



Karl & Hermine Hausner

PHOTO BY DORIS LITSCHER GASSER

Father Laurer's gift

by **DORIS LITSCHER GASSER**
Feature Writer

Rev. Johann Laurer, Catholic priest at St. Luke's Parish, Plain, from 1886-1907, had the foresight to leave a gift to the community: a history written in German.

Karl and Hermine Hausner, along with Victor Kraemer, who believe people should be aware of their roots that give them a foundation of security and provide inspiration to move forward, have made it possible for everyone to have access to Father Laurer's writings. This is through a translation of the language. Rev. Laurer's historical account, in the form of an 86-page, soft-covered book, is easy to read and is filled with reviews of hardship and happiness of the Bavarian settlers.

It begins with comments of Indians occupying the area who probably fled to the hills and Honey Creek west of the Wisconsin River when Chief Black Hawk was defeated in the Battle of Wisconsin Heights in 1832. It goes on to tell of the first settlers, the first log cabin being built in 1850. Settlers moving in from different parts of Bavaria were hard-working, strong-willed and knew they need the blessings of God. "Gottes Segen ist ales gelegen" or "Everything depends on God."

The first St. Luke's congregation was organized in a log cabin.

As the story unfolds, there are lists of arriving immigrants, where they came from in Bavaria, where they settled in the Plain area, and accounts of events, changes and growth in the community and the church.

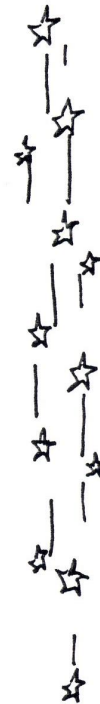
Included is the German writing of Rev. Laurer's history.

The book concludes with pictures and a brief Hausner history, stemming back to 1771 when Karl Hausner's great, great-grandfather lived in servitude, often brutal, in Hapsburg, under the Austrian monarchy. Hausner himself had the experience of suffering through Hitler's Blitzkrieg action in the Sudetenland, Czechoslovakia, which resulted in his great appreciation for opportunities in this country.

The Hausners had help from their friends in publishing Father Laurer's history: Georg Johann Blau, Hoehchstadt Donau, Germany; Mr. and Mrs. Dean Blau, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wankerl and Edith Alt.

The book is published by the Hausner Foundation, 28 Concord Drive, Oak Brook, IL, 60523-1767, phone 630/628-0444, FAX 630/543-2101, Email medical@elmed.com.

The book can be acquired for a \$12 donation, half of which will be given to St. Luke's Parish, the other half to the Kraemer Library and Community Center.



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