

Autobiography of Eleanora (Knier) Koerber  
Part I

I was born Dec. 21-1910 in Marathon County in Aniwa. My parents had an 80 acre farm of which only 20 acres was cleared land. They had 5 or 6 cows and 2 horses and pigs. The year I was born was very dry. A lot of forest fires burned all summer. The smoke was so thick, you could only see the sun from 10 o'clock in the morning till 2 o'clock in the afternoon. My Mother had to drive the cows a mile so they could eat leaves off of trees. My Dad did carpenter work all summer so he could buy hay for the 2 horses for winter. We had a new house. My parents had dug a ditch around the house and filled it with water to save the house from the forest fire. In July a thunderstorm came and put out the forest fires or most of it.

My parents separated the milk and only sold the cream to the creamery. The skim milk they fed to the hogs. Because of the fire the people got more land to raise crops.

I was baptized on Christmas day in 1910. My sponsors were Grandma Schad and Uncle John Ebenhoe who also lived close by. I was named Eleanora Margaret Knier.

My parents had married Sept. 22-1908. They came up to Aniwa after the wedding. My Dad did not have much money so he bought the farm up north where the farms were not so expensive. My Dad to give the wages he earned to his parents till he was 21 yrs. The year he turned 21 he did not have enough money to buy an overcoat. The storekeeper in St. Nazianz (Kusterman) let him have the overcoat and he paid for it when he could. Dad did not earn much. He had to work on a farm when he was 13 yrs by Praells.

Later he worked with the carpenters. He only had a bicycle to get to work or walk. He earned 50¢ a day. In Winter in Aniwa some men made ice roads when it was real cold. Then the lumberjacks came and cut the trees and made logs. My Dad hauled logs on the ice roads to the river. In spring they floated the logs down the river.

I was 1 ½ yrs. Old when my parents sold the farm and moved in by my Grandpa and Grandma Schad. My mother's parents. They stayed there for six months. Then they bought the Stiefvater farm. That was across the road from the Pfeifers. My Grandpa & Grandma and Aunt Katie moved in with them. They sold their farm to Uncle Alois. My Uncle Joe his brother worked as hired man. Later they bought the farm back. Uncle Alois bought a different farm. Aunt Katie & Uncle Joe worked for granpa and Grandma then. That was a 160 acre farm. I used to walk from the farm to my Grandparents. They helped each other with the work. My folks had 80 acres. Thats the farm just south of Robert's farm. The line fence is between the two farms. My mother's sister Aunt Cecelia lived on Roberts farm. She was married to Uncle Joe Knier. It was Della & Fr. Alois Knier father & mother.

When I was old enough I went to school in School Hill. Clara Miller took me along to school. It was two miles to walk. I went to School Hill for 6 weeks. It was a one room school. All eight grades were taught in the one room. I learned the multiplication tables in those six weeks. I never forgot them.

Then I went to school in St. Nazianz. That was a two and a half miles to walk. One day I became sick in school. I started to walk home. Then a neighbor took me home. When I got home my parents were shopping. I stayed by Pfeiffers till they came home.

When my mother went to help in the fields I had to ring the large bell at 11:30 so she could come home to make dinner. I stayed home and played in the corn crib with dolls my little piano and the chickens. That was before I went to school. I never forgot to ring the bell.

One time we were butchering. My Uncles and Grandparents all helped. A large dog came. He wanted some meat. I was scared of him. My Uncles tied some tin cans on his tail. He took off in a hurry.

My sister was born Oct. 20-1915 on this farm. Her name was Irene Lorine. I can still remember how the rooms were in the house. I never complained if I had nails in my shoes so I had corns. My mother would cut them off when I was sleeping.

We only had wood stoves to cook and heat the house. I also remember a large apple tree in front of the house. A sweet apple tree. When I was eight years old we moved to St. Nazianz upstairs. We had four rooms. My mother used to help my uncles on the farm. Then I had to go by my Uncle Peter Anhalt, Aunt Margaret or my Uncle and Aunt Mike & Theresa Meyer.

They lived a mile east of St. Nazianz. Then I had to walk to school from there. One time they told me my Mother would be home. When I got home she was not home yet. So I went by Anhalts again. The next day I got a good licking.

I was nine years old we got the organ. It was 4<sup>th</sup> handed. My Dad played it. Then I took lessons. My dad played the Accordion, and my Mother played the violin. They never had a music lesson.

I also had the measles while we lived there. I can see the doctor when he said I'd have the measles the next day. I also had whooping cough there.

In March 15-1921 we moved to Silver Lake (Alverno). It is a 40 acre farm. We had six corn wagons full of furniture. It was horse drawn. It was a 14-15 mile way to travel one way. When we got there the people had not planned to move. They had nothing packed. That was quite a confusion. We had to unload the furniture so the Uncles with the horses & wagons could get back home before dark. When my parents made the deed they found a claim on the farm from Jos. Kodet's father. Lucky he was still alive to settle the claim. We had 5 or 6 cows, some chickens and pigs.

On the first day of school at St. Joseph's, which was one & one half miles to go, Frieda Wollersheirn took me along. They lived on the road north of us and my parents had known them. They were also from St. Nazianz.

St. Joseph had two rooms in the school and they were located under the church. I was in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. So I was with the older children. Sr. Helena was the teacher. A few of the children helped clean the room and blackboard etc. after school. Sr. Helena always had an apple or something good to share with us. She divided the apple into as many pieces as needed.

Sometimes Mr. Wilde hauled milk to Alverno cheese factory. He gave me a ride for about ½ mile. He had a horse on the milk wagon. Now the cheese factory is a restaurant and dance hall.

The first Saturday we were there Aurelia Miller & her Sister Marie came over and asked if Irene and I would like to play with them. They lived a little ways up the road. The neighbors were real friendly there.

On Nov. 15-1921 my Aunt Katie and Uncle John Scharenbroch were married. They wanted our farm. So my parents sold it to them again for \$10,000. The price they had paid for it. My Dad had added a stone silo for \$200 which they also had to pay.

Fr. Fistan was the priest at St. Joseph's. On Sunday afternoons he would go visiting by the parishiners with his bicycle. I played the hymns we learned in school for him with one hand. He

enjoyed that so much. Later he came to St. Nazianz. Then I played the organ in church for him. He always had a special interest in me.

We moved back to St. Nazianz. The house we were supposed to move into was occupied by an old man wanted to move by his son. So we had to live in the Lisberger house for 6 weeks. The house where the organ had come from. When we moved from the Lisberger house to the Iselman house I had the mumps. So I had to stay with the next door neighbors. They were a brother and sister, Joe & Catherine Maurer.

Catherine made coffee and took the cream off the milk for the coffee to make it real special. Joe had a carpet loom and made carpets. I helped him thread the loom. He could not see well enough any more. I always got a few cents for helping. If the loom was not threaded correctly you could see it thro the whole carpet. I enjoyed doing that.

Then Irene and I went back to St. Gregory's school. I had to sweep the floor, dry the dishes and peel the potatoes before I went to school. At noon I had to help dry dishes before I could go to school. So I didn't have time to play ball at noon recess. At recess we played all kinds of games, like drop the handkerchief, fruit basket upset.

In the evening when I came home from school, I had to fill the wood box with wood from the woodshed, get a pail of water for drinking and cooking from the pump outside and dry the dishes. Then I could do any homework.

The summer I was eleven years old I had to go by my Aunt Katie and Uncle John for six weeks to help. We hoed the corn, take the thistles out of the oats and pick strawberries. Sometimes I had to milk a cow. We had to wash by hand. The washing machine only awirled the clothes a little. If they were not clean, they did not get clean in the working machine. I hated the washing machine because you had to go back & forth on top of the machine with a handle. Then we hung the clothes up to dry outside. I helped by them when I was eleven, twelve, thirteen & fourteen.

When I was fourteen my Aunt drove the horses on the binder. My Uncle and I shocked the grain. We went back and forth and kept up with the binder. Then we had to haul the bundles into the barn for thrashing. I never got paid if I worked for the relatives.

Later in the summer when I was still fourteen I also had to help by my Grandpa and grandma Schad. My Aunt Theresa and I loaded 30 loads of oats in bundles. They had a 160 acre farm. All the cows were milked by hand.

In fall when I was still fourteen my other Grandpa Knier was sick. My Aunt Mary and Uncle John took care of him. So I had to help. We dug potatoes by hand for a whole week. Grandpa died shortly. He was 80 years old.

Good thing I had taken all the subjects that were required. We had to take the exams for in the County in the Washington school. I wrote them all. They were for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades. I passed it. I got my diploma.

On Feb 27 Helen was born in 1925. Joe was born Sept 25-1922. So I had to stay home and help. I was still fourteen years old. We still washed everything by hand. We had a different washing machine. You had to pump a handle up and down. It did not do much to the wash. Only swished them around. Later when I earned money I bought a motor for that washing machine. I had to help wash before I went to work or school.

When I was 15 my Mother decided I should learn to sew. Theresa Koenig did sewing for other people. So I had to work for her & with her. I was told not ever to mention whose clothes we served. I had to learn for 3 months. Without pay.

When I was sixteen I started to do housework by Sheas. They had 4 children and another on the way. I got 60¢ a day.

My mother told me not to bake a cake because I had never baked a cake. When I was there they told me what to do. One they said "Bake a cake." They gave me the recipe. So I baked a cake my first cake. It turned out o.k. I had to do a lot of cooking and baking on a wood stove. Whenever I baked a cake I remembered all the ingredients and when I came home at night I wrote the recipe into a note book. I still have that note book.

I was fourteen when we bought our first car. When we lived in the village my Dad did carpenter work in the summer. In the winter he made wood for the Seminary. Every room usually had a wood stove. He received \$1.00 a day and his noon meal. There were six of us at the table.

In summer we had lots of strawberries and raspberries. We sold them to the village people. My mother put 10 qts in a pail. I could not put them on a coaster wagon because they would be all shook together. So I carried a pail in each hand and delivered them. Some times the people were not home or did not want them that day so I took the berries to another customer. We got 25¢ a quart.

We also had a large garden. We had our own potatoes and vegetables and berries. We had to can every thing as there were no freezers. We did not even have electric lights. No telephone, radio or TV. I usually slept upstairs alone. There was no heat in the Winter. I did not have any light. I had a nice feather bed that was nice and warm. For the Eisenman house we paid \$5.00 a month rent. For the garden we had to pay \$5.00 extra.

When we lived in Alverno Fr. Finton was the Priest. On Sunday afternoons he would go bicycling and stop in by our place. In school we learned songs which I played on the Oregon for him. He enjoyed that real much. Later he transferred to St. Nazianz. When I was older he wanted me to play the Organ in church when the Sisters were gone during the summer. He remembered how I had played for him in Alverno.

I had a girl friend Maria Lubbrink. We prayed the rosary and sang in church. We were real good friends. Later she moved away. I lost track of her.

In April 1927 we bought our first home in St. Nazianz. I was 16 yrs. old so I worked out most of the time. After I worked by Sheas, I started to work for Mrs. Bushman. Mr. Bushmann was carpenter boss. My dad worked for him. On Aug. 16-1927 Rose Mary Bushman was born. There were four other children in the family already. I had to do most of the housework. Mrs. Zorn an Aunt of Mrs. Bushman took the older children. I was only 16 years old.

When I was 17 their new home. They built it in winter. We had to feed the carpenters & all workers. Mrs. Bushman could not hear unless you spoke directly into her ear. She was a good lady. She is still living in a nursing home in New Holstein. She is 96 years old. She is totally deaf now. She always remembered my birthday etc. I got \$5.00 a week.

When I was 17 the canning factory started in St. Nazianz. They canned peas and green beans. They paid pretty good money. My Mother also worked there. When I was 18 Robert was born. Six weeks before he was born Rose Mary had Pneumonia real bad. They did not expect her to live. But she survived. She later was a Nun. She died of cancer a few years ago. When Robert was 6 weeks old Jeanette who was 3 years old had a ruptured appendix. Mrs. Bushman could not

go along to the Manitowoc hospital. So I had to go along and stay in the room and help take care of her for 10 days. Later the Sister Superior wrote a letter and asked if I would like be a nurse. I would have loved but my Mother would not allow it. I could have been a Registered Nurse without high school in 2 years. They even paid a small wage.

When I was 18 I worked in the canning factory in summer and in winter I worked by Sheas and Bushmans when they needed me. I received \$5.00 a week. Later Ma and I worked for the Salvatorian Fathers. They sent out Christmas seals. A lot were returned. We had to take them out of the envelopes, separate the seals from the envelopes & I had to count the envelopes.

We had an old typewriter in school. During recess we practiced on the typewriter to get to know how it worked. Later Mr. Shea let me type addresses at home. They were for files and some had to be duplicated with carbon paper so there were three addresses at one time. I still have it.

My mother and I also started to sew quilts. All sewed by hand. We had a pretty good thing going. We even made the newspaper.

When I was 20 I worked in the canning factory. Mr. Shea asked me if I would not prefer to work for the publishing department typing addresses. That was when the Salvatorian started the printing department in St. Nazianz. They rented a portion of the Groh store that was partitioned off. There were about 10 girls working there. A little later they rented part of the Sisters Convent. Some of the girls boarded and slept in the convent. There were lots more girls working there.

In Sept. 22-1931 we were married. I still kept on working till the end of May. Then I had to help on the farm. I went from typing to milking cows by hand. The week of Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> they called me back to type. I had my typewriter and worked one week. The money I earned we used to pay the doctor for Leonard's birth.

Leonard was born Feb. 24-1933. When Leonard was 2 weeks old all the banks closed. We could not write checks or cashed checks. I paid the doctor \$24.00 and I never saw a happier person. If you did not have money you could not even buy groceries. Some banks never opened and people lost all the money they had in the bank. We were lucky. St. Nazianz bank opened again. From the crash of 1929 things really got bad. The depression was worst in 1932 and 1933. People worked just to get a meal.

We sold eggs for 8¢ a doz. We sold a large pig to the Sisters in Milwaukee for \$5.00. We even butchered the pig yet. We were lucky we did not have interest to pay. We lived upstairs by my folks in two rooms for 5 years. We paid \$5.00 a month rent. We had only the wood stove to heat the two rooms and cook and bake. I washed in the basement with my mother. We washed by hand till Leonard was 6 months old.

When Leonard was 6 months old there was a large milk strike. The farmers refused to haul milk. My folks just bought a new washing machine. One that really worked. Instead of wasting the milk we made butter in the new washing machine. It worked good. We also made cheese. We only had one half of the milk as we had the farm rented for half when we got married. The milk strike only lasted a few days. People had to have milk especially people with young children.

Shortly after our wedding my sister Irene took sick. She had a cough. It was in the bronchial tube. She was sick for three winters. The doctors tried different things. They had special medicine sent from France. They poured the medicine down her throat. It was so strong it burned her throat. The doctors took out put a tube in to drain the pus. Nothing worked. Now they would have antibiotics. Her bedroom was under our kitchen. Leonard had to wear carpet

slippers so there would not be so much noise. The last winter Irene had 3 more ribs removed. She had to sit on a rubber ring in bed. She could not even lie down.

My Grandmother Schad died Dec. 14-1934. She had milked cows by hand the night before she died.

On Jan. 22-1935 Francis was born. Irene died April 1-1935. Francis was about 10 weeks old.

Papa got the Quincy a few times. I had never heard of Quincy. It swells up the throat. If it gets too bad one could choke. The Dr. even had to lance it to get the pus out. It was even contagious. Leonard's glands in the neck were swollen. I received the infection too. Lucky I had my tonsils out when I was eighteen. That was good or I really would have had a mess. I was pregnant with Catherine. The Dr. ordered me to bed. My mother took Francis who was only a few months old and took care of him. Then Papa had his tonsils out. After that we did not have any more trouble with that.

On March 2-1936 Catherine was born. The snow was up as high as the telephone poles. It was a leap year. If Catherine would have been born 26 hours sooner she would have been born on leap year.

When Francis was born it was 20° below zero. But the doctor lived next door and his wife was a nurse. At that time the Mothers had to stay in bed for 9 days after the baby was born. As Irene was sick my Aunt Theresa Meyer took care of me and the baby. Both Leonard and Francis. She got \$3.00 a week. When Catherine was born my Mother took care of me. I also had Marie Schad Clarence's oldest sister helping me for 6 weeks. She also got \$3.00 a week. The washing had to be done by hand and the cooking and cleaning. That time we had the wood stove so the wood had to be brought up from the basement. The water we had to pump outside and carry upstairs. No indoor plumbing.

When Catherine was born Angeline Knier helped me. She was a cousin too. At that time you had to help out by your relatives. Shortly after that things changed. Ladies went to the hospital to give birth.

John had to walk three times a day to work on the farm. The barn was on the west side of the land. In winter when it snowed hard and the wind blew the snow hard he could not see the houses on the wagon when he hauled milk to the cheese factory. The milk was in milk cans. The whey from the milk when it was made into cheese was taken back home and fed to the pigs.

We had four horses to work the farm. No electricity in the barn. So we used lanterns for light. We also had a gasoline engine to pump water into a tank into the barn for the cows. Manure had to be loaded by hand. Usually the manure was hauled out of the barn with a large bucket on a track and made into a manure pile. In Spring the manure was loaded by hand on a manure spreader. It was spread on the land then. We had a hired man to help.

The Sisters cooked for him. One hired man Wenzel Knier had a high pitched voice. One time when he hauled milk, the horse would not go home anymore. If something scared the horse it just took off.

I had to get the cows in summer from over a mile to milk in the evening. I left at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. An Oswald Sister helped in the barn. She worked in the barn for 40 years. She was about as tall as I am and weighed 240 lbs. She knew a lot about making medicine from different things.

The children also came from the village with pails to get milk when we milked. We had a large straw pile next to the barn. While the children waited, they ran around the straw pile and had a great time. When we were ready we said "Now take your milk and go home." They paid 5¢ a quart. We had a container there for the money. They stood in line and waited their turn. They still tell us how much fun they had.

There was a house a few blocks from the barn in St. Nazianz. We moved that house from St. Nazianz with the tractor and timbers. It had 4 rooms. Mr. Bushman added 2 more rooms. We had a basement too. I just loved that house. We moved into that house in Nov. 1936. We heated the house with the wood stove and a coal stove. No heat in the basement. I had a nice garden next to the house. We had electricity. But we had to get the water from the pump for drinking and cooking. In the basement we had a cistern for rain water for washing the clothes. I got my first Maytag washing machine.

Just before Francis was born we could have bought the Ambrose Eberle farm. It was just west of the Catholic Cemetery. It was 54 A. Mr. Eberle delivered coal to the village people in St. Nazianz. He also had a milk route. A horse pulled the wagon with the filled milk bottles. There was a spring on the farm where the milk was cooled. The milk was only in quart bottles. It was not pasteurized. Only one kind of milk was delivered. It was delivered every day. The horse knew where all the stops were. It was a real nice business. Mr. Eberle would have kept the coal business. It did not take long then the milk delivery changed too. When Mr. Eberle sold the farm the milk delivery was discontinued. The coal business was good for quite a few years yet.

My Dad also helped make ice in Winter. The ice was usually made in February. All the business had an ice house. It looked like an ordinary shed. The ice could be 2-2 ½ ft thick. Those were large blocks to handle. It was also dangerous to cut the ice and get it out of the water. The ice was packed in the ice house with saw dust in between the ice to keep it from melting. That was the only way people had ice in summer. We never had any.

We also looked at a farm in Seymour. It was a cousin to my mother. Henry Hauch was the owner's name. He had Guernsey cows. He also had a coal route and a milk route and he made homes made ice cream. He sold the ice cream right at the farm. The milk he delivered. He wanted to keep the ice cream business. He later started an ice cream parlor in Seymour after he sold the farm. We never had enough money to buy such a farm. We were looking for a farm as we would have liked to own our own farm.

Leonard went to school from Sept. to Nov. in St. Nazianz. The first day he came home from school he said "I did not learn anything today." He did not know any English when he started school. It did not take long when he came home from school and read the little reader Jame & I forgot the other name. He had learned to read it. I could send Leonard to the bakery before he went to school. He knew the money. A loaf of bread cost 12¢. The baker always gave Leonard a piece of candy too.

The baker made cinnamon rolls and coffee cake only on Saturday on a first come first serve basis. He was a good baker. He died of a heart attack.

We were told about a farm near St. Wendel. We were unsure if we should buy it. Then they had auction on the farm and we went there. During the auction May 17-1938 we bought the farm from the Haven State Bank. The farm was bankrupt.

We let the Albert Fox family live on the farm till Nov. 2. The Foxes were supposed to pay \$30.00 a month rent. They had kept their cows. They also were supposed to make hay and take care of the crops. The oats & barley had been planted when we bought the farm. The Foxes

never paid any rent. They took care of the crops. For thrashing we helped with food and also work. We thrashed 1111bus. One crop was barley.

The Foxes had a lot where they wanted to built a house. They only had the foundation made all summer. After thrashing we allowed the Foxes to sell the barley to Havin for lumber so they could continue their house in exchange for 6 or 7 cows. Albert Foxes aunt and son came to us and said they have the mortgage on the cows. They were mad. Then the aunt took the mortgage on the house. Otherwise we would not have had money from the barley and no cows. The Foxes finally got the shell up for the house.

When we wanted to fill silo, John & Aaron Schema the hired man took out tractor to the farm on a truck. They unloaded the tractor and when John cranked the truck it backfired and hit John on the arm and broke it. The next morning John went to the doctor. He found out it was broken. So he set the arm. But the Dr. said he could not drive the car because he had given him anesthetic. So I had to drive the car. My dad also went along.

On Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> we hired a truck to move. We did not get all the furniture on the truck. When we came to the farm the Foxes had not started to move. So we slept another night in St. Nazianz and moved the rest of the furniture the next day.

Mrs. Foxes Dad was staying with the Foxes. They could only live in the basement of their house as nothing was ready. So Mr. Albert Leonard stayed with us till the next year in May. He helped make wood and helped milk etc. It was lucky that the winter was mild. We did not have money to buy coal for the furnace. We were lucky to have had a garden and also had flour made from wheat and rye. We also had potatoes. There were quite a few apple trees. So we had apples too.

We bought two horses. They were as old as Francis and Catherine. We had bought a white horse at the auction. His name was Prince. We found out that Hardman Toepel had a note on that horse. He said it was O.K. and let us have Prince.

Albert Leonard had spoiled Prince so nobody could get alone with him. Later we got along with him real good. I could hold his head when we cultivated the garden. Prince was scared of trucks. He must have had a good scare once.

Everything was mortgaged or had a note on. The Foxes had debts all over. We had to pay their debts before we could get a telephone. We had electric on the farm. They had a furnace that worked. But the pump for pumping water into the house was broken. There was a bathroom in the house but no water. The pump outside was a wooden pump. Every time you pumped water you had wood in the water. You also had to pump water and carry it into the barn to water the cows and horses.

We had the milk machine which we had bought in 1937. It was the first milking machine that Miller had sold.

We did not have much income. But there were so many things we had to buy. We had just paid the interest on the mortgage. On June 14<sup>th</sup> 1939 the barn burned down. We did not know if we should rebuilt or let it go. We decided to rebuilt. We bought the timbers and lumbers from the Salvatorians Fathers for \$500.00. They built another barn on a different place.

Jos. Hanson was our milk handler. He offered to haul the material with his truck from St. Nazianz. We had milk cans that time. Our milk went to Manitowoc to the White house. The A & P Store were affiliated with the milk plant. We could have anything brought along with Mr. Hanson. The price would go off of the milk check. Our number was 187%, the year my Dad was born.



We never had insurance for our personal property. But lucky we had insurance for fire & storm. That helped a lot. Also the neighbors helped a lot. My Mother helped for 6 weeks. At 10 o'clock in the morning the neighbors came. They made the hay and did whatever was necessary. The cows we milked in the old shed which still is standing on the South Side.

On the day the barn was raised we had 80 people. Mrs. Jos. Dhein baked 150 doughnuts. Other neighbors brought bread, cake and whatever they could. We butchered a calf for the raising. They put a tree on the top of the barn after it was raised. We had Erbstoessie from Haven built the barn. Mr. Bushman was building the Salvatorian barns. But he moved the Granary after the barn was built.

On July 19<sup>th</sup> we had a barn dance. August Schmidt did the Mason Work in the barn. On Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> we put the cows in the barn for the 1<sup>st</sup> time. That day Hitler marched into Poland.

Albert Leonard said you could see that people did not have so much work from the depression yet. But the neighbors always helped us and were good to us. We thrashed together, filled silos, made hay, hauled canning peas to the factory. Things were cheap then yet. But when the war started things began to have a better price. But we didn't have anything extra to sell. We had chickens, pigs, and in summer ducks roosters, turkey ducks or geese. We even had turkeys one year.

We could take one half crate that's fifteen doz. Eggs to Pranges. We bought our groceries from them. Then we went by Kresge's next door and got a wiener for 10¢ and a glass of root beer for 5¢. We had a good lunch that tasted good.

St. Weindel school had 2 rooms. Leonard always used to stay after school and his report card was good. So we asked the Sister what was wrong. She said he always watches what the other children are doing and doesn't do his work.

The Sister said she never saw any one sweep like Frances. He really went at it.

When Catherine started school she started to fight with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys. She could not see the blackboard. We did not know that that was from the measles. She can't see far. Close she can see.

The children had to bring their own lunch to school. The children also had to attend Mass every day when school was in session. Leonard and Frances had to learn all the Mass prayers in Latin and by memory. All the Masses were in Latin. Only a hymn after Mass was in English. For funerals we had a Requiem all in Latin. Everyone knew Latin from hearing it all the time but could not understand it. It was over in the 60's when everything changed to English.

When our children went to school the boys to serve Mass when their skedule was and the girls were skeduled to sing. Five or 6 girls a week. I played for eight years in summer for the children when the sisters were gone. Lots of times I had to sing and play all of the music. All had High Mass and Requiem for the dead.

In 1950 I worked evenings during the corn canning season at the Cleveland Factory. That was one of the hardest days on the farm when they took our peas. John had to start at 4 o'clock in the morning to cut peas with the horses. Then haul them down to the factory and bring back the vines after they were shelled. We had to spread all of the vines in a field to dry. If the vines got rained on they were not worth much anymore. But if they were brought in right they were very good feed. The cows just loved them.

The first years we even picked the canning factory corn by hand. We could get the waste from the factory for the cows. We put it on a pole and let the cows eat it. John sometimes helped in the canning factory if there were short of help.

We had a hay loader to bring up the hay on the wagon. Then we had a hay fork in the middle of the barn that was stuck into the hay on the wagon and pulled up with ropes and pulley into the mow where it had to be spread. I drove the horses for loading the hay and also for unloading.

The year Francis was operated for appendix Helen and Al helped with the hay. One day Al and I hitched up the horses, Barney and Jimmy. We did not know that they were always hitched up the same way. When we got up to the barn the horses stood nose to nose instead of side by side. We had a good laugh out of that.

Jos. Dhein and we rented the land from Jost now Bill Schmitts. We had it rented for half for us and half Jos. Dhein. We had hay on the field. I was driving the horses on the south side of the field and Mr. Dhein and Dad were on the wagon loading. Stanley Dhein came with a team of horses and an empty wagon. Leonard was on the wagon. Stanley stopped on the north side of the field. All at once the horses got spoked and took off along the fence the posts popped up one after the other and on the wagon the boards started to come off. Leonard was still on the wagon. John jumped off of the load and ran across the field and hung in between the horses and caught the bridles and stopped them. If the horses would have stumbled John could have been poked by the pole of the wagon. He would have been killed instantly. We were lucky.

Another time we had some oats that was tall and had laid down. It was all tangled up. So I decided we'd load it onto a wagon before it rained. Leonard was with me. We loaded the wagon and I drove the horses to go home. We got as far as the corn cribs when the wagon tipped to one side. The horses had stopped. Leonard and I just stayed on the wagon and rolled along. Nobody was hurt.

Another time we got stuck in water holes with a load. So we had to get the tractor to pull us out.

On time John was cultivating corn with a corn cultivator you could sit on. You had to regulate it with your feet. John had to go somewhere so he told Francis to watch the horses. As long as he was there Francis thought he would make a round. He started and the cultivator started to go zigzag. He only went down one row. Then he went home without cultivating.

We used to pick the ripe cobs of corn by hand and then cut the rest with the corn binder for silage. We put the ripe cobs against the hay in the barn and put up benches. Then we had a husking bee. The neighbors came, some husked corn and others carried the cobs to the corn crib. We had a lot of fun. After we were finished we had a nice lunch. It was also fun thrashing. We cut the oats with a binder.

After milking John & I went out to shock the bundles. We put up 6-8 bundles on a shock. The bundles had to be on the east & west side so the sun could dry the oats. Then the thrashing machine came and we thrashed right from the field. Some men loaded wagons other men carried the oats in the bags to the granary. The one that put the bundles into the thrashing machine was the feeder pitcher. The whole family came along. The ladies cooked. We had lunch in the morning, then dinner and later supper. Sometimes we made lunch after milking yet. Those guys could eat. They were not called thrashers for nothing.

We thrashed with Henry Leonard who had the thrashing machine. Jos. Dhein, Woodrow Dhein and Rolland Klessig were along. We had a lot of fun. Later we bought our own machine. I did the feeder pitching. We carried the oats with a half bushel basket or one bushel basket to the granary. The straw the thrashing machine blew into the barn for winter.

Later we bought a combine. The Amish bought our thrashing machine. Francis had the combine until a few years ago. We later got an elevator to elevate the grain into the granery from the thrashing machine. We had a corn binder that made bundles. The bundles were placed on a wagon by hand. Then with the horses we took the loads home and had a feed cutter and blower to blow the chopped corn into the silo. We did not have a silo unloader.

One day Roland Klessig was shingling his chicken house. When the boys came over they were sent home because it was too dangerous. So what did they do? Leonard, Francis and Catherine went up to the barn and raced with ladders. Leonard's ladder slid down and knocked his front teeth out.

One day when we were thrashing Robert Feider and Gary Wiegand were by us. They had gone into the straw mow with out anyone knowing it. Lucky they walked out. If they would have been buried in the straw nobody would have found them till Spring.

The neighbor boys always came over by us also Marlene Wiegand. They did not have anything to do at home. We always had a little something to do. We had all kinds of things to eat. We had apples, plums, pears and I cooked for them. If they did not behave John sent them home. They were asked at home what happened they said "John sent us home." They came right back again. Douglas Leonard still talks about the french fries we had and Lee Wiegand liked my pancakes.

When we had stones to pick in the field we would first go down the road and gather the boys to go along. We paid them a little. One day they folled around and did not do much stone picking. We gave them each 25¢ and supper. They said they would go by Huhn's and pick up potatoes. It did not take long then they were back by us again.

Mark Lee and Marlene Wiegand came over a lot. I asked them if their mother knew where they were? They said "She don't care then we are out of her way." Another time they said "Now we are going home then you know where we are."

One day Mr. Voechting was by us as a salesman for Miller. The Wiegand Children were there too. They had their rubber boots in the sun porch. Francis always teased the children. He said he would sell them. Mr. Voechting offered them a ride home. The kids took off leaving their boots. They were really scared.

We raised our own pigs. We made sausage brats we put in fruit jars and heated them when we had company. We rendered the lard. We cured our hams. It was meat for the whole year. We also butchered a calf once in a while. Also pigeons called squabs. They were young pigeons just ready to fly out of the nest. We also butchered a cow. From the soup bones I made soup and canned the broth. We also had chickens, turkey, ducks, mallard, young roosters and geese.

One time we had the goose eggs hatched in the Oostburg. I thought the old geese take care of them like a duck chicken. I put them outside. The geese just ignored them. So I put the goslings in a square wire pen outside. Then the geese started to walk around the pen. Then I put something under one corner of the pen do the goslings could go in and out. Then the geese started to take care of them.

One time we had roosters. We butchered them when they were young. One time one of the roosters came after Catherine. She took a stick and hit them She killed him. She came carrying the dead rooster.

We did not have a telephone till in the 40's. We got the first water heater in 1950. We had to heat all the water on the stove for washing and whatever we needed hot water for.

In 1950 I had a choice. If I took a freezer or gas stove second hand I could have both. Otherwise only one. I chose the second hand ones.

When John went to Cleveland Francis & Leonard loved to play ball. They played on the south side of the barn. They watched the Cleveland corner road. When John came they were busy working.

We had a large orchard. We sold apples. We dried apples & pears & even sulfured apples. They stayed white till they were need. 1952 the fruit growers started to auction off apples. We put the apples in special little baskets. The proceeds went to the fruit growers. The ladies had to bake apple pies. They were served with a piece of cheese after the auction. It was held in the court house in the large room where you come in.

The festival is in Two Rivers. And all kinds of things are sold. In 1946 in Sept. Leonard went to St. Nazianz in the Salvatarian Seminary. The Seminary had 4 years high school and 2 years college. The Leonard went to St. Francis Seminary for 4 years in Milwaukee. Catherine went to St. Mary's Convent in Milwaukee 35th and Center St in August 1950. We had to pay tuition for Leonard and Catherine.

Leonard and Catherine had to bring a trunkful of clothes. When Leonard left in 1946 it was hard to get some of the clothes. A lot of things had been rationed during the war. Gas was rationed, sugar, meat, oil, kerosene, gas and even shoes and tires. We got coupons to buy a certain amount. Leonard & Catherine had to bring bed sheets, pillow cases & towels and all their clothes. All the articles had to be marked for laundering. We had little tags with numbers to sew on.

In 1952 John went to Germany. He had to settle the estate at his home. His Dad had died when he was 18 yrs. So the farm was in all the children's names. Philomena had married and taken over the farm. Kuni had been married longer. She married into another farm. Dad left in Sept. & came back in Nov. It took two weeks to go to Germany & two weeks to come home. He was in Germany for 4 months. He went with the boat, Italia, but he had to take the train to New York.

Francis and I farmed. Francis had first been out of high school in Spring. Lots of things went wrong. But we managed. That was the year they auctioned off the apples in Manitowoc. It was also the time we went to Grade A milk. We had to dig a well which is still being used. Francis & I had to clean the barn real good. They even checked the light bulbs. We went on Grade A before John came home.

We had to sell our horses as no horses were allowed in the barn. Prince was lead to Cleveland to Dr. Williams to feed to the minks. The two other horses were sold to Mr. Mayer. When we tried to cash the check in bounced. So we waited a while & got our money. I hated to sell the horses. The children had grown up with them. Each one could ride a horse. Leonard had Prince, Francis had Jimmy and Catherine had Barney. They need to ride them in the field never on the road.

One time we had put potatoes into the basement on the west side of the house from a stone boat. Jim & Barney were hitched up. Catherine took the reigns, but she always pulled on one reign. The horses started to go in a circle. Catherine was sitting on the stone boar. That's some boards nailed together where are used to get stones. Lucky the horses did not go fast. She could have gotten under the stone boat if it had tipped over. In winter when the yard was full of snow Prince had to pull the car up the driveway.

We also built the garage & wood shed. We also put an iron kettle in for butchering. In the basement we had room for apples or fruit cellar. There had been an old woodshed there. Every time it snowed the wind blew snow on the wood.

We also moved the chicken barn from St. Wendel. Also the brooder house. John Ziegler helped. They put the bridding on two wagons and hauled it over the field into its place. Now it's used for calves. When we put the barn cleaner in, in 1950, we later built the barn cleaner shed & granary. We also built the old silo in 1940. The other one was built in 1966 or 1967. The one on the Schwoerer farm was built in 1965. The old silo was torn down on the Schwoerer farm when Robert was born May 17, 1965. Now there is a corn crib on its place.

Francis went to Madison short course in 1954-1955 and 1955-1956. Some boys from Valders said Francis could go home with them on week ends. They went thro St. Nazianz as that was closer for them. Francis stayed at my parents till we got him after chores. The first winter Francis took 3 five week or three semesters. He also took extra studies so he only had to take two semester next year.

Graduation was Mar. 15, 1956. We had planned to attend. We could not go. At 6 o'clock I went into the barn for chores. The moon was shining. By the time we were finished milking. We had a big snowstorm. We drove till the corner then turned around. Francis got as far as Fond du Lac. He who gives while he lives also knows where it goes. I was born poor lived poor & went to die poor.

Autobiography of Eleanora (Knier) Koerber  
Part II

In 1949 Cleveland Canning Co. let three families come from Germany. They were displaced persons who had lost everything in the war. Two families were Polish and one was Lithuanian. When the two Polish families arrived in Cleveland with the train, we were there to meet them.

The canning factory had barracks where the Mexicans also lived while the canning factory was going. The Mexicans left for Door County to pick cherries after the canning season. The newcomers also worked for the canning factory. They came by us a lot.

One family was Bruno Janus and his wife Pella and a boy and a girl. The other family was Peter Swilo his wife and three children, Danute, Slavic & another girl. I forgot her name. On Sundays they came to visit us. One Sunday they spoke Polish, Russian, Lithuanian and German.

John Orth & we had two girls that came. We had to pay \$50.00 for the trip from New York. The girl we got was 24 yrs old. She could speak 5 languages. Her name was Danute Babwhite(?). The girl the Orths had was Lyma Schemotheide. We wanted to adopt a girl because Catherine was going to the convent. But Germany did not give out children for adoption.

Danute was us for about 6 weeks. Then she got a job in Elkhart Lake. Then she went to Chicago where there were a lot of Lithuanians. When the two girls spoke Lithuanian we could not understand anything. We could not understand Polish or Russian either.

One day the depot agent in Cleveland called and said there is a family here. They were displaced persons too. Father Schaefer was in charge here and was not at home. So I took the car and got them at the depot. John was in the field somewhere. I took them home and fed them till Fr. Schaefer came home and took them where they were supposed to go. They should have stayed in Milwaukee till Fr. Schaefer came home. Someone got the message mixed up. They were a man, wife and two children. I forgot their names.

One day Fr. Schaefer came and said he has a family of four. A man, wife and two boys. He asked if they could stay with us till he could find a place for them. Their name was Vygantas. The man was Lithuanian and the wife was German. She could speak German so that worked out real good. They were such nice people. They had enough lumber to build a new house and had to leave everything. They helped along with the work. The man was so skinny. The lady and I washed their clothes. I made some jelly for them and sewed some aprons. The younger boy was 10 or 11 years old. His name was Mindao. They stayed by us a few days. Then they were sent to Appleton to work in a cheese factory. They would have liked to stay by us and find some work. But they had no choice. It was hard to see them go and hard for them too. We felt sorry for them.

I forgot the year we made hay. My Dad helped us. On Saturday evening we took him home. At eleven o'clock the moon was shining yet. Then it started to rain. By morning there was a flood. The water ran across the road by the bridge. In Centerville the dam broke. One man had a grinding feed mill. That was washed into Lake Michigan. Someone had chickens. Just after they had the chickens out the chicken house collapsed and was washed into Lake Michigan.

In July 1956 my Mother got sick. She had cancer. So, my sister Helen and I took turns taking care of her. I had Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. She had Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. I had to do all the washing and all the cleaning before I went. Then I had to do the same by my folks. My sister could not work so hard. I also had Joey and Danny while Helen was by my parents. Then the children had to go to school. So my parents sold their house and moved in by us on Aug. 13.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> we celebrated our silver wedding anniversary. We did not have much. Only a dinner at home with Joe & family & Helen & family. Catherine came too. We had to get her in Kiel at the train depot. My mother had ordered a wedding cake in St. Nazianz. We had to get that too. We were busy with thrashing and also picking raspberries. We thrashed in Sept. that year yet.

Dr. Feider lived at the corner. He told me how the sickness would progress and what I had to do. He came any time I called him. My mother was not in bed but she had to take medication because she had so much pain. Dr. Feider said I had to watch closely. She could take an over dose. So I laid out her pills in the evening for the night. Later the pain got so bad I had to give her morphine shots.

Camp Haven was still going by the Lake. The always had planes flying with targets behind the plane at which they shot. Every time I had given my mother a shot, the planes would start up. That was hard as the medicine did not help then.

One Saturday night mother got up to get some milk. My Dad had a bed in the dining room and my mother had a bed in the kitchen. She got as far as the old kitchen door. Then she sank to the floor. My Dad and John put her back into bed. She was unconscious. Her bowels had closed and she threw up everything. So she was getting weaker.

On Sunday I said they should all go to church. I would stay with her. Then she was O.K. again. We called Dr. Feider he brought an intravenous into the house for her. In the afternoon Joe & Helen came. Dr. Feider said we better get her to the hospital. So we took her to the hospital. On the evening Joe & Helen visited her. She was all worked up and did not know Joe or Helen. She jumped in bed. They had to hold her down all night. Next morning Dad had to go to the hospital for his foot. So I went along and stayed by my mother. Then she was fine. She asked what the men were doing. If I had peeled the potatoes. Then Dad came & we stayed with her all day. In the evening when Joe & Helen came Dad & I went home. It was the same thing. She was delirious and they had to hold her down again all night. Next morning Dad & I went in again. She was O.K. We stayed all day again. In the evening it was the same thing. On Thursday when Dad & I came in she was pretty weak already. She slept all day. At 5:30 she died Dec. 13, 1956. Dr. Feider said the confusion was because I always took care of her. He said I gave my mother professional care. In the hospital they get general care.

In Nov. 1955 we bought the Schwoerer farm. Schwoerers stayed on the farm till they built their house. They had auction because we had machinery & cows.

In Nov. 1957 Francis had to go to the Army.

In 1958 some 1 year old heifers got sick & died. Nobody could find out what was wrong. So we had some experts from Madison come and open up a heifer. They real tiny worms like a pin head. We lost 5 or 6 heifers. So we could not have cattle on the Schwoerer farm. The worms were in standing water in the lane where the cattle walked thro. The older cattle were not affected.

We had Jimmy Pfeiffer, Gerald Sukowaty and Gary Wiegand work for us when Francis was in the army. Jimmy went to school in St. Nazianz High School. That time Belitz had broilers on the Scheilke farm and Bill Schmitt had broilers too. We always got the chicken manure. We had to hand it with the manure spreader. Later when Jimmy Pfeiffer left Joey Wiedemann worked for us. He did not know anything about farming. One time Dad said he should put a bale of straw by the calves. He thought it was a pail of straw. One time he was supposed to throw down hay. He said its all mixed hay and straw. He did not know the difference. One time he was supposed to

pull weeds out of the strawberry patch. He did not know the difference between the weeds and the strawberries.

Francis was home on furlough from the army in July. He always took Grandpa along wherever he went. Grandpa liked that. Francis had been back to the Army one week when Dad died July 19, 1959. He had a heart attack. Francis was not allowed to come home for the funeral.

Leonard & Pat were married Sept 12, 1957 in Noblesville, Indiana. On the 10<sup>th</sup> of Sept. Paul Keller took us to Milwaukee by Jup & Anna Keller. Leonard delivered telegrams in Milwaukee and stayed by Jup and Anna. We stayed overnight and the next day, Leonard, Francis & I drove to Noblesville. We stayed by Pat's parents the Picketts. They had a rehearsal dinner the night before the wedding.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> we went to the wedding in Noblesville. The wedding reception was at the Pickett place. It was not a big wedding. The Picketts took us to the train station in Indianapolis. Leonard & Pat had left to go on their honeymoon up north. We came home at 10 o'clock in the evening.

On Saturday we invited the neighbors to come on Sunday evening for a reception for Leonard & Pat. I had to bake & clean and get ready for the reception. There were about 20-25 people. Helen & family, the Halbiggs and the neighbors. It was a surprise for Leonard & Pat.

Leonard & Pat lived across the street from Marquette University in Milwaukee on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor. A few years later they moved to North Street. Then in 1960 they moved to North Carolina where Leonard went to school and taught school. They lived in Swepsonville, he taught in Graham and went to school in Chapel Hill.

On Oct 20, 1960 Johnny was born. The doctor left him for dead. A girl friend of Pat's who is a nurse rescued Johnny.

Leonard & Pat lived in North Carolina for 2 years. Then they moved to Indianapolis.

In the Easter vacation in 1960 Leonard & Pat went to North Carolina to look at schools. They asked me to go along. We left Noblesville on Holy Thurs. On Good Friday we attended serves in Kentucky. On Holy Saturday we were in Huntsville, Alabama where Catherine was teaching school. We stayed till Mon. then we started for North Carolina. We stayed in Motels at night and during the day Leonard looked for schools. It was a wonderful trip. I enjoyed it very much.

In Feb. 1963 we decided to visit Catherine & Leonard. We went to Pat's parents for the night. The next day we stopped in Louisville, Kentucky and stayed in a motel overnight. Next day we drove to Huntsville Alabama by Catherine. We stayed over the weekend and Monday morning we headed for the mountains. John enjoyed all the beautiful scenery. We got to the highest mountain in North Carolina in the evening. We stayed at a hotel at night. Next day we were by Leonard. We stayed for 2 weeks. It was wonderful weather. We missed a lot of winter.

Then we drove to Dayton, Ohio by John's Cousin. She was visiting from Germany by her son and daughter-in-law Ian Hubert Kratz. We stayed there over night. Next day we took Kuni along for a visit to us. When we got to the toll road it was snowing and the roads were icy. We made it back home O.K. Kuni's stayed with us for 2 weeks. Then she went back to Dayton, Ohio. We had driven 30000 miles. The next day John went to the Schwoerer fram and had a flat tire. We did not have any problems all the way on the trip.

On Oct. 13, 1962 Francis & Louise were married. We had renters in the Schwoerer house. They were Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Kress. They could not fins a place to move. Finally they rented from



Art Salm but they had to paint everything before they could move in. We stayed on the farm and lived in the old kitchen. In July we moved into the Schwoerer house 1963.

In Aug. we went to Germany. It was the first time I had been to Germany. Catherine & Sr. Lelia had gone earlier to Germany and met us by John's relatives. We stayed for 4 weeks.

Lisa was born Aug. 16, 1963 while we were in Germany. On Feb. 27, 1964 Mike was born. My Sister Helen's birthday was on Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> too in 1925. Joe was born Sept. 25, 1922. We got \$40.00 a month rent for the Schwoerer house. On March 15, 1965 Jim was born. Mike was without a ball in his hip. He was in a cast from the hip to the toes. He had four operations. He never would have walked without the operations. He was in a cast till he was 4 years old. On May 17, 1966 Robert was born.

I took care of the boys as often as I was needed. One day Jim was by us. He could not talk yet. It was a beautiful day. I had the door open and Jim went in and out. At once he did not come into the house. I looked all over for him. In the barn. I was scared of him being on the road. All at once I saw him looking out of the little space in the summer kitchen where the cats went in and out. He had crawled in after the cats.

In August 1965(sic) I had all the three boys while Francis & Louise went to the county fair. I tried to get them to go to sleep. I put each one in a different room. But it did not help. Then the men came to put up the silo. There were 5 men. I had to cook for all the men.

One time I had to play for a wedding. I told the tillers. They said they could eat later. I thought I could get out of cooking. But no way. I served them ice cream for dessert that day.

One day Francis was by us with the truck. Jim was along. Francis had to bring something into the house. He had the truck in the driveway and let the motor run with Jim in it. Jim decided to lock the doors. When Francis came out Jim was locked in the truck. It was only a few minutes that Francis was in the house. So Francis told Jim to work on the window to get it open.

One time we were gone. Francis and Louise put the three boys into the back of the truck to play while they were working. The boys were having a good time. They were laughing. When Francis & Louise got back to the truck they found out that there had been some grease on the truck. The boys had themselves all greased up. That was a job to clean them up.

We had a large sun porch on the Schwoerer farm. The toys were in the porch. So the children could play when they came. When it got too messy I'd clean it up again. I also had a bed ready where Leonard & Catherine had slept in. Then the children could stay overnight. The children always enjoyed that. Christine did not get all the fun the other children had. We moved out by the time she was born.

On Jan. 23, 1968 Lorraine was born. I took care of the boys & cooked for Francis during the time Louise was in the hospital. At night they slept in their own beds.

One day Lorraine was in the bathroom and locked herself in. I had no way to get into the bathroom. So I told her to work the button of the lock. They had an old clock to play with. I told her to turn and work like the clock. Finally she got it open again.

Karen was born March 13, 1970. We did the same thing. I had the boys & Lorraine to cook for and take care of and Francis too. They all slept at home. One day Lorraine was so homesick for her Mother. She sat there and said "This mober is so homesick."

When Karen was small she was scared a lot. I think it was her eyes. When Louise went away she sat by the door and cried. The boys and Lorraine never minded when Louise was gone.

In summer when Louise had to drive tractor for haying. I took care of the children. They were running around outside & playing. I cooked for the whole gang. I had to make a lot of Kool-Aid. When we were on the farm I cooked there and when we were on the Schworer farm I cooked there. Then the nun & Louise could work on the hay. It also worked that way by combining.

One beautiful day in May 1975 a man came to the door and said "I am from the highway. We'll take your house." Then he showed a map which he could not even read. Then he went thro the whole house. Upstairs the basement all over to measure. I don't see what they measured. This house is no way like that house was. John said if you can take this house you should replace it. They kept that up all summer. On Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> they came to take a perk test for the cesspool. Everything was frozen how could a perk test work? We had planned to built a house farther back, but then we decided to built on the lot we had in St. Wendel. The carpenter started the foundation around Christmas. It was winter.

On Jan. 22, 1976 they put the frame up for the house. I felt so sorry for the carpenter. I can still see them on the roof in the cold weather.

I tried to save the house but nothing helped. In Jan. we got a letter from the highway it said "As if Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> the house belongs to the highway, pay rent from the 1<sup>st</sup> of Feb. and be out by April 15<sup>th</sup>." I told the guy if we can't get the house done by then, what then, you will throw us out? "No No way cross my heart" he said. I told him it says right here.

There was an ice storm and all St. Wendel did not have electric for a whole week in Feb. So the men could not work. On Feb. 15 they came and wanted to put us in a hotel to motel and cut off the electricity. Francis said if you cut off the electricity you feed the heifers. They would not have cared if all of our things would have frozen or spoiled.

We moved into this house on April 3, 1976. Soon people came and said "that house was not in the way."

In June 1963 I had made dinner and was waiting for John to come home from the field. A motorcycle drove in with a man on. He had sun glasses on. He asked me if I knew him? I could not remember who he was. Then he said he is Pit. That was the 10-12 year old boy of the Vygantas, Mindao. He was always called Pit. He said he remembered when he and his family stayed by us. He found our place. He said it was always like home to him. He stayed for dinner and we talked about him and his parents. He said he is a doctor. He is supposed to go to the Army. We were so glad and surprised to see him. He left and we never heard from him again.

Mr. Janus is dead but Mrs. Janus still sends us a Christmas card every year. The Swilo's moved to South Bend, Indiana. Mrs. Dies but we still get a Christmas card.

On Dec. 21, 1984 we were awakened by the telephone. We thought it was Catherine to call for my birthday. She usually called before she left for school. She usually called around 7:30. It was dark and we did not turn on the light. When John answered the telephone it was Mrs. Rieth. She said "Held is on fire.: We looked out the window and saw the flames reaching real high. The wind was coming from the southeast. The sparks were flying over our house. They flew as far as the I-43. It was cold and icy. There was snow on the roof. And we had Aluminum siding on the house. As soon as the sparks landed on the roof the snow melted them. Mr. Rieth came to the door and said "Get dressed and go to our house. We can't save your house." That was at 5 o'clock in the morning. The transformer blew out so we did not have electric. The heat was so intense it heated the house. We could not have gotten everything out of the house because when

we opened the door the sparks just flew in. We got dressed and I went by Rieths. John got the hose in case he needed it and watched the house. Francis came over & said he can't stay here because he had to watch the barn. The sparks were blowing over there too. It could start a fire in the barn from the cracks. I'll never forget the horror and scare I had. I did not think we would have a house by that night. The aluminum siding and the snow on the roof saved us. I also put palm along the picture window and sprinkled holy water. Le Roy Wiegand came and helped John. Together they watched so nothing started to burn. At 7:30 Catherine called. By then the flames had gone down already. But it burned all day. In the afternoon the wind changed to the west.

On Nov. 25, 1976 Francis called in the morning. It was Thanksgiving. "The turkey is thawed and I have to take Louise to the hospital." So he brought the turkey and the five children over. We went to church and had a Thanksgiving dinner at noon. At 5 o'clock Christine was born. I had Lorraine and Karen here and the boys went with Francis and John to do the chores while Louise was in the hospital. I made the meals and everybody did their work or went to the hospital etc. On Monday morning all the children went to school. During the day Louise came home with Christine. Francis and the children all went home to sleep. Everything had worked out fine. I was born poor, lived poor and I want to die poor.

#### John Koerber

On May 13, 1902 John was born. When he was 6 years old he went to school in Hallerndorf. Hallerndorf belongs to the Bomberg diocese. It's all Catholic. One teacher had about 40 students. They taught reading, writing and arithmetic & religion. Which had to be memorized.

John was confirmed in Bamberg. When he was young they had geese. After harvesting the grain the geese were put to the field to eat the kernels left behind. John had to watch them like you would watch the cows. The cows never were in the pasture.

Green grass had to be cut every day and fed in the barn. Water was either carried to the barn or they had to drink from a tank by the road or driveway. They were milked by hand. The milk was made into butter or cheese. Butter was rendered. It was then called Butter Schmaltz and would keep longer.

When he was fourteen years he had to plow. His grandmother Mauser had to hold the oxen for plowing. His dad had to go to World War One.

When he was eighteen he went to agriculture school in Forchheim. The first year it was on this side in Forchheim. The second year it was on the other side in Forchheim. He went with the bicycle or walked the 5 miles thro the woods. Sometimes they took the train from Eggelsheim. No train came to Hallerndorf.

John's Dad died after he had gone to school 1 year. Then he stayed home one year and then went another year to school. He also worked with the experience station. He raised different kinds of grain, alfalfa and potatoes. They also raised Horseradish. They had a lot of cherries. John picked cherries for four weeks with the stem do they kept longer. They were sold to Nuernberg. Prunes and pears & apples were dried. John took a course in grafting. Also in shorthand. They also sold barley. The grain was cut with a cradle. They also thrashed with thrash flegel.

John also belonged to the church choir. That is where he learned the notes.

They also raised a lot of potatoes. They boiled them and fed them to the pigs. They also raised mangels and turnips for the cattle. Navy beans were also raised & cooked like pork and beans.

The wheat was ground into flour and they baked large loaves of bread in an outside oven. Also coffee cake.

In 1910 or 1912 John's father built a new barn & stable for the cows. They had 3 or 4 cows & a pair of oxen. They also had 6 or 8 young stock. Originally the stable was built on the house. Now it is separate. A few rooms were on the other side of the house where the shed was. A family lived in there for rent. They had a few goats.

They also sold the old oxen and raised young oxen. They also kept one old ox and harnessed it to two young oxen.

The land was around the village. The people lived in the village and had to get the crops with the oxen or also they had a cow trained to use as an oxen. They also gathered the leaves in the woods for bedding for the cattle.

The seeds had to be planted by hand as they had no machines. Also dig the potatoes & plant them. The mandels had to be thinned out by hand so they got larger. We had woods & sold wood.

Most of the tools had to be made by hand like rakes fork handles and baskets large & small. With the large baskets they fed the cattle and the small ones they used for apples pears cherries etc. They also made there own ladders. They also butchered hogs at home & made sausage & hams etc. They butchered a few times during the year.

Aunt Hebamme was a mid-wife for 50 years. Her name was Eva Beck. She helped deliver over 3000 children in 6 or 7 villages. Most village were small. But she had to walk to get to the places. Later she had a bicycle. She never was married.

John also belonged to the Hallerndorf Gesangverein. In 1927 Conrad Braun, another man and John decided they would go to Amerika. Fr. Sperlien from Nadeau, Michigan wanted them to come. Only John came. He had to pay his own voyage. He came to Nadeau Jan. 27, 1927. Mr. Eishorn had been operated and Mrs. Eichhorn took the large sleigh with two horses and met John at the depot. Then they had to drive four miles west. There was a lot of snow. John was not used to so much snow. He would rather have turned around and back. John stayed by Eichhorns all winter. Eichhorns had seven boys & 1 girl. He did not get paid and he had very little money.

In Spring he went to Two Rivers. He worked for the city to maintain the park. He had to pay \$8.00 a week room and board. On week-ends he worked for his boss on the little farm he had.

One day Mr. Seufert saw John's German shoes. He said to him "Well Comrade how are you?" They were friends all the time later. We were friends with Mr. & Mrs. Seufert all the time until they died. They had only one daughter who lives in Lodi, California. Elizabeth.

On Labor Day 1927 the boss Mr. Sontag said to John "Today we're going to the County Fair in Manitowoc." A street car ran from Two Rivers to Manitowoc. So John took the street car and went to the county fair. He walked around and looked at different things. He saw an implement dealer with all kinds of machinery. They were talking German. John asked them about different machines. He said he would like to work on a large farm where they use all those machines. It was Miller Imp. of St. Nazianz. Mr. Miller told John to write to the Salvatorian Fathers. They hired a number of men to work their farms. So he wrote a letter and they said he could come right away.

John also had an address of Sr. Lelia Leisgang from John's village. Her father said John should visit her. So he went to Milwaukee first to see Sr. Lelia. Then he went to St. Nazianz. The hired men, brothers, priests and students all ate in the dining rooms.

John had an address from Sr. Veronica. She was a cousin to John's grandmother. She was working in the kitchen John was introduced to her. She said the Sisters are looking for a hired man. John did not want to go by the Sisters. It took a few days then Fr. Bede called John & told him he should go by the Sisters.

John said "If I have to go I'll go"

He was there eleven years. The barn did not have electric. Water for the cows was pumped with a gasoline engine into a tank in the barn. Also for the horses. For the chickens and pigs water had to be carried by hand. The cows were milked by hand. We had four horses to do the work in the fields. A neighbor loaned a tractor to fill silo until we bought a tractor in 35 or 36. The manure was put in a large bucket that ran a track and dumped on a pile in the yard. In Spring it was loaded by hand on a manure spreader and hauled into the fields.

John had go about  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles one way three times a day walk for meals. It did not matter how the weather was. In the morning the milk was hauled to the Kobriger cheese factory with one horse and milk cows on a milk wagon. The whey from the cheese the farmers took home for the pigs.

We thrashed with a steam engine that belonged to Tony Schwaerer. The grain had to be hauled into the barn. The straw was blown on a large pile outside. Charlie Fensler was the straw man. He knew just how to make the straw pile. The other men had to carry the grain in large bags into the grainery. Ever week or two weeks we had to cut straw to put on the silage for the cows.

In 1936 John & Mr. Bushman moved a four room house from the village to near the barn. They had large logs that were put under the house. The tractor pulled the horses and as the logs came out of the back, they were put in the front again. Mr. Bushman added two more rooms and put cabinets in and out of the pantry be made a bathroom. We did not have a furnace. So we heated the house with wood and coal in two stoves. It was a nice little house. It had two bedrooms upstairs. Downstairs was one bedroom, living room, dining room and kitchen. And a nice basement. We had a cistern where we had rain water for washing. I also had a wood stove to heat the water for washing.

In 1937 we bought our first milking machine. John Miller has it as an antique now. It was the first milking machine he sold. Some of the cows did not like the milking machine. They were used to being milked by hand.

On Nov. 2 1938 we moved to Cleveland. Leonard had gone to school at St. Nazianz for 2 months.

#### Knier Grandparents

Wenzel

Born May 11-1845

Died Oct 3, 1925

They were married Feb 25-1867

Children: John & Mary Weber 12 children

George & Gertrude Schwitzer 6 children

Theresia Knier & Michael Meyer 7 children

Jos. Knier & Anna Meyer 7 children

Anselm twin with Joe died at birth

Ambrose Knier & Anna Schad 4 children

Margaret Heller

Born Nov 11-1846

Died Feb 25, 1920

May Knier & John Ebenhoe 5 daughters  
Margaret Knier & Peter Schad 12 children  
Catherine Knier & Joe Tienor 6 children  
Anna Knier & Louis Manlick 6 children

Beck Koerber Grandparents  
George Beck & Catherine Mauser  
Born Sept. 28-1946  
Died Mar. 3-1893  
Catherine Beck  
Born May 27-1852  
Died May 16-1924  
Children  
Johann-Butcher  
Catherine John's Mother  
Kuni Renker was Father Tilman's mother also Louise Nuetzel and Alfons Renker.  
Eva Beck-Hebamnae  
Magdalena died young  
Margaret (Rettek Steppert children Hansi & 2 girls)

Koerber children  
Mathias children  
Johann, Michael, Fritz, Kuni & Elizabeth  
Rau, George, Johann – Had a tavern in Forchheim  
Michael-John's father  
Kuni Hofman had Mathias Anna George Elizabeth Michael

Michael father was born Nov 11-1872 died Feb 21-1921  
Katherine Beck Koerber  
Born Aug. 15-1876  
Died Mar. 3-1958  
Children – Magdalena-Lona born Nov 1899 Died Apr. 15-1984  
John Born May 13-1902  
George (Schorsch) Born Mar. 24-1907 died Nov. 19-1937  
Kuni and Conrad Braun born Jan. 18-1911  
Philomena Renker (Alfons) born Jan. 18-1916  
Konrad Braun died Mar. 2-1982  
Alfons Renker born Mar. 16-1918 died Sept. 22, 1993

He who gives while he lives also knows where it goes.