

Grandpa Sauter-Memories

Eberhard B. Sauter was born August 10, 1883 and died October 26, 1953. He came to the United States from South Russia, around Odessa, in about 1898. Like most Germans from Russia he came because the Russian Czar was going to make them adopt the Russian language and culture. His family settled in the Harvey North Dakota area. He had a brother living there and the Freehs also lived there.

Grandpa Sauter was known as a bad driver. He and Grandma would drive to Wing where Grandpa would buy some parts from the John Deere dealer for his own dealership. At the time the road from Tuttle to Wing was gravel. Grandpa had a coupe. He drove in the middle of the road. Some cars would honk their horn when they saw him coming and others wouldn't. The reason was that those drivers who honked their horns didn't recognize Grandpa as the driver. Those that did not honk their horns recognized Grandpa and his car and knew it wouldn't do any good anyhow. They all got out of the way.

Auctioneers were known as Colonels and that is how Grandpa became known as Colonel Sauter. He was a very busy auctioneer in the summertime. Walter was his clerk and handled the money. Since many of the people who came were Germans about half the auctioneering was in German and half in English. He was very good. There was something about him that people liked and he could tell a good story while auctioneering. The stories were short and usually had the audience laughing. He was a very popular person around Tuttle and the surrounding area. Walter said that probably the biggest auction the Colonel had was one where the farmer had bought up a lot of equipment down through the years. It wasn't new but was newly painted and in fairly good shape. There must have been about 100 pieces so a very large crowd was there. It kept both the Colonel and Walter busy. Auctions this size usually provided a lunch by the local Ladies Aid or some other group, for a price, of course. As time went by, Eddie got his auctioneering certificate and was part of the team. He was much better than the Colonel in terms of pure auctioneering but the farmers really liked the Colonel a lot.

He was a very popular man in the area and helped many people. A farmer from north of Tuttle told Walter about an experience he had with the Colonel during the 1930s. It was about a time he was farming one summer and had his crop planted but totally ran out of money. So the family decided to load up their truck with as much stuff as they could and head for California. Before he did that he went to see Colonel Sauter. After the Colonel heard the farmer's story, he took out his billfold, pulled out a \$20 bill and gave it to him. The farmer took the money and went to the grocery store and bought all the groceries he could for twenty dollars. Of course, twenty dollars then was probably like two hundred now. The farmer said they made it until harvest time and they had a pretty good crop and went on from there and things got better. His descendants still farm in the Tuttle area. The Colonel may have been the most popular guy in Tuttle. On Saturday nights, he would have 10 to 12 men sitting around in his shop while he would do most of the talking and everybody else would be laughing. Someone once said, the Colonel was such a character; a book should have been written about him."

Everybody knew the Colonel liked to drink. It was said about him that he could make more money after drinking than anybody else could make sober. He could be very convincing in getting his own way. When the Colonel was in the hospital and dying he convinced his doctor to let him have a shot of whiskey every morning.