



The Heritage

www.goesselmuseum.com

Spring 2022

You could buy *that* in Goessel?!

Last year, COVID-19 caused the cancellation of the museum's Heritage Dinner fundraiser. We're going to try this again on **Friday, March 25, 2022, at 6:30pm in the Tabor Mennonite Church Hospitality Hall.** Ilona Abrahams has researched the progression of stores that have inhabited the space at 215 E. Main, Goessel —now known as Goessel Grocery and Deli —and will be our feature speaker. Goessel Grocery and Deli will cater a delicious meal with local flavor.

Peter Graves opened the first store at 215 E. Main in Goessel. At that time, threshing crews moved around the community in the heat of summer. A cold beer would surely quench the thirst after a hot day under the sun. Wait, beer? Yes! For a time, beer was available at the local grocery store/sundries/restaurant in Goessel! Ice cream, other cold drinks, and fresh meat in the summertime could be purchased. Of course, a variety of groceries was on hand, too. Perhaps you were feeling ill and needed medication. Never fear, patent medicines were also on hand. With a second floor, a visitor would have a bird's eye view of downtown Goessel.

Much has changed since Peter Graves opened his grocery store. To learn about the progression of stores, **contact the museum before Monday, March 21, to make your reservation** for the museum's Heritage Dinner fundraiser. Tickets are \$50 per person over age 12; tickets for those ages 12 and under are \$15. Is this your first Heritage Dinner? First-time attenders may purchase a ticket for \$25. If you are not able to attend the program but would like to carry out a meal, please contact the museum to make arrangements.

Voth's Store: Another Goessel Shopping Option

Rose Voth interviewed the Voths for the *Hillsboro Star Journal*, July 8, 1981. [Edited.]

"Enjoy everything you do" is the motto of P.H. (Pete) Voth, a builder of history in the city of Goessel. Asked if he never had to do something he didn't enjoy, he said "Yes," then added that in those circumstances one either changed the situation or changed one's attitude about it. This philosophy has carried Voth into his early 90s as a healthy, happy, enthusiastic person, according to his wife, Mary. Her motto

Voth's Store, continued on page 2



Unruh's Mercantile. (Museum photo)

Upcoming Events:

Museum Hours

March, April:

Tues - Sat: 12 pm - 4 pm

See page 4 for summer hours.

Heritage Dinner

March 25

Speaker: Ilona Abrahams

Special Display:

A Multitude of Angels

See page 2

Small Town Saturday Night Workshops

May 21, July 23, Sept. 24

See page 2

Car Show

June 18

Country Threshing Days

August 5—7

Mennonite Heritage and Agricultural Museum Board Members:

John Janzen, President; Pat Penner, Vice-President; Anne Harvey, Secretary; Aileen Esau, Treasurer;* Fern Bartel, Museum Director;* Roger Bartel, Sandy Duerksen, Myron Goertzen, John Koehn, Lloyd Voth, Nelson Voth, Connie Wiens, James Wiens. *non-voting members

Ditt unt Daut (this and that) by Fern Bartel, Museum Director

Low German translations: In the museum's Winter 2021 newsletter, I asked readers to email their translations of several Low German phrases. I didn't receive any emails so now I need to reveal the answers! "Oba, daut mott ich doone!" — Oh, I must do that!

The word "oba" translates to "but" or "although" and can be used in many different situations.

- 1) "Nee oba!" — Translated as sort of "not really."
- 2) "Oba doch nich!" — This can't be so.
- 3) "Woat du oba sajst!" — Is that what you are really telling me!
- 4) "Doat es oba kult!" — It is really cold!
- 5) "Oba daut jiet!" — Sure, that works!
- 6) "Daut es mie oba so to waddre!" — That's something that I need to ponder about.

A Multitude of Angels have come to the museum for the summer tourist season. Ladene Janzen Herrick is sharing her collection of 140 angels, large to small, wheat weaving to ceramic, homemade to collector series. Ladene and her husband Don are former museum board members and she continues to volunteer.



Voth's Store, continued from page 1

blends well with his: "Always hope for the best. Tomorrow will always be a better day."

The couple managed a general store called Voth's Market, Voth's Grocery, or simply Voth's Store, from 1927 to 1954.

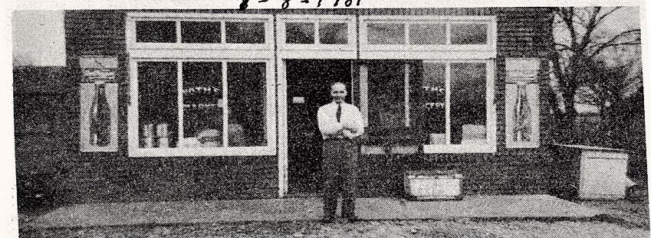
Workshop Series Begins for 2022

Small Town Saturday Night Workshops began March 5th with crafts of a floral hoop wreath and tassel earrings led by Kristin Kaufman. The quarterly series will continue May 21 with yarn rainbows led by Sandy Duerksen. On July 23, Janice Voth and Sandy Duerksen will lead "Christmas in July." September 24th's craft is yet to be announced.

Space is limited for each workshop and there is a fee. Details are available on Facebook and by contacting the museum. Gather with friends at the historic Prep School for these fun workshops. You're sure to be inspired!



Christmas 2021 Workshop Group



P.H. (Pete) and Mary Voth, top, look over the picture of their store as it stood in Goessel in the '30s." The photo, above, shows Pete in the doorway of the store the couple owned and operated from 1927 until 1954. The Voths, now in their lower 90s, still live at the location of the former store on South Church Street.

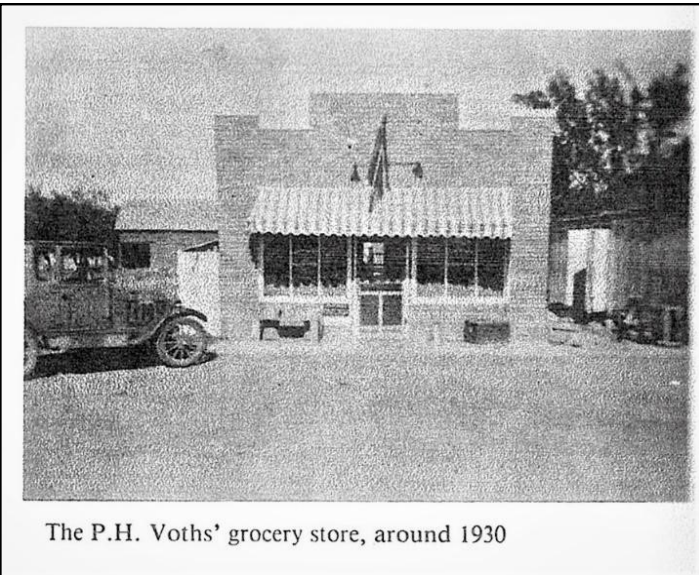
From the Hillsboro Star Journal, July 8, 1981.

In 1927, the Voths felt ready to go into business for themselves. They rented a house that had been the Henry S. Buller residence on Church Street. They stocked it and made a store of it.

A few years later, this building burned to the ground with all the stock, forcing the Voths to make a decision. They

decided to buy the lot and build a new store. The brick-fronted building they erected stood until after Voths left the business in 1954.

The store sold groceries, feed, and the ready-made meals which Mary cooked for the restaurant in the back of the store. The Voths bought cream, eggs, chickens and rabbits (even jackrabbits). These items were hauled to Marion for produce exchange.



The P.H. Voths' grocery store, around 1930

The Voths reared their two children, Harold and Marilyn, in the store. What other choice was there when store hours were 7 am to 11 pm? They learned about the value of money and the fact that it doesn't come easy both by the work they did and the customers they encountered. The Great Depression was a hard taskmaster.

Fern interviewed LeRoy and Marcella Woelk for their part of the Voth Store's story.

LeRoy Woelk had a long history with the Voth Store, even before he and Marcella were married and operating the store. During his high school years, LeRoy worked as the "schekje-Benjel." Translation: Go-for. Since the store had no running water, LeRoy rode his bike, carrying a bucket, over to the Goessel Mennonite Church just across the street to the west, pumped water from the well outside the back door of the church and rode back, juggling the bucket full of water. He usually had to make a couple of trips. His pay was \$1.00 when he worked the whole day.

During the canning season, Mr. Voth bought vinegar in a 50 gallon barrel, bringing the barrel to the store on the back of his pickup truck. Since he had no forklift,

a big cardboard packing box was positioned at the back of the truck and the barrel was pushed onto the box. The box collapsed and voila! The barrel was on ground level. Vinegar shoppers brought their own glass containers to be filled from the store.

No restroom in the store. LeRoy said they had to use the "sandbox" in the back. Both LeRoy and Marcella started to laugh. There was really an outhouse out the back door. No toilet paper in those days. Oranges came wrapped, each in its own tissue paper. This tissue was saved for use in the outhouse. These were the "good old days" after all.

The store traded groceries for eggs brought in by local farmers. A truck came from Hillsboro to transport the eggs. "Jack Sprat" were words painted on the side of the truck. LeRoy recited the kids' poem about "Jack Sprat could eat no fat—his wife could eat no lean."

There was a spinster woman who lived in town. She always asked, in Plautdietsch, to buy a 5¢ ice cream cone: "iese Schmaunt met dunkel derjch e'rut brun." Translation: Ice cream with dark all through brown." [Translation by Fern: Chocolate ice cream.]

There was no cash register at that time. So groceries were added up on an adding machine or pencil with paper.

LeRoy and Marcella only operated the store for a couple of years. Originally they were going to buy the store but that never materialized.



LeRoy and Marcella Woelk, Dec. 1954

(Marcella Woelk's photo)



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Museum Hours:
March, April, October,
& November:
Tues - Sat: 12 pm - 4 pm
Closed Sundays & Mondays
Open by appointment
December through February

May - September:
Tues - Sat: 10 am - 5 pm

The Heritage

Written by:
Fern Bartel, Director
Editorial Staff:
Museum Board Members

Become a Museum Member!

It's easy to become a member. Choose a membership level below, fill out the form, and return it with your check payable to MHAM to: Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum, P.O. Box 231, Goessel, KS 67053.

Individual \$20 Couple \$40 Family \$50 (Includes children and grandchildren age 18 and younger)

Annual memberships run from Jan. 1 - Dec. 31.

Benefits of annual membership

- Unlimited free visits to the museum
- 10% discount on museum store purchases
- One guest pass (two guest passes for couple and family memberships. Not valid for Country Threshing Days)

Life memberships \$500 / person

- Membership fee is added to museum endowment fund
- Unlimited free visits to museum
- 15% discount on museum store purchases
- Five guest passes per year (Not valid for Country Threshing Days)
- No annual membership renewal

I would like an annual membership ____ Individual \$20 ____ Couple \$40 ____ Family \$50

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Please send future newsletters to my email address: _____