity since 1916 and am not in touch. About the only infor-
mation I have is either 2nd handed or watching the papers and in letters I
have received from friends. You know, Fred, there are a very few people who
can write or do write their thoughts down on paper. I hesitate to write to
many for the reason that it obligates them to write an answer and they confess
that they are poor letter writers of hat to have to do the thing. I have found
a few very fine ones in the later years say from 1955 to 61 through the rec-
ommendation of Professor Lloyd Oberst who was a keen judge of character and
he never steered me wrongly. When he left RHS in 1968 I sorely missed him.

I have prepared books from 1905 and am extending them through 1980 which
makes 75 and each one covers the members of each class as I got their names
through the publications. I will send you a brochure enclosed which will ex-
plain to you why I have done this. Of course it isn't my writing but someone's
else and mostly accounts of High School doings and the graduates activities
afterward. I have written many notes and excerpts throughout as I remembered
the doings and expect to write many more if I keep my "marbles" for a while

I am loath to turn in the jokes just yet but just now as I have talked so much
about them I guess I'll have to put up or shut up re. soon. I do have so much
more work to do on them and each year I get nearer to the culmination of the
job. If I could get someone up there to carry on who is interested in the
project and not make it a hardship it would be great. I had one and you would
wholeheartedly agree with me and that was Vic Rogel but his passing was quite
ablow to me. There are many people there who are capable but I don't like to
ask anyone as it takes a lot of eye work and several there have eye trouble
and can't read anymore. Others are ailing and haven't the strength or will
to do detail work necessary to keep it up to date.

Well, Fred I hope I haven't bored you with my troubles and feel that I
have let you down but really I have given you as much as I could think of.
I don't know what your plan is in getting this information but I am very much
interested in why. Maybe we can have a talk when I come up to the banquet in
May. I certainly want to get there this year and surely want to see the Spokane
Fair. Ralph Gillis sent me a copy of the Spokesman-Review which told all about
it and I can hardly wait to see the place where we boys of long ago "sowed our
wild oats" in the shadows of the old Coeur d Alene Hotel, The St Germain Cafe.
The Davenport Hotel, my dad used to take us to the old Halliday Hotel. Then
there was the ball park where the Indians played, Riverside Ave, etc etc.

I regard to myself I retired on Aug. 3, 1969 and with my wife we are
enjoying life to the fullest. I still take my daily walks of 5 to 10 miles and
just now we returned from a 4 mile stretch to a nearby village. I will be 83
on April 29th and feel great yet. I try to keep active in Lodges and Clubs
(Kiwanis) and other luncheon clubs where men gather. Being a sort of a musi-
cian I play for them and still fill dates before the Granges, farm bureaus
women's clubs, senior citizens, American Legion, all the Masonic lodges,
Shriners etc etc. We have traveled extensively mostly when I was working and
I have found out that there is just as much interest in places and things close
to home as on the other side of the street where is it supposed to be "greener"
I have gone thru the stages of baseball, basketball, tennis, golf fishing etc
and now we square dance for our recreation. For years I had a dance orchestra
and played in bands which was a wonderful experience but quite strenuous.
We have an adopted family of six and they keep Laddie quite busy and we are
happy to help them along as they are very fine couple and kids. are a lot of fun.
The wife is the only daughter of Laddies deceased brother and they are our
family.

By the way are you any relation maybe in a distant way to Carl Koch who
was Emily's brother. He lived in Visalia, Calif and I carried on some corr-
espondence with him and he came by for a visit once. Later he moved to Santa
Cruz where he died. Carl lived next door to us on Nob Hill when he was married
and worked in the German, Amer. Bank. I have over 40 Kochs listed as graduates
and I think I missed a few. How about you giving me a run down of the
Kitzvillie. Maybe it will straighten me out on a lot of them. We used to get a
big kick out of Freddie Koch and I have a account of his death several years ago.

Well Fred I better call this to a halt and really didn't intend to write
so much as I know it is hard reading but you can just relegate it to the waste-
basket if you wish and don't let it bother you. BOMU in May eh eh;;;

Dr. E. L. Gilson
209 Downey Ave.
Modesto, Calif., 95354

Fred C Koch
3145 Lorne Street
Olympia, Wash. 98501

Dear Roy:

need

3/4/74

FR Page 5-

There was no / for an apology because of the delay in replying to my letter of January 20th. In the first place, I know that you're not sitting around just watching cars go by while your rocking chair creeps nearer and nearer the dining room table, getting there, ingeniously, in time for another meal again.

I know that if you didn't have a busy schedule, retirement would kill you.

My second reason for not giving up, or becoming impatient about a reply lay in the kind of a request ~~I made~~ I made. Sorting out the names of RHS graduates who may have published books is a task that would require considerable search - unless all of your voluminous records were computerized!

Anyway, there was, and is, no special hurry about getting this information.

Incidentally, I do know of one of our fellow grads who earned a Ph.D. and I don't know if he had to publish as a requirement or not; that person is Dr. Henry Rehr, who achieved it in economics or business, or both - and at the moment I tell you precisely. I think he was a senior when I was a sophomore or junior, and I'll always remember him with particular warmth because we were on the RHS football team and in one play he got confused and started to run in the wrong direction. Fortunately we got him turned around before he cost us two points, and none of us had to tackle him either. He is now retired after having headed up the U. of Southern Illinois economics school as the final stint in a rather distinguished career.

And as for the doctors of medicine, dentistry, etc., I don't know (but you would) if they had to publish to win their degrees or not. If so, I've never heard of it.

Newell Smith is a total revelation to me. I know of Dave Hoefel's family book, but nothing of the other writings in the list you mention.

Your letter also revealed to me that one of the people you mentioned, besides Dick Ott, lives in a neighboring suburb, although she wouldn't like to hear we call Lacey a "suburb". That person is nee Zora Wiffin; however I remember her only by name, and that her father had the Wiffin Jewelry and while he was the mayor, the council banned the shooting of fireworks (I think), or something like that, and so several of us got a pack and threw it, lit of course, onto his front porch about 10 o'clock one night. He received this gesture with considerably less warmth than he would a singing telegram.

Roy, you stand out like the Washington monument in our alumni list for the years of time and effort - and ingenuity - you have put into the task you described in your letter. You also stand as tall

the field of organization historians. I join the army of those who appreciate what you are doing - or who would if they knew of it - and I certainly wish you good health for many years, even far beyond 1980, so that you can complete your task. So stay out of trouble - and stay off the highways!

As I read your letter, the thought occurred to me that the place for your collection of books is in the Ritzville Public Library, in a restricted section, with the condition that they not be removed from the premises. They are too valuable to bury in a vault - a statement that is not as incongruous as you'd think in a vault. Is the original Declaration of Independence entombed in a vault? I don't mean to denigrate this next-to-holy document now enshrined in the National Archives Exhibition Hall, but rather to support my position that your work is of such a nature that it should be available to interested persons at all times, and to the general public.

(An excerpt from this letter in regard to Victor Rogel and his brother Edward, of the Class of 1927 put in that book in Edward's section) RG.

Hope you and Laddie are in good health. Best regards from house to house, as our people say.

Fred C Koch

People like you, and I have several close friends about whom I can say the same thing, who walk 5 to 10 miles a day, I can come close to hating, as they say. You are twice blessed, both for the ages your kind has reached, and the reservoir of physical health you can call on to do the things you do. As for me, who could run all the way to school (not sprint) 6 miles in my freshman year at RHS, I now have to stop for my first nitro-glycerin pellet after 5 blocks. Sedentarily, at most leisurely, I feel as young as any of you; however, it would take at least eight nitro-glycerins to get me through an evening of square dancing, something I'll always regret I missed becoming involved with at a more propitious stage of my life.

The reason I asked you if any RHS grads had ever published a book - and I had, and have, in mind a full-length narrative of close I hope to have published, this year, a historical narrative of close to 160,000 words, a seemingly formidable project - and it is, or was, soon after completing my term as a Washington State Liquor Commissioner I (through an incident that is a story in itself) undertook the task of writing the first comprehensive history of the Volga-German ethnic group in English - in fact the most extensive in any language. I spent seven years in the researching and writing, about five of which were spent scouring Europe, North America, and Argentina for original source books, all in German - all by correspondence in three languages.

One and one-half years ago I completed my task, an eighteen-chapter manuscript that has been reviewed by several college presses and two or three trade publishers. Presently it is being (for the past three months) being read by Penn. State Univ. Press. If they find that it is too specialized, and too long, (as several others - in fact all others - have said) I am prepared to proceed on my own through a Northwest publishing house. Without having had one word about my project published anywhere, I have received numerous letters in a round-about manner from people all over the United States

wanting their names on the list when the book appears. (The Univ. of Utah Press stated that while the work does not fit their requirements, "because of its inherent interest it ought to be published somewhere." (Underscoring mine.)

My problem is the inadequacy of the market for a historical narrative of this type, although there are more than a million Volga-German descendants scattered throughout the U.S. - (if there were only a direct way to reach all of them.)

I have the full weight of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (five years old) supporting me, and with the estimated potential based on unsolicited requests from everywhere, I feel I can risk the production of a limited edition by myself IF Penn. State rejects it on the same grounds half a dozen other university presses have rejected it# - even with praises for it.

Now, Roy, I'm down to the real purpose of my request for information on names of RHS graduates who have had a full-length book published, besides and aside from the required published by some Ph.D. candidates.

I'm thinking ahead to the promotion of the book - yes, I'm confident the manuscript will be a book - in the Ritzville, Adams County and RHS alumni field.

If I can do so honestly, rightfully and accurately, I would like to use the angle that (forgive me for the audacity to say it) I'm the first RHS graduate to publish a full-length book. Maybe it wouldn't sell any more books than a standard, trite promotional approach - but it would give me a personal satisfaction that I do not hesitate to confess: It would be a book written not just by an RHS alumnus, but by a penniless kid from the "Rooshian Flat". I know that most of the people who would remember me as a "denizen-let" of Ritzville's ghetto are now resting in the Ritzville or Lutheran cemeteries in the little town that shall always be home and my hometown to me - and I've lived in New York, London, Paris, Frankfurt, Berlin, Nürnberg, San Francisco, Seattle - and least but far from last, good old Wenatchee, and now lovely Olympia.

It would also give me a bit of satisfaction to find that this full-length history (it's been reviewed by several "experts" who have verified its authenticity) was written by an RHS student with a rather questionable reputation, a kid who chucked it all in his sophomore year to become a farmer (who was quickly and heartlessly disillusioned after two days of hauling manure), and then was expelled from high school twice for 1) a stupidity and 2) a principle which at that immature age justified sacrificing a high school diploma. (As I ponder on this point, -No. 2- I would do it all over again after thinking about it - today.)

The book will appear under the title THE VOLGA GERMANS, with a qualifying subtitle. It is the first history in any language on the history of this people from its "creation" by Catherine the Great in 1763 to the present. House editing is to start at once, and at this time I do not yet have all the details I would like to send you.

Hope you and Laddie are in good health. Best regards from house to house, as our people say

PO-FERR

P1-File 511

Re Carl Koch, no I don't know him. In the German world, Koch is as common, almost, as Smith and Jones are in the English. In Ritzville, only three Koch families were closely related: three brothers. The youngest was killed in a railroad crossing accident in 1919. His widow and two children eventually left Ritzville when she married a man from Colorado. The oldest brother's children were Ralph, Bill, Cora, etc. This family was the affluent one of the three, nevertheless each of the many children in it who could have been financed along the full length of any kind of an educational course never finished high school. (I could be wrong about Cora, the second oldest daughter, but don't think so.)

had That leaves my parents, who had seven children, and forever, it seems, barely enough money to feed and clothe them; but six of us got through high school and one through college (U. of W.). My oldest sister turned to nursing school when she was a sophomore and became one helluva good R.N. (We lost her to cancer about two years ago.) Incidentally, we also lost Walter, next to youngest, in WWII when he was taken prisoner on Corregidor and died in a Japanese prison camp - malnutrition.

To be frank with you, I can't help you with a "rundown of the Kochs in Ritzville" because I haven't lived there since 1921. In our entire, immediate Koch family, only two still live there: my sister Dena the youngest daughter (I'd have to ask you for her matriculation date), and a dear cousin, Phillip, the son of the affluent brother. (Note how in our older age we apply the word "dear" to members of the masculine gender too.)

If you really want more about my brothers and sisters (two of each now) I'll be glad to relay this information to you in a later letter - because I feel that you and I are going to be corresponding with each other. I've only met you once, but your letter tells me a #1ot about yourself.

(With my own earnings, and my eagerness to stretch my wings, I enrolled in a summer school course in Lewis & Clark high school at Spokane after what would have been my junior year in RHS. Here is where I learned to study for the first time in my life, and when the people in the principal's office commented on the high grade I received from the civics prof who scared most of the girls into tears (and me too, but without the tears); this adorable professor retorted: "That guy; he knows everything".)

And so I came back to RHS for my last year, not inflated, but with a new confidence, and for the first time with a feeling of pride RHS and belonging, a feeling, unfortunately, ^{which} came only after Lewis & Clark.

Roy, it now ^{is} 3:02 a.m. - a time of the day when I do a great deal of my work at this typewriter.

FYI, I'm enclosing a copy of the synopsis of my manuscript - but I must say it is one that was prepared before the MS was expanded to 18 chapters, not necessarily by adding more wordage, but by rewriting and re-arranging. Also, the MS that is now being reviewed by Penn. State, has a recently written coda (about 10 pages) that brings the entire work up to the latest developments re this ill-fated ethnic groups

Meanwhile, in-between-time, I've started something less gut-wrecking than Barwell My People. I'm calling it "Grandfather Wasn't a Rooshian". (Grandfather is no other than I!)

Forgive the length of this letter; but having found the time in my schedule to do it, I did it!
Best regards,
Fred
Holsting a girl's/basketball bloomers on the RHS flagpole.

HEADQUARTERS
U. S. FORCES, EUROPEAN THEATER
Office of Military Government (U. S. Zone)
Information Control Division
APO 757, U. S. Army

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: 26 January 1946

Mr. Fred Koch has been assigned to the News Unit of the Press Control Section, Information Control Division since the formation of the News Unit last May. During this period he has been one of the leaders in the establishment of a zonal German news agency. At various times, Mr. Koch has been the first editor of the English Desk, the first editor of the German desk, the first Chief of the Berlin Bureau and the first Chief of the Nuremberg Bureau.

As Chief of the Nuremberg Bureau he did a magnificent job in laying the difficult ground work for coverage of the Nuremberg trials by the licensed German press.

Mr. Koch has been one of the most valuable men in the news operation and has made lasting contributions in the reestablishment of a democratic German press. His work here is highly respected by all those with whom he came in contact both within and without this Division.

John *Conant, Jr.*
LUTHER CONANT, JR.
Chief, Press Control Branch
Division

98-5red5K

This is the first and only English-language history dealing in its depth and scope with a vanishing Soviet Union nationality, the Volga-Germans - the colonist race founded in 1763 by decree of Catherine the Great and extinguished in 1941 by decree of Stalin's Presidium.

In its 177-year lifetime, this little-known ethnic minority on the southeastern frontier of European Russia grew from some 27,000 persons, settled there between 1764 and 1767, to an estimated 700,000 by World War I - despite the fact that at least half as many had emigrated to the Western Hemisphere and Siberia by then. Together with their colonizing kin who were settled in other areas of Russia under later rulers, these people ranked twelfth among more than 180 Soviet national groups before World War II.

The royal document that created the Volga-German minority was Catherine's special Manifesto issued on July 22, 1763, only six months after the end of the Seven Years' War that worsened the agonies still plaguing the German states consequent to a long succession of wars on the Continent. Great segments of the German peoples were impoverished and oppressed by petty rulers. In this war-wracked, poverty-stricken situation Catherine saw her chance to procure the qualified human resources she lacked to populate Russia's uncivilized, uncharted frontierland along the lower Volga river with colonists who would be able to convert its wild, virgin steppes into a flourishing agricultural and economic empire, and at the same time open a trade door to the East.

Despite protests by German kings, princes and dukes - and eventually a ban by Emperor Joseph of the Holy Roman Empire - about 30,000 destitute, hopeless persons snatched this opportunity to escape to an El Dorado in an unknown world. The prospective colonists were mesmerized by the Manifesto's milk-honey-and-gold inducements and the deceitful oral embellishments of "bounty hunters" swarming through the two Hessian states, the Palatinate and other regions of today's southwest Germany.

DR. E. L. GILSON
209 Downey Ave.
Modesto, Calif. 95354

Modesto, California. April 24, 1974
Dear Fred:- Your magnanimous letter dated March 4th, 1974. Received. Thanks for a most interesting note. As long as you didn't require an apology last time for my seeming procrastination I won't make it again as I observe that you are a man of great patience. My father who was quite an analectical man often said, "everything comes to him who waits". I have noticed that to be quite true in many of my dim-inutive problems which come up in everyone's lives. I know I have saved myself many heartaches, disappointments and have reached a happy state of mind by endeavoring to avoid those stressing things which seem to harrass so many people at this trying time.

I am enclosing a couple of rather poor copies of your two sheets and you can see that I have the Kochs some mixed up. but I hope I got your family right with your father Henry M and I remember your sister Dena who I thought worked for Shepleys. And there was Freddie who had a deformity and I knew him well. Maybe you can straighten me out on others when I get there for the reunion if I can make it. I surely want to see the Spokane Fair. Ralph Gillis sent me a copy of the Spokesman Review which was a special edition on the Fair. How well do I remember the location of the show with the beautiful Spokane Falls, at the foot of Riverside Ave and I can hardly wait to rest my eyes upon the scene again. I am ready to be disappointed tho as I have returned to Spokane several times and oh, how things have changed.

I appreciate what you said about the placing the books in the vault and come to think of it a vault is rather inassable to most people isn't it. Your idea of the public library never ovurred to me and I certainly shall peruse the idea when the opportunity presents itself. The library was built when I was a sma' boy I think about 1903 or 4 and I member distinctly of the laying of the cornerstone, How well I remember because on that day I was around in the way and quite a crowd was there. I managed to fall into a hole on the corner across from the Ritzville Hotel where they were going to put in a pump for the water and I still carry a horse-show shaped scar on my head which didn't show so much when covered with hair. It seemed to me that Andrew Carnegie gave \$8000 toward the building. I visited it last

Copy of G.M. to Fred.

Pg. 3rd 8K

Luring these people into a country whose civilized status was said to have been from one to two centuries behind that western Europe, were irresistible attractions that included:

- Thirty desjating (about 80 acres) free land for every colonizing family.
- Thirty (30) years tax exemptions for those settling in new colonies.
- Freedom from military service for the immigrants and their descendants for all time. (An unbelievable inducement for people from lands wracked by almost continuous wars for more than three generations!)
- The unhindered exercise of their religion.

Local self-rule in colonies to be established for, and occupied exclusively by, the German colonists.

Any "capitalists" among the settlers establishing mills and factories were granted the right to acquire and keep serfs - a privilege no Volga-German or other Russia-German ever accepted.

- Free passage from German embarkation ports to the Volga colonizing area, as well as per diem living allowances from time of enrollment to settlement.
- In addition, other entire privileges, such as the right to maintain and operate their own schools, and unimpeded use of their native language (dialects).

By the time some 30,000 persons had been enrolled and gotten under way, Catherine's treasury ran low on immigration funds; the program, successful beyond all expectations, had to be called off in its fourth uninterrupted year. The recruits sailed across the Baltic to St. Petersburg (then the capital), but about ten per cent of them never reached the lower Volga. Some were permitted to settle in and around the capital, others perished on the year-long trek.

Instead of finding homes ready for occupancy and acreage ready to farm as they had been led to believe, they stepped down from their military-escorted wagons into knee-deep rustling grass with no habitation in sight. The paradise they had been promised turned out to be, in the words of one colonist: Paradise Lost.

The earlier arrivals had to burrow underground for shelter - many for several years. The first generation's survival was harassed continually by droughts, near-famine, pestilences, brigands infesting the ravines along the Volga's right bank,

When I was up there in May 1973. I placed an excerpt from your letter in regard to the Rogel brothers in the section of Ed. Rogel who graduated in 1927 along with Vic. bless him.

Now in regard to your Editorial endeavor in the writing of a book of the length you mentioned I salute you and Beyond a doubt you are the only one of our graduates who have accomplished such a task. Very few people sit right down and write a letter nowadays. I have begged, asked, requested many of our folks to please make a note of it in other words write it down before it becomes legend and those who were there don't remember anymore or are gone to the great beyond. I have taken the liberty to place the the synopsis of your masterpiece in your section which fills 18 pages in the 1921. Book. I am thankful that you came back to R.H.S. for your last year and became one of us. I know it took many hours of research, travelling, and money to do the thing and as I said if you wait it will jell and someone will appreciate the history as you have produced it and it will be placed somewhere for posterity to reap the benefit of your factual work.

Very few people are interested in times gone by and the happenings. My father got me interested when he delved into the genealogy of his family and I found out how intensely interesting it was to know of those who superceded us and what they did with their lives. From then on I saved everything I had in regard to the families around Ritzville and I have found out that the more I think about those times more comes back to me in nostalgia. I guess I am too sentimental about old times, my wife accuses me of living in the past but I try to live in the present too and dwell a little on history which after all is the lives of all the people. I get a kick out of walking around

The Town & nearby Dome of the thimble.

We did there. You said you ran 6 miles to school so you must have been out of town a short distance. I remember Fred Heilmann lived about 4 miles south. The Wellсандts lives about that distance south east. The Bennetts lived about 2 miles from the cemetery north. I spent some time working for Mrs. Bennett. Rosenoffs and Newlands were out a short ways NW. I was born in the Amen (Hy) home next to the library and later moved to the place occupied for years by the Womachs. I think Mildred still lives there. I moved again to a white house just above the old Congregational Church so I could be close to Dr. Burroughs to take care of his horses.

and remnants of the Golden Horde pillaging colonies on the left bank because they contended the Europeans were encroaching on their hereditary grazing lands. Four villages were destroyed by the Kirghiz. At least 1,200 men, women and children were carried off to be sold in slave markets of the East where they were a premium commodity; hundreds were slaughtered by savage raiders and killed by outlaw bands.

P10-FredK

FAREWELL MY PEOPLE quickly recounts the adverse conditions prevailing in most of the 318-some 18th-century Germanic states and principalities that drove the distressed thousands into an unknown future; it describes the tortuous trip from their native lands via the Baltic and St. Petersburg to the lower Volga by land and river barge. In an area about the size of Maryland, between Saratov and Tzaritzin (now Volgograd), 104 mother colonies were established that increased to nearly 200 by World War I

The author describes the difficult, primitive beginnings in this enclave so remotely isolated from western civilization at that time; he delineates the first generations struggle for animal survival and the eventual conquest of their adversities by the second and third that set the steppes ablaze to create one of Russia's two principle granaries out of a wild wasteland.

Seven years exhaustive research and the author's personal familiarity with the race have enabled him to depict its culture in considerable detail with respect to customs, moral code, superstitions, life style, total dependence on folk remedies, the deep religious convictions in the three principle denominations, the system of elementary education these colonists introduced into Russia, and other aspects of their cocooned existence up to the Bolshevik revolution.

After 1870 the Volga-Germans began to lose some of the rights and privileges granted by Catherine. Russification of their parochial schools and repudiation of the eternal military exemption were two of the major violations of their so-called charter. Co-incidental with the loss of its rights, the rapidly growing population had begun to face a grave land shortage despite two supplementary crown grants. These developments created unrelieved pressures to emigrate. Luring thousands of colonists to the New World were not only economic betterment, but also glowing reports of personal freedoms.

Exploratory teams first were sent to North and South America in the early 1870's that were to open veritable

Well as you said Fred it was 3-30 A.M. when you finished my letter so it is now midnight and I will draw this to a close. Like you I do much of my work at night as there is no noise, phones, or interference which makes concentration possible. I hope it will be possible for us to get together for a few words in May. I got a nice long letter from Audrey Edwards who lives in Des Moines now in a retirement home. She sent me quite few things of interest. We still live in a large house but they are building a 11 story hi-rise just across the street for Seniors but as yet it doesn't appeal to me. However I must think of Laddie and I guess we will do something drastic as to easier living sometime. I don't like to be upset and it may be quite a while before we make a change. I am enclosing the snapshot appropriately identified I think. so long Fred until later Roy Gilson, Class 1909.

Floodgates into the United States, Brazil and Argentine.

The latter country's guest for immigrants led to "shanghaiing" one or more shiploads of Brazil-bound Volga-German emigrants who then were debarked, to their chagrin, at Buenos Aires.

By 1971 the Argentine descendants of these immigrants who soon started arriving in large numbers were estimated at a quarter million, a figure that already had been far surpassed in the United States by 1920. Emigration directly to Canada was considerably lighter than that to America.

P11-Fred

The struggles of these immigrants with the difficulties and rigors of the first years on America's midwest plains and South America's pampas becomes a descriptive part of their story.

The author gives incidental treatment to the Black Sea branch of the Russia-German race as well as the Caucasus and Wolhynia segments. The first two were imported into Russia from south Germany by Catherine's grandson, Tsar Alexander I, forty years and more following settlement of the lower Volga. Emigration of the Black Sea colonists to the United States started about the same time as that of the Volga group and their volume was even slightly larger if the Mennonites are included.

In the United States, Argentine, Brazil and Canada, Russia Germans played a heavy role in transforming pristine prairies and pampas into productive grain fields. They had been born to the steppes of Russia, and found an irresistible affinity for the western world's plains. The American Russia-Germans are scattered over fifty states, but by far the heaviest concentrations still are to be found in Nebraska, Kansas, the Dakotas, Colorado, Michigan, Wisconsin, Oklahoma and the Pacific Coast states. (By 1914 one-third of all births in Lincoln, Nebraska, were of Volga-German parentage.)

The part of the race clinging to its Volga homeland suffered heavily during and following World War I. Its 1914 population of 700,000, achieved despite the extraordinarily heavy exodus up to then, was reduced to 450,000 by 1920 and in another two years this figure was slashed still further by famine, epidemics, civil war and flight. The 1921-22 famine alone took more than 165,000 lives.

However, the group, already under persecution in the last years of Romanov rule, not only survived the bolshevik eruption but made a surprising recovery. In 1924, just before his death, Lenin signed the order transforming their enclave, including some Russian villages, into the Volga-German Autonomous Republic, the first political unit of its kind in the Soviet Union. Then, at the end of the decade, the collectivization and "de-kulaking" program went into high gear and thousands of small farm operators were deported to slave labor camps that had begun to flourish all over the Red empire.

Small Pigeon-Holes

Soon after hostilities broke out between Germany and Russia in 1941 the Presidium under Stalin issued a decree calling for the summary eviction of all Volga-Germans and their banishment to Central Asia and Western Siberia. Their homes and all but

a few personal possessions were expropriated without a kopek's recompense. Fathers and husbands not at the front because of age or infirmity were parted from their families and settled in separate concentration centers. About this time the Black Sea and Caucasus members of the race also were banished beyond the Urals. For nearly fifteen years information about the total disappearance of these people was suppressed. Not until 1964 was the original evacuation order made public, at which time the Presidium retracted the 1941 charges against the Volga-Germans, stating they were without foundation - an indication that they fell in the category of what Khrushchev had branded as "craftily manufactured cases" and "odious falsifications".

The Volga-German S.S.R. was abolished - wiped off the map - at the time of the mass deportations. In 1955, upon revocation of the order confining these people to the various Cheka-supervised concentration camps, the former colonists were free to move about; but before their release they had to sign agreements not to return to their erstwhile homes nor to claim restitution of former property and possessions, or reparations of any kind.

Today about one-half of the dispersed Soviet-Germans reside in the Kazakhstan Union Republic and the others are scattered mainly throughout Western Siberia. The race is being assimilated with Russian, Kazakh, Kirghiz, Uzbek and other nationalities in the Trans-Ural Union. For more than 150 years Catherine's colonists had maintained their religion, language and western culture. Inter-marriages were a rarity.

Generations remained tied to their original villages through the system of land tenure. The language of the Russia-German

villages remained German dialects; only the young men who had spent five to seven years in the Tsars' military services, or some of the schoolteachers (all of whom were male), and persons engaged extensively in the grain trade or one of the few commercial colonial enterprises, were able to speak Russian.

Only in the case of males migrating to the cities after

World War I did integration and acculturation with Russian nationals occur.

P 13-FREB K

For a century and a half religious instruction was an essential part of the colonial elementary education program.

Today the eighth generation Soviet-Germans are being reared in the spirit of communism and moving away from their 200-year-old heritage culturally, politically and biologically. If they are to retain their religion and mastery of their mother tongue, it will have to come at a grandmother's knee - even their mothers are losing the qualification to teach them these disciplines. And today, the eighth-generation descendants of this vanishing race are divided between the East and the West, between Totalitarianism and Democracy.

* * * * *

In 1968 the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia was organized with headquarters in Greeley, Colorado. Its fourth national convention will be held in Portland, Oregon, in June, 1973.

There has been a surge of interest throughout the nation in recent years among descendants of immigrants from Russia's German colonies. Since few of them today can read German, they have been at a loss to enlighten themselves about details of their racial background because the important, and extremely meager, documentary works dealing with the history of the Volga-German race consist mostly of German books long since out of print and rarely obtainable. Among those researched by the writer in a seven-year, world-wide quest for basic source material are the still untranslated works by the following authors:

Martyred colonist Father Gottlieb Beratz, Dr. Gerhard Bonwetsch, Pastor Jakob Riffel, Father F. W. Brepohl, Pastor William Fugmann, Dr. Lothar Koenig, Alex A. Klaus, Georg Leibbrandt, Georg Loeb sack, Dr. Richard Sallet, Pastor Johannes Schlenning, Hans Petri, David Schmidt, Gottlieb Bauer, Dr. Karl Esselborn, Dr. Georg Rath and Anna Janecke. Furthermore, a great deal of valued historical information has been obtained from articles by numerous German-language contributors to the fourteen year Books published by the "Landmannschaft der

Deutschen aus Russland" (Society of Germans from Russia), Stuttgart, Germany, and other helpful German documentaries.

~~MY~~ FAREWELL MY PEOPLE'S author, the five-year-old son of an immigrating Volga-German couple after the turn of this century, writes not only from researched original works - but also from much first-hand information about his people and their history.

P14-103K

The work consists of sixteen chapters covering ~~642~~⁵⁹² double-spaced, well-margined, typewritten pages plus a brief coda. There are about ~~32~~³⁰ pages of reference notes documenting the work. A translation of Catherine's 1763 Manifesto is included as an addendum, and a fine, detailed map of the Volga-German Autonomous Republic is available for reconstruction. Also available as appendix matter is the detailed, highly informative roster of the "mother" and "daughter" colonies on the lower Volga.

T H E 1 6 C H A P T E R S

CHAPTER 1 - Out of a Royal Inkwell - 54 pages

Introduces "My People" in America, their acculturation, participation in opening the West, and a search into their identity tracing back to a Russian Imperial decree.

CHAPTER 2 - Even From the First Beginnings - 18 pages

A discussion of the social causes fermented out of a continent in perpetual armed conflict that prepared the way for the birth of the Volga-German race, almost as inevitably as effect follows cause.

CHAPTER 3 - Matuska, Little Mother - 43 pages

The alter-destiny at work in the court at St. Petersburg that effected the end of the Seven Years War, brought Catherine the Great to the throne and led to her becoming the veritable midwife to a people's birth.

CHAPTER 4 - The Kolbasniki - 37 pages

- the "sausage-eaters", the impoverished, oppressed Germans in whom Catherine saw a needed resource for her faltering agricultural economy; the methods and devices employed to recruit 30,000 before the Holy Roman Emperor banned further flight from "the Germanies" and Catherine ran out of immigration funds.

The Kapustniki

- 27 pages

- the "kraut-eaters", the strange Russians whom the German immigrants met at the St. Petersburg point of entry; their long, long trek to the lower Volga by land and by barge on Russia's greatest river; the first confrontations, near-mutinies and privations.

P15-1123K

The Cave Dwellers

- 29 pages

The "paradise" they were promised deep inside Russia turned out to be the "Lost Paradise"; the colonists found no expected homes, so had to burrow underground for shelter, much of the area being treeless; 30,000 had left Germany, 27,000 reached the lower Volga, where they were settled in

104 exclusively German colonies.

The Bitter Years

- 24 pages

The first decade found the ill-prepared colonization program confronting the disillusioned settlers with constant possible starvation; the futile, tragic efforts of many to escape back to Europe; despite continuing births, the population dropped to 23,000 in the first years.

The Better Years

- 29 pages

The drought cycle that plagued the colonists the first decade came to an end, the clumsy government management made some improvement and Catherine's experiment survived a 10-year threat of doom. The primordial steppe was being brought into agricultural production bit by bit, year by year.

The "Soul Land"

- 33 pages

The benefits and drawbacks of Russia's "mir" land system, the rapid growth of population, the allocation of additional crown land two successive times, and the creation of more than 65 "daughter" colonies by 1865.

Trial and Terror

- 31 pages

Depredations caused by swarms of Volga river outlaw bands on the right bank, and Kirghiz attacks on left bank colonies in which four villages were destroyed, 1,200 colonists carried off to be

sold in Eastern slave markets. and the massacre of

other hundreds. The pillaging of Pugatchev, tsarist-robster, whose revolutionary horde swept through the colonies.

P 16
Fred K

CHAPTER 11 - New Cross on the Volga

- 52 pages

Introduction of Protestantism and Roman Catholicism to the lower Volga by the colonists; religious life, freedom of worship, importance of the church in the eyes of the government, development of piety

CHAPTER 12 - The Four R's

- 30 pages

The colonists introduce the elementary school to this part of Russia and their struggle to deepen its program; schools were function of the church more than hundred years; colonists' resistance to Russification after Catherine had promised them their own language, schools and administrative control.

CHAPTER 13 - The People

- 53 pages

Portrait of the Volga-German character, traits, customs, living style, superstitions, folk medicine, etc. Isolated in their cocooned state far from western civilization, their indigenous development in all phases of living and activities.

CHAPTER 14 - Toward the Setting of the Sun

59 pages

Land shortage, population pressure, loss of privileges, repudiation of military exemption, and Germanophobia turn the colonists' eyes toward the New World; first probings for opportunities in America and Brazil, "hijackings" to Argentina and the eventual flood of emigrants to North and South America; the trials of starting anew on the unbroken prairies and pampas of both continents.

CHAPTER 15 - After the Romanovs, le Deluge!

- 61 pages

Tragic consequences created for the colonists by World War I; the Kerensky revolution and the bolshevik usurpation, civil war armies in the colonial enclave, the terrible bolshevik-caused famine of 1921-22, Lenin's NEP, the bare survival of the colonies after a population drop from 700,000 to less than 300,000, and creation of the Volga-German Autonomous Republic by Lenin just before his death.

Modesto, California, Feb. 10, 1975
Hi Fred:- Received your card with the good news that they have accepted your MS and that means that you are one the way to being the only graduate of Ritzville High School to write and publish a book for which I offer congratulations. I will be waiting for the time to come when we can have a copy so we can all enjoy it to the fullest extent. I looked over the outline you sent me and can understand how interesting it will be as I for one am fond of any kind of history; which after all is the life of PEOPLE.

Yes we are still in good health and doing our walking religiously day by day. I have wondered if you made it over to the 1974 reunion in May. There wasn't much in the paper as to names etc so didn't know who was there. I didn't make it as just before time to leave on May 10th in fact I fell and broke my right arm and shoulder which set me back 6 mos. I had the unpleasant task of playing "TAPS" for another of my good buddies today which makes you think. I wonder of you happened to have known my youngest brother Ted Gilson who went to grade school about the time you did but I think he was 2 years older than you were.

He was born in 1905 and I think you were 1903 or thereabouts wasn't it? He passed away in L.A. on Dec 23rd and I had the hard task to play taps for him as he enlisted in the navy in 1924 and was on the Oklahoma for 4 years. He was young enough to be in WW2 so he went into the army. Maybe you didn't know him as we left Ritzville in 1916 to live in Bend, Ore and he was only 11 yrs. Old. Out of 6 there are 3 of us left, my brother in Salem, Ore and sister in L.A. I was very fond of history & I guess I told you I sort of majored in it at Whitman under Prof. Lyman who made it very interesting. Thank you for the card and I will expect to hear more of your good fortune in the future but I know it takes time. Maybe I'll see you in May 1975.

Ansdr- kids
Sincerely
Roy Gilson, 1909.

OLYMPIA WA
PM
3 FEB 1975
Samuel Adams

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S
MINI-M HEALTH WEEK

FRED C. KOCH
3145 Lorne Street
Olympia, Wash. 98501

US Postage 8¢

Dr. Roy Gilson
209 Downey Ave.
Modesto, Calif. 95354

P17-Fred K

The collectivization, deportation of thousands of so-called kulaks by the communists, another man-caused famine in 1932; World War II and Stalin's evacuation decree of 1941 deporting the entire Volga-German population to Western Siberia and Central Asia; release of this population from concentration camps after 15 years and the eventual retractions of all charges against the colonists on which Stalin based his deportation measure. Prohibition of return to former homes. Assimilation of the race with Russian and Asiatic peoples, loss of their colonial German dialect of 177 years, unique culture, religious stature and biological identity.

C O D A 10 pages

The new 10-page coda brings the work as far up to date as is possible at the present time, covering recent efforts to have the Volga-German Autonomous Republic restored and permitting the erstwhile population to return en masse.

By adding two chapter titles, the last part of the manuscript has been rewritten since this synopsis was written. There has been some cutting, shifting of emphasis and somewhat of a realignment by increasing the chapter count to 18 - and at the same time cutting away about 50 pages.

However, the synopsis, as is, summarizes the work in all its essential aspects.

The other side of bars

Dear Doc:

Oh my pie, Dec. 24/15

I am happy to be able to inform you that a few days ago I rec'd a long-distance call from Penn. State Univ. Press advising me that they have accepted my book-length ms for early publication. The book will appear under the title THE VOLGA GERMAN, with a qualifying subtitle. It is the first history in any language on the history of this people from its "creation" by Catherine the Great in 1763 to the present. House editing is to start at once, and at this time I do not yet have all the details I would like to send you.

Hope you and Laddie are in good health. Best regards from house to house, as our people say.

(Nine years in gestation)

Class 1921

FRED. C. KOCH

Birthplace

1901 in German colony of Kolb, established 1767 on Lower Volga River, Russia.

Emigrated

To U.S.A. at age of 5½ with parents.

Education

Completed American elementary school, simultaneously with eight years of German Lutheran parochial school education in reading, writing and religion

Graduated from Ritzville (WA) high school, '21

Graduated from University of Washington with B.A. in Journalism, '25

Associate editor of Cashmere (WA) Valley Record

Advertising representative to advertising manager of the Wenatchee (WA) Daily World

Managing editor of this daily after WWII

Special correspondent for Seattle (WA) Times and Spokane (WA) Spokesman-Review.

Correspondent for Christian Science Monitor (straight news, feature articles and occasional editorials).

Owner and publisher of the weekly Wenatchee Journal soon after return to Wenatchee following WWII.

Office of War Information, overseas branch intelligence desk, New York City.

Office of War Information, London

SHAF Psychological Warfare Division, Paris

U.S. Information Control Division, Frankfurt and Berlin

First editor of ICD's Nuremberg news bureau covering Major War Crimes Trials in German for the newly licensed German newspapers in U.S. Occupation zone.

Resumed work on Wenatchee Daily World as managing editor.

Appointed administrative assistance to the late Gov. A.B. Langlie.

Subsequently appointed to nine-year term as commissioner on the Washington three-member Liquor Control Board.

Sigma Delta Chi professional fraternity; Theta Chi social fraternity; B.P.O.E.; former District Governor Lions International; Gloria Del Lutheran church; American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, Lincoln, NE.; "Landsmannschaft der Deutschen aus Russland," Stuttgart; (" " " Society of Germans from Russia " " ")

Semi-retired
Since 1964

Affiliations

Return to
U.S.A.

War-time
Service

Occupations

RW
1921
P1

ROSALIA KOCH

Mrs. M. G. Shaw
San Mateo, Calif.
deceased

21

Mrs. W. G. Shaw of San Mateo, Calif., arrived Wednesday to spend the next two weeks with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Koch, Mrs. Shaw is the former Rosalia Koch. 4/28/59

SIGNATURE

1211-Maple St - San Mateo, Calif

BIRTH DAY

BIRTH PLACE

FATHER

MOTHER

Peter Koch
Died 4/19/18
age 90

Lydia

Peter Koch at Ritzville Cemetery. Inverness father. May, 21. 956

J. P. Koch Dies Here at 90 Funeral Rites Will Be Today

John Peter Koch died Monday at Ritzville Memorial hospital at the age of 90. 4/19/18
Funeral rites are scheduled today (Thursday) at 2 p.m. from the chapel of the Danekas Funeral home with the Rev. Ernest Sprenger officiating.

Koch had a long and multifaceted career which began in Kolob, Russia, with his birth on December 3, 1877. He came to the United States with his parents in 1878 when only about six months old. The family settled on a homestead in Nebraska where they raised cattle feed and food crops and flax. By the time he was 11 he had lost both his parents and was placed in the care of guardians.

When he was 12 he came to Portland, Ore., with an uncle Henry Koch. There he worked in rope, cracker and cigar factories. It was an exciting time for a teenage boy as he recalled a couple of years ago in an interview with his daughter Henrietta. One of the most exciting incidents was crossing the Columbia by ferry—the train was loaded on the ferry by sections.

Koch arrived by train in Ritzville in July of 1893. For the next few years he worked as a farm hand.

at various ranches in the Ritzville area and at 19 he first rented a farm of his own. In those days, he recalled in the interview, wheat harvests averaged about 8 bushels per acre.

Paha was, he said, then the hub of Adams county. He recalled the first automobile in Ritzville—a red Maxwell—which he first saw in 1908. The first airplane he said he saw was in 1915.

Koch was married to Lydia Kanzler on June 27, 1900. He recalled selling the prettiest horse he then had, a mare, for \$50 in gold to get married on.

The family owned and lived on various farms in the Ritzville area. Koch also worked selling hardware for the Ritzville Trading company, selling autos for the Big Bend Motors company as a Texaco distributor, and as a machinery and later insurance salesman.

In 1928 he was appointed as the justice of the peace to fill out an unexpired term. The next election he ran on his own and was elected. He continued as a justice of the peace and as police judge for the next 35 years.

While still serving as justice he did a little farming, raising chickens and will come with chickens.

Pete Koch

W. G. Shaw of San Mateo, Calif., visited at the J. P. Koch home Thursday evening. Shaw is a son-in-law of J. P. Koch. 5/1

W. G. Shaw of San Mateo, Calif., visited at the J. P. Koch home Thursday evening. Shaw is a son-in-law of J. P. Koch. 5/1

W. G. Shaw of San Mateo, Calif., visited at the J. P. Koch home Thursday evening. Shaw is a son-in-law of J. P. Koch. 5/1

after World War II. But he discontinued dairying then because he and his wife were advancing in age. He retired as justice of the peace in January of 1963 and spent the last few years prior to his death gardening and fishing.

He is survived by his wife Lydia at the home and by two daughters, Henrietta Koch of Ritzville and Mrs. Harland Eastwood of Seattle. There are three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Koch was a 55 year member of the IOOF lodge, the only one who had been a member in this area for that length of time. He was also a member of the Philadelphia Congregational church.

Pallbearers at the funeral are to be Pete Koch, Frank Marshall, Ralph Kistler, Harry Woisborn, Ted Ott and Bert Oestreich.

December

A Star for Each

Roger Kramer McCarty

Men followed the star of Bethlehem
With flaming hope and trust—
The beckoning star, spinning afar . . .
Men followed because they must!

Men have always followed stars
That shone just out of reach,
There's a million stars high in the sky,
And a special star for each.

A longing comes to every heart
To follow his clear-cut star . . .
When a man finds his name on a star of fame
He's willing to follow it far.

For men climb up, climb on and up,
In their star's bright shedding beam,
Will at last in their quest on the starlit crest,
They are able to touch their dream.

As wise men found their secret wish
In Bethlehem long ago . . .
So men it seems will seek their dreams
In the star their own hearts know.



EVELYN LEE '21

Mrs. Daffas Richens

Mrs. You To Behere Buyell She was her Geo. Reunion 50th
at Ritzville - May - 29 - 1911

SIGNATURE	
BIRTH DAY	Address - home - Blatzmont, Paris
BIRTH PLACE	
FATHER	Carl Allen Lee <small>Died 1938</small>
MOTHER	Lottie Simpson <small>Died Jan 26 - 1961</small>
	Bro - Carl - Sprague 1927
	Lottie Born Mt Airy, N.C. 1880

Death Claims Frances Lee

at Sprague Mother in

Mrs. Lottie Frances Lee, former resident on a farm near Ritzville, died in a Spokane hospital January 26. *vi*

Lottie Simpson was born in Mt. Airy, N. C., in 1880 and came west with her parents in 1894. *widow vi*

In 1900, she was married to Carl Allen Lee, who passed away in 1938 at Sprague. They owned and lived on a farm southwest of Ritzville, now owned by Ted Pfannekuchen, for 32 years. *and 27*

Mrs. Lee is survived by five children, Mrs. Ethel Manke of children, Mrs. Evelyn Campbell and Mrs. Laura Sanders of Los Angeles, Calif., Robert Lee of Medical Lake, and Carl Lee of Sprague; and nine grandchildren.

KL-1921 22

FRED ROBBINS

Manhall

Wife Member

Don't know why but Fred didn't show up at our 50th 9/29/71?

21

SIGNATURE	
BIRTH DAY	10-1-2-11. N.W. - Puyallup. Wash
BIRTH PLACE	
FATHER	Fred Eugene Robbina
MOTHER	Emma Mansell "
	Bro - Norman Eugene - Robbins class 1915
	Sis - Martha Elizabeth (Meyers) class 1915
	2210 - 23rd Ave Puyallup Wash
	Bro. Norman Eugene 1915



Father

2210 - 23rd Ave Puyallup Wash

Mgr White River Inlet Co. Paces

Father Manager. White River Number 600

Rev. Pr 1411

Dr
AMELIA ROWE

Didn't see his or hair of Amelia
Smaller Amelia. Did someone treat ya?
50th Reunion
5/29/71

21

SIGNATURE	Bremerton Wash. - Ritzville
BIRTH DAY	
BIRTH PLACE	
FATHER	John F. Rowe
MOTHER	Bros & Sis
	Edith - 1910 - Jan 1917
	Sena - 1922 - Serafa 1926
	Clinton - 1929 - John 1929

AR-1921

CLARENCE SCHAFER

Deceased

ER-21

SIGNATURE	
BIRTH DAY	
BIRTH PLACE	
FATHER	
George	
MOTHER	
Mrs. Edwin Schafar-Ritzink 1925	
Bro-Sister - Mrs. Ed. 1932	
Married William Anderson-32	

Feb 1921 - Pa

Deceased



This is my commandment, That ye love
one another, as I have loved you.

Greater love hath no man than this,
that a man lay down his life for
his friends.

Ye are my friends, if ye do whatever
I command you.

Henceforth I call you not servants;
for the servant knoweth not what his
lord doeth: but I have called you
friends: for all things that I have
heard of my Father I have made
known unto you.

ST. JOHN 15 : 12 - 15

Dr. AUDRA SMYTH

Judyartz

no info

Walent Sistra Cons pious By terabend 9/29/11

21

SIGNATURE
BIRTH DAY
BIRTH PLACE
FATHER
MOTHER

15-1921

LUKE SNYDER 21

Was it a Flicker - Luke - that you didn't come
Back on 7/21 at our 50th - We missed you!

SIGNATURE	
BIRTH DAY	Lincoln City, Oregon
BIRTH PLACE	
FATHER	
MOTHER	

LS-Pr 1921

ALMA WERTTEMBERGER

Slides Shown "Before Auxiliary"

Betty Clement of Lakeland Village showed slides as the American Legion auxiliary met Thursday evening in the Legion hall.
 Mrs. Rae McCain of Metairie Falls, president of the eighth district, gave her report on the fall conference held in Chewelah recently.
 Miss Alma Wertemberger received the 25-year shield and Mrs. Ralph Streeter a 20-year shield.

PROVER

Mrs. Lyes - Barber
 She only had to walk up the street to
 be there at her 50th Reunion - 5/29/71

21

SIGNATURE	Ritzville
BIRTH DAY	
BIRTH PLACE	
FATHER	Jacob Wertemberger
MOTHER	Bro Richard - <small>Johnney/Santa Barbara, Calif.</small> Adams 22
	Norman - <small>Dee</small> " 28 <small>Griffith Road - Hobart</small>
	William - Ritzville 16

BARBARA WILLAN

Mrs. Barbara Vincent (Frank) Newman, Calif.
 belongs to Crestimba Dept. of Star, Newman.

21

And yes - to be here.
 Her sister Carol is going with her
 Carol taught RMs - 2 yrs - of Santa Paula
 No info - called her by phone 51111
 862
 3593

122 Fig - Newman,
 Lane, Calif

SIGNATURE _____

BIRTH DAY _____

BIRTH PLACE _____

FATHER _____

MOTHER _____

Barbara attended Whitman U.
 also U of Wn. Then Grandview's
 from Zep Pingham normal.
 Mary Peter don taught at same time.

Paula She was in the picture at
 David's house. She certainly
 looked quite in new white
 pants suit.

TIME	SINISS OFFICE	DIALED RATE	STATION RATE	PERSON RATE
PM	LL: 524-8011	A: DAY B: EVENING C: WEEKEND	E: DAY G: NIGHT L: LATE NIGHT	H: DAY I: EVENING J: CALL BACK-DAY K: CALL BACK-EVENING
			160	
		PLACE CALLED		
		NEWMAN	862	3593
		DUNSMR	223	8296
		MCDESTO	233	4395
		SALEM	364	8296
		RITZVILLE	509	0121
		LCNG DISTANCE	509	0525
		TOTAL		1435
		TOTAL ON BILL		1435

I talked to Barbara on
 51111 and it was worth every
 cent of it

Bob Gilbert
 '09

Please return the enclosed card if you mail your payment.
 If you pay in person, please bring the bill and card.

RITZVILLE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HISTORY & LIBRARY.

This LIBRARY consists of 75 books with loose-leaf sheets and according to circumstances, can be added, deleted, or altered. RITZVILLE HIGH SCHOOL graduated it's first CLASS in the year of 1905 with 13 students. There is a book for each CLASS beginning with 1905 up to and including 1980. In 1956 the school celebrated it's 50th ANNIVERSARY with a banquet at the Marcellus Grange Hall with over 500 in attendance. Our DIAMOND Jubilee will be in May of 1980 when we will celebrate our 75th year. I have no intention of carrying this history beyond that date.

Each book is 12" x 14" in size and the sheets are reinforced with scotch tape. Each SHEET contains the following information: NAME of each GRADUATE, (full name if possible), address, signature, birthday, names of husband or wife and children, their parents and dates, relatives who graduated or attended RHS, school and college records, marriage, family activities, death data, trade or profession and where live and work, and any other data or information which can be gathered from newspapers, magazines, letters, interviews or from any other source possible.

I have endeavored to arrange the material in a neat and orderly fashion and the names alphabetically and chronologically when possible. I realize many mistakes have been made in placing correct data in the proper place but so many of the names are duplicated. Mr. Vic Ropel helped me immensely in the identification of families also Mrs. Mabel Burrill and Mrs. Robert Clark. (Miller) and many others too too numerous to mention. Of the faculty Mr. Lloyd was wonderful in his assistance.

I started this record in the month of May, the 25th of May, 1905 when I was present at the first graduation at the Old Congregational Church and obtained the signatures of the graduates on onion skin paper and you will notice that when they signed 50 years later the writing was very similar. I then DEDICATED the books to our first SUPERINTENDANT, PROFESSOR. JOHN HENRY PERKINS, who started the RHS Alumni Association that night. (Page 56 large book and Prof. Perkins work in the 1905 book.

This project has been quite expensive in that I have taken the Journal-Times (2 copies) for many years for information. Also subscribed for the Wester and purchased 5 or 6 copies each year of the Annual, the Kernel. While visiting the banquet each year hundreds of pictures were taken and I hope placed in the proper place. To do this it took every minute of my spare time of work but I didn't mind any of these things as I enjoyed it so much and I have always been under the impression that it was worth while. That I shall never know for sure. It is my hope that the library will come to rest in the addition that Vic promoted onto the high school building and there they will repose and be available to future generations. If anyone thinks it is necessary to continue the records say on to the year 2000 or more maybe some individual who in his or her dotage has a weakness for cutting out paper dollies, saving clippings from the papers, and pasting in pretty picture books will carry on there must be someone in the around 2500 of us who were fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to attend and gather the fruits of knowledge and experience in Ritzville High School, the finest, the best, the most excellent school on earth.

Love to you all

Roy Gilson, Class of 1909.

There are also 25 larger books 15" x 17" beginning with the year 1955, our 50th, which cover the ANNUAL BANQUETS AND REUNIONS, The GOLDEN AGES, and the honored Classes, the 50 Year Class, the 25 year Class and the current Graduating Class, RG

Eugene Cassidy
 Jake Hoefel
 Leslie Johnson (deceased)
 William Just (deceased)
 Daniel Kembel
 Aaron Kiehn (deceased)
 Fred C. Koch
 Fred Robbins
 Clarence Schafer (deceased)
 Luke Snyder
 Regina Cooper Gunderson
 Thelma Donnell Thomson
 Winifred Forshey Moore
 Alice Gillette Oestreich
 Ruby Greenwalt Oman
 Beata Just (deceased)
 Evangeline Just
 Elma Kiehn Swank
 Rosalja Koch Shaw (deceased)
 Evelyn Lee Richins
 Amelia Rowe
 Alma Wertemberger
 Barbara Willan Vincent

Reception of 1921 Class
 Jake Hoefel
 Ritzville, Wa., Journal-Times, Thurs., June 3, 1971



This Book No. 1421
 Made - Furnished & Donated by
 Dr. E. Leroy Gilson
 Ritzville High School - Class of 1909
 DR. E. LEROY GILSON
 DENTIST (Retired)
 209 DOWNEY
 MODesto, CALIF. 95354
 PHONE 523-4609
 AREA CODE (209)



Twelve from 50 Years Ago

THE HONORED CLASS

Joy reigns among members of the Class of 1921 at Ritzville High school, here happily reminiscing Saturday afternoon at the Jake Hoefel home. Seated are, from left, Miss Alma Wertemberger, Ritzville; Mrs. Alice Gillett Oestreich, Ritzville; Mrs. Ruby Greenwalt Oman, Spokane; Mrs. Regina Cooper Gunderson, Friday Harbor; Mrs. Barbara Willan Vincent,

Newman, Calif.; Mrs. Evelyn Lee Richins, Clarendon, Calif.; Mrs. Winnifred Forshey Moore, Mt. Vernon; back row, Jake Hoefel, Miss Evangeline Just, Pullman; Fred Koch, Olympia; Mrs. Thelma Donnell Thomson, Ritzville; and Daniel Kembel, Ritzville.

—Journal-Times photo

After 50 Years, 14 of 23 May Come

Fourteen members of a class of 23 members graduated at Ritzville High school 50 years ago will be here for a reunion at the 1971 alumni banquet.

This is the hope of Reunion

Chairman Jake Hoefel who began correspondence three months ago with 11 members living away from Ritzville. Six other members of the class live here, and six have died.

Members of the Class of 1921 who plan to come to Ritzville for the reunion are Mrs. Irvin Gunderson, nee Regina Cooper, Friday Harbor; Mrs. D. I. Moore, nee Winnifred Forshey, Mt. Vernon; Mrs. Laurence Oman, nee Ruby Greenwalt, Spokane;

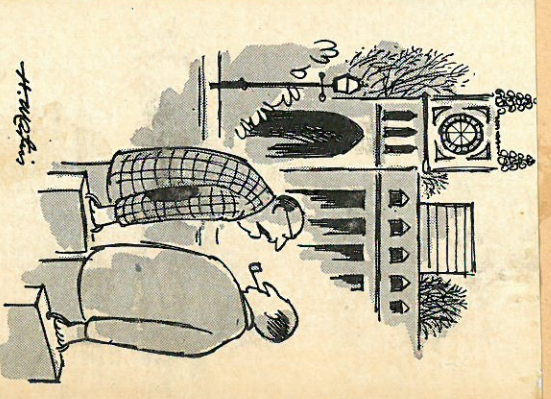
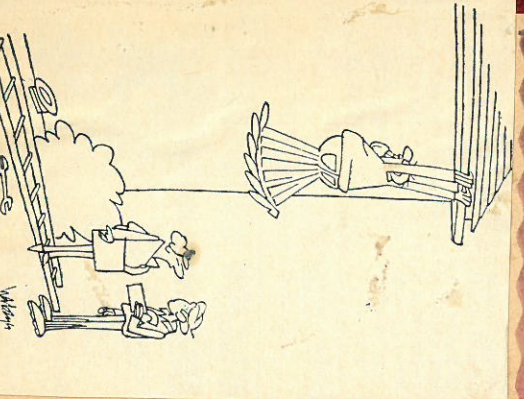
The class members who live at Ritzville are Mrs. Ed Thomson, nee Thelma Donnell; Mrs. Clarence Oestreich, nee Alice Gillett; Miss Alma Wertemberger; Miss Amelia Rowe; Daniel Kembel; and Jake Hoefel.

Former classmates renewed old friendships at gatherings of three classes before and after the alumni banquet here Saturday.

by husbands, wives and friends. After the banquet, they were honored guests of the Golden R Club at Gritman Senior center. About 50 to 60 were present for the party.

On display were 1905 class pictures that had belonged to the late Mrs. Hattie Emerson, and have

Persons doubtful they can make it to the reunion are Eugene E. Cassidy, Spokane; Fred Robbins, Puyallup; and Luke Snyder, Lincoln City, Oregon. Mrs. F. W. Swank, nee Elma Kiehn of Couer-t'Alene, hadn't replied to the letter of inquiry Hoefel sent her. The class members who have



"I hope this year I can teach instead of listening to charges and counter charges."

DISSENT
 John marched and yelled
 His college days,
 For changes that he felt,
 Would bring about
 A brand new world.
 That left our troubles out.
 Well, he marched enough
 To while the time,
 And while the time it passed,
 Some other people got to work
 And changed the world he passed.

rvbane

Beautiful River Pt. in December



J. Greenleaf