

1934 Scrapbook #1, Image #007

S.F. Lehman Will Have Covered 320,000 Miles When He Retires Thurs. Apr. 12, 1934

Simeon F. Lehman (Photo)

When Simeon F. Lehman discontinues his duties as rural mail carrier on April 30, he will have traveled approximately 320,000 miles for Uncle Sam while in the employ of the postal department, or the equivalent of about 13 times around the world. Mr. Lehman will be retired on April 30 after having served 30 years and three months. He will be retired on pension and three rural routes out of Berne will be consolidated into two.

Many Experiences

Mr. Lehman has had many experiences during the 30 years and related just a few of them to us. He wore out a few horses, one or two motorcycles, 3 mail wagons and about a half dozen automobiles during his postal career. He had many trying experiences, but all in all he enjoyed his work and will undoubtedly find it strange to quit the work he has become accustomed and attached to, and his many patrons will no doubt miss him.

Mr. Lehman began his career as a rural mail carrier on February 1, 1904. Two others began their duties as rural carriers on the same morning. They were Bert Parr and Otto Franz, now both deceased. Before that time there was only one carrier out of Berne, Amos Burkhalter. Jeff Lehman was postmaster at that time and the post office was located on the site where the First Bank of Berne now stands. Mr. Lehman was assigned to route 3 at that time and spent all of the 30 years on the same route, although the location of the route has been changed from northeast of Berne to southeast.

Mr. Lehman still has four of his original patrons on his present route. They are Frank Wechter, Albert Burke, Mrs. Milinda Mattax and Virginia Hoblet. At the present he has about 190 patrons.

The first morning Mr. Lehman started out he took the horse and sled. It was a cold morning and there was snow on the ground. At that time Mr. Lehman stated, snow was much more common throughout the winter than now. Within a few days he hitched two western ponies to a mail wagon and covered his route in that manner. In 1907 he purchased his first automobile, an Oldsmobile, with a stick as a steering apparatus. He had one of the first automobiles in the community and drove down the road like a prince. The car would be classed as antique now but at that time it was "swell." It had no windshield and the driver sat out in the fresh air. Later Mr. Lehman traded it on a motorcycle, and later he began buying "Fords," to which brand of automobile he stuck until now.

In 1904, when he started in the work, Mr. Lehman's route was 24 miles long. All except five miles of that was dirt or mud road. Later his route was increased to 31 miles and so on until at the present it is 53 miles in length. His first salary was \$50 a month, and of course the salary improved as time went on, as well as the roads and means of transportation.

Mr. Lehman figures that he spent about 9,000 days on the road, covering his route, and that his average daily trip throughout these years would be about 35 miles long. Mr. Lehman tells of many experiences. He had several accidents, but was very fortunate when it comes to sickness. He was granted two leaves of absence of account of sickness during the 30 years. Among the accidents and experiences he tells about were some rather amusing ones. One day he collided with a dog while he was driving his motorcycle. He took a bad spill and had to be brought to town for medical treatment. He was laid up for some time. Another time the horse hitched to his wagon became scared and upset the rig. Still another time he was driving through water when he hit the horse with his whip, the signal for a little more speed. The horse did not relish the reprimand and kicked with both hind feet, throwing Mr. Lehman and his mail. One day

as he was passing the Calvin Liechty home one of those new fangled steam engines whistled just as he passed and his horse became scared and ran cold. The water was more than a foot deep across the road, and a heavy crust of ice had formed. The horse broke through the ice time and again and finally would not go any farther. Mr. Lehman had to get out of the wagon, turn the horse and wagon around and start back. His shoes and socks became soaking wet and it was bitterly cold. Luckily he had a stove in the wagon and he could dry his clothes and warm his frost-bitten feet.

One day Mr. Lehman covered the entire route on foot. His horse had become so tired and weary that he decided to give it a rest. He started out on foot and it was dark long before he returned to Berne and he felt more weary probably than the horse did. Many times he did not return until after dark, but not a single time did he fail to return the same day, although many times he was unable to cover the entire route on account of mud, water or snow drifts.

The 30 years have taken up more than half of Mr. Lehman's life. He is 59 years of age at the present and probably will not take up any other business as he hopes to be able to live on the pension which will be coming his way.

Mon. Apr. 16, 1934

DEATH TAKES WIFE OF DOCTOR ERNEST FRANZ

Prominent Local Woman Dies At Home Here Saturday Night

FUNERAL TO BE TUESDAY AFTERNOON

Mrs. Leah Franz, aged 68, wife of Dr. Ernest Franz of this place, died at 11:45 o'clock Saturday evening, April 14, at her home on West Main street here. Death was caused by hypertrophy of the heart and complications. Mrs. Franz had ailed for several years and had been confined to her bed for eleven weeks. Her condition was critical at times but she seemed improved until just a few days ago when she suffered a relapse. She was very prominent here and her death is mourned by many.

Mrs. Franz was a Sunday School teacher for several years before her marriage and took an active part in church affairs, being a faithful member of the local Mennonite church for many years. She proved a great aid to her husband during his many years as a doctor and physician.

Mrs. Franz, formerly Leah Neuenschwander, was born on the Herman Lehman farm on December 31, 1865, daughter of Christian and Anna Lehman Neuenschwander, both natives of Switzerland, bringing her age to 68 years, 3 months and 14 days. On Mar. 9, 1890, she was married to Dr Ernest Franz in a ceremony performed by the late Rev. S.F. Sprunger at the local Mennonite church. She lived in this community all her life and resided on West Main street for many years.

Surviving are the husband and the following children: Franklin of Monmouth; Ernestine at home; Mrs. W.A. Howe, Bluffton, O.; Gerhart Westfield, N.J.; Mrs. F.D. Whitesell, Chicago; Mrs. W.E. Geiser, Dover, O.; Mrs. C.R. MacDonald, Chicago, and Mrs. W.H. Kreibill of California. Nine grandchildren survive. Two brothers and two sisters survive. They are C.C. and D.C. Neuenschwander, Mrs. J.F. Lehman, and Mrs. Verena Schneck, all of Berne. Several brothers and sisters one ... (Column ends)

THIS TIME OF THE SEASON 8 YEARS AGO Thurs. Apr. 26 1934

Three of the most important items appearing in the Berne Review on April 26, 1926:

- Lloyd Biberstine sentenced from 2-14 years in the State Reformatory and fined \$100 by Judge Sutton at Decatur after having been convicted on a charge of forgery.
- Wilbur Nussbaum weds Miss Selma Burkhalter at Mennonite church here.
- Rev. C. W. H. Sauerwein engaged to deliver baccalaureate sermon to Senior class of Berne H.S. Rev. Arthur Folsom of Fort Wayne engaged to deliver commencement address.

Wed. May 2, 1934

Mrs. Helene Sailer (Photo)

Local and Pe (image cut off)

Very Steury, small daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Noah R. Steury continues to be seriously ill. She is suffering from intestinal flu.

Rev. and Mrs. C.H. Suckau, Mrs. Julia Habegger and Miss Lydia Habegger took dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Sylvan Nussbaum Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Bell of Craigville visited friends here this morning.

Palmer Liechty, son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Liechty is ill at his home this week due to a siege of influenza.

Linford Miller of North Judson is at his home here on an extended vacation from a Government Reforestation Camp.

Miss Magdalene Hirschy and Miss Gladys Long will attend the wedding of Miss Frances Smith to Charles C. Jones of Markle tomorrow evening at the home of the bride-to-be.

COOKING SCHOOL ATTRACTS MANY Mon. May 7, 1934

Winners of Prizes Friday and Saturday Are Named

The cooking school and home institute held at the Berne Auditorium Thursday, Friday and Saturday afternoons proved to be of much interest and many ladies of town and community took advantage and attended. The school was conducted by Mrs. Helene Sailer of the Helene Sailer school of cooking and home institute.

Friday winners at the cooking school and home institute program were Miss Florence Burkhalter, Mrs. Ervin Dro, Mrs. Harry Neuenschwander, Miss Elizabeth Balsiger, Mrs. Oswin Sprunger, Mrs. C.T. Habegger, Mrs. Elmer E. Liechty, Mrs. Pauline Harris, Mrs. Eli Baumgartner, Miss Elizabeth Schindler.

Those who won prizes Saturday were Mrs. E.W. Busche, Lydia Fox, Mrs Waldo Lehman, Mrs. Dewald Beitler, Miss June Martin, Miss Naomi Schwartz, Miss Esther Lehman, Mrs. Eli Graber, Mrs. Nathan Sprunger, Miss Frieda Inniger, Miss Mahala Burley, Miss Naomi Denny and Mrs. Mildred Sprunger.

Adam's County Historical Museum Scrapbooks

Transcribed by Danielle Warmuth

July 20, 2012