

THE STORY OF MOUNT PLEASANT

The story beginning on page 58, tells the story of the winery property as it is today. It was all different when I bought it for \$9,000 in 1950. Some of the bricks had fallen out of the wall of the northwest corner of the wine building, there were several one foot holes in the floors of the main house, the barn had many rotted out boards and the cisterns had cracked walls. All of our five children were born while we lived her. At one time or other we had 22 calves, 10 cattle, a beagle hound and three bee hives. The telephone was the crank type that rang its bell every time we had a lightning storm. Some of the highlights during the years we lived at Mount Pleasant, from 1951 until 1962, opening the wine cellar for the 1855 Augusta Centennial, serving grape juice to perhaps a thousand or more persons to the music of Sonny Bottermueller's German Band; having a meeting of the St. Charles County Historical Society, at which we served a sit down meal for 249 members and several large political rallies that packed the place to the German music to the music of Gus Ponstingl's German Band. We moved to 20 Briarwood, St. Charles, in 1962. I had been driving four of the children to Community School in St Louis County and this one hundred mile drive back and forth each day become too much for us all.

June 12, 1997

Wm. F. Baggerman

AUGUSTA MEMORIES

Our family lived at Mount Pleasant from 1951 to 1963 and then moved to St. Charles. I am now ninety, and believe those years in Augusta were my happiest.

Who remembers the "Big Flood"? My land had about three feet of sand deposited on 15 acres. Then, at government expense, three Caterpillar tractors with a big plow turned the sand under. Remember the Augusta Centennial celebration that brought in more visitors than the town had ever seen? Remember when the "Katy" was not only running but had steam locomotives and had a passenger train that blew a steam whistle at the crossings? Remember that Rudy Hollenberg was the only passenger? He made trips to go to his job in St. Louis. Remember what a proud bunch we were when Bob Kemner lead us to St. Louis to take delivery of the first modem fire truck the town had owned? We all got a free lunch out of it! Remember how dumb I was about keeping pasture fences in repair? I had nine cows and a bull on our ten acre pasture. We went to St. Louis one day and on return I was informed by Rudy Hollenberg that all the cattle had gotten on the railroad track causing an emergency stop. The train wheels were locked, wheels flattened due to the skid, and the track was damaged. A distant repair train was brought in and Tony Aholt was engaged to repair the right-a-way.

P.S. – The bull and cows jumped off the track in time and were rounded up by neighbors. My father contacted a railroad counsel to find out about the extent of my liability. He said "none", it was the responsibility of the railroad to keep fences in repair.

Happy Memories by Bill Baggerman

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