

**Chapter 6:**  
**Becoming a Family**  
**1927 to 1936**

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**Coming Home from Germany:**

Following the formal June wedding in Faurndau, Martha remained with the German families for a few more weeks. Bill returned alone to America, expecting to take up his job in the tool room of the Studebaker Corporation. He had left on his honeymoon with the assumption that he had a leave of absence. However, that was not recognized upon his return.



*Studebaker plant, South Bend, Indiana, 1920s*

This unwelcome surprise resulted in his relocation to the Bendix Aviation Corporation, where he would spend the next 38 years of his working life. Bearing in mind that this was 1927, and not the disastrous years of the later Great Depression, skilled labor was still in high demand and finding another acceptable job was not a great challenge. As we recall from the story of his pre-immigration years, Bill was



*Bendix Aviation Corporation, South Bend, 1930s*

very careful to finish his training in his chosen craft before he came to America. In fact, throughout his adult life he simply refused to be unemployed, even in the depths of the Depression.

While this relocation was taking place in South Bend, Martha was a guest of her new in-laws in Germany. One cannot help but wonder if she had morning sickness, particularly on the boat during her return in the early part of her pregnancy. Other than these skimpy facts, we know little of their first few weeks of marriage.

**Their First Home:**

Prior to their marriage, Bill and Martha had bought a five room home at 1134 North Adams St., in South Bend. The house, pictured here featuring Bill's Model "T"



and Martha, pregnant with Jim, was a two bedroom bungalow, in a nice working class neighborhood. They would live in this house through the birth of their two children, Jim in 1928 and Rosemarie in 1936. In addition to the house, the newlyweds had also purchased high quality furniture, most of which remains in the family to this day.



This house would be open to their wide circle of German-American friends. Martha would never again take a permanent job outside the house, devoting her full attention to the needs of the family and the company of their friends. The Turner Hall continued as an additional focal point of their mutual activities.<sup>1</sup>



In March of 1928, their firstborn made his appearance. The German friendship circle would, in fact, be emphasized rather than diminished by this expansion of the family. For many of the German friends, there was more than one activity center, including not only the Turner Hall but also the Zion Evangelical and Reformed Church, which continued for many years to have a German language service.

The new baby would be baptized in that church, with friends Emil and Lotte Wagner serving as Godparents.<sup>2</sup> Emil and Lotte were expert tailors, working for Gilberts, South Bend's leading clothing store. Along with the Wagners, the closest friends of the young couple were Eugene and Clara Mutzl. Most photos of the young family and their German friends were taken by Gene Mutzl, the unofficial photographer of the circle.<sup>3</sup> The Mutzl's devotion to the new Besemer son may well have been due, in part, to the fact that they never had children of their own.



<sup>1</sup> A 1935 picture of the Turner Maennerchor (Mens' Chorus) with Bill Besemer included is in Appendix 6.1, along with a picture of the officers of the Club from 1936.

<sup>2</sup> Jim recalls that the Wagners were devoted Godparents. They never failed to acknowledge a major event in his life. The baby was, to his lifelong regret, christened "Wilton James," which would always be abbreviated to "W. James." "Wilton" had been suggested by Mr. O'Brian, Martha's former employer. The parents and friends, however, began early on to call the little boy "Jimmy," pronounced by most as "Chimmy."

Once Jimmy was able to walk, he was sometimes placed in a child harness, fastened to the clothesline with a thin cable, a common practice in Europe. This mode of confinement, however, was discontinued when he once climbed a ladder while Bill was painting the back porch. Jimmy was caught at the top of the ladder and would have been pulled to the ground if he had gone one step further.

*Clara Mutzl holding Jimmy*



As with the Wagners and the Mutzls, the group of German friends were all industrious, hard-working, independent people. Most had arrived in America with specialized crafts. For example, Rudy Mueller operated his own jewelry shop. Hugo Kahre was a tool and die maker. Albert Haefner owned one of South Bend's most respected bakeries. Hans Riepl was a draftsman at Bendix. George Sommerer was a carpenter.<sup>4</sup>



*Martha and Jimmy, on the Adams St. porch*

*Jimmy admires the Essex, a large step up from the Model "T" (and from his stroller)*



<sup>3</sup> *Gene's Photo Shop*, well-known throughout the South Bend area, survived his retirement in the early 1970s. Gene's love of photography lasted to the end of his days into his 90s. All of the family are grateful for the photographic legacy Gene Mutzl left us.

<sup>4</sup> A few pictures and a list of the broader friendship circle, along with their occupations, is included in Appendix 6.2.

**Jimmy's Early Years**  
*(Photos by Gene Mutzl)*



### **The Extended Family:**

Martha was readily accepted into Bill's extended family in Southern Michigan. Close ties were maintained with frequent visits to Albert and Mary Arent, Chris and Selma Besemer, and Irving and Nane Arent. They all lived near Coloma, Michigan –about 35 miles north of South Bend. Although these folks had migrated in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and had not been part of his childhood, Bill always maintained close ties with his rediscovered American family that had so warmly welcomed him to this country. We might even trace his later enthusiasm for gardening to the early experiences on the Michigan farms.



*Albert Arent Family Home Near Coloma, Michigan*

Even in the first home, on Adams Street, Bill kept a small, neat vegetable garden. This small scale was enough to create a desire for expanding his gardening experience. The need for greater gardening space was much of the motivation for the later move to the country. While still in town, Bill also took advantage of a program offered by the Drewery's Brewery to allow city-dwellers to plant small garden plots on land owned by the brewery – within walking distance of the Adams Street house.

### **One More Immigrant:**

In the late 20s, Tante Sieg sponsored yet another of the Schehrer daughters to America. No one seems to know the exact date that Martha's younger sister, Julia, came to the United States, however it is most likely that she arrived in early 1929. Just as with Martha, Tante Sieg had a job already lined up for Julia. She was to be employed as a housekeeper for the Reverend Waldmer Goeffeny, pastor of Zion Church on East Wayne Street. He had lost his wife 8 years earlier. Julia became enamored with him, and he was forced to discontinue her services for, in spite of the elapsed years, he was still in love with his deceased wife.

Undaunted by the loss of employment, and thanks again to Tante Sieg, Julia was hired by the O'Brians, who had been very pleased with her sister Martha's performance. Julia was much more forward than her sister. The O'Brians said that if she did good work she would receive a raise in 6 months. Rumor has it that Julia replied "I will do a good job so why don't you give me the raise now?" It is not known exactly when Julia departed South Bend to seek employment in the East.



*Julia Schehrer, Jimmy (on shoulders), Bill & Martha, 1929*

There were some relatives in Newark, New Jersey (who we have identified as the Heinrich Schmids) that may have encouraged Julia to migrate eastward. Here, some years later she met and married Sebastian Kufer, a Bavarian Catholic. Julia converted to the faith of her new husband. They took an apartment in Brooklyn, not far from the docks where Sebastian, more commonly known as "Washt," worked as a stevedore.

Martha and five-year-old Jimmy took a Greyhound bus from South Bend to New York to attend Julia and Washt's wedding. To this day, Jim vividly remembers the frog-eyed headlights on the fenders of the bus.

*1934 Greyhound Bus*

Some time in the early years of the Depression, Bendix suffered a temporary reduction in force. However, as we noted previously, Bill Besemer refused to be unemployed. Somehow he acquired work in Newcastle, Indiana, 125 miles away. During that time, his wife and son stayed in the Adams St. home, while Bill took a room in the Newcastle area. Martha and Jimmy visited him in his lodgings, best described as



a "flophouse." Jim recalls sleeping with his parents in a bed with a hole in the middle where he nearly slipped through to the floor. It was filled with newspapers and the threesome had to hold each other to stay in bed. The point is not so much how miserable conditions were in Newcastle, where Bill worked only a short time before being recalled to Bendix, but rather to illustrate the extent to which he would go to ensure the continuation of a paycheck for his family.

## Back in Germany:

Back in Germany, life and death took their customary course -- for a time. With the ascendance of National Socialism, the country at large was entering a period that would result in the horrors of World War II and the Holocaust. Both the Schehrer and Besemer families would be massively damaged by those events. The short-term effect on the country was a modest improvement in economic circumstances.

Most people's lives followed the usual path. All but one of the Schehrer sisters remaining in Germany married and began their own families. In February of 1933, Martha's mother, Rosine Kolbus Schehrer, had a severe stroke. A month later, on March 10, she suffered a second stroke and passed away. She was 62. None of the American family was able to attend the funeral.<sup>5</sup>



Rosine Kolbus Schehrer, 1871 - 1933



A year and a half later, however, her widower, Jakob, sailed for an extended visit with the families of his two American daughters. He came first to South Bend to visit Martha, Bill, and 6-year-old Jimmy. Jim recalls that Grandpa regularly visited the corner tavern, the Silver Tower, to chat with the German-American owner and to drink an afternoon beer.

Jim remembers one time luring Grandpa into the toy department of the dime store where he bought Jim a toy car for 10 cents. When the German friends visited, Grandpa Jakob was delighted to share in the Gemütlichkeit of the friendly circle. He and Bill made a batch of wine, which was not especially well-aged, since it was finished off before Grandpa's departure a few months later. The family and some

<sup>5</sup> The death announcement reads: *Yesterday, following a short, severe illness, my dear faithful wife, our good mother, grandmother, mother-in-law, sister, sister-in-law, and aunt, Rosine Schehrer (born Kolbus) was unexpectedly taken in death at the age of 62. In deep grief* [This is followed by a list of members of the immediate family].

**Jakob Schehrer's Visit to America,  
1934**



*At Albert Arent's*



*Christmas, 1934*



*Train was gift from Heinrich  
Schmids of New Jersey*



*Martha, Arent family, Grandpa and Jimmy*



*Front porch of Adams St. house*



*Adams St. back yard and garden*



*On the lakeshore*



*Jimmy and Grandpa Schehrer- Notre Dame Stadium*



*Visit to Culver Military Academy  
by Lake Maxinkuckee*

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**At the Chicago World's Fair: The Century of Progress**



*Jimmy, Grandpa Schehrer, Martha, and Ernst Schlegel (a family friend)*



friends visited the Chicago *Century of Progress* world's fair. They patronized many of the German restaurants in the Chicago area.<sup>6</sup>

Together they visited the German relatives in southern Michigan. Jakob joined the family at August Besemer's funeral, which he found memorable. As a furniture carpenter himself, he was particularly interested in casket construction, which he discussed at great length with the undertaker.

After Christmas in South Bend, Grandpa Jakob departed for Brooklyn, where he stayed with newly married Julia and Washt.

Early in 1936, Martha became pregnant for the second time. Rosemarie made her appearance the following November.<sup>7</sup> Unaware of the impending event, Jim had been sent to spend a couple of weeks, before and after the birth, with family friends, Dave and Florence Currey. Their oldest daughter, Elizabeth, rode Jim on her bicycle to Muessel School. Upon returning to the Adams Street home later, Jim was introduced to his new baby sister, an event about which he recalls being rather uninspired. About 25 years later, along with their spouses, they became very close friends.

The timing of Rosemarie's birth was auspicious, in both positive and negative ways. A baby daughter nearly always enriches the lives of the parents. But historic events had begun a few days before her birth that would have an impact on the immediate fortunes of the family. Rosemarie Emma Besemer was born on November 29, 1936. On the 17<sup>th</sup>, the nation's first sit-down strike had begun at the South Bend Bendix plant, where Bill worked. South Bend's plant had provided the tinder for a wildfire of such strikes throughout the American auto industry. [*See Time Magazine* from the day after Rosemarie's birth, next page]

For the Besemer family, it meant, in the short run, several missed paychecks at the very time of a new arrival and through the Christmas season. During the entire Depression some weeks had short hours, but for the Besemers to miss a paycheck was rare. Life's necessities -- food, clothing, a house -- were never in doubt. For Jimmy and Rosemarie, this was considered normal. However, for Bill and Martha, just a decade or so after the post-war experience in Germany, such security would never be taken for granted.

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<sup>6</sup> In the evening, during the visit to the Fair, a baby-sitter was engaged to care for Jim while the adults went back to see Sally Rand perform her renowned fan dance.

<sup>7</sup> Rosemarie was born in Memorial Hospital, as was her older brother, Jim. All of Jim and his wife Betty's three children were born in Memorial, as were the three siblings of Rose's husband, Richard Hofferbert. Further, Rose would later graduate from the Memorial Hospital School of Nursing. After graduation, she would work there as an operating room nurse. Still later she gave birth to her own firstborn, Mark, in that same facility.



Monday, Nov. 30, 1936

## Strategic Sit-Down

When a young David union attacks a big Goliath industry it takes a careful aim. Last week the United Automobile Workers of America, out to organize the motor industry, concentrated its attack on a plant making parts and accessories. Without carburetors, starters, brakes, the country's great assembly lines must come to a halt.

Paralyzed was Bendix Products Corp.'s big accessory, plant at South Bend, Ind. one morning last week when most of the day shift employes, sitting down at their machines, refused to work. Just before noon Works Manager John P. Mahoney's voice boomed out over the factory public address system, ordered all employes to check in their tools, go home. Most of the 4,300 workers obeyed, but 1,100 sit-downers sat pat.

Bendix workers are divided between a company union and a unit of U. A. W., an affiliate of the Committee for Industrial Organization. Last winter the National Labor Relations Board ordered a plant election to decide which union should represent workers in collective bargaining. Bendix refused to countenance the election, got an injunction to back up its refusal. An appeal from that injunction was scheduled for hearing next month when impatient United Automobile Workers, claiming that Bendix was discriminating against them in favor of company union members, last week demanded a closed U. A. W. shop, sat down. Said President Vincent Bendix: "This is contrary to law, as every citizen has a right to work, whether he belongs to a union or not."

With the heat turned off in the big plant, the sitters—800 men, 300 women— were reported bundling to keep warm. On the second day the company began turning the heat on & off every few hours. Unperturbed, the sitters produced concertinas, danced, found messengers' roller skates, skated. Games of bridge, poker and pinochle got started. Youngsters got up an amateur hour. "It's a picnic!" they shrilled to friends outside.

At its South Bend plant Bendix makes brakes for Ford, Pontiac, Oldsmobile, Lincoln, Packard, Hudson, Nash, Cord, Auburn; carburetors for Ford, Nash, General Motors, Hudson, Chrysler, Plymouth, Studebaker; other parts for many another U. S. automobile. Last week Bendix could supply none of these customers. Two U. S. Department of Labor conciliators met with Bendix and union representatives to thrash out the differences, interrupted their week-long conferences only to go to the Notre Dame-Northwestern football game.

In Racine, Wis. last week directors of J. I. Case Co. (farm machinery) voted a 6% bonus to all of its 1,700 employees who should be at work on Dec. 1. Joker was that the Case plant had been shut tight since Oct. 27, had no immediate prospect of reopening.

Like Bendix's, Case's trouble grew out of a company union v. United Automobile Workers triangle. Early last October several C. I. O. leaders were discharged. A fortnight later the rest of the union staged a sit-down protest, forcing the company to shut the plant. Last fortnight U. A. W. filed a complaint with the National Labor Relations Board. Two days later company union men complained that U. A. W. men were tossing bricks through their windows, asked the company to move out of Racine. Replied Case's Vice President H. H. Biggert in a newspaper advertisement last week: "You may be assured your request ... is receiving every consideration."

*[Sit down strikes soon spread throughout the auto industry, following the Bendix example]*

Bill had been ambivalent toward the labor unions and would remain so throughout his life. He had left his homeland in Germany to practice his craft in American industry. His hopes and aspirations were fulfilled completely in his job and home. This background imparted a high level of company loyalty. While accepting the necessity and goals of the union, he often found its tactics repulsive

He shared with his fellow craftsmen in the plant a high degree of pride and sense of accomplishment from their product. Without any implication of snobbery, it was usually the case that the European craftsmen considered themselves rather apart from assembly-line workers.

Jim recalls one instance that illustrates a source of much of Bill's ambivalence toward the UAW. When Jim was a small boy, one evening his Dad took him along to a local meeting. A motion was on the floor which Bill considered undesirable. When the vote was called, the moderator said, "All those opposed, stand up!" Bill and a few friends stood and were widely booed. Then the moderator called for all those in favor to say "Aye," and the motion carried. This experience illustrates why Bill saw many of the union's tactics as running rough-shod over a supposedly democratic process. It made a permanent impression on young Jimmy.

Some time before Rosemarie's birth, Bill and Martha had purchased four acres of land a few miles northeast of South Bend, on Hickory Road. With help of a Bendix co-worker, Bill dug by hand a basement in the side of a hill, back about 50 yards from the road. He had purchased a small three-room house, located on Corby Avenue in South Bend. He hired professional house movers to transport it the eight miles to the Hickory Road site. The movers placed the house on four pillars of crossed 4 x 4s within the hand-dug excavation. Beneath this house, Bill first poured a foundation around the periphery. Upon that he had concrete block walls installed. The house was then lowered onto the walls and the basement floor was poured.

The family moved to the new location when Rosemarie was about six months old. Martha called this period of time the *pioneer days*. A well with a hand pump stood about six feet from the back wall. The outhouse was much further away. Over the next couple of years, under the direction of their friend George Sommerer, a gable roof was installed, which covered the new kitchen and bedroom addition. The well was soon in the house, and indoor plumbing was installed. Martha no longer had to cook on a two burner kerosene stove in the corner of the living room. The living room coal stove was replaced with a coal furnace in the basement. An enclosed back porch was added later. All these improvements were gradual and made without buying anything on credit.



*The Hickory Road house a couple of years after the move, in the midst of reconstruction, plus the newly built garage. Jimmy and Rosemarie are beside a '34 Plymouth.*

From Bill's standpoint, the land around the house was the property's most important feature. Fruit trees had been planted before the move. The orchard was expanded over the years to include varieties of apricots, cherries, plums, peaches, apples, and pears, as well as an area containing numerous species of berries and grapes. Fresh fruit had been rare on the table in Germany. Bill's introduction to America was intricately associated with his Michigan family's orchards, in which he worked through the first summer of his residence in America. He often told of his enthusiasm for the cherries that first summer, eating them straight from the tree and, in his haste, swallowing the pits. We need not here repeat his graphic description of the consequences of that particular dietary behavior, but it did involve a metaphorical reference to a machine-gun.

Over the years Bill also developed a large, productive vegetable garden. Summer and fall were times of feasting on the products of his gardening labors. Martha canned fruits and vegetables. Jellies and jams graced the table throughout the year. All of these products were generously shared with the many friends and family who visited the farm.

Jim and Rosemarie grew up on that little farm. Their children would have fond memories of visits there, sharing the delicious fruits and vegetables raised by Grandpa. Bill would live out his life there, passing on in 1983. Martha lived there until the farm was sold after she entered a senior center in the mid-1990s. She lived on until her death in 2002, a few months shy of 99.

## Appendix 6.1

### The South Bend Turner Club

South Bend (Indiana) Tribune  
February 24, 1935

TURNVEREIN MALE CHORUS IN CONCERT TODAY.



Nineteen members of the 25-voice South Bend Turnverein Male chorus, which will appear in concert this afternoon at 3:30 o'clock in the Masonic temple, are shown. Otto J. Goffney, director, is fourth from the left, seated. The program will feature German art and folk songs. —Photo by Tribune Staff Photographer.

United Way Soc. ...	10	10%	10	10%
E. W. Ind. Soc. ...	20%	20%	20%	20%
E. W. Ind. Soc. ...	14%	14%	14	14
E. W. Ind. Soc. ...	25	25	25%	25%
Ill. P. L. ....	1%			

**CHORUS TO SING**

[William F. Besemer, top row, 3<sup>rd</sup> from right]



FOUNDERS OF THE SOUTH BEND TURNVEHIN

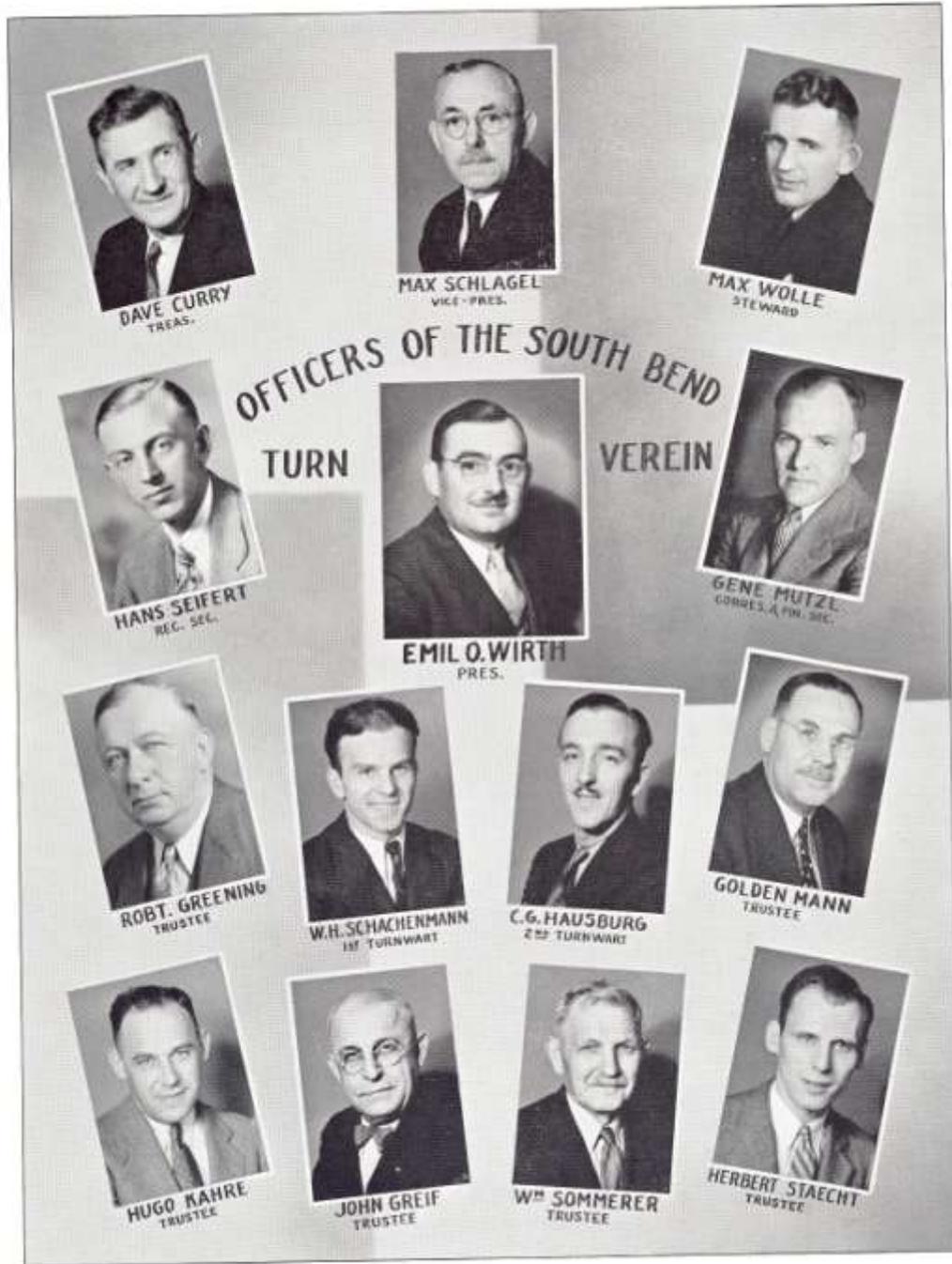
Andreas Zeller  
John A. Chackalt

Gottfried Poehlmann  
John R. Ledner

John M. Muesel  
Chas. Hindner

Lorenz Eibei  
Wolfgang Eibei

Geo. C. Muesel  
Moses Livingston



From the ceremonial program,  
*Seventy-Fifth Diamond Jubilee Anniversary, 1961-1936*  
South Bend Turnverein, June 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>

## Appendix 6.2

### German Friends of the William F. Besemers<sup>8</sup>

Anderlore, Joe & ?	grocer
Bader, Ernst & ?	unknown
Beyer, Hugo & Florence	unknown
Costello, Alfred & Frieda	machinist
Costello, Eugene & Anna	accountant
Currey, David & Florence	cigar distributor
Doll, Max & Emma	unknown
Haefele, Bill & Helen	chauffeur& handyman, contract painter
Haefner, Albert & Helen	baker
Haller, Bill & Liesel	accountant at Dr.Pepper, Lathe works
Haller, Charlie & Martha <sup>9</sup>	tool & gage maker SB Tool & Die
Haselbeck, Herman & Frieda	both tailors, drapes & curtains
Kahre, Hugo & Martha	tool & die maker at Bendix
Lautenslager, Charles & ?	unknown
Lehmann, Fred & Elizabeth	bartender Turners, machinist Lathe Works
Mueller, Rudy & Mimi	jeweler
Mutzl, Eugene & Clara	photographer
Mutzl, Fritz & Irene	repairman at Koonze Electric
Mutzl, Max & Frieda	tool & die maker
Poehlman, Fritz & Margaret	butcher & seamstress
Press, Carl & Emmy	draftsman at Bendix (Returned to Germany) <sup>10</sup>
Riepl, Hans & Dina	draftsman at Bendix - checker
Rosin, Ernst & Anna	machinist
Rosin, Günter & Emmy	machinist
Schlegel, Ernst & Martha	florist
Schlegel, Max & Emma	florist
Schultz, Fritz & Anna	unknown
Schweitzer, Charles & Elsie	unknown
Siefert, George & Martha	carpenter
Siefert, Hans & Bertha	butler, supervisor at Bendix
Sommerer, George & Jay	carpenter
Sommerer, Hans & Josephine	butcher & manager at Jimmys Meat Mkt.
Staeck, Herbert & Helen	tool & die maker at S.B. Tool & Die

<sup>8</sup> Unless otherwise specified, all of the women were homemakers.

<sup>9</sup> Charlie's real name was *Carl*.

<sup>10</sup> Both Carl & Emmy Press returned to Germany just before WW II. The FBI interviewed Willy regarding Carl. The Presses rented and took very good care of the house on N. Adams St. after the Besemer family became *pioneers*. Carl always had a drafting board set up in one room of the homes in which they lived.

Sommerer, William & Hildy	Contracter
Stebner, Anton & Nora	machinist at Bendix
Steinhilber, Eugene & Frieda	head accountant Clark Equipment
Voss, Adolph & Hermine	bar owner
Wagner, Emil & Lottie	clothing tailors (both) at Gilberts
Wagner, Goettlob & Sophie	bar owner and butcher
Weber, Emil & Emma	real estate / seamstress
Wolle, Max & Hilda	bar tender/manager at Turners

### **A Gathering of Gentlemen Friends**



*Bill Besemer, bottom row, center*

### **A Schwabian Picnic**



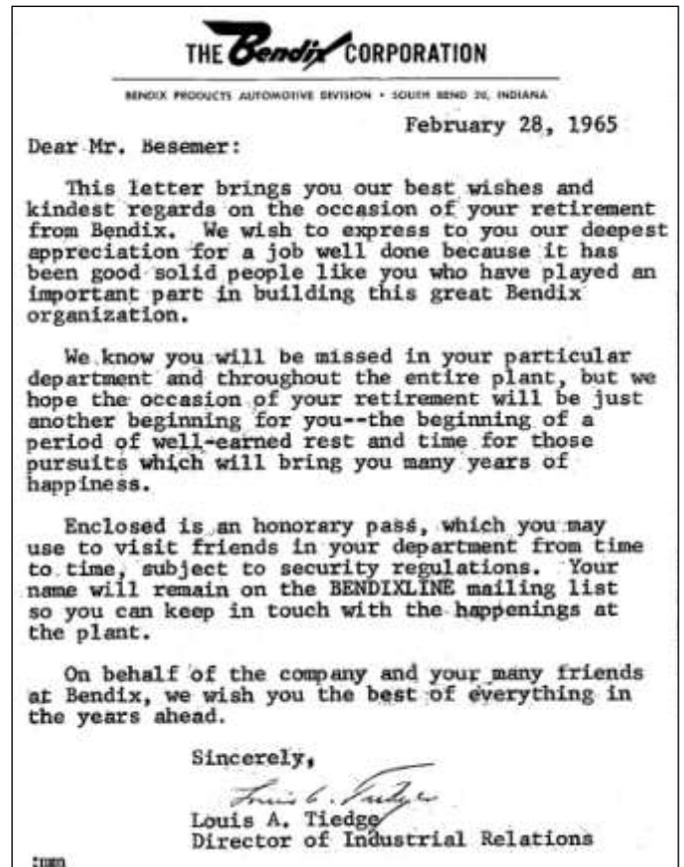
*Martha and Rosemarie Besemer, bottom row, left*



William Besemer receiving his watch on retiring. February 28, 1965



William Besemer



## MARTHA BESEMERS 90th BIRTHDAY PARTY



To celebrate their mother's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday Jim and Lorrie Besemer with Rick and Rose Hofferbert gave Martha a birthday party at Tippecanoe Place, the Clement Studebaker Mansion, in the third floor ballroom. All our children were there along with a great number of mother's friends and relatives. We had but one major problem in that the elevator failed to operate so Rick and Mark placed mother in a chair and carried her up two flights of stairs to the ballroom on the third floor.



Martha got to talk to all her friends and a great number of her relatives. She sat in a chair near the stairway beside her best friend and Jim's godmother, Lotte Wagner, greeting the guests as they arrived.



When the guests had all been seated, Martha was escorted to the speaker's table by Gene Mutzl.



Jim, acting as M.C., made a few opening remarks thanking everyone for coming and then mother's pastor from Church of God gave thanks for that which we all were about to receive. Food was then served. We had requested that no one bring gifts but there were a great number of exceptions to our request.

When the meal was concluded both Rick and Jim made a few comments and then Gene Mutzl spoke of the time when mother came over from Germany and how the friendship with all the German friends developed plus the activities in

which they all participated. Mother then stood up and spoke at length thanking everyone for honoring her and concluded with a prayer of thanks.



The formalities were then concluded and the people came forward to speak with Martha and congratulate her on her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. The elevator had been repaired and it was not necessary to carry mother down the stairs. She had thoroughly enjoyed her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party. After the party had concluded the family then assembled in front of the mansion for a group picture

Some months after the party Martha took up residence in the Milton Retirement Home where she lived for approximately 8 years and passed away peacefully in her sleep on the early evening of January 23, 2002. She would have been 99 years old on May 19<sup>th</sup> of that year.

