

More Schuetze Years at the United States House

Monroe hosted a Swiss style shooting competition, called schuetzenfest, in August 1878 with many competitors from throughout the state visiting the village. The businesses and homes were asked to be decorated with flowers for this large event. The editor had fun with his wording as he described what Louis was doing to get the United States House ready for the event in the June 5 edition. "The proprietor of the United States House is getting ready for the Louis Schu(e)tzen Fest. Paint, paper, new fence around the kitchen yard, a new cistern, etc. - and so forth are among the expenses incurred." Before the event, Louis had also ordered Patterson's carriage shops to build him a new "canvas backed omnibus." It was to be ready soon. Unfortunately, one of the horses later "fell dead in the harness" at the fairgrounds on September 6.

A hotel owner never knows who might want to stay the night; he must be kind to all of them. One night in December 1879, a German girl gave birth to a child at the hotel on the same evening that she had arrived. She asked if she could spend the night; "she was kindly taken care of by the hotel folks," much to their credit. The Every Saturday [another newspaper] added, "A hotel keeper who would turn away such an unfortunate at such a time is hardly human."

In March 1880 the Sentinel reported, "A well-dressed and comely looking woman arrived last Wednesday night on the eastern train, and stopped at the United States House, with the intention of taking the stage for the North." The stage was delayed because the roads were so bad, so the "buxom traveler" had to lay over. The next day she was about town and procured a bottle of whiskey. She got so drunk that she could hardly navigate. She tried going up the steps into the hotel, but tumbled over. She layed there "some minutes with her feet partly upon the steps and her head on the sidewalk. Finally she was lifted up by the hired men about the house, and taken to her room. She was out again the next day hunting for whiskey.

The 1880 census was taken in June and showed Louis, Caroline, and their five sons, George, Albert, William, Louis, and Frederick, living in a home on Payne Street [now 9th Street]. The hotel was listed with nine boarders and two servants, a 26-year-old wash girl from Norway, and a 22-year-old chamber maid from Switzerland. It was reported that Louis finally had a daughter on March 1, 1881.

Mention was made again in August 1880 that Louis might build "a new brick hotel next spring on the site of his present house." Again, nothing more was reported on this.

Mr. Schuetze asked for bids in the March 9, 1881 Sentinel for someone to build a "boal" to haul passengers and their luggage from the depot to his hotel in the spring. It was reported on September 21 that his omnibus broke through the only bridge between the square and the fairgrounds entrances. "It was good luck and a steady team that prevented a serious accident. It would be a good idea to examine the



This photo of the United States House, copied from the collection at the First National Bank, was believed to have been taken in August 1878 when the hotel was decorated because Monroe was hosting a large schuetzenfest. Unfortunately, the photo is not very clear, but it is believed to be the earliest photo ever taken of the business.

supports of bridges once in awhile, and thereby save serious consequences that occasionally result from the neglect to do so.”

Schuetze seemed to take pride in maintaining his hotel. He put the dining room “in fine order” in March 1884. “By paint and paper, and other garniture, under the direction of skillful workmen, has been transformed into a veritable Boffin’s Bower. Louis’s dining hall has been liberally patronized during court term.” Later in the month he purchased the harness shop across the street from the hotel and fitted it up for a sample room (store for his traveling agent guests).

The 1884 Green County History stated that Mr. Schuetze, now 42 years old, was the oldest hotel keeper in the city. The hotel was described as 38 by 100 feet in size with a basement and two stories above that, which contained 16 comfortable sleeping rooms. In addition, he had two other buildings in connection with the house that added another 17 rooms. There were also four stables, which had a capacity of 100 horses.

The final column in the 43-year history of the United States House will be printed next week.