

R-088

Data collected by Mr. Reese about 1980
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By Cheryl Callahan

The Kleinhans Business History

The first blacksmith shop in Elmore, which was called Ashford at this time, was built by Michael Williams, who came from Germany in 1866. Frank Kleinhans purchased the shop on March 10, 1887, which is a registered deed. About 1895, Frank put an addition on the shop for building wagons and Jacob became a working partner.

In 1902, Jacob left Elmore and came to Campbellsport and purchased the blacksmith and wagon shop from Adam Pesch, which he operated until 1913. The Pesch building was behind the Thelen & Janous Body Shop. In 1913, he went into partnership with Henry Braun in the farm machinery business. They purchased the James McCullough warehouse building on North Railroad Street and put an addition on it for storage. After 10 years of business with Henry Braun, they dissolved the partnership and Jacob went into business by himself. He purchased the old Ignatius Klotz home from Tony and Clara Ketter, on September 4th, 1923. They remodeled it for parts and machinery displays on the lot along the east side of the building.

In later years, the metal repair garage was added and the old McCullough building was moved to its present location on South Railroad Street.

In May of 1916, Jacob purchased the Patterson Auto Agency. Jacob started the radio and appliance business in his later years. After retiring from the business, he sold real estate, which was in 1939. He served as trustee and president of the village for many years and died in 1948.

Clem Kleinhans was born in 1904 and was active in the business all his life. After Jacob retired, Clem developed a much larger selling area for farm machinery. In 1939, he purchased the Nash & LaFayette Auto Agency. In the 1940's and 1950's, Clem developed a larger area for appliances and television outlets.

The social activity of Clem was part of his life because of his work with the Scout program in our village. He was not active as a politician, but helped with many programs that developed our Fireman and New Castle parks.

Clem was active in the Lion's Club for over 25 years. He received the 25 year service award from the Fire Department and the 55 year award from the International Harvester Company.

After his death in 1974, his son, Woody Kleinhans added a new building for his True Value Hardware store. Its grand opening was in the fourth week of September, 1976.

Kleinhans & Braun sold the first milking machine, which was called the Sharpless mechanical milker. It was sold to Henry Johnson, who lived on County Trunk Y. The purchase took place on April 8, 1915.

Jacob Kleinhans & Braun sold the first mechanical washing machine, which was manufactured in Skokie, Illinois in January of 1915.

Jacob Kleinhans sold the first commercial radio in 1924, which was the Atwater Kent with plug-in earphones and a few months later, a plug-in speaker. The Crosley was sold in 1925 with a built-in speaker on top of the radio.

Clem Kleinhans, in March of 1948, purchased the agency from Philco and had the first television in his home and the second one purchased by George Kleiber. The third was purchased by Gordon Raymond. It was called the 2400 series Philco television and had a 10" black and white picture.

Kleinhans & Braun had the first electric lighted buggy on display on May 18th, 1913. It was in their warehouse on North Railroad Street.

In 1913, Kleinhans & Braun sold the John Deere cultivator.

The Campbellsport Cornet Band

The Campbellsport Cornet Band was organized on October 2, 1889 by Dr. Peter A. Hoffmann, who was director for many years.

The officers at that time were:

John H. Paas - President
Martin Herbert - Secretary
William Wedde - Treasurer
Lorenz Kohler - Marshall

The band members were:

Henry Leibel	Adolf Ullrich	John Pass
William Ullrich	Joseph Schlaefer Sr.	Martin Herbert
Thomas Dieringer	Dr. Jacob Schoofs	Jacob Schlaefer
John Grissman	Gerhard Schoofs	Lorenz Kohler
Val Dieringer	William Wedde	Henry Schoofs
Jacob Becker	Mathias Hoffmann	Nicholas Gonnering
Christ Keerig	Ignatius Klotz	Charles Vande Zande
Bernard Ullrich		Charles Glass
Frank Strobel		Dr. Peter Hoffmann

The band played all over the community for conventions and picnics. The practices were held in Gerhard Schoof's hall on the second floor, from 1889 to 1900. After that, the practices were held at Henry Braun's until 1911, and at Joseph Bauer Sr.'s until 1929.

After the Opera House was built in 1911, it was used many times for concerts. It was later torn down to make room for the Campo Theatre building.

The outside concerts were held in the open lot now occupied by Schill Motors Used Car Lot. They were also held in the lot east of the Andrew Stoffel Roofing Co. The band also played for all the picnics held by different organizations in Schmidt's woods, which is now Fireman's Park.

The third annual band convention was held on the 4th of August in 1929. The convention took place at Slinger.

In 1934, the band was at Theresa for the County Convention, and took third place in the competition.

In 1939, the Tri-County Convention was held in Campbellsport and nine bands entered. A dance was held at the Opera House and Elmer and the Harmony Kings from Chilton played for the dance.

Bernard Ullrich
Joseph Schlaefer
John Schlaefer
George Straub
Charles Behnke
Alfred Vande Zande
Arnold Ertz
Ernest Klotz
Mathias Schlaefer

Gustive Ullrich
Frank Flanagan
Peter Schlaefer
William Schlaefer
Frank Schlaefer
Sylvester Schlaefer
Alex Ullrich
Boyd Boeckler
Herbert Ullrich

Sometime in 1968, the Campbellsport Band disbanded. William Schlaefer was the last director.