

RESEARCHED BY JUSTIN WATKINS

217 South Main Street

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217

31x148

002410A000

6-009D-B030-00-8

Built: 1884

217 S Main Street LLC

Lewis and Clark Restaurant

Picture: 05.1.105 [SCCHS]

Book 2042, p. 766, 1 March 1998

Rodney and Dawn Thomas Trust to 217 S Main St LLC

Book 2042, p. 764, 1 March 1998

Rodney and Dawn Thomas to Rodney and Dawn Thomas Trust

Book 1597, p. 219, 1 October 1993

Rodney Thomas to Rodney and Dawn Thomas

Book 924, p. 784, 1 May 1982

Irvin and Theresa Heye to Rodney H. Thomas

Book 691, Page 222, 9 October 1974

Irwin W. Heye and wife to LCRA of City of St. Charles

A portion of this property 2x29 conveyed thus altering the dimensions from 31x150 to 31x148

Book 594, p. 144, Warranty Deed, 27 July 1971

Irvin W., Teresa, and Chauncey V. Heye to Irvin W. and Teresa Heye

\$100 and other valuable consideration

A lot of ground in City Block No. 30 of said City of St. Charles, fronting 29' more or less, on the W line of Main St and running back Westwardly with the same width 150' to an alley 20'; wide

N now or formerly Thomas Heye

E Main St

S formerly John Stock and wife

W alley

Being the same lot conveyed by Sheriff's Deed in Partition, among heirs of **Emilie A. Yosti**, deceased, dated **6 June 1887** and recorded in ... **Book 45, p. 58**

Being the same real estate conveyed to **Irvin W. and Chauncy V. Heye** by deed dated **12 April 1927**

Book 549, p. 898, Warranty Deed, 9 March 1970

Irvin W. and Teresa Heye to Irvin W. and Teresa Heye

Undivided _ interest in and to a lot of ground in City Block No. 30 ... [same description]

Book 153, p. 543, Warranty Deed, 12 April 1927

Emilie J. Y. Lintz, a widow, and Euphrasie C. Easton, a widow to Irvin W. and Chauncey V. Heye

\$800

N Thomas Heye, formerly B. Feuerstein
E Main St
S formerly John W. Redmon
W alley

Being the same lot conveyed to said grantors by Sheriff's Deed in partition among heirs of Emilie A. Yosti, deceased, dated **6 June 1887** and recorded in ...**Book 45, p. 58**

Book 46, p. 58, Sheriff's Deed in Partition, 6 June 1887

Heirs of Emilie A. Yosti, deceased, via Charles G. Johann, Sheriff of St. Charles Co., MO, to Emilie J. Y. and John K. Lintz and Euphrasie C. and Henry C. Easton

Plaintiffs

Defendants

William L. Yosti

John A. and Mary C. Keller

John K. and Emilie J. Y. Lintz

Henry C. and Euphrasie C. Easton

For the partition of the following described Real Estate situate, lying and being in St. Charles Co., MO

- (1) A lot situate in Main St of the City of St. Charles in City Square No. 30 being a front of 26'4" on Main St by a dept of 150' to an alley; bounded on the N by B. Feuerstein, on the E by Main St, on the S by John W. Redman, and on the W by the aforesaid Alley
- (2) A certain lot of land with a large house and buildings thereon, situated in the City of St. Charles in City Square 128 ...
- (3) Lot 5 containing 20 arpens, being a part of tract situated in US Survey No. 482
- (4) A tract of land in Survey No. 162 and 163 ...

Inventory of James Morrison's Estate, January 1849

James Morrison to Emilie Adeline Yosti

Book U, p. 209, Last Will and Testament of James Morrison, 27 November 1848

Property divided in thirds, one-third to **Emile Adeline Yosti**, one-third to **Caroline R. Pettis**, and one-third to **William R. Morrison**

Book E, p. 236, 20 July 1818

Jesse Morrison to James Morrison

S _ of Square 30

_ of an isle or square with the buildings improvements and appurtenances on and belonging to the same

Situate lying and being in front on the Main St in the Town of Saint Charles, which was purchased by them the said James and Jesse from **Joseph Revare** and wife by deed bearing date **10 September 1810, recorded in Book B, pp. 88-89**

Book B, p. 88, 10 September 1810 [SEE NORTH MAIN FILES]

Joseph Rivare and Francoise Roy to James and Jesse Morrison

\$450

180x300, French measure

E Main St

N Joseph Saurin

S Cross Street

W commons

1804

Augustin Robert dit Poleray to James Morrison

SE _ of Square 30

St. Charles, MO: To Manufacturing and Mercantile Interests (1908), 33

J. W. MOORE

J. W. Moore, Commission Merchant and Wholesale Jobber in Candies, Crackers and Sweet Goods and Paper for wrapping purposes, lays claim to being almost a pioneer in ST. Charles, being born at this place on May 14th, 1864, and here he went to school, worked with his father as a gardener at which he remained until 1867, when he left the gardens and greenhouses to the care of the family and engaged here in the above business. Mr. Moore represents the Manewal-Lange Biscuit Company, Blanke-Wenneker Candy Company, St. Louis Dressed Beef Company, Robert Heitz Commission Company, and others in whose interest he solicits the trade here. He is married and has one boy and one girl.

Book 94, p. 232, Articles of Incorporation of the J. W. Moore Commission Company, 1 December 1911

Know all men by these presents:

That we, the undersigned, desirous of forming a corporation under the laws of Missouri, and more particularly under the provision of Article seven, chapter thirty-three, R.S. of MO, 1909, and amendments thereto governing manufacturing and business companies, have entered into the following agreements

First: That the name of the corporation shall be J. W. Moore Commission Company

Second: That the corporation shall be located in the City of St. Charles, St. Charles County, Missouri

Third: That the amount of capital stock is \$5,000 divided into 50 shares of the par value of \$100 each that all thereof has been in good faith subscribed, and all thereof actually paid up in lawful money of the United States and is in the custody of the persons named as the first board of directors or managers.

Fourth: That the names, places of residence of the shareholders, and the number of shares subscribed by each are:

J. W. Moore	St. Charles, MO	24
Henry A. Westhoff	St. Charles, MO	23
J. H. M. Rohlffing	St. Charles, MO	3

Fifth: That the board of directors shall consist of 3 shareholders, and the names of those agreed on for the first year are J. W. Moore, Henry A. Westhoff, and J. H. M. Rohlffing

Sixth: That the corporation shall continue for a term of 50 years

Seventh: That the corporation is formed for the following purposes:

To buy, sell, store, keep and handle for itself and others, for cash or credit or on commission, dressed and salted meats, and all packing house products, bread, cakes, and all bakery products, canned and pickled goods, groceries, foods, woodenware, paper, grocer's and butcher's sundries and supplies, tobacco, hides, provisions, poultry, eggs, butter, dairy products, country and farm products, fruits, vegetables, and such other goods, wares and merchandise as are usually bought, sold, stored, kept or handled by jobbing and commission houses and generally to carry on what is known as a jobber's and Commission house business.

St. Charles, MO, 1 July 1928

Mrs. J. B. Brueggeman, Trustee, to Thomas & Son Dr.

GUTTERING : SPOUTING : SHEET METAL WORK

Bridge Beach Furnaces & Room Heaters, Paints & Oils

June 16 Repairing and cutoff at residence of Bloebaum on 218 Tompkins

\$1.95

***St. Charles Post*, Monday, 15 April 1985**

"Restaurant to Open in Historic Area"

Robert J. Wehling

A new restaurant that will open about June 15 across the street from Missouri's First State Capitol in the South Main Street Historic District of St. Charles "will be just the kind of anchor we need to help revitalize the area," Mayor Melvin G. Wetter said.

He revealed that Robert Kirkwood, now the general manager of the Classic Carraige and Car Company, a popular restaurant at 1600 Heritage Landing off Missouri Highway 94 South, will be opening the restaurant in a renovated three-story building formerly used as a paint store.

It will be called Lewis & Clark's, the mayor said.

The building contains about 5,000 sq ft and Kirkwood expects to utilize all of the space on all three floors. Of the total, about 1,800 sq ft will be adapted for the kitchen. The remainder will seat up to 200 patrons.

"It will be a wonderful addition down there," Wetter said. "The food at Classic Car is outstanding. I'm sure Mr. Kirkwood will bring his expertise and that the food will be just as good at Lewis & Clark's."

The 200 block of South Main, the street in front of the First State Capitol and the proposed restaurant, was reopened to traffic some time ago after being used as a pedestrian mall for several years.

Now the mayor has announced plans to reopen the 100 block of South Main to two-way vehicular traffic as well, leaving just a few adjacent blocks of North Main Street as the pedestrian mall that was opened in 1979.

After it opened, the mall briefly was considered a successful venture. But many merchants have since moved from the area because of poor retail sales.

A public hearing on the reopening of 100 block of South Main is set for Tuesday night before the Planning and Zoning Commission, just prior to the regular City Council meeting.

If the commission decides to recommend to the council that the 100 block of South Main also be reopened to vehicles, the council is expected to move immediately on construction plans.

The hearing will start at 7:30 p.m. in the council chambers at City Hall, 200 North Second Street.

Depending on which of a number of construction options is selected, the South Main reopening could cost a minimum of \$100,000 and maximum of \$228,000, City Public Works Director Paul Lorton estimated.

Reopening South Main is expected to have a beneficial “ripple” effect on the first block of North Main, Wetter said.

“St. Charles has approved \$160,000 to open 100 S. Main St”—undated article from the *St. Charles Journal* or the *St. Charles Post* (apparently from 1985)

Rents along the 100 block range roughly from \$2.50/sq ft to \$6.50/sq ft, said land owners.

Across the street from the stately Moose Building is 116 S. Main St, known for years as the Missouri Optical Building. The site has been owned since January by Charles Stout and David Kirkland, vice presidents with the Love Co., a St. Louis real estate firm, and Robert Pearce, director of placement for the business school at Washington University.

The trio bought the building for about \$50,000 for two reasons, said Stout. “We knew the economy of Old St. Charles would improve on an increasing scale as folks had more disposable income, but we also felt there was a new recognition of the area. We would meet people on the street and we would talk; we liked what was happening here,” he said, referring to the other rehabilitations taking place.

Stout said he and his fellow owners put “a lot of time and effort into fixing the building” for renters. The two shops on the street level, totaling 1,000 sq ft, are rented, and the two-story, 2,000-square-foot apartment, formerly a warehouse, will be rented this week.

“When we closed on this building, we got the title work back and saw that the last notation was made in the 1860s: one man had purchased the building for \$120 cash. That gave us an incredible sense of where we’d been,” said Stout.

Down the street, near a marigold-implanted handkerchief park is a new restaurant, another product of rehabilitation. Lewis & Clark’s, an American restaurant, opened a few weeks ago in the building that was once the Heye Paint Store.

Rod Thomas, owner of Thomas Construction Co., bought the site for between \$50,000 and \$60,000 about two years ago and has put about \$350,000 into renovations.

He'd always planned a restaurant there, but the original deal fell through and he re-advertised in February.

"I was running the Classic Carriage and Car Co. (a St. Charles restaurant) and saw the ad," said Bob Kirkwood, who owns Lewis & Clark's with Thomas, Philip Golm and Kenneth Surprenant. Golm and Surprenant have renovated restaurants in Denver, Austin, and Cape Cod, said Kirkwood.

Kirkwood said he didn't buy the restaurant with any thought about whether or not the street would open to vehicular traffic. "I just loved the site and the neat old building," he explained.

The building had been stripped back to its natural brick and Kirkwood added a deck. The insides were gutted and restructured for the skylight which runs through the three floors. The building is 6,000 square feet.

The entire block is enveloped in flavored smoke at mealtimes. The smoke comes from the barbeque in front of St. Charles Locker and Restaurant Co. The barbeque grill, now on the sidewalk before the building, may have to go when the street opens up, said Edward Vaclavik, who co-leases the restaurant and meat processing plant with George Jefferson.

They have succeeded in removing half the green façade erected during the 1950s and have plans to strip the building's front completely.

At the meat processing plant, meat is cut when it's ordered. "We're a custom-exempt plant," said Vaclavik. "When the farmers slaughter cattle, we hang it and the butchers cut it to order. If someone wants a side of beef, the customer gets the side of the same cow, not different ones."

"We don't hang meat in the cooler and wait for a customer. We tell people that they'll have a choice of yesterday's, today's, or tomorrow's kill," explained Vaclavik. Deer is processed at the plant during the hunting season when the plant is closed to farmers.

The meat locker remained open after Vaclavik and Jefferson leased the site in June 1984. The restaurant was closed through the winter and re-opened in May.

The two men and their friends did the renovations themselves and spent about \$75,000 on materials.

Vaclavik said he has mixed thoughts about the opening of the street because of the barbeque grill and its ability to bring in customers on foot. But the other rehabbers on the street are convinced that opening the block to cars will improve their business.

The City of St. Charles has approved \$160,000 to open the street but without a fight, a fight that Mayor Wetter said he didn't expect because the city council had the appropriation on the agenda for almost a year before he heard any opposition. The fight was an emotional one, said land owners on the block, but one they want to put behind them.

"There is very much a family atmosphere on this block. We had some arguments among the brothers and sisters and now we're trying to get the family back together again," said Stout. "The folks in favor of keeping the mall have put a lot of years and energy into keeping the history of the area. We (the newcomers) are anxious to keep together with them."

Wetter said the negative part of closing the block is that drivers are caught on South Main at Madison without easy egress; after they park on an angle, they have to

labor at backing out. Where the mall begins officially, the site of a pavilion, there is east-west access along Jefferson.

“Removal of the mall on that block will open 23 more parking places,” Wetter added. The federal government paid to put in the mall, dedicated in 1979, he said. “Not a penny of St. Charles money was used.”

Wetter said that land prices along the block doubled the day the announcement was made to remove the 100 block of the mall. “We’re going to try to save as much as we can—that is, the lights and plantings, but the kiosks will be destroyed if they can’t be sold. Frankly, I think the removal of that section of the mall will be the salvation of the businesses along the block.”

NEIGHBORS

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (MO) - November 14, 1988

A week before Halloween, a 30-foot dragon appeared in Berthold Square, south of Lewis and Clark's restaurant in St. Charles.

And so did a witch - who was trying to wrestle the dragon into her cauldron to make Blue Dragon Brew - and her friends: an owl, a snake, a frog, two black cats, a spider with a fly swatter, two wooly worms consulting the "Farmer's Almanac," a couple of mice ready to toast marshmallows, a tree full of bats and a smiling scarecrow and his crow. Nearby was a cemetery through which Charlie Brown and the gang were taking a shortcut.

Most of the papier-mache creations bore cartoon balloons to tell the story. Charlie Brown was saying, "Good grief!" A black cat gripped in the dragon's talons was saying, "@#&*!"

This little bit of fantasy land was brought to the public by Barbara Linson of St. Charles. Linson is a salad maker for Lewis and Clark's restaurant. Her boss, restaurant owner Bob Kirkwood, paid for the makings, which were mainly flour, water, glue, lots of chicken wire and paint - and Linson's imagination and energy.

Linson, who lives in St. Charles with her six children and husband, Melvin, said her co-workers had told her that thousands of people stopped to see the exhibit. Because she works in the kitchen, she rarely got to see the effect of her art. At least one busload of schoolchildren scheduled to tour the **First State Capitol Building** reportedly made a detour to see Linson's show first.

Last summer, the nine parts of dragon and assorted creatures filled Linson's basement, garage and yard. Linson began the project on July 24, when the temperature hit 105. It took her three months, involved her family and even neighborhood children. It was her most ambitious art project yet, she says.

Linson, who has a high school education, and whose children have won numerous awards for art over the years, cites 16 years of scouting projects and a lifelong interest in art. As

children, she and her sisters won window-painting contests on Main Street each Halloween. An empty refrigerator box still goes a long way at her house, she says.

Caption: Photo

PHOTO (COLOR) by L.T. Spence/St. Charles Post ... Barbara Linson: Making The Halloween Scene

Memo: COLUMN

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Page: 1

Index Terms: PHSPENCE L T LT PXLINSON NEIGHBOR SKETCH PROFILE HALLOWEEN MASK

Record Number: 8802160147

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St. Charles Post, Friday, 3 February 1989

"Plan to Sell Part of Park for Restaurant Criticized"

Bob Wehling

A South Main Street property owner has voiced criticism of a proposal to sell a portion of a pocket park to a restaurant operator to expand his business.

The property owner, Joseph W. "Joe" Ginnever, who owns buildings at 401 and 413 South Main, said he believed none of the park should be sold by the city to Bob Kirkwood, operator of Lewis & Clark Restaurant at 217 South Main.

Kirkwood wants to buy about half the park, known as Berthold Square, for as much as \$20,000, and lease the rest of it. The bought portion would be used to build an addition to the restaurant.

"Business friends of mine along the street are upset, but it apparently is cut and dried," Ginnever said. "This is setting a bad precedent. We are advertised as an historical area, but Kirkwood's building doesn't look original and the addition probably won't either."

Ginnever lives in O'Fallon, but has served on many St. Charles city boards and commissions because of his property ownership. He said he liked Kirkwood and had nothing against him.

Ginnever said that he simply was against the park's being sold and that he wondered whether Kister Park, a larger city park in the 400 block of South Main, could be sold to the people who own property next to it.

Ginnever said Kirkwood "has excellent food, and I have eaten there many times. But why does he need to expand? Kirkwood claims expanding into the park was the only property available. But there was property adjacent to him to the west for sale. He said the cost would be prohibitive, but that proves there was an alternative," Ginnever said.

Ginnever said the price Kirkwood has offered to pay for the parkland—between \$15,000 and \$22,000—is "far too low. If the park is for sale, what's to keep someone else from bidding higher? Does the City Council have any assurances Kirkwood will stay there? What if he leaves after his lease expires and some other type of business moves in? Would it still be for sale if Kirkwood doesn't buy it, or is it just Bob Kirkwood?" Ginnever asked.

The commission voted 6-1 to recommend that the City Council amend the First State Capitol Urban Renewal Plan to allow the sale of a portion of the park. The council is expected to hold a hearing on the proposal 21 February. The council could vote that same night on the park sale.

But before the council makes its final decision, Kirkwood must clear plans and designs with the Landmarks Preservation Board and with the Board of Adjustment to get waivers of requirements on rear yard setback, parking capacity and building construction.

St. Charles Journal, Friday, 3 February 1989

“P&Z gives restaurant expansion OK”

Dennis Miller

ST. CHARLES – Expansion of Lewis and Clark’s Restaurant into a small city park in the historic district of St. Charles has won the endorsement of a second panel.

An amendment to St. Charles’ urban renewal plan was recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission on Monday, to help clear a path for the restaurant to buy a portion of Berthold Square, a 7,426-sq-ft pocket park at the corner of South Main Street and First Capitol Drive.

Following a public hearing, the commission voted 6-1 in favor of Mayor Grace M. Nichols’ motion to recommend the amendment and a series of action steps requested by restaurant owner Robert Kirkwood and his attorney, Keith Hazelwood.

The action steps include variances from site dimension requirements specified in the urban renewal plan; a variance from the parking requirement; and a provision for subdividing the lot.

Commissioner Gary Heggs voted against the motion, saying he generally is opposed to the sale of park land.

Kirkwood is proposing to buy 3,657 square feet for the restaurant expansion. He proposes to lease the remaining 3,769 square feet of the park from the city and maintain it as a public park.

The building addition would be set back about 15’ from the sidewalk along South Main Street. It would add about 2,800 sq ft to the first floor of the restaurant and about 2,800 sq ft to the second floor, to accommodate more customers and provide more kitchen and storage space.

The expansion also would increase the amount of balcony seating that is popular during the tourist season, Kirkwood said.

But the proposal has drawn opposition from some other people in the historic district. Joe Ginnever, owner of property at 413 S. Main St., testified he and several other people feel the district needs more, not fewer, pocket parks.

“One of the questions everybody has is how many parks are for sale. I guess that’s a question we will have to ask the City Council,” he said.

“Bob does a wonderful job down there and that’s my favorite restaurant. But I don’t understand how they can say that park isn’t needed.”

Kirkwood said he looked at other neighboring properties, but found none that were either suitable for his plans or available at an affordable price.

To meet requirements of city ordinances and the urban renewal plan, the zoning commission is one of five city boards that must review the proposal, Hazelwood said.

The Parks and Recreation Board last month endorsed the request, on condition that the city retain ownership of the portion not needed for the restaurant expansion and that the money from the sale be applied toward obtaining replacement park land.

Because the site is within the South Main Historic District, the building plans require review by the Landmarks Preservation Board. The Board of Adjustment will be asked to waive requirements from the zoning code on rear yard setback, the allowable square footage of building space, and provision of parking.

The final decision on whether to sell the land will be made by the City Council following a public hearing Feb. 21.

The lot was acquired and developed for a park during the 1970s by a former city agency, Land Clearance for Redevelopment Authority, as part of the federally-funded First State Capitol Urban Renewal Project.

Before that, the tract was occupied by a gasoline service station and a barbershop, said Arlene Hogue, zoning commission chairwoman and a former employee of LCRA.

Since Lewis and Clark's opened in 1985, Kirkwood has maintained Berthold Square under a lease agreement with the park board. In return, the board has allowed the restaurant to have its entrance on the south side of the building instead of the front.

Kirkwood said he would make additional improvements to the remaining portion of the park.

"I hope everybody understands we're just trying to do a better job, obviously for ourselves, but also for Main Street," he said.

"The part of the part that people use will still be there. There will still be green spaces, flowers, drinking fountains and benches."

St. Charles Journal, 14 February 1989

"Restaurant expansion plan withdrawn"

Dennis Miller

ST. CHARLES – The owner of Lewis and Clark's Restaurant has withdrawn a proposal to expand into an adjacent city park in the historic district of St. Charles.

The decision includes a combination of factors: Financial considerations, difficulties meeting a self-imposed June deadline for construction, and opposition from some neighboring property owners on South Main Street, restaurant owner Robert J. Kirkwood said Friday.

He said he may instead consider building a second restaurant elsewhere, but that Lewis and Clark's will continue operating at its present location, 217 S. Main St.

"We're not even giving the slightest thought to leaving St. Charles or Main Street," he said.

Kirkwood informed city officials of his decision Thursday, a few hours before he was to have appeared before the Board of Adjustment to request a series of variances related to the expansion plan.

He proposed last month to buy nearly half of Berthold Square, a 7,426-sq-ft corner park at South Main Street and First Capitol Drive. He said he wanted to add seating "to better serve the customers we have now."

The proposal was endorsed by the Parks and Recreation Board and the Planning and Zoning Commission and was to have been the topic of a public hearing before the City Council on Tuesday.

“We felt we were getting excellent cooperation from all the boards of the city, but there were some people in the neighborhood who voiced concerns about some aspects of the building, as well as setting a precedent of buying parkland,” Kirkwood said.

“We understand their concerns, but some of the financial considerations weren’t hitting on all cylinders, either. And there were some problems with the logistics from inside the restaurant and making the whole thing work with the seating capacity we needed and the finances.”

Kirkwood said began to appear questionable whether the construction could have been completed before the busy summer tourist season.

“We feel we are very successful in our present location. I have a long-term lease with a series of options, and I intend to exercise every one of them,” he said.

Consideration of building a second restaurant elsewhere is “very, very preliminary,” he said.

DANCE, BUFFET WILL BENEFIT SISTER CITIES PROGRAM - BALL WILL HELP FUND EXCHANGE PROGRAMS, FOSTER CULTURAL TIES

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - September 28, 1998

Author: John Sonderegger ; St. Charles Post Editor

Joe Daues, insurance man by day and community activist by night, is making the rounds these days to stir interest in the St. Charles Sister Cities Program's only fund-raiser of the year, the Buergermeister Ball on Oct. 2 at the Stegton Regency Banquet Center.

"I've paid my dues in the community, but I've never had as much fun as I've had with this," said Daues, who has been president of the St. Charles Chamber of Commerce and the St. Charles Kiwanis Club. "This is a good time."

Music will provided by the Pat Auberry German Band. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. An open bar will serve German beer on draft as well as cocktails. A full authentic German buffet supper will be served. Organizers are asking for a \$30 donation per person, with proceeds benefiting the St. Charles Sister Cities Program.

Tickets may be purchased by calling the Stegton Regency, 946-6860, or through any representative of Sister Cities. Call 946-7123 for more information.

Daues, who heads Charles Sister Cities Program, also is speaking at various high schools in the area. He still needs lodging for six exchange students who will visit from Ludwigsburg, Germany, from Oct. 6-26.

Students, faculty members and families from Duchesne High, St. Charles High and St. Charles West High will welcome the 46 exchange students next month. Anyone interested in having an exchange student as a guest during that time should call Daues at 946-7123.

The Buergermeister Ball will serve as the Friday night kickoff to the annual St. Charles Oktoberfest, scheduled the weekend of Oct. 3-4.

Daues, a salesman at heart, loves his product, and he waxes eloquent when he speaks of how, why and when he became involved.

"I watched the movie 'Roots,' and I decided I wanted to find out who in the heck I was," he said.

He joined the St. Charles County German-American Heritage Club. With some minimal genealogy research, Daues found that he was half Irish and half German.

In 1991, he became president of the German-American Heritage Club. The next year, he said the club needed a purpose, and he began looking into the Sister Cities program.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower started the Sister Cities program in 1956. Daues said, "Ike said if cities in foreign countries develop partnerships with cities here, maybe we'll have peace in the world and maybe we won't be fighting with each other so much."

That sounded like a noble cause to Daues. The St. Charles Sister Cities Program was formed. A search was made for a suitable Sister City in Germany.

A midsize city near a major metropolitan area was sought. It also had to be on a river. The idea was to find a city similar to St. Charles.

St. Louis' Sister City is Stuttgart, Germany. It is about six miles from Ludwigsburg, which has a population of 85,000 and is on a plateau above the Neckar River.

Ludwigsburg was a match, and it was looking for a fourth Sister City to complete its ring of friendship with Germany's former World War II enemies. It also has Sister Cities in France, England and Russia.

Former St. Charles Mayor Grace Nichols and her husband visited Ludwigsburg for a week in September 1994. Daues and his wife accompanied them.

The St. Charles City Council passed a resolution encouraging the establishment of formal relations with cities outside the United States but provided no financing.

After Bob Moeller was elected mayor of St. Charles in 1996, he got behind the Sister Cities program. He led a St. Charles delegation to Ludwigsburg in early July 1996 and met with Oberburgermeister Christof Eichert. They signed the German half of a Sister Cities agreement during an American-style July 4 celebration. A Ludwigsburg delegation was back in St. Charles for a week in October 1996, and the deal was officially cemented. St. Charles had its Sister City.

Since then, the program has mushroomed with student exchanges and other cultural

exchanges. Sister Cities International of Washington recently shipped 13 winning paintings from Young Artists International, with the theme of "Impressions of Unity In A Global Neighborhood," for display here.

A group of women from Ludwigsburg was in St. Charles County in May, studying women's issues. Gordon Goulden, assistant professor of art at St. Charles County Community College, took 24 art exhibits to Ludwigsburg last year.

Daues said local businesses offer special deals when visitors from Germany are here. For example, Bob Kirkwood, who owns Lewis & Clark's Restaurant and Trailhead Brewing Co. on Main Street, will give them free meals. Kirkwood also has hired Wolfgang Tosch as an intern for one year. Tosch, from Ludwigsburg, is a brewer, and he's working with master brewer John Witte at Trailhead.

The St. Charles City Council anted up \$5,000 in 1996 to help get the Sister Cities program going, and it came up with an additional \$2,000 for the program this year.

The goal now is to find other Sister Cities for St. Charles, and one is under consideration in France.

Caption: PHOTO

Color Photo - A decal of sister cities, St. Charles and Ludwigsburg, Germany.

Memo: ST. CHARLES

Edition: FIVE STAR LIFT

Section: ST. CHARLES POST

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Record Number: 9809280561

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