

Notes Regarding Biebel Family

During the 1980's, Vincent F. Gehrlein collected many pieces of information regarding the family of Ida Duerner's husband Earl Biebel and his family in Erie County, PA. Vincent was the great-grandson of Ida Duerner's parents Joseph and Francesca Eichenlaub Duerner.

All of the information that Vincent collected was passed on to me, his son, when he died in 2001. The information that he collected about the Biebel Family that is not currently easily obtainable from on-line sources is attached. Unfortunately, citation information is missing from much of it. The 1982 letter that was written by Nick Biebel, Jr was apparently written to a priest (Fr. Biebel) in Erie, and there is no explanation as to how a copy of that letter came into the hands of Vincent Gehrlein.

William V. Gehrlein
13 January 2019
Lewes, DE

Ida Duerner
Earl Biebel

Earl wife..... Ida
born; Erie, Pa. 5/8/1876 born; Erie, Pa. 10/3/1873
died; " " 6/14/1944 died; " " 9/3/1956
lived at 2632 Peach St.
Calvary sec. 15 #26
Capt. Erie Fire Dept. many years. [I S 2 D]

(D).....Emma; (---1982---)....spouse.....Dr. Robt. Fichthorn D.D.S.
2314 Sassafras St. (Erie) 5/8/1899 9/23/1946
phone--439-5392

(S).... Henry;Spouse... Elsie D. Doerner
Erie, Pa. Erie Pa.
3/15/1900.....4/7/ 1978 lives west 18th. St.
son:....Gerald E.

(D).... Marthaspouse..... Chas. J. (Carl) Drexler
Erie Pa. Erie Pa.
1/15/1898.....4/7/1971 2/19/189712/2/1967
....lived 2632 Peach St.... In sales, foods.

children; [3 S * I D]....

Doris;..... spouse..... Maurice Shoup
Editor;....Erie Story

James;1

Thomas D. ...

Ronald;.....

* * * * *

Parents of Earl;...

Phillipspouse..... Ellen (Tudor)
1841.... 12/5/1890 Born, -London, England
Erie Pa. age 49 yrs. 4/30/1850 7/7/1936
in Trinity with Father, Daniel. Erie Cemetery
Sec. B--east end. [2 - S....I - D]

children....

(S) . Earl;..... above.....

(S).... Phillip;.....
passed away, age 18 years--May, 11, 1905.

(D)....Charlotte;.... spouse..... Simmons,
daughter;.... Ellen;spouse..... Boynton.

Residence....1747 Skyline Drive

NICHOLAS & Daniel BIEBEL

Aug. 1982

Visit to Peter Biebel's
on farm fronting Old Waterford Road
said his father Nicholas would look up
to see brother Daniel walking toward the
house most any time, not saying a word,
then putter around several months and all
af a sudden he was gone again.

Never married and eccentric, always
refusing rides offered him, hiking along
with a basket of foodsome, odds and ends,
or what suited him.

Peter and family live in an old
converted schoolhouse he attended as a boy.

A very nice family as his neighbor
Paul Davitt, I spoke to as he knew of the
Wicks that I was looking up.

I told Paul I was stopping at the
Biebel home and he told me if it was an
order for potato's as it happened to be
Sunday morning and Peter would never do
business until after noontime as it were.

Peter has brothers in same area on
Donation Road.

Phone numbers in book.

Whitey Benson once lived out there as a
lad and knows both men, as well as some
Wicks that got me out there to start with.

The farm Nicholas had must been all of
over 300 acres and house still there.

William G. Biebel, of Kearsage, is a successful and well known merchant of Erie County. He was born here in Mill Creek Township, July 31, 1875, and is the son of George and Mary (Schuwerk) Biebel.

George Biebel, deceased, was a native of Mill Creek Township, born Jan. 1, 1846, and the son of Daniel and Charlotte (Gintz) Biebel. Daniel Biebel was born in 1817 and in August, 1836, came to this country and settled in Erie. He died at Kearsage in 1909. George Biebel engaged in the mercantile business at Kearsage in 1872 and died in 1900. His wife, a native of McKean, Pa., was born in 1851 and died in 1913. The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Biebel: A. J., lives in Mill Creek Township, was for a number of years connected with the National Cash Register Company as a salesman; Edward D., deceased, was a member of the firm of Biebel Brothers, Kearsage, married in 1903 to Rose McDowell, of Crawford County, and they have four children: Mary C., married Raymond Sawdey, lives at Kearsage; George J., Rose E., and John J., students; W. G., the subject of this sketch; and Amelia, married H. S. Countryman, lives in Erie.

W. G. Biebel was educated in the schools of Kearsage where he has spent his entire life, with the exception of a year spent in the south. He is engaged in the general merchandise business and conducts an up-to-date general store. He is also local agent for the Chevrolet automobile. For many years Mr. Biebel has been widely known throughout Erie County as a successful auctioneer.

On Jan. 1, 1915, Mr. Biebel was united in marriage with Miss Thora E. Wolf, a native of Mill Creek Township, and a daughter of L. W. and

(Williams) Lyons, residents of Corry. Mr. and Mrs. McCord have no children. Mr. McCord participated in all the major engagements overseas and was commissioned a captain while in France. He served for several months with the Army of Occupation in Germany.

Politically, Mr. McCord is a Republican. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church and belongs to the Masonic lodge, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Erie lodge B. P. O. E. He has been very active among the ex-service men in this section and is past commander of Lake Shore Post 105, American Legion and last year served as commander of Erie County Post 40/8, which is affiliated with the Legion.

On Sept. 15, 1924, Mr. McCord was appointed postmaster and is now serving in that capacity.

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MARY WOLF A DAUGHTER MARION E. (over)

Erie Co Library (Millcreek)
(mail)

community. He is a member of the United Presbyterian Church.

George Biebel, merchant, Kearsarge postoffice, Mill Creek township, was born and reared in Mill Creek township. He was born January 1, 1846, son of Daniel and Charlotte (Gintz) Biebel, natives of Germany. Daniel Biebel was born in the year 1817, and now resides in Kearsarge, and is hale and hearty. He began in this country first in the employ of Hurkins & Co., bricklayers, Erie; this was in August, 1836. Mrs. Biebel, mother of George, is a sister of the late Capt. Gintz. Mr. Biebel married, in 1869, Miss Mary Schuwerk, daughter of Joseph Schuwerk, of McKean. The following children have been born to this union: August J., Edward D., William J. and Amelia K. Mr. Biebel began the mercantile business in his present location in 1872, where he has enjoyed the liberal patronage which he seeks to deserve by carrying all the merchandise embraced in a general store; groceries, provisions, flour, feed; fertilizers, boots and shoes, glassware, farming tools, hats, caps and notions; also mowers and binders, manufactured by the Johnson Harvesting Company, of Batavia, N. Y. Mr. Biebel has enjoyed that degree of prosperity that follows persistent industry and satisfactory dealing. He was appointed postmaster under President Grant's administration, December 21, 1873, and still holds the office, bearing the distinction of holding a postoffice appointment the longest of any postmaster in Erie county. Mr. Biebel and family are members of the Catholic Church. He is a Democrat in party affiliations.

W. W. Hershey, farmer, Kearsarge, Erie county, Pa., was born in Lancaster county January 28, 1854,

son of Abraham and Fannie (Tomes) Hershey, of Summit township. The father of Mr. Hershey came to this county from Lancaster county in the year 1835, and settled in Summit township. They are the parents of three children: W. W., H. B. and Samuel A. W. W. Hershey married Catherine, daughter of Daniel Biebel, of Kearsarge, who was one of the early settlers of East Mill Creek township. Daniel Biebel reared a large family of children, viz.: Louisa, wife of August Cline, of Erie; Barbara, wife of Henry Hein, of Erie; George, Lizzie, wife of William Sechrist; John, Charlotte, wife of Anthony Metz, of Erie; Nick, Mary, wife of George Wingerter, of Erie; Catherine, wife of W. W. Hershey; and Daniel. Mr. Hershey is the father of the following children: Matilda, Katie, Amelie, Edward (deceased). He started in life in McKean township, where he now resides on a fine farm of fifty acres. Mr. Hershey is a member of St. Francis Church of McKean.

Litchfield, Illinois
April 4, 1982

Dear Fr. Biebel,

I was delighted to receive your prompt reply to my letter. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedulr to write and for passing on to me the address of the Conn. Biebel. I appreciate well how your busy schedule would be demanding and leave you little time and few spare moments for personal interests and diversions.

Up to a point our pasts could have been quite similar. I attended High School at St. Henry's Prep. Seminary, a boarding school in Belleville, Il. operated by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. From there I went to St. Mary of the Lake Semminary in Mundelein, Il. to study for the Springfield Diocese. I dropped out after first year of theology. and joined my father in the roofing business here in Litchfield. Incidentally, my class celebrated their 25 th anniversary last year. My wife and I were married in 1971 at St. Meinrads Abbey by her uncle Fr. Adalbert Buscher O.S.B. We have no children.

At present I am working for the original Biebel Roofing Co. in Belleville and travel central Illinois as an estimator and sales representative. I have a younger sister living in Oregon and a brother living in Carlisle Pa. who has been teaching at Dickinson College in the Biology Dept. for the past fifteen years. If your travels ever take you down to that area you may wnt to look him up.

Dr. Paul J. Biebel
338 Franklin St.
Carlisle, Pa. 17013
(717-249-2978)

My parents, who have been married 59 years, are still living. My wife and I have had to stay pretty close to home to look after them. In fact, my father got to be too much for all of us to handle and we have had to put him in a nursing home this past month. We have all been kept busy making the necessary adjustments.

My ancestors settled in St. Clair County area-across the river from St. Louis in the early 19th century. They were among the large groups of German immigrants who cleared the land and broke the ground in the early 1800's. My uncles and father left the farms to establish the roofing company in the early 1900's. At one time there were five Liebel Roofing Companies in the area. For many years the Biebel name was synonomous with the roofing industry in the metropolitan area of St. Louis. Today the only Biebels involved in the roofing business are a father and two sons in St. Louis and myself on the east side. There are few Biebels left in the St. Clair Co. (Belleville) area. My father, who is 83 years old, is the only one of five boys still living. In his family there are still two of the three girls still living. Only two or three cousins are still alive; I have many Biebel cousins but they are mostly in the south and west.

This past year a Sister Lorraine Biebel (Sisters of St. Francis-Springfield, Il.) was assigned to the local hospital. She is from Green Bay Wis. but knows little of her family history. She wrote her uncle who is 92 years old to see if he could be of help. He wrote back that he heard there were some Biebel's across the state. Thru my cousin I have learned that there are quite a few in the Chicago area.

My interest in researching the Biebel family started when my wife and I stopped at the cemetery in Paderborn, Ill. Paderborn consists of a Catholic Church, school, rectory and four or five houses. It is located approximateley 25 miles southeast of St. Louis, Mo. The large monument (Polaroid picture) marks the grave of Nicholas Biebel, his second wife and two children and one other, possibly a niece. I have been told but have in no way verified it yet, that he donated the land for the cemetery and church. Perhaps this accounts for the monument being the largest in the cemetery.

His second wife and two children died within a week of each other in a cholera epidemic in 1851. Nicholas died in 1845 at hte age of 48 years. An inscription in French has weathered so much that as yet no one has been able to determine the full

context. However, the words Adieu de France, Herbitzheim and Dept. de Bas Rhine are clearly visible. Since it has been established that Nicholas is my great great grandfather I realized I had a good place to start tracing .

In my research at the Belleville Public Library I came across the book "The Atlantic Bridge to Germany". The map marked #1 is a regional map of the area known as Alsace -Lorraine and the map marked # 2 is a scaled down map of a portion of the present German state of Saar Land. This whole area had more than their share of border disputes and wars. The German language was always predominant but the jurisdiction was constantly muddled.

Whatever the past, at present Herbitzheim is located in the German state of Saar Land. Within walking distance we find Bebelsheim. Is it possible that this is the old home place and the letter "i" was inserted by mistake somewhere along the line? The Catholic Church records are intact to this day for the towns of Herbitzheim and Bebelsheim from the year of 1683. The L.D.S. church has them on microfilm and can be seen at their church in St. Louis. It will be most interesting to see what the records reveal.

In addition to the above information I also found the address of the geneology society of the Saarland and the address of the Saarland Archives. With all of these leads surely something will be found.

I hope I didn't bore you too much with the above. There is no need to return the enclosed copies. If I come up with more information from Germany I'll pass it on to you if you like, especially if the name Daniel Biebel pops up.

If you think my typing is bad you should see my handwriting. Best wishes to you for the Paschal Season!

Sincerely,

Mike Biebel Jr.

#1

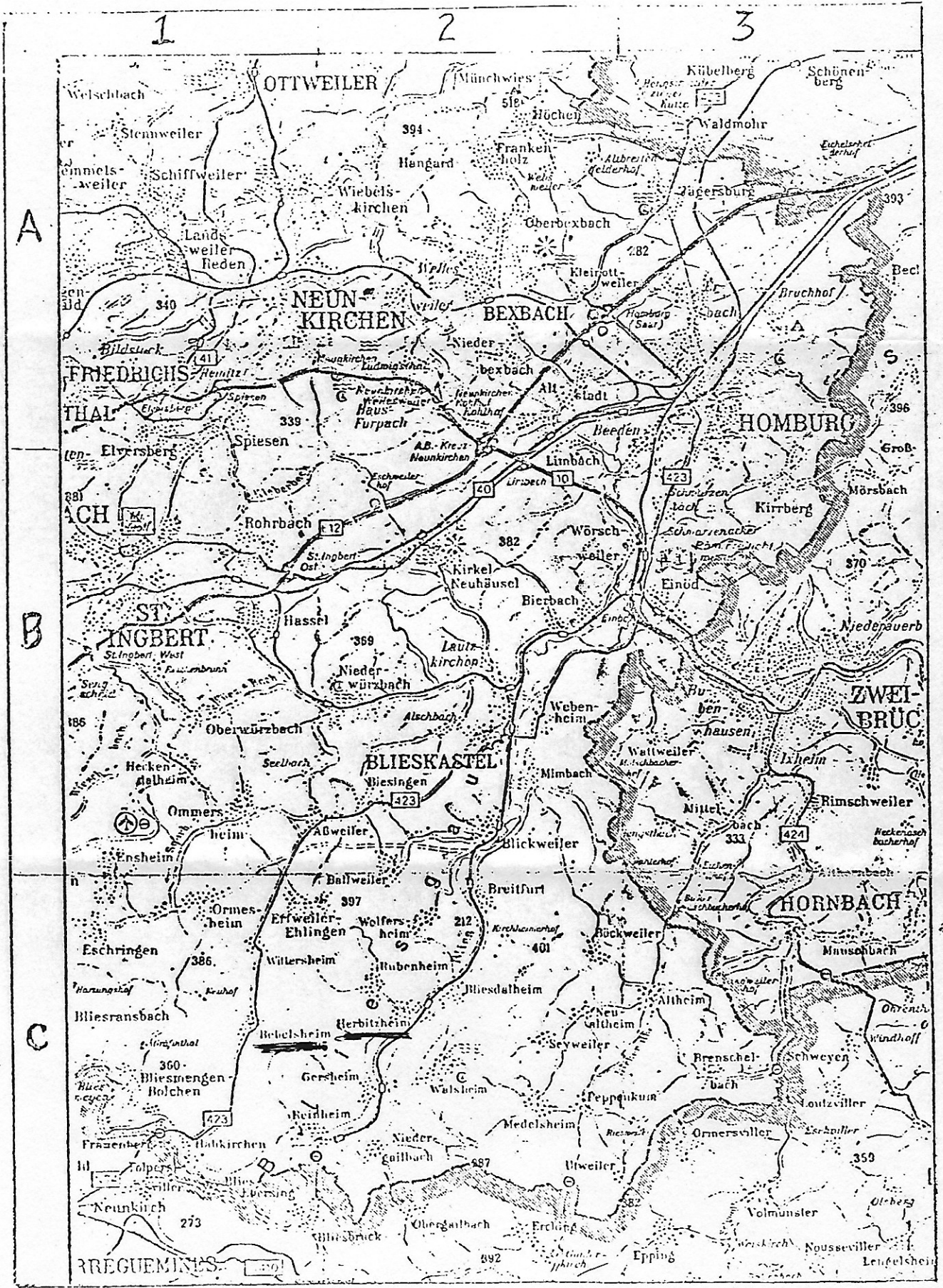


The Atlantic Bridge to Germany

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The Atlantic Bridge to Germany



BROTHERS

Who Worked and Prospered

Credit Hard Work,
Co-operation, and Service

IN THEIR time the Biebel Roofing Company have roofed 374 schools, 107 garages, 78 theatres, 67 banks, 69 hotels, and 62 churches. In addition, 49 buildings for the national government, 16 buildings for state governments, and 14 county buildings have been roofed. How many homes have been roofed and re-roofed by these Biebel brothers only an estimate can be made that runs into five figures.

In the last three years, the town of Belleville has built five public schools. Needless to say, the Biebels roofed them all. They roofed the Sears, Roebuck buildings in St. Louis, the plant of the Illinois Power and Light Co., and the Bell Telephone Building. But it would be futile to try to tell of all of the prominent buildings protected by Biebel roofs.

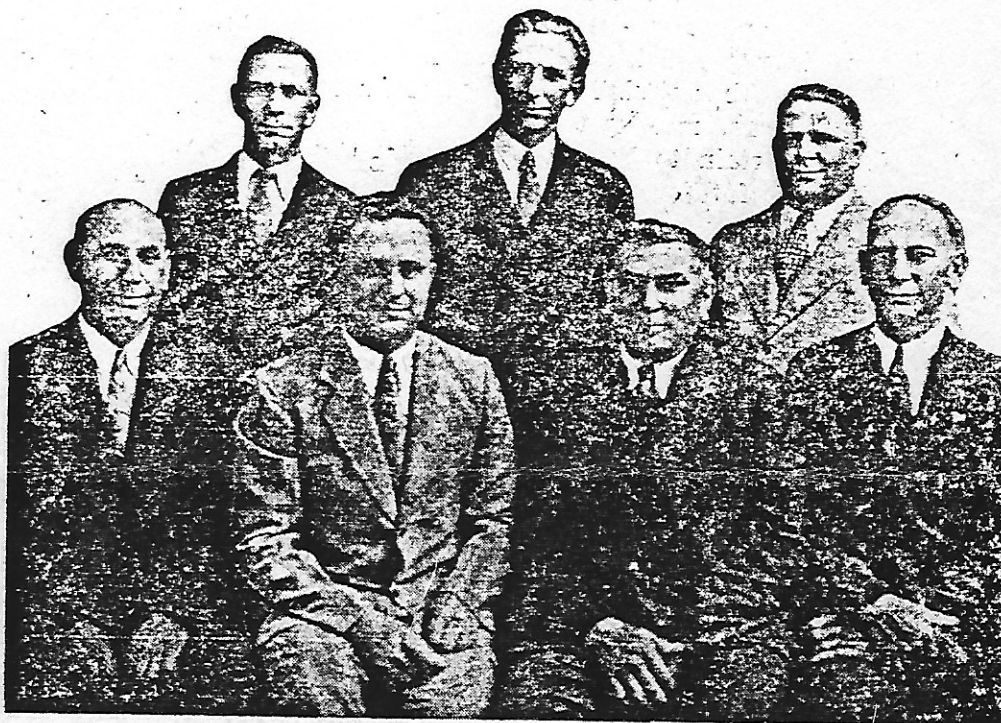
Brothers Reared on Farm

The Biebel Roofing Co. is owned and operated by the sons of two families, headed by Nick Biebel, Sr., and John Biebel, Sr., and they were all born and reared on the farm. Without doubt, this has had much to do with their success for they continue their habits of rising early and working hard. These habits were gained in their early days when a farm lad often accomplished as much work before breakfast as the average lad does in these softer times in a whole day. When asked if he could point to one thing that contributed most to the success of the firm, A. L. Biebel, secretary, said:

"There were three things, not one, that, to me, seem most important in reviewing our history. With all due modesty, I think hard work, co-operation among all of us, and a real desire to serve the communities in which we live, were the foundation stones of our growth. There is no excess baggage in this company; everyone must work and produce.

High Standards Demanded

We don't tolerate slipshod workmanship among any of us, nor do we tolerate faulty or defective merchandise from any of our sources of supply. We don't take it in at a price; it goes back to the manufacturer on the next switch, and that



Reading left to right, bottom row: H. J. Biebel; Al. M. Biebel, Treas.; J. P. Biebel, Pres.; M. N. Biebel; top row, left to right: M. Biebel, V. Pres.; N. H. Biebel; and A. L. Biebel, Sec'y.

doesn't have to happen very often before he is eliminated. Just as we demand of ourselves the best, we must also demand the best from those we work with."

That refusal to compromise with second-best is typical of the entire Biebel organization.

How They Started

John and Mike Biebel, brothers, first got into the business of applying roofs back in 1912, and on April 12, 1918 organized the Biebel Roofing Company. Everyone must crawl before he can walk, so they opened up shop in a small 10 ft. by 14 ft. garage at 908 S. Illinois St. in Belleville.

Their first sale was that of a new roof for the home of a certain Mrs. Kurrus, for which she paid them \$280. The Biebel brothers have reason to remember her with gratitude, for the sale started them on a career which has been almost without parallel in the business of selling and applying roofs. Several other roofs were applied shortly after the first sale and then the hot weather came in and business dropped off and John and Mike had to piece out their livelihood with side work in the garages and machine shops in and around Belleville.

The period from June to September looked pretty black to the brothers but the seasonal pickup in the autumn brought in more orders and after that they were never headed. It took courage to weather out the lean years from 1912 to 1918 and to keep plugging along, soliciting jobs, and all the time wondering if they could ever make it pay.

In November of 1918 they added a salesman and in June of the following year they added another. The mechanical and constructive abilities of John and Mike Biebel were standing them in good stead, for the excellence of their work soon gained them a considerable local reputation.

About this time they began to reach out for larger jobs of the flat roof type and were successful bidders on several large industrials. Things began looking up for the Biebel Roofing Company.

Rapid Growth

In January of 1920 they had grown to need a work crew of ten roofers and in 1921 and again in 1922 additions had to be made to their quarters to take care of increased business. In March, 1924 they removed to the present location at 503 West

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Nick Biebel, Jr.

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SINCE 1905"

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