

# KNOW YOUR ROOTS

*A Family That Doesn't Know Its Past Doesn't Understand Itself*

Volume VIII Issue 5

SCHUENEMAN

NOVEMBER 2003

## NANA DAY 2003

IT'S OVER -- IT WAS A GREAT TIME!

Golf  
(Thanks John!)  
(Great planning Uncle Ted!)

SWIMMING

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BINGO

PELLET GUNS  
AND  
KNIVES

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"T"

Balloon Contests

picnic  
and  
karaoke

*Special Birthday Celebration*

PUTTING  
CONTESTS

*Renewed Relationships*

THIS CELEBRATION ON THE 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY  
WEEKEND WAS THE 110<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY OF  
**ELVERA SCHUENEMAN (DURLAND)**

KNOWN LOVINGLY AS NANA BY HER  
CHILDREN AND DESCENDANTS  
AND AUNT ELVERA BY HER NIECES AND  
NEPHEWS

Thanks again to all!

Mark your calendars for Nana Day 2008!

COVER BY JANET SMITH



In 1973 the first Nana Day celebrated the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of Elvera Durland nee Schueneman. Again in 1983, Nana's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, the family gathered to pay tribute to the matriarch of the family. But alas, this was the final celebration she was to attend.

However, in 1993 with what would have been her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, the clan wanted to continue to pay homage to Nana, one who had influenced so many lives, in absentia. That celebration took place exactly where it had started in 1973 in Veteran's Park in McHenry, IL.

And this year over the July 4 weekend, Nana Day was once again commemorated to honor the 110<sup>th</sup> birthday of Nana in the same Veteran's Park. While her actual birthday was July 9, her husband Harry Durland was born on July 4 so these two dates determined the theme of the celebration, Independence Day.

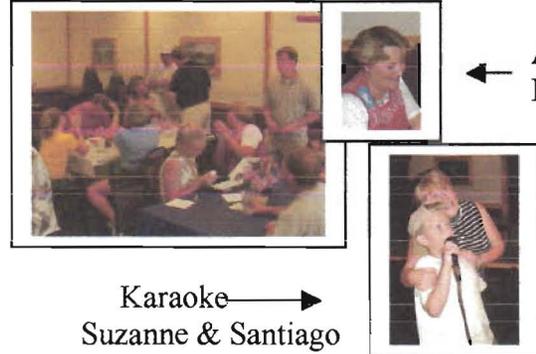
Not all the family was present but it was a great time. As the cover said it was a chance not only to renew relationships but also to remember a woman who was such a vibrant force in their lives and to pass on these memories to the generations who didn't know her.

This year, the celebration began a day earlier on Saturday. Ted Schueneman, a nephew of Nana, arranged a golf outing at John Smith's Prairie Isle. Ted ▼



## A REVIEW OF NANA DAY

After the game there was a Pizza Party with everyone in the family participating. After the supper the fun began with playing bingo and singing along with Karaoke.



← Ann at Bingo.

Karaoke →  
Suzanne & Santiago

Sunday was the big celebration. The family congregated in Veteran's Park once again. Even though there were plenty of flags and red and blue tablecloths at Saturday's party, the patriotic theme was also carried out in the family members.

Each of the families of Nana's daughters wore a color corresponding to the three colors of the flag.



Jane's group wore the three colors, Mary's wore navy. Joan's group was in red, and Mitzi's who couldn't make the day, wore white. Needless to say, red was predominant because Joan has the largest family. The day started out as nice and sunny. After everyone said their hellos, the party began in earnest.

The fun began. There were games played. One in particular was invented by Jay Cuda. There were 2 wickets and the object was to get two golf balls attached with a string around these wickets.



There was the water balloon toss, which is always great fun. The balloons were filled with water and as the teams moved further apart a balloon or two was burst and the recipient would be drenched in water.



While the games were being played the others were having fun just visiting with each other. Then the food was ready and what a spread it was! Janet and John Smith arranged all this and I think Ann Cuda had a hand in it also. Since I wasn't involved in the planning I'm sure there were others who lent a hand.

## Part of the Larkin Family

Janet



I'm trying very hard not to select any one family member but I feel that Janet Smith deserves special recognition. She is the one who pulled this all together and deserves everyone's special thanks. I know she reserved the park early in the year and I believe she was instrumental in selecting the caterer. We are grateful for those details and myriad others, which she planned.

Even though you see a predominance of red shirts, there were many others in their respective colors representing their families.



This picture was taken just as the rain began and it was a downpour. But before it got so bad there was a bit of business to be taken care of.

Durland Griffith addressed the group about pertinent facts for the future; it was decided to have another Nana Day in five years instead of waiting until ten. I suspect the four sisters' ages were involved in that decision!



Mary, not in the picture, also told the group about the upcoming plans for booklets of the family. And Ted who is in the picture standing at far left gave the results of the golf game.

Just as the business was completed and the decisions made, the rains came. Everything was hurriedly gathered up to accept the Smith's invitation to sojourn to their house. Eventually the rain stopped and everyone was able to swim and play more games. All in all the weekend was deemed a huge success.

All the pictures you see were sent to me by Jerry Larkin, who was the official photographer. Following are some additional pictures, which will illustrate not only the theme of the day, but also some additional members of the families.

The youngest member at the Reunion was the great great grandchild of Nana. (I shall not mention the oldest.)

August Northrup from the Kauss Family



### Some of the families represented.

The Kidder family below.



Nana's nephews and nieces were represented by Ted Schueneman and his family, who are shown in these two photos.



I don't have a picture of the Griffith family at the reunion so I'm including them from the Pizza Party.



It was too difficult to show the Larkin family as a group. Just take notice of all the red Ts that appear in all the other pictures. They are the Larkins.

As for the Kauss family, it didn't have a group picture either but they were the ones in the Navy Ts.

And so the party ended as a whopping success and plans were made to have another Nana Day in 2008.

## MORE ANNIVERSARIES

It is fitting to also mention that this is the fifth anniversary of the whole clan reunion of the Johann Schuenemann and Mary Catherine Greitenevert family. If you remember, the reunion took place in 1998 around the church of St. John the Baptist in Johnsburg, Illinois, the church to which Johann and his family were members and the final resting place of the original couple. It was the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their arrival in Chicago.

I thought it was apropos to reprint the pictures of the attendees



It is also a good time to mention that five years ago in 1998 The Schueneman Genealogy book was published. Through the generosity of John Edward Schueneman of Waukegan, Illinois, in memory of his father, James, the book was distributed to all the public libraries in northeastern Illinois and a variety of college libraries in the area. This anthology of the family is also in the Chicago Library, the Newberry Library in Chicago, the Mormon Church Library in Salt Lake City, and of course in the McHenry and Johnsburg libraries. Copies have been sent to Oltorf, Germany also, where the family history originated.

Ted Schuenemann sent me a brochure about a Schueneman Family yearbook.. I queried them by email asking about the origin of the family as it mentioned many years of Schueneman history. I did not receive a satisfactory reply. Since I know more than 200 years of our specific family the only conclusion I can make is that this is another attempt to just list all the current Schuenemans in the telephone book. Although it mentions there is factual information about marriages, births, census information, baptisms, immigration, employment, occupations, retirements, 24 data bases in all, I do not feel that it would tell us much about our branch.

## THE DOWE BROTHERS ROBERT AND WILLIAM

*My thanks to Marilyn Sherry  
And Shirley Dowe, wife of William  
for their help with this story*

This story was to be about Robert Dowe, the WWII pilot who lost his life in Burma. Instead it turned into a bittersweet tale about two brothers.

Because I was unsuccessful in acquiring information about Robert, I knew I had only one recourse and that would be his brother, who was living in San Diego. Marilyn Sherry had his address and contacted his wife Shirley who said she would be glad to help. What ensued over several months were a series of newsletters about the family relayed to Shirley by William who passed them on to me. William was not well so Shirley had to wait until just the right time to ask William to answer my questions

Robert and William were the sons of Leo Dowe, who was the son of Katherine Schueneman. Robert was the eldest of the two brothers and was born in 1918, William in 1923. Robert's birth is incorrect in the Schueneman book and his rightful age was only verified from the delayed birth certificate of William. But I'm getting ahead of my story about the brothers.

Following is a compilation of all the newsletters from William who gave me permission to quote him. Because there was five years difference in ages, William didn't remember too much of Robert's childhood.

Both Robert and William went to St. Joseph's elementary school in Waukegan and William remembers that Robert was also active in the Boy Scouts and earned a "One Miler."

Robert, or Bobby, was idolized by Billy (William), and was Billy's role model and mentor. If Robert was going

out with a girl, Billy wanted to tag along, much to Robert's chagrin. Robert's most spoken words to Billy were "quit following me," and to his mom were "make Billy quit following me."

But when Robert did get away, Billy would seek out the streetcar operators on the North Shore Line for free rides. This train serviced Rondout, where their mother was born.

During the summer months the boys would go to Grandpa Carroll's farm in Rondout to ride horses and drive the tractor. There they became acquainted with Marlon Brando, who also drove a tractor, and his two sisters, Frannie and Jocelyn. But no romances became of it.

In his memory bank is the "great train robbery" in Rondout. He thought the robbers got away with \$100,000, a lot of money in those days to a young boy.

William also remembered the Schueneman picnics and how much fun they were. Before the day of the picnic, they all had to help clear the field because, after all, it was a cow field. He also remembered how they would put a poster on a tree and they would sing German songs.

William remembers vividly one evening when Robert was out; he decided to play with Robert's electric train. He caused a blow-out and the whole apartment went dark. Needless to say he hurriedly put Robert's train away.

Both of the boys loved to watch their grandfather whittle and carve reindeer.

Probably William's most graphic memory is a story about his Grandma Dowe.

It seems she bought a beautiful headstone for the DOWE family and kept it at home until it would be needed. When his father would come home a little tipsy, he would stub his toe and say a few unkind words to anyone within earshot!

And another time, William and a playmate decided to go visit Aunt Florence. They had a bag of cookies and some grapes and were on their way. Someone spotted them and thought the two were runaways and called the police who took them to Aunt Florence. When she saw them in the police car she spilled a bottle of ink. William remembers they sure got H... when they were returned home.

Robert worked for 2 years with his dad at American Can, but then the war began and he enlisted in the Air Force and had his basic training in Texas. He then received his wings as a glider pilot. Unfortunately Robert died while with the Special Forces in Burma. Following is the account of his death from the book, Back to Mandalay, by Lowell Thomas:

*"There was one mishap: a glider flown by Lieutenant Robert Dowe overran the field and crashed into a buffalo hole. In it was a heavy tractor for airfield building. This broke loose, plunged forward and killed Lieutenant Dowe.... They found that the glider force had been too small."*

I was unable to find the exact date of Robert's death because, after the war, the Burmese government would not allow any visitors to visit the cemeteries in Rangoon. Without an exact date and place of burial I cannot secure his military records.

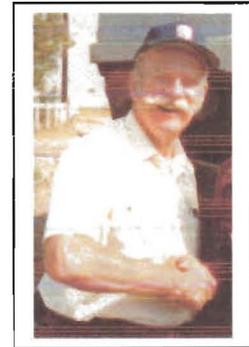
I did not know Robert's official birth date until William's birth was a

delayed registration made by his father in 1969.

William was also in WWII. He enlisted in the Marines and took his basic training at Camp Pendleton, California. He swears he has flat feet because he was too proud and tough to tell the Sergeant that his boots didn't fit! Although he was only in a short time, he earned a Sharp Shooter medal that he attributed to the hunting days with his father and Grandpa Dowe.

After the Marines, William worked for the Santa Fe Railroad for 35 years, starting out at the bottom and working his way up to become an engineer.

William in 1979 when he was an engineer on the Santa Fe



One time he was suspended for six months and took a temporary job with a local mortuary. His job was to retrieve the corpse. He sat in the back seat behind the driver. One time, after driving along for a bit, they could smell something rather unpleasant. Upon inspection they found that the corpse had slid forward when braking and its big toe was sticking into the cigarette lighter! And with this bittersweet note I end William's story of his family.



In Loving Memory of  
**William Henry Leo Dowe**

Born  
**August 2, 1923**

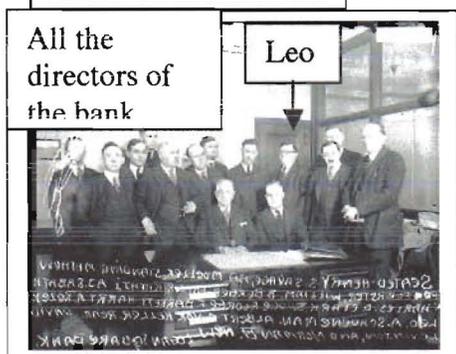
Passed Away  
**August 22, 2003**

Military Honor Service Field #1:  
Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery  
Point Loma, California  
September 4, 2003 at 11:00 a.m.

## ABOUT JOHANN'S FAMILY

### FROM LAMBERT (JOHN)

These pictures were found in the Chicago Daily News records on the Internet. They were dated 1922 and 1923. The head shot is Leo Schueneman, director of the Logan Square Bank in Chicago. Leo was the grandson of Johann.



### FROM ELIZABETH

Information was sent to me from Mary W. Goodley about the Kristan family. "At this time I am self-publishing ... a book that deals... with the Village of North Chicago. Bernard Kristan is, of course, a prominent citizen, and I am doing a two-page article on him." She requested permission to use the picture of the family in the Schueneman genealogy book. Of course I gave her permission and suggested that she include the family of Albert because they also had been long time residents of North Chicago.

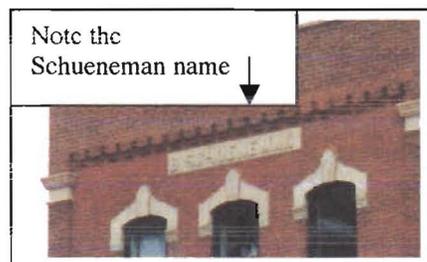
She agreed and will also be naming Albert's family but to a lesser degree.

Ms. Goodley said the book will probably be in print after the first of the year in 2004. I'm hoping that she will send me notice of publication so that I can advise all of you that are interested.

Elizabeth Kristan nee Schueneman was the daughter of Johann.

### FROM BERNHARD

Frank Suerth has told me that the Schueneman building on the northwest corner of Chestnut and Noble is 122 years old and has been partitioned into Condominiums.



The first floor (the former tavern) is now owned by a company called Chestnut Commons. Nelson Ameer owns the other two units on the second and third floors. He figures the building is worth at least a million dollars now. A full picture appears in other newsletters.

According to Bernhard's direct descendant, Lorraine Melton, Bernhard lost everything in the Chicago fire of 1871, so this building must have been built right after that.

Frank also told me that St. Boniface Church is going to be turned into condos but they plan to keep the walls of the church intact. This church was very instrumental in the Schueneman family from the early brothers to the Lambert (John) family.

## JOHANN'S LAND

In Johann (John) Schuenemann's probate records there were physical descriptions of his land in McHenry County and Lake County. I have the original deed for the land in McHenry County and set out to find the original deed for Lake County. The McHenry County property was paid for when Johann bought it for \$1000 in 1855 so that deed was clear. What I found is that the Lake County property was originally a mortgage in 1861. A clerk in the Lake County Court House told me that a mortgage becomes a warranty deed when the mortgage is paid off, which it was in 1866. Below are the conditions of the Lake County sale. Note it was for \$750 dollars and the interest rate was 10%.

WITNESSETH, That whereas... the said party of the first part, is justly indebted to the said party of the second part in the sum of... secured to be paid by... Said note being for \$1000 due June 1<sup>st</sup> 1861 with interest at 10 per cent, the other being for \$650 dollars due six years from date with interest at ten per cent. The interest payable annually

Johann (John) died on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April 1888 and the probate records show that both the land in McHenry County and the land in Lake County were sold for \$6250.25 . So land Johann bought in McHenry County for \$1000 and land in Lake County for \$750, a total of \$1750, was sold in 1892 for \$6250. The description of the lands bought in 1855 and 1866 is the same as the land sold in 1892 when his estate was settled. I'm not sure, but I think the land was approximately 127 acres. But since I'm not adept at reading descriptions, this figure could be incorrect. In the probate records it did mention the homestead laws. I wonder if he bought government land and became a homesteader!

We must remember that Johann arrived in Chicago in 1848 with his new wife, his brother and his mother. I do not know if he arrived with any money at all. I do know that conditions in Germany were very bad at that time. At any rate he managed to save enough money working as a laborer to pay \$1000 for the land in McHenry County. I am assuming that he was the oldest male in the family and could have inherited enough money when his father died that would pay for their passage from Ochtrup, Germany in 1847 to arrive in Chicago in 1848. At that time in Germany the eldest son inherited the entire estate of the father. There was a sister born in 1823 who probably was married. I do not have any information on her. There was a younger brother born in 1831, but since he did not accompany the family, I am assuming that he might have died at a young age.

What is remarkable is that Johann was able to save \$1750 over the course of 11 years, and buy land in two counties, while raising a family of eight children. When he died the amount of \$6250.25 was distributed to his seven living children.

## MARY'S MESSAGES



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Jerry Larkin, Copy Editor*

Credit for the pictures used in the story about the Reunion goes to Jerry Larkin. Thanks go to John Smith for his contribution to the golf day. Ted Schueneman arranged all the teams. The evening activities including the prizes for the bingo game were the efforts of Ann Cuda. I believe Janet and Ann were also responsible for all the patriotic decorations. Credit must be given to Janet for reserving the park and arranging the catering. Of course Janet and John Smith are to be commended for their most gracious hospitality when the park was rained out and everything was removed to their house. Jerry is responsible for collecting all the charges. I hope everyone paid. Durland was in charge of the games in the Park. Apologies to anyone else who contributed to that day and was not mentioned or pictured.

I have been very remiss in not mentioning the award that Danny Larkin received at the end of the last school year. Danny, please forgive me. Your father told me you were given special recognition for having the highest GPA of your graduating class. My congratulations.

This is my last newsletter for 2003. The booklets that I have been talking about and the slip cases to contain them are on hold right now due to technical difficulties. I will advise everyone when and if I am able to straighten out all the problems. I work on a Macintosh and since it isn't compatible with PCs there is much to adjust. (No, I will not give up my Mac!)

This issue is a little larger than usual because of all the information I gathered on the Schuenemans. And just a bit of news from my trusty German friend, he writes he has found more information about the origin of the name of Schünemann. He says that it means "that of an administer over the barn." We always knew it meant barn but now specifically a high person or one in charge of a barn.

Jerry Larkin sent me another story about the Christmas Ship of Ilerman and August Schuenemann. I have not found any connection to our branch of the Schueneman family. If the story above about the name is correct the name must have originated with farmers many years before our particular branch and that is why there are so many Schuenemans.

I found this in my files.



GOD PUT ME ON EARTH.  
TO ACCOMPLISH A  
CERTAIN NUMBER OF  
THINGS. RIGHT NOW  
I AM SO FAR BEHIND,  
I WILL NEVER DIE.

And to all of you,

**HAPPY HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!**