

12/1904 Weston Leader

Dunkards Come to Weston

Elder John Bonewitz and family, Ed Withers and family, Mr. Hays and three sons arrived Saturday last from Newberg, Oregon, to make their home permanently in Weston. These are German Baptists, or Dunkards, who had been on correspondence for some months with Powers & Ridenour, the real estate men, and who sent a vanguard here last summer to examine the report upon the country. They are estimable people, and will be worthy citizens of the community. Their eventual object is said to be the founding of a Dunkard colony at Weston, and the building of a church for this denomination. No doubt considerable farming land will be purchased in this locality. One of the new comers contemplates engaging in the business of raising chickens, which he followed at Newberg, and for which there is an excellent opening at Weston. Other members of the sect are expected to arrive next spring.

3/23/06 Weston Leader

German Baptist Brethren Will Have \$3500 Home at Weston

It was certainly a fortunate day for Weston when this city was selected by Elder John Bonewitz as the rallying point for the German Baptist Brethren in the In.land Empire. It has been and will continue to be the means of bringing in a most worthy and industrious class of citizens - men who meddle not in the affairs of others, worship their Creator in humility and reverence, meet their obligations promptly, keep their pledges inviolate to God and man, and respect the laws of society.

"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," and "In the sweat of the face shalt thou eat bread," are injunctions which the "Tunkers" as a class obey literally, although there is of course an occasional black sheep in there flock.

The new church building of this denomination is now well under way. It occupies a sightly and convenient location on Water street which had been suitably graded and faced with a well constructed stone wall. The church is 60 feet long, 36 feet 'wide and 41 feet high from the basement floor to the comb. It is admirably lighted by six triple windows, the openings for which are 9 ½ feet high.

On the side facing the street is the entrance, reached through a stone gateway. The base of the belfry constitutes and ante-room, flanked by gables on either side. Directly opposite the entrance is the pulpit, so located that every part of the church is within easy reach of the speaker's voice. Raised seats at either end of the building form an additional advantage. The seating arrangements will permit a congregation of between 250 and 300 people.

Furnace heat will be distributed throughout the building from a roomy basement with brick walls nine feet in height. The furnace room will be separated by a partition from the rest of the basement, which will be so arranged that it may serve as an abiding place if necessary for the brethren who come from a distance to district meetings. Several windows furnish light, and Sunday school will held in the basement.

While utility and not beauty has been the object in building the church of the German Baptist Brethren the general effect of its exterior will nevertheless be very pleasing. The plan was well conceived and could scarcely be improved upon. The cost of the property will be close to \$3500, and it is in every way creditable to the Brethren and to the community. Contractor Ashworth has directed the carpenter work.

According to Dave Cassel, Rev Bonewitz was pastor of the church for 27 or so years and then Eudine Tucker's father served as pastor for at least another 15.