

PROVIDED PHOTO

In 1882, streetcar service began from Algiers to McDonoghville. Two years later, the street railway came to Gretna. Among the motormen at the controls were Sidney Debartlo, left, and George Strohmeier, of Gretna.

# German heritage calendar unveiled

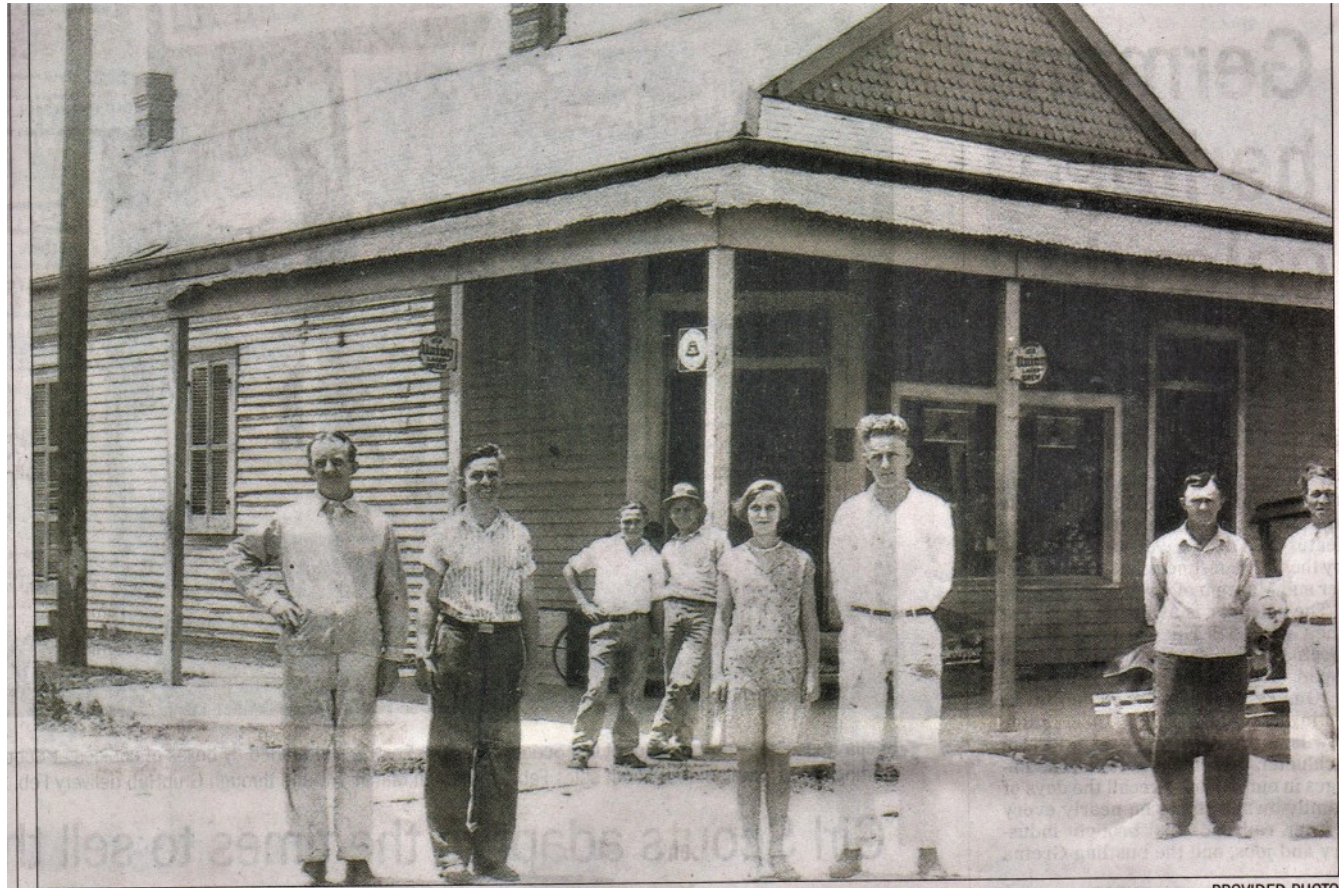
Staff report

Photographs of the west bank communities of Gretna, McDonoghville and Algiers from the early 1900s are featured in a 2021 calendar produced by the German-American Cultural Center and Museum of Gretna.

The calendar is available for \$15 at the GACC, 519 Huey P. Long Ave. in Gretna, which is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday.

“Our research has revealed interesting facets of turn-of-the-century towns on the west bank,” said Carol Schlueter, museum director. “The images in our calendar recall the days of family-owned stores on nearly every corner, railroads that brought industry and jobs, and the bustling Gretna

► See **CALENDAR**, page 2G



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The Kraus Grocery Store in McDonoghville, which became part of Gretna in 1913, opened in the early 1900s. This 1930-era photo shows family members including Andrew Kraus, far left, beside his son, Andrew Henry Kraus. The store closed in the early 1960s to make way for the widening of Burmaster Street.

## CALENDAR

Continued from page 1G

downtown with businesses such as the A&P store, which was Gretna’s first chain grocery, and the Tower Theater.”

The museum’s Ira Hopkins curated the photos for the new calendar, which follows up on the popular 2020 calendar, also filled with images of Gretna’s past. For 2021, the calendar includes several pho-

tographs from early McDonoghville, which was founded in 1815 and became part of Gretna in 1913.

“McDonoghville is on the cusp of being a historic district in Gretna,” Hopkins said. “It has been nominated for the National Register of Historic Places. It has a rich history, so close to Gretna, and tied into Gretna by the railroads and river. It was a separate entity for a long time, and we wanted to honor that.”

The calendar leads off in January with a page featuring the streetcar service that ran from Algiers to

McDonoghville to Gretna starting in 1882. There is a photograph of a streetcar, along with an old map showing the actual streetcar route. Buses replaced the streetcars in 1931.

It also includes several vintage photos of the railroad industry in Algiers and McDonoghville, featuring steel transfer ferries and barges that transported trains across the Mississippi River before the Huey Long Bridge was built. One image, of the large barge called the Mastodon, shows

a Southern Pacific passenger train on board, heading across the river.

Reflecting Gretna’s history of its founding by German immigrants, the calendar also features photographs of the small family-run grocery stores that were on many corners throughout the neighborhoods.

The photos in the new calendar, along with other archival images, will be added to the photo display in the museum in coming months. For additional information, call (504) 363-4202.