

"A BIRTHDAY GREETING"

comments written Aug. 23, 1973,
by Wm. F. Baggerman

Birthdays and family parties amongs the aunts, uncles and cousins was a family custom in the Peters family relationship.

I don't know the year this poem was wirtten, but I know it was written by my Aunt Martha Urbach and her son Walter, my cousin. It was probably written in the late '32's or early '42's for the birthday of my father, William J. Baggerman. His birthday was Oct. 20, (1873.)

Par III - picture of Dad as a young man.

Par IV - Dad did start work at Langenberg Hat Co. as an office boy, they were first located on 12th Street near Olive and later at 1110 Washington Blvd. This is where I remember Dad working at his desk near the window on the first floor. He maintained a connection with the firm until he was over seventy year old. His last connection with the firm was as a director. He was never elected an officer of the company and I am sure it was because of his independent spirit, being a "yes man" wasn't part of his character. The management was completely dominated by Roy Langenberg, earlier by his father and later by his son John. Dad didn't hesitate to spend well on our homes and cars (we had a luxury "Pierce Arrow car that cost \$2800 in 1928), but he did have a great ability to manage money and to the considerable irritation of most of the clique of yes-men officers at the hat company, he was able to buy stock in the company until he was the largest stockholder outside the Langenberg family.

Dad liked to play golf. He started playing in the late 20's, first being a member of the old Midland Valley Country Club. In the depression '30's I caddied for him to earn spending money--guess this is how I came to dislike golf.

Par VI - Dad ~~was~~ ~~axkes~~ had a keen like for the out-of-doors and liked to do all kinds of hunting. When I was small boy we would go rabbit hunting at Gumbo, Mo., Creve Coeur Lake. Also went duck hunting at Gumbo on the Missouri River. Later in life Dad would go out to the Waldecker home at Bay, Mo. for squirrel hunting and then once a year for the deer hunting season. The deer hunting was almost a ritual, many hunters came to stay at the Waldecker home during the 3-day hunt. Dad went for many years, but only shot one deer. ~~Rxxx~~ This was from about 250 ^{Y 1305} ~~yards~~ with a Savage .300 rifle without scope.

Par VII - Dad was active in the credit men's association as a young man and almost ran as a candidate for the state legislature with their support. Later he was very active in the affairs of the St. Louis Presbytery, having been selected to be a delegate to the national synod of the church held in San Francisco.

Par VIII - Dad didn't read many books, but those on the life of Lincoln did hold his continued interst and he read many of these.

A BIRTHDAY GREETING.

I

AT THE END OF THE SUMMER
AND START OF THE FALL.
AN OCCASION IS DUE,
WHICH WILL BE ENJOYED BY ALL.



II.

TIME COMES AND GOES SO SWIFTLY
NEVER AGAIN TO RETURN.
GETTING OLDER EVERY DAY
IS ONE OF DEEP CONCERN.



III

BUT DON'T YOU CARE,
HOW MANY YOU'VE HAD.
SO LONG AS YOU ARE HERE
TO MAKE US GLAD.



IV

EMMA AND I FIRST MET YOU
WHEN YOU WERE QUITE YOUNG.
AND TOGETHER WITH THE BUNCH,
WE HAD LOADS OF FUN.

Sing



V

DURING THE PASSING YEARS
MANY CHANGES HAVE TAKEN PLACE,
RISING FROM AN "OFFICE BOY"
TO PLAY GOLF IN A TOURNAMENT RACE.



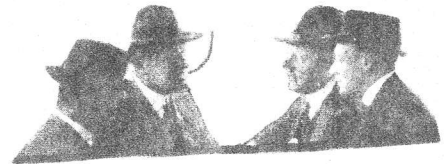
VI

THIS IS SURELY QUITE A RECORD
BUT THERE IS MORE TO TELL.
WITH TOURING, GOLFING AND HUNTING
AND REAL ESTATE TO SELL.



VII

MEETINGS HELD BY THE DOZEN,
EVERY DAY AT NOON.



WHEN YOU GET HOME AT NIGHT,
YOU ARE TOO TIRED TO SPOON.

VIII

RESTING IN YOUR EASY CHAIR
WITH A "LINCOLN" STORY IN YOUR HAND.
AND BEFORE YOU ARE AWARE,
YOU ARE DREAMING OF THE BETTER LAND.

