

German Texan Heritage Society

NEWSLETTER



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NEWSLETTER

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Correspondence, contributions, and manuscripts for publication should be sent to the editor-in-chief or one of the associate editors; subscriptions to the membership editor; advertising to the managing editor. For subscription rates, see special membership form in the back of this issue.

GERMAN - TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Volume I, Number I, January, 1979

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HOW OUR SOCIETY STARTED

Dona Reeves and Mary El-Beheri have been feeling sorry about the loss of the German-Texan culture for four or five years. Both are so involved in teaching and in other endeavors that they just talked. Then Dona and Glen Lich put together the Southwest Texas State University Symposium on the Texas Germans and talk became activated. There was interest. Over four hundred excited people attended that symposium. And Patrick McGuire reminded them that nearly 5,000 attended the Institute of Texan Cultures' German Christmas party in 1977. Wow! On a very hot summer day Dona, Patrick, Anna Thompson, Maria Watson and Susan Clayton met in San Antonio at Mary's apartment and that was the first meeting of the German-Texan Heritage Society. The second meeting was held a month later in San Marcos. Our organization is six months old with the publication of this first Newsletter.

WANTED

One representative, club or group in every county in Texas! Would you be an organizer in your town and/or county? If you can handle publicity, membership, lists of projects, news articles printed about German-Texan activities, etc.....VOLUNTEER TODAY!! Contact the editor nearest you.

COLLECT

News stories, articles, information in your local area for this Newsletter. Send whatever you collect to the editor.

HELP!

Who writes perfect German and has the time to correspond regularly with German archives, libraries and individuals interested in our German-Texan Heritage Society?? Dona Reeves needs help in this activity, please contact her....sofort!

Wüßtest Du daß.....

...the first laws for the State of Texas were published in both German and English.

...in 1876, there were according to the city assesor, in a total San Antonio population of 17,314, to give only the most numerous elements, 5,630 Germans and Alsatians; 5,475 Americans, English and Irish; 3,750 Mexicans.

Do you have interesting little tid bits to share with us in this column? If you do, please send them to the Editor.

Much of the old German heritage in Texas has died. It is time to bring it back to life! And if it is only lost, let us find it.

Are you or one of your neighbors German, Alsatian, Swiss, Austrian, Russian-German, etc., and don't know it? Every third Texan has a German-speaking ancestor or two.

Copies of the Newsletter may be ordered from the Society, \$2.50 (members) or \$3.00 (non-members). Please include 68¢ for postage/handling. Published in February and in July at A U S T I N, Texas.

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WHO ARE THE EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS OF THE GTHS?

Mary Mathis El-Beheri is a German more by interest than through blood although she had German ancestors on Continental soil before either the USA or Texas officially existed. Mary has researched Missouri River Germans, lived two years in the Rhineland and since 1972 she has been totally dedicated to reviving the heart and soul of German-Texans, San Antonio.

Susan Clayton is pure Anglo(English/Irish)Saxon, but her interest, as a native Texan, in the German culture has led her to visit Germany, to write about San Antonio Germans, to major in German at UT, Austin, and to go in 1979-80 to study at the University of Freiburg, where she will be the GTHS associate editor on German soil.

Robert Robinson-Zwahr is a native Texan of German and Wendish decent. He knows something about everything that has anything to do with German-Texan culture. Bob is into ethnic studies, genealogy and historical preservation. It's amazing how he sits out in Lubbock answering all our questions.

Dona Reeves is half German-Russian and half English by birth, but she is by all accounts the heart and soul of German-Texans today. She is a prime-mover in re-establishing the German-Texan Heritage. For more than twenty years Dona has sought to form just such a Society as ours. This year she was awarded the National Goethe Award given by the German Government to an American whose efforts in supporting the German language and culture are deemed outstanding.

Glen Lich is a German-Texan born in Comfort. He co-ordinated the SWTSU Symposium with Dona. Glen has recently finished a new book about German Texans for the Institute of Texan Cultures. He loves taking his friends and relatives on his special tour of Germany.

Lera Tyler is all English, but a Texan. She met her husband Glen Lich while they were studying in Vienna. Lera collects, researches and writes while helping Glen raise their three children. They are both photography buffs and collect old photos.

Minetta Altgelt Goyne was born in New Braunfels and with a name like Altgelt, she is indeed a proud German-Texan. She has taught German at UT, Austin, Arlington, Texas Wesleyan and TCU. Minetta is now happily retired, enjoying her new grandchild and writing.

Maria Watson's address tells us something: Yes, she is a San Antonio German-Texan with the royal blood of King William Street. She is a member of the Groos Family, best known as bankers. Maria still helps make herring salad every Christmas, an old Groos family tradition. She is researching her family. Her special interest is old S.A. buildings.

James Patrick McGuire sounds 100% Irish, but Pat is 50% German-Texan and 100% Texan. He is the foremost Texas authority on German-Texan artists, having published two books and currently working on his third. Pat dabbles in collecting German-Texan art, old pipes, other artifacts and books. No one loves the German-Texan heritage more than Pat.

Julia Mellenbruch is a German-Texan born in Pflugerville. She is a part of the old Pfluger and Klattenhoff families. She keeps the records up-to-date about George Pfluger, founder of Pflugerville and recently published a new book about his family.

WHO ARE THE EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS OF THE GTHS?

Anna Thompson was born in Germany and became a German-Texan through marriage. Anna is vitally interested in the attempts by Texans to revive German cultural activities. She attends every festival and German-related activity that comes along. Anna's own children learn to speak German so that they will never lose contact with the culture.

Joseph Wilson is a native Texan, who has lived in Germany, and lives today in Houston for his work and on his (actually his wife's) LaGrange/Giddings area farm for fun. Joe is an outspoken defender of the Wendish and Czech cultures in Texas and believes that his LaGrange/Giddings/Brenham area is sadly neglected in all annals of German-Texan history. Joe is presently involved in an archaeological project on his farm - did you see him on EYES OF TEXAS? Joe collects slides of monuments, grave and cornerstones in German, Czech and Wendish.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.....from the editor

If a child learns that great grandpa came from Germany, landed after weeks at sea in Indianola and went by wagon to central Texas, that child has a heritage. And great grandpa always smoked a long wooden pipe, had a beard, and spoke German. His wife made her own sauerkraut and cheese, and scrubbed the floors twice a day. How does a child find out about these things? Parents usually talk about them and in this way customs are born. The child hears those same parents speak German and an interest in learning another language is born. This is living history. Much of this type of simple history was lost because Germans were afraid to be too German after and during the two world wars. Many old-timers kept their German heritage to themselves and either failed or refused to share it and to promote it with new generations. There is no need anymore for embarrassment among German-Texans, for their heritage is based on pride and joyful remembrance. It is time for us to tell our children about this great heritage and to inspire them with its vigor. It is time to make all Texans aware of the contributions Germans made to the life-style of 20th century Texas. It is not too late to revive an ethnic entity which hid itself, but never died. German-Texans are all around us - some had German-speaking ancestors here long ago, some have come recently from a German-speaking country, others are of German ancestry from other states who somehow landed in Texas. We must not exclude those who, out of love or interest, have become devotees of the German-Texan culture. We all have a common bond. Let us go forth to spread our enthusiasm for all things relating to our German-speaking heritage.

FUTURE NEWSLETTER ISSUES.....

Features about German-speaking ethnic subcultures in Texas: the Wendes, Jews, German-Russians, Alsatians, Mennonites. Are there others we could feature?

Articles from other publications about German-Texan topics of interest.

Do you have any old maps, pictures, news articles you could copy and send for the newsletter?

Send suggestions.

Im Unglück erkennt man die Freunde.
(J.G. Herder)

Hochmut kommt vor dem Fall.

In böser Zeit sind Freunde weit.
(Polnisches Sprichwort)

Vergeben ist leichter als Vergessen.

Jeder ist seines Glückes Schmied.

Aus den Augen, aus dem Sinn.

Aus nichts wird nichts.

Irren ist menschlich.

WHO ARE THE G.T.H.S. PATRONS?

Special thanks to these benefactors who, by their generosity, have proven their willingness to support just the promise of the objectives of cultural preservation.

Mrs. Charles Bybee, Houston and Round Top
 Mary M. El-Beheri, San Antonio
 Minetta and A. V. Goyne, Arlington
 Lyne Klingelhofer Harper, Fredericksburg
 Erwin Heinen, Houston
 John G. Hofmann, San Antonio
 Lisa Kahn, Houston and Round Top
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 Robert Robinson-Zwahr, Lubbock
 Charles W. von Rosenberg, Dallas
 Verne Schmidt, New Braunfels
 A. J. Schroeter, Hereford
 J. E. Sorrells, Ira
 Karl Weigand, Flensburg, W. Germany

The German-American Club of Fort Worth
 The Mac German Club, Douglas MacArthur
 High School, San Antonio

FAMILY REUNIONS

Soefje Family - June Clear Springs
 Elley Family - every summer - Seguin area
 Alves Family - descendants of August Alves
 take turns in hosting and making
 arrangements as to place and date. They
 notify others by post card.
 Wolters-Herder - every summer at Wolters
 Park, Schulenberg
 Bauer-Rummel - every two years, usually at
 Round Top

----thanks to Velma Huber for this
 information. if anyone has dates and places
 of family reunions, please send them to the
 editor.

Der Weg zur Hölle ist mit guten
 Vorsätzen gepflastert.

Güte bricht einen kein Bein.

Was jeder tun soll, tut keiner.

MEMBERS' PROJECTS AND SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Bärbel Becker-Cantarino, Austin, has a
 project "Texas Germans in early photographs"
 (U.T. Photography Collection).

John G. Hofmann, San Antonio, is researching
 the families: Jacob Anton Iaux from
 Naustetten, Hessen-Nassau; Nicolaus Ferdinand
 Benz(Binz) from Buehl-Baden, Wuerttemberg;
 Karl Theodor Schleuning from Darmstadt,
 Hessen; and Christian Xavier Meyer from
 Switzerland. Other interests: "I would
 like to determine the location of the
 "Immigration Contracts" for 1847; General
 Land Office has contracts(1844-Dec. 1846)".
 Also, interested in cataloguing graves of
 local German cemeteries(if not already done).

Eberhard Hermann, Dallas, helped originate
 the Syposium on German Cultural Heritage
 in the Southwest in Dallas. He is interested
 in compiling a collection of short
 biographies of prominent German Texans,
 with an English-German text.

Rev. Kenn Knopp, Fredericksburg, is
 interested in development and protection
 of the German heritage in and around his
 home town. He is the national coordinator
 of the Internationale Volkssportverband(IVV)
 with the USA headquarters: International
 People's Sports-USA, 107 W. San Antonio,
 Fbg., Tx. 78264. This is the Volksmarsch
 organization with its internatl. hdq. in
 Germany. Rev. Knopp has written many
 feature articles for Fredericksburg papers
 through the years and published a booklet,
 "President's Priest" the Rev. W. W.
 Schneider.

Oliver A. Kretzer, San Antonio, (retired
 military) is collecting travel guides and
 maps of Eastern Germany and the Austro-
 Hungarian Empire published prior to 1914 to
 facilitate the location of the old German
 districts, cities and towns that have now
 been incorporated into either the USSR or
 Poland with the resultant change of names.
 He will be happy to help with research.

Der Mensch denkt, Gott lenkt.
 Ehrlich währt am längsten.
 Erfahrung ist die beste Lehrmeisterin.

Früh zu Bett und früh wieder auf; macht
 gesund und reich in Kauf.

Wenn die Katze fort ist, tanzen die Mäuse.

GRASSROOTS COMMENTARIES:

New Topics and Research Projects

By Glen Lich and Lera Tyler

New Topics

Anna Schelper (1878-1974), First woman to keep a general ledger in the state of Texas. San Antonio.

Religious affiliations of Texas Germans as they relate to occupations and outlooks.

Differences in outlook between Catholics and Protestants in Fredreicksburg or San Antonio (St. Joseph's parish as opposed to King William Street residents).

Did anti-Semitism exist in King William Street? (Steves and Joske families)

Stories told in your German Texan families about where they came from in Germany and what their life was like there.

Family stories, sagas, and traditions.

Stories told about the first homestead or first job in Texas.

Indian stories.

Tall tales, jokes, and pranks.

Museum item index of the little Comfort Museum.

Interviews with Edwina Smith (new correspondent) on life in Sisterdale.

Seasonal foods and folk nutrition (what did people eat during different seasons? How did they get balanced diets?)

Histories of stores, bu^sinesses, cigar factories, breweries, jails, etc. ^A

Stories told about old sheriff Klaerner in Fredericksburg.

Stories the Germans tell or told about Mexicans or Poles or Bohemians, or Anglos, and vice versa, etc.

Dating and courtship customs.

How did the museum get started in your town? Who was instrumental in that? Where did the exhibits come from? Of what did they consist?

Did Froebel's kindergarten toys that Frank Lloyd Wright played with as a child really have an influence on the development of the American Prairie School of Architecture? See Frant C. Mason, Frank Lloyd Wright and Robert C. Spenser, Architectural Review (1900).

Translation of the published reminiscences of Mrs. Charles Wartenbach, née Metzger, of Mason, Texas. Copy of German text available from Glen E. Lich, SWTSU, San Marcos.

Biographical sketch of John Grinninger of Austin, who made barbed wire in 1857.

Translation of church, club, and school records.

Humor, jokes, pranks, and tall tales.

Interviews with older German-speaking people of the community.

Livestock brands used by the early settlers. How were brands passed down in the families? Did they stay with the original homestead?

Hymnals and favorite hymns.

Homes and Values: Architectural Imprints of German Assimilation in Texas. How did immigrant homes reflect the values and way of life of the early settlers?

Research Topics

No research projects have been submitted for publication in this first issue, but we sincerely invite you to share your work in later issues. Although we know that a number of you are indeed working on topics which would be of general interest, we will not publish that information here unless you share that information with us specifically for that purpose. The following three examples of our own current and future interests may serve as examples for this part of GRASSROOTS COMMENTARIES.

Grassroots Commentaries(contd.)

GEL: Life and land use in the rural hill country, studies interaction of Amerindians and Euro-Americans as well as later cultural contact between Germans, Anglos, and Mexicans.

GEL: Biography of August Siemering (any names of contacts, addresses, and copies of materials welcomed).

LPT: Folk Foods and Seasonal Diets: A Comparative Study of Several Ethnic Groups in Texas.

Legislators: Senators: Attorneys:

Are German-Texans an ethnic reality?

The French did not let their culture die in Louisiana. Ten years ago the Louisiana Legislature decreed that the French language and customs would be preserved - all legal notices may be published bi-lingually, the teaching of the history of French populations in America is required and it authorized the establishment of a non-profit French language t.v. corporation. While a few years ago NO pupils in elementary schools studied French, today more than 50,000 are doing so. Businessmen from French-speaking nations now are looking for investments in Louisiana. The father of this program is a LaFayette lawyer, James Domengeaux, who is a former Congressman. He delights in trodding the toes of all who stand in his way. He outrages the academic community by claiming: "The mentality of educators is not to accept innovations because it interferes with their pet projects - band and volleyball and that kind of thing." He does not, however, advocate reducing the use of English. Cajuns, as American, preserve their own culture because they are free. This is from the May 15, 1978, U.S. News and World Report and has prompted a comparison with the German-Texan Culture and the Cajun Culture. Is there hope for the German culture in Texas for a big revival? Don't we have any political activists in our midst, who could do for German-Texans what Domengeaux has done for our French neighbors in Louisiana?

How to affiliate with the GTHS clubs,societies

We invite historical societies and conservation clubs, German clubs, high school groups, etc., to join the GTHS. The group joins as a contributing member(or patron) and should have one person and/or a committee to represent the entire organization in the GTHS. We all have too many club meetings to go to already, so if we can join together we can reach more people and add something to whatever already exists. This includes libraries. If your club joins, please send the total number of members the GTHS is reaching through your club. We, also, need a name and address of the person(persons) representing your club. Respond to Dona Reeves.

German-Texan Heritage Society Meetings annually

1979 - Austin - Anna Thompson, contact

1980 - San Antonio - Mary El-Beheri
Patrick McGuire
Maria Watson

1981 - Winedale(LaGrange,Giddings, Round Top, Brenham)
Joe Wilson
Lisa Kahn
Leola Tiedt
Mrs. Charles Bybee

1982 - Dallas - Minetta Goyne
Gilbert Jordon
Charles von Rosenberg
German-American Club of
Ft. Worth

1983 - Open for bidders

RESEARCH LIBRARIES; The Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library
 Maria Watson

The Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library, a Texas history research library located on the grounds of the Alamo, has German language material in several collections housed there. Perhaps the best-known collection is that of the German-English School Papers. The records of this San Antonio educational institution span a period from 1858 to 1893. The collection contains lesson plans, student registers and minute books documenting the history of the school. This material has provided a continuing class project for the students of Mary El-Beheri of MacArthur High School, San Antonio. They have painstakingly translated different volumes and plan to continue this work until it is completed. The students have also begun translation of letters contained in the Johann Arnold Collection (more commonly known as the Indianola Papers). These papers contain correspondence and invoices dating from 1856 to 1872, and document trade between merchants in Indianola and New Braunfels. The material includes both German and English documents. The Goeth and Webb Collection, papers of a San Antonio law firm, contains nine feet of material dating from 1870 to 1920. Included are many pieces of German correspondence as yet untranslated.

A recent acquisition of the D. R. T. Library is a collection of German language newspapers from Mrs. Frederic Oheim of New Braunfels. These are primarily Texas newspapers spanning the years 1856-1948. Many of the papers date to the Civil War period. The collection is a fine addition to the Library's existing collection of German papers which includes many issues of the Neu Braunfelser Zeitung. One project waiting for someone: The yearbooks of the Neu Braunfelser Zeitung need to be translated. They are filled with important facts and stories about the German pioneers of Texas.

The D.R.T. Library is open for researchers Monday through Saturday, 9 - 5 p.m.

Members who are willing to Transcribe/
 Translate old manuscripts

- Minetta Goynes, 1205 Sherwood Dr.
 Arlington, Tx. 76013
- Ernest A and Irma Goeth Guenther,
 4501 Spanish Oak Trail
 Austin, Tx. 78731
- Hubert Heinen, 4505 Spanish Oak Trail
 Austin, Tx. 78731
- Lisa Hering, 14558 Carolcrest
 Houston, Tx. 77079
- Manfred Holck, 1501 Travis Heights Blvd.
 Austin, Tx. 78704
- Margi Kluck, 3012 Conejos, Ft. Worth
 Tx., 76116
- Charles W. von Rosenberg, 4405
 McKinney Ave., #104
 Dallas, Tx. 75205
- Helgard Suhr, 8 Mission Drive,
 New Braunfels, Tx. 78130

German language newspaper:
New Yorker Staats-Zeitung und Herold
 36-30 37th St., Long Island City
 New York, 11101
 Seit 143 Jahren Amerikas führende
 deutschsprachige Zeitung.

Have you seen?

Published Articles.

Krammer, Arnold. "When the Afrika Korps Came to Texas." Southwestern Historical Quarterly, 53(1977), 247-82

Muckelroy, Duncan G, "Hill Country Settlers - 19th century German Cabins Preserved at IBJ State Park", Texas Parks And Wildlife, Oct. 1978, p. 2 ff.

Southwest Airlines Magazine, December, 1978, "The Seven Timmermann Sisters of New Braunfels".....a feature.

Kahn, Lisa. "...I desire that you remember the ladies..." Contemporary German-American Women Authors: A Survey. Fall, 1978, Schatzkammer, der deutschen Sprachlehre, Dichtung und Geschichte, p. 53 ff (One German-Texan is included, besides Lisa herself!

Es gehen viel Freunde in ein kleines Haus.

Übung macht den Meister.

Arbeit macht das Leben süß.

OUR OWN'.....

Lisa Kahn was born in Berlin but love for her "jungle wilderness" near Round Top leads us to believe that Lisa ist lieber Texanerin als Berlinerin! She writes of her Texas homeland with such evident warmth, vitality and insight that one feels the spiritual joining together of the German-Texan in Lisa Kahn. Here she shares with us her poem "Round Top III" from her book Feuersteine(Gedichte) published by Strom-Verlag, Zurich, 1978.

Round Top, Texas
III
(für Peter)

ja
mein bist du
mein
du
unter der unbarmherzig stechenden Glut
mit dem Hügelhorizont
rindergepunktet
zikadenbezirpt
windgefegt
unter dem Sommergrün
schon von Dürre zerrissen
Unterschlupf bietend
für klappernde züngelnde Brut
und unter verwesenden Ästen uralter Eichen
Verstecke
für ausgebleichte
stichbercit
hockende Skorpione

Du
mein Land
heiß und herb
nicht eine sich jedem Touristen anbietende
Riviera
Karribik
für Geld zu genießen
zu besudeln
zu empfehlen
wie's paßt
du prüfst
eine grausame Turandot
und nie kommt zurück
wen du verstößt
schenkst dich nur dem
der dich will
auf Gedeih und Verderb

wie ich

SHARING OUR COMMUNITIES WITH ONE ANOTHER

Sharing a community and a common interest is an intrinsic part of preserving that community and its history. Anyone who has ever benefited from having a local guide in a city or a docent in a museum must be aware of the advantage gained from the love and wisdom which stem from mutual respect for a subject. The following members of the German Texan Heritage Society have indicated their willingness to share their perspective and knowledge with others. It is a gift, which in the opinion of this writer, should be exploited by local Chambers of Commerce and the Texas Tourist Bureau. Think, for example of the benefit that our visitors from Germany might derive from having someone care enough to give them a local tour in German! Very few commercial operations can offer such an experience. While we emphasize that this service is offered primarily for our members, the general public, too, might well gain an enriching insight into our heritage.

Mrs. Charles L. Bybee, 3711
San Felipe Road, Box 2-4, Houston, 77027
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Mrs. Alice K. Gerfers, Box 807,
Boerne, 78006
Lisa Hering, 14558 Carolcrest,
Houston, 77079
Lisa Kahn, 4106 Merrick,
Houston, 77025 (only Round Top)
Percy and Viola Lindner, Rt. 1
Box 224, Comfort, 78103
James Patrick McGuire, 488
East Olmos, #3, San Antonio, 78212
Miss Ann Mohr, Mr and Mrs
William Mohr, 206 Crestwood,
Fredericksburg, 78624
Leola K. Tiedt, 510 North
Franklin, La Grange, 78945 (Fayette County)
Neville A. Weaver, 1307 Pine
Chase, Houston, 77055
Mrs. Miriam York, 585 East
Brenham, Giddings, 78942

We hope that this list will increase until we have a local resource person in every county in Texas!

-D.R.

HORSE THIEVES

and research topic thieves are the two most hated creatures ever to exist, unfortunately the latter cannot be legally hanged until dead! We, in this Society, have a very special responsibility to help one another. We are sharing our ideas, therefore, we have within our grasp the unique opportunity to be a professional Society. Respect for another human being and his interests is a very basic part of decency, a quality which no thief really understands! Let us strive to protect and to enhance one another!'

-M.M.E.

MEMBERS' PROJECTS AND SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Edward Breitenkamp, Bryan, is working on a translation of Hermann Seele's Die Cypresse and Gesammelte Schriften.

Mrs. Charles L. Bybee, a patron of the Society from Houston-Round Top, is very much involved in the restoration of the German culture of Fayette County, including buildings, grounds, furniture, folk art, crafts, etc. We owe this fine lady a great deal; she has been acknowledged, among other by Lonn Taylor and David Warren in their book on Texas furniture.

Rev. Wilbert E. Doerr, Comfort, is working on a history of the Iundschen family that settled in DeWitt County below Yorktown before the Civil War. He has served in the German communities of Warrenton-Shelby, Harper and Marion and is now in the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Comfort. His wife, of German descent from Wisconsin (Zemke-Ferge-Prahl-Zielesch families) has also become interested in the German heritage in these communities.

Mrs. LeRoy C. Gass, Comfort, would like to help compile cemetery records of the Comfort cemetery in Kendall County.

Mrs. Alice K. Gerfers, Boerne, according to an article in the Boerne Star, Oct. 12, 1978, has decided to sell BIGS of Boerne, the family store. Mrs. Gerfers has been very active in community affairs; she helped organize the Boerne Area Historical Preservation Society and the Berges Fest, serving on its Board of Directors seven years from the time that it organized in 1967. She has also been Boerne's ambassador to the Texas Folklife Festival since 1972. Alles Gute, Frau Gerfers!

-D.R.

SUMMARY

"MULTICULTURES OF THE SOUTHWEST: A SYMPOSIUM ON THE TEXAS GERMANS"Background

This Symposium had as its objectives: 1) the discovery of Texas German cultural survival, 2) the proposal of a place for interdisciplinary ethnic studies on the secondary and collegiate levels so that cultural awareness may be presented to the young, and 3) the involvement of the general community in cultural preservation. While other conferences have focused on aspects of Texas Germans, the theme was combined here with concrete examples of curricular application and the identification of German Texans in an intellectual and sociological continuum.

Results

While most of the Symposium essays necessarily concentrated on the establishment years of German culture in Texas, they related the promise and problems of those years to the present with some resulting hypotheses: 1) the Romantic ideal of a "transatlantic Europe," fundamental to organized migration attempts, was absorbed by the practical Texan consideration that the prosperity of the group depended on political, social and economic assimilation; 2) the same ideal which spurred the German migrant to Texas directed him, until 1865, into the ideological frustration of the American Civil War, while the fulfillment of that ideal in 1871 in his old homeland without his participation further isolated him from both cultures; 3) in spite of spirited intellectual beginnings, the utopian venture found itself without substance and directed inward, only to be eclipsed by a myth of the West that yielded a German element largely disassociated with and disinterested in political activism; 4) small-town social life in Germany transplanted successfully to the Vereinsleben of Texas, generally by means of close-knit family ties and a shared emigration experience; 5) a cultural heritage in the sense of "high" culture was important to the migrant in Texas if it had been important before emigration; 6) traditions associated with year and life celebrations provide the richest area of cultural or folklore survival, very often of linguistic survival as well; 7) the church and the theatre offered familiar shelters to the typical German immigrant; and 8) the twentieth-century intellectual repeats much of the encounter of the freethinking political emigré of the mid-nineteenth century. Common to both is what Willson calls the "planes of cultural shock," largely conditioned by an awareness of the immensity of nature, here so far less hospitable than in the homeland.

Status

Because of its broad interdisciplinary scope and appeal to students, scholars and the general public, the Symposium attracted a capacity audience. Critique sheets solicited from the audience were unanimously enthusiastic and appealed to the University and the coordinators to repeat the event. While the Symposium in no way exhausted the possibilities either in the area of cultural preservation, ethnic studies, or Texas-German cultural survival, it led directly to a number of developments which hold promise for long range benefits: 1) the publication of symposium papers; 2) the creation of a German-Americana section in the South Central Modern Language Association; 3) the addition of courses devoted to the Texas Germans at a number of universities; and 4) the formation of the German Texan Heritage Society, a non-profit organization dedicated to the dissemination of information regarding German Texans.

Anticipated Dissemination of Results

Two volumes of Symposium papers will appear: 1) Retrospect and Retrieval: The German Element in Review. Essays on Cultural Preservation. Ann Arbor: University Microfilms International, Monograph Publishing on Demand. Projected publication date, December, 1978. Contains essays by Parmelee, Robinson-Zwahr, Ziehe, Michael, Kahn,

Summary -2

Symposium

El-Beheri and Lich as well as an additional essay by George Schulz-Behrend. Available from University Microfilms International, 300 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48106. \$11.75, paperbound.

2) German Culture in Texas: A Free Earth. Boston: Twayne, projected publication date, October, 1979. Contains essays by Lich, Walker, Sass, T. Jordan, McGuire, Heinen, G. Jordan, Frantz, Abernethy, Gilbert, Willson and Reeves, as well as an essay by Crystal Sasse Ragsdale, a chronology by Lera Patrick Tyler and an extensive bibliography by Dennis Gibbons and Lich. \$12.00.

Additional Information

The Symposium evaluation forms yield a conformation of future research possibilities. Beyond the call for more biographies, more regional, as well as urban-rural concentration, including far west Texas and the Russian-Germans of Texas, and more family history-genealogy, the most fruitful area of further investigation would seem to be a continuing analysis and identification of the source of Texas German ideals, opinions and thought patterns. We continue to probe the manner of transfer of ideas from Germany to Texas, the shift of the Texas Germans from an initially agrarian economy to a broader range of subsistence, and the disruption of this process caused by the Civil War and two World Wars.

As a result of the demand for a repeated or similar event, the coordinators have planned a 1980 Symposium, "Multicultures of the Southwest: A Symposium on the Rural Scene in Texas." It will be a broadly interdisciplinary conference on art, music, language, literature, folklore, geography, education, politics, sociology, ethnic sub-cultures and values of a particular region as they relate to the larger context of life and culture in America. The Symposium will be held at Southwest Texas State University on April 17-79, 1980.

SPECIAL THANKS TO.....

Ben Buecker, attorney, a second generation German-Texan from Umbarger via Westfalen. He completed a German major at SWTSU and a law degree at UT, Austin. He is a practicing attorney in Austin and in Colorado. Ben is helping get the German-Texan Heritage Society established as a non-profit organization.

Barbara Ann Dielmann for the fine calligraphy on our letter-head and on the cover of the newsletter. Many of you knew her uncle Henry, the historian or her Opa, Leo J., the well-known San Antonio architect. Barbara's great-grandfather, Johann, came to San Antonio in 1872. The family has been active for over a century in German-Texan affairs.

Barbara has an MA in German from Texas Tech and teaches Spanish.

MULTI-LINGUAL: Where else but Texas?

Must we always be forced to read and to hear only Spanish/English everywhere? Why not add German? I have written to our PBS television station in San Antonio about running the Guten Tag and/or Guten Tag, Wie Geht's? series - any t.v. station can get them free from the German Consulate. I have seen them aired in St. Louis and in Chicago. Why not here? They are a very good series designed to teach basic conversational German. Who will take this as a project and get a letter-writing and telephone campaign going? Why don't we push for some good, modern feature-length films in German with sub-titles, too!? Dallas and New Braunfels and LaGrange have German-speaking radio programs. Do any other areas have this? Are there any newspaper articles written in German anywhere. If you are interested in this project, please contact the Editor.

Anna Thompson

EVENTS CALENDAR

January

Austin - Friedrich Richard Petri Exhibit, Texas Memorial Museum (fourth floor)
Paintings and sketches of pioneer life on the Texas frontier.
Further detail about Petri's life can be found in Friedrich Richard
Petri: A German Artist on the Texas Frontier, by William W. Newcomb, Jr.
(University of Texas Press).
Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 1 to 5 p.m.
Sunday.

February

Beaumont - Friedrich Richard Petri Exhibit, Spindletop Museum

February 3

Boerne - 130th year celebration with a "Masquerade Ball" (Maskenball) at the
Herff Park Hall, sponsored by the Boerne Historical Society.

March through April 15

Beaumont - Friedrich Richard Petri Exhibit, Spindletop Museum

April 16 through July

San Antonio - Friedrich Richard Petri Exhibit, Institute of Texan Cultures

April 20 - 28 - Fiesta in San Antonio

Tues thru Thurs (April 24-26) nightly music, food, drink in
Beethoven House Biergarten

Saturday, April 28 - King William Street House and Street
tour. Once-a-year opening to the public. Cost is minimal.

November 2 - 11 - Wurstfest New Braunfels

Open year round to the public - Winedale Historical Center - near Round Top
This center was donated to the University of Texas by Ima Hogg
for the preservation of the German culture in this area of
Texas. It consists of several restored farms, a picnic area,
a nature trail. This area of Texas is worth the trip.
Henkel Square in Round Top is also worth visiting.
For information about hours and tours, contact Winedale
Historical Center, P. O. Box 11, Round Top, Tx. 78954
Tel.: 713-278-3530.

GENEALOGICAL INVESTIGATION

Many of us have come to local history by way of genealogy. Most of us are aware of our "roots", if we have any, in German Texas and value our place in the continuum past-present-future. For many, genealogical investigation forms the 'raison d'etre' for this organization and we feel that we can offer much service in this area. The following members are interested in genealogical exchange. If members will provide the names of families they are working on, we will publish this information in our next issue.

John W. Bormann, 8400 Broadway,
#85, Houston, 77061

Mrs. Charles L. Bybee, 3711
San Felipe Rd., Box 2-H, Houston, 77027

Rev. Wilbert E. Doerr, P. O. Box
427, Comfort, 78013 (Rev. Doerr is working
on a history of the Lundschen family that
settled in DeWitt County below Yorktown
before the Civil War, as well as the Doerr
family.)

Mr and Mrs. Marvin Durst, 3407
William Penn, San Antonio, 78230

Erwin A. Felscher, Jr., P. O. Box
861, Dickinson, 77539

Mrs. LeRoy C. Gass, 218 Kirk
Place, San Antonio, 78225

Theresa G. Gold, 106 Ranchland,
San Antonio, 78213 (Hoelscher-Buxkemper
family will be published Jan.-Feb., 1979.
She is also secretary to the family
organization that puts on the "Biggest
Family Reunion in Texas".)

Minetta Goyne, 1205 Sherwood Dr.,
Arlington, 76013 (Altgelt, Coreth, Zeach,
and Meusebach as well as others in the
New Braunfels area.)

Ernest A. and Irma Goeth
Guenther, 4501 Spanish Trail, Austin 78731

Louis A. Hartung, 1124 W.
Woodlawn Ave., San Antonio 78201 (Will have
a family history in 1979)

Lisa Hering, 14558 Carolcrest,
Houston, 77079

Jeanette Knopp Koger, 1301 I-45,
Apt. 507, Huntsville 77340

Elizabeth Lehmann, 604 Atlow Dr.,
Brenham, 77833 (Just completed The Schawe
Family in Germany and Texas, 1635-1977,
reviewed in The Genealogical Helper, Nov.-
Dec., 1978.

Robert H. Pfennig, 1608 Ellen,
Brenham, 77833

Arno Struve, 701 2nd Street,
Abernathy, 79311

Nevilee A. Weaver, 1307 Pine St.,
Houston, 77955

Marshall Wilke, Box 18505, Austin
78760

(see top of next column)

Mrs. Miriam York, 585 East
Brenham, Giddings, 78942

D.R.

MEMBERS PROJECTS AND SELECTED PUBLICATIONS
PART II

Theresa G. Gold, San Antonio, will publish
the history and genealogy of the Hoelscher-
Buxkemper family, 1846 German immigrants to
Texas, in January or February, 1979. She
also serves as secretary to the family
organization that puts on the "Biggest
Family Reunion in Texas."

Minetta Goyne, Arlington, has nearly
completed editing and translating the
correspondence of Rudolph Coreth, a private
in the Confederate Army, particularly with
his father, Ernst Coreth, 1860-1870.
Minetta is our book review editor and has
published widely about the New Braunfels
and Hill Country areas, as well as the
Galveston-Houston area.

Dr. Sylvia Grider, Texas A and M, is
conducting research on the Texas Wends.

Irma Goeth Guenther, Austin, has translated
and published Memoirs of a Texas Pioneer
Grandmother, unfortunately no longer in
print, and other articles.

Hubert Heinen, UT Austin, is researching
the Gesangvereine and German schools in
Texas as well as World War I and the Germans
in Texas. His essay on the German literary
heritage in Texas will appear in a volume,
German Culture in Texas: A Free Earth, 1979.

Manfred Holck, retired CPA of Austin, is
researching the Austin Saenderrunde.

Mrs. Velma Huber, Seguin, assisted in
gathering information on the Bremer family.
She has been the treasurer of the
Guadalupe County Chapter of the Daughters
of the Republic of Texas and reports that
over half of the membership of this
chapter is of German descent. The members
tell their families' history and take trips
to historical places several times a year.
She has kept all the documents, artifacts,
furniture and pictures that her grandparents
preserved. Here is another interesting note:
she could have qualified for DRT membership
through each of her great-grandparents...all
from Germany! She served on the committee
that published the "Bicentennial Minutes of
Seguin-Guadalupe County 1976" which was
narrated on station KWED before publication.

-D.R.

A BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR THE STUDY OF GERMAN FAMILIES IN THE SOUTHWEST

Glen Lich and Lera Tyler

reprinted from the Hays County Historical and Genealogical Society Quarterly, 10, (1976), 57-61.

I

North America has been the utopia of German literature and the goal of German emigration since before the American Revolution. Religious freedom motivated some groups of Germans in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries to leave their native land, but it was never an active consideration for the immigrants who reached Texas in the nineteenth century. Social and economic improvement were the primary goals for these new arrivals who had been seized by the Wanderlust traditionally characteristic of the nationality.

After Texas gained its independence from Mexico, a slow influx of immigrants began to enter Texas. By 1844 approximately 10,000 Germans had survived the eight to twelve week voyage across the Atlantic to find new homes in the Republic of Texas. They came predominantly from the states of Oldenburg, Holstein, and Westphalia and concentrated their settlements along the lower Brazos, Colorado, and Guadalupe rivers. In 1844 the first colonists sponsored by the Society for the Protection of German Emigrants (Adelsverein) disembarked at Galveston and Indianola. The records of the German Emigration Company in the General Land Office in Austin indicate that most of the settlers who arrived with the Adelsverein were from provinces of western and northwestern Germany: the Dukedom of Nassau, the Grand Duchy of Hesse, the Electorate of Hesse, and Hanover, and to a lesser extent far western Thuringia, Wuerttemberg, Brunswick, the Muesterland, Mecklenburg, Waldeck, Anhalt, and Lusatia. As the immigration movement gained momentum between 1844 and 1860, approximately 20,000 Germans removed to Texas.

The immigrants brought to Texas by the Adelsverein and the Germans who followed them located, for the most part, in the upper regions of the Colorado and Guadalupe rivers. In 1860 seventeen counties showed a German population which exceeded 20% of the total white enumeration: Austin, Calhoun, Colorado, DeWitt, Fayette, Galveston, Harris, Victoria, and Washington in the eastern portion of the state, and Bexar, Guadalupe, Mason, and Medina in the western Texas Hill Country. The German element constituted a majority of the population in Comal, Gillespie, Kendall, and Kerr counties.

II

Because German records are extensive, the German heritage of Texas presents an excellent opportunity for the researcher to collect abundant genealogical information. The following guidelines are included to assist the researcher who desires to pursue German ancestry.

1. The researcher must determine the name, verify the nationality, and secure vital records of the immigrant ancestor.
2. Newspaper obituaries are frequently reliable sources of the immigrant's European place of birth.

3. If the obituary does not contain this necessary information or if an obituary does not exist, the researcher should consult the church records of the Protestant or Catholic parish in which the person lived. Marriage and death entries of immigrants often give places of birth. Church marriage records in Texas generally include names of parents of the couple.

4. If newspapers and church records do not provide a place of birth, the researcher should use printed sources; for example, the local histories of the German communities and the two books compiled by Ethel and Chester Geue contain a rich collection of data from ship lists and emigration contracts.

5. Town museums and the archival records in Austin sometimes preserve genealogical information in the form of emigration contracts, unpublished ship lists, personal records and mementos, and special collections such as the Solms-Braunfels Archives.

6. Once a place of birth has been identified, the town should be located on a current political map of Germany, in the German zip code directory, or in a gazetteer to determine the province in which it is situated. Frequently there are many towns by the same name, and the more complete an address is, the more likely the letter will reach its proper destination. The researcher must then dispatch an airmail letter (registered if it is to be sent to East Germany) to the minister of the town church. The format of the address on the envelope is given below in the examples of an inquiry to a Protestant church in East Germany (a) and to a Catholic church in West Germany (b).

(a) Evangelisches Pfarramt
DDR - 7301 Pommlitz Über Döbeln
GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
East Germany

(b) Katholisches Pfarramt
D-6348 Herborn (Dillkreis)
WEST GERMANY

7. Letters may be written either in English or in German. The researcher should ask for birth, marriage, and death records giving the ancestry of the parents of the immigrant settler. German church books record the births, baptisms, confirmations, marriages, deaths, and funerals of the parish. Frequently the church records commence in the early seventeenth century, although in isolated instances there are church records reaching several decades into the sixteenth century. A personal check for about \$5 should be included with each letter.

8. If the province of origin but not the town name is known, sometimes satisfactory results can be obtained by writing to the provincial archives.

III

The following selected bibliography of sources for genealogical research on the Texas-Germans should be helpful to the genealogical researcher.

Archives of Verlag Degener and Company. Nuernbergerstrasse 27, D-8530 Neustadt an der Aisch, West Germany. This publishing house is one of the leading companies for genealogical research in Germany; its archives contains printed records on thousands of German families. The Degener collection is especially strong in holdings on lines of nobility and East German families.

Biesele, Rudolph Leopold. The History of the German Settlements in Texas, 1831-1861. Austin; Von Boeckmann-Jones Press, 1964. This book is the best basic history of the Texas-Germans.

Bechenmacher, Josef Karlmann. Etymologisches Woerterbuch der Deutschen Familiennamen. These volumes explain the etymologies, the geographical origin, the category, and the earliest dates of written occurrence of German surnames. Available in the UT, Austin Library.

Collection of the Hessische Familiengeschichtliche Vereinigung, Hessisches Staatsarchiv. Address: Schloss, D-6100 Darmstadt, West Germany. This archives includes records on the families of Hesse-Darmstadt and facilitates access to the extensive Wappensammlung (heraldry collection) of Pfarrer Hermann Knodt.

Journal of German-American Studies. Published by the Society for German-American Studies and edited by Robert E. Ward. Address: 21010 Mastick Road, Cleveland, Ohio, 44126. The Society also publishes the Bulletin of the Society for German-American Studies.

Geue, Chester William and Geue, Ethel Hander. A New Land Beckoned. Waco, Texas: Texian Press, 1966. This book and the one below are compilations of emigration contracts and ship lists. The authors alphabetized the immigrants by heads of families and designated whenever possible occupations, ages, places of origin, ship names, dates of sailing, and dependents.

Geue, Ethel Hander. New Homes in a New Land: German Immigration to Texas, 1847-1861. Waco, Texas: Texian Press, 1970.

Haupt-Niedersaechsisches Staatsarchiv. Address: Am Archiv 1, D-3000 Hannover, West Germany. This provincial archives contains records for Lower Saxony.

Hauptstaatsarchiv von Baden-Wuerttemberg. Address: Gutenbergstrasse 109, D-7000 Stuttgart, West Germany.

Muellers Grosses Deutsches Ortsbuch. This book is the most complete gazetteer of German place names, giving a location and description of every hamlet, village, town and city in regions of Europe populated by German stock. Available in UT Austin library.

Rielstap, Johann Baptist. Amorial General. Berlin, 1934. These volumes are a massive French collection of thousands of coats-of-arms of all European countries, but the collection is by no means complete.

The Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, and Tenth Federal Census (1850-1880). Often the enumerator would list the province of origin for the German natives.

Verzeichnis der Postleitzahlen. Deutsche Bundespost, 1971. This zip code directory for Germany is helpful in distinguishing between towns of the same name.

Wappen-Herold. Deutsche Heraldische Gesellschaft. Herr Dr. Ottfried F. Neubecker, Director. Address: Dieselstrasse 24, D-6200 Wiesbaden, West Germany. This society is ~~the~~ the German equivalent of the British College of Arms. It should be remembered, though, that many burghers of Germany were armigerous.

Williams, Ethel W. Know Your Ancestors: A Guide to Genealogical Research. Rutland, Vermont: Charles E. Tuttle Company.

New Braunfels and Comal County:

Church Books. First Protestant Church, New Braunfels, Texas. The church books recorded by Texas-German ministers contain the same information as those in their homeland. These early records for New Braunfels are located in the church office.

Neu-Braunfelser Zeitung. New Braunfels, Texas. Copies of this early newspaper are located near the Sophienburg Museum in the old part of New Braunfels.

Comal County Records. Courthouse, New Braunfels, Texas.

Haas, Oscar. History of New Braunfels and Comal County, Texas: 1844-1946. Austin: The Steck Company, 1968. A copy of this history can be purchased from Mr. Haas who resides at 329 East Zink Street, New Braunfels, Texas 78310.

City Cemetery. New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas.

Old New Braunfels Cemetery. New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas.

Fredericksburg and the farming communities of Gillespie County:

Catholic Church Books. St. Mary's Church, Fredericksburg, Gillespie County, Texas.

Kirchenbuch fuer die protestantische Gemeinde zu Friedrichsburg. These records commence in November 1849 and a copy is located in the city library.

Gillespie County Records. Courthouse, Fredericksburg, Texas.

Gillespie County Historical Association. Pioneers in God's Hills, 2 Vols. Austin: Von Boeckmann-Jones Press, 1960-1972. These volumes contain a collection of over one hundred biographies and can be obtained at the Pioneer Museum in Fredericksburg, Texas 78624.

Old Catholic Cemetery. Fredericksburg, Gillespie County, Texas.

Fredericksburg Town Cemetery. Fredericksburg, Gillespie County, Texas.

Comfort and the smaller German settlements in Kendall and Kerr counties:

The Comfort News. Comfort, Texas. Bound copies beginning in 1903 are on file in the office of the Comfort News.

Ransleben, Guido Ernst. A Hundred Years of Comfort in Texas. San Antonio: The Naylor Company, 1954. The first edition is scarce, but the second edition can be obtained by writing to the author at Comfort, Texas 78013.

Bennett, Bob. Kerr County, Texas, 1856-1956. San Antonio: The Naylor Company, 1956.

Lich, Glen Ernst. "A History of Cypress Creek." Hill Country, V (April, 1976), pp. 8-9, 16.

Lich, Glen Ernst. "Understanding German Family Names." The Comfort News. January 2, 1975.

Comfort Cemetery. Comfort, Kendall County, Texas.

Old Cypress Creek Cemetery, Sturdy Oak Farm, Cypress Creek Road, Kerr County, Texas.

Kerrville Cemetery, Kerrville, Kerr County, Texas.

Although the historical background and bibliography refer specifically to German immigrants, the research guidelines can be applied to any nineteenth-century ethnic group in Texas originally from the provinces and countries of Europe which were then governed by or historically associated with German monarchies. Not only German family research, but also Alsatian, Austrian, Czech, Polish, Swiss, Tyrolean, and Wendish genealogy in Texas may be commenced in the same manner. If necessary biographical and genealogical data are available in Texas to facilitate the European research, the family historian can generally obtain satisfactory results over a short period of time and at small expense.

RESEARCH HELPERS

-20-

We are all aware of the immensity of Texas, particularly when we are trying to fill in the gaps of our research and the book, the county record, the local newspaper, or whatever item we need is across the state, or three counties away. A cherished group of members have volunteered to help other members explore the archives and libraries within their areas for particular needs. (We suggest, of course, that arrangements for such help be worked out in advance through correspondence.)

Mrs. Charles L. Bybee, 3711 San Felipe Rd
Box 2-4, Houston, 77027(Houston-Round Top)

Rev. Wilbert E. Doerr, P. O. Box 427,
Comfort, 78013 (Comfort, Warrenton-
Shelby, Harper, Marion)

Minetta Goyne, 1205 Sherwood,
Arlington, 76013

Ernest A and Irma Goeth Guenther,
4501 Spanish Oak Trail, Austin 78731

Hubert Heinen, 4505 Spanish Oak Trail,
Austin, 78731

Lisa Hering, 14558 Carolcrest, Houston,
77079

Manfred Holck, 1501 Travis Heights Blvd,
Austin, 78704

Hans-Joachim Hoppe, 10220 Memorial Dr.,
Houston, 77024

Margi Kluck, 3012 Conejos, Ft. Worth, 76116

Jeanette Knopp Koger, 1301 I-45, Apt. 507,
Huntsville 77340 (Sam Houston State U
Library)

Hanna B. Lewis, 165 Circle Drive,
Cleveland, Tx. 77327

Percy and Viola Lindner, Rt. 1 Box 224,
Comfort, 78013

James Patrick McGuire, 488 East Olmos,
#3, San Antonio, 78212

Katherine G. Powell, 5366 Fieldwood,
Houston, 77056

Arno Struve, 701 2nd St., Abernathy,
79311 (Hale and Lubbock Counties)

(see top of next column)

Nevilee A. Weaver, 1307 Pine Chase,
Houston, 77055

Mrs. Miriam York, 585 East Brenham,
Giddings, 78942

-D.R.

MEMBERS' PROJECTS AND SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

PART III

Corina Jaimes, Community Action, Inc.,
San Marcos, is a Head Start Bilingual/
Multicultural Coordinator whose special
interest is pre-school age children.

Gilbert J. Jordon, Dallas, has published
most recently "Steinert's View of Texas
in 1849," in five installments of Volume 80
and 81 of the Southwestern Historical
Quarterly. Look for his book, Yesterday
in the Texas Hill Country, to be published
by Texas A and M U. Press, 1979, and an
essay on German cultural heritage in the
Hill Country in German Culture in Texas:
A Free Earth, October, 1979.

Lisa Kahn, a patron of the Society, Houston
and Round Top, has many projects; besides
being an important and recognized German-
American poet, she feels keenly Texan with
special roots in Round Top. (See her poem
elsewhere in Newsletter) Her essay on
contemporary German Texan writers will
appear in a volume, Retrospect and
Retrieval: The German Element in Review,
early in 1979. She is also working on a
history of Peter's log cabin and its
inhabitants, as time permits.

Margi Kluck, Ft. Worth, completed a teaching
unit on German Texans for a course at Texas
Wesleyan College.

Jeanette Knopp Koger, Huntsville, is a
housewife and secretary intent on keeping
German culture alive and revered in her own
family.

Elizabeth Lehmann, a patron of the Society
and a retired public health nurse of Brenham,
has just completed The Schawe Family in
Germany and Texas, 1635-1977 which was
reviewed in The Genealogical Helper, Nov.-
Dec., 1978. She is researching Washington
County's church records to 1855 and the
early German settlers of Washington County.

-D.R.

Joseph Wilson

This column is meant to offer information on the present native use of German in Texas. Information to be passed on in future issues will be gratefully received.

German is still spoken by many thousands of people in this state, but its use will undoubtedly slowly continue along the natural road of decline, especially since--to my knowledge--there are practically no families in which children are being raised in German, as was widespread thirty years ago (I will be happy to receive information to the contrary). Scores of German settlements dot the entire state, but the major strength still is located in two large areas of central Texas; the one to the west of Austin (Fredericksburg, New Braunfels, San Antonio, etc.), and the other to the east (Giddings, LaGrange, Schulenburg, etc.). In each of these areas there are still many communities where German is used actively. For this issue, I will confine myself to the latter ("east-central Texas") area, which I know first-hand. Some of the state's oldest German settlements are here (Cat Spring, Industry), dating from the 1830's, but the major immigration was after 1850, thus approximately a decade later than the German influx into the west-central region. The largest group in the east-central area is the Lutheran-Wendish Germans, who founded Serbin in 1854 and later spread all through the area and beyond. The Wends were bilingual in their original Slavic tongue, Wendish (sometimes called "Sorbian"), which is very similar to Russian, Czech, etc., and in German, having been intermingled with the predominant Germans for centuries (in what is now East Germany). In Texas this intermingling accelerated, and the Wends became "the most German of the Germans," as is demonstrated by the faithfulness of the Serbin community to the German language.

Serbin, Winchester, Fedor, Warda, and a number of other such small church-oriented settlements, and congregations in LaGrange and Giddings used German as their official language in church services, church governing assemblies, etc., until well after the Second World War. The latter assemblies were in most cases the only local government. German newspapers in La Grange and Giddings also survived into the late forties. The main reason these communities retained their German language so long was their rural isolation and inner homogeneity. All but a few were Lutheran, and the church and church-school were the focus of all activities. Having their own private German-language schools was naturally a major source of strength for German. Their often lengthy grave inscriptions, in which German was used almost exclusively until the forties, and in some of them as late as the sixties, are a permanent memorial to the former strength of the language. It should also be noted that the Wendish-Germans always used German on their gravestones, evidently considering German to be their official language (although they did cling to their Wendish church services).

Today one may divide the German people of the area linguistically into three groups: the older generation (people now approximately 60 or older), from a thoroughly German youth, who still often use German predominately, and whose English may have a nice accent; the middle generation (people now 40-60), who were raised bilingually during the transition years of the thirties and forties, who usually speak English at home now but who are fluent in German; and the younger generation, many of whom still understand German but are hesitant to speak it.

In many homes of the older generation, German is still the normal language. In the middle generation, the home language is usually English, but German is still very much in use (often more than the people themselves realize, since they take their German so much for granted); there is, for instance, often an automatic shift into German when talking to older people, with whom it seems more natural to speak German, and German is frequently used as a "secret language," for example, in a crowded city store, or to keep secrets from the children (which, of course, insures that the children hear and learn some German). Most of those in these generations have a strong emotional attachment to the German of hymns and sermons. A number of the local churches still have regular German services, once, twice, or three times a month. The weekly Giddings Times and News contains a directory of "Hours of Church Services" of the various area churches, in which one finds German services listed for Serbin, Lincoln, Fedor, and two churches in Giddings (Immanuel and Martin Luther). All the churches concerned are Lutheran; no other non-English services are listed, although there may be a few more places using German, and one might expect to find Czech in a few communities.

(continued on following page)

It has been a real effort for these congregations to maintain their German because of the relative scarcity of pastors able (and willing) to use German; if it were not for this problem, German services would be much more frequent. Often pastors fluent in German simply do not want to "bother" with two languages; conversely, sometimes a younger pastor who is not as fluent in German will carry on the tradition. This is the case in Serbin, whose German service I attended recently: Pastor Paul Hatfield--son of a German pastor of the "old school"--preaches beautifully in the old tradition, but makes his "off the cuff" announcements in English. Outside the church, before and after the service, the Serbin parishioners demonstrate in their conversations one of the best examples of "Lebendiges Deutsch" to be found in the state.

MEMBERS' PROJECTS AND SELECTED PUBLICATIONS
PART IV

HOT OFF THE PRESS

Hanna B. Lewis, Sam Houston State U. and Cleveland, Tx., is conducting research on German-Jewish Texans, Gertrud Hof and Cat Spring.

Kahlich, Geneva. Family Branches (also has a book about the Bednarz and Boenish families) if interested, contact her at: Rt. 1, Box 124, Slaton, Tx., 79364

James Patrick McGuire, San Antonio, is working on a biography and catalogue of works of Hermann Lungwitz, immigrant Texas Hill Country landscape painter. He has recently completed and published books on other German-Texan painters, Iwonski in Texas: Painter and Citizen, 1976, and Julius Stockfleth, Gulf Coast Marine and Landscape Painter, 1976. His essay on German artists on the frontier of Texas will appear in a volume, German Culture in Texas: A Free Earth, about October, 1979.

Kloss, Heinz. The American Bilingual Tradition. Rowley, Mass.: Newbury House, 1977.

Olmstead, Frederick Law. A Journey Through Texas; or, a saddle trip on the Southwestern Frontier. New York: D.E. Edwards and Co., 1857. Reprint, Austin, UT Press, 1978.

Wolfgang F. Michael, a patron of the Society and professor at UT Austin, well-known for his contributions to German study in Texas, and producer-director of the annual German play at UT, has written an essay on the German theatre in Texas which will appear in a volume, Retrospect and Retrieval: The German Element in Review, early in 1979.

Piltz, Thomas, ed. Die Deutschen und die Amerikaner. The Americans and the Germans. München: Heinz Moos, 1977.

Schlauch, Wolfgang and Barbara. The United States and the Federal Republic of Germany. Contacts and Relations in Historical and Cultural Perspective. Philadelphia: AATG, 1977.

Katherine Powell, Houston, is cataloging records, certificates, pictures, books and letters which were brought to Texas by her great-grandmother in 1846 and 1847. She is the great-granddaughter of Elise and Georg Karl Willrich whose letters have been translated and appear in Crystal Sass Ragsdale's The Golden Free Land. She is seeking someone in the Houston area who can help her translate some German letters from the 1800's and 1900's.

Steinfeldt, Cecilia. San Antonio Was: Seen through a magic lantern(Views from the slide collection of Albert Steves, Sr.) San Antonio Museum Association, 1978 Soft cover, \$15.00; hard \$23.00.

Joseph Wilson, ed., Texas and Germany: Crosscurrents Rice University Studies, 1977(write to Joe for information about copies)

D.R.

Eine Hand wäscht die Andere.

Lügen haben kurze Beine.

Wie du mir, so ich dir.

Ehrlich währt am längsten.

"Freundschaft ist Liebe mit Verstand."

Wände haben Ohren.

NO COMMENT

Kinder - Theater

Sonnabend, den 4. Dezember 1897

Dan Holecamps Halle.

Dornröschen,

Eine Komödie in 8 Bildern.

Personen.

Der König,	Gertrud Heinen.
Laura, Prinzessin, seine Schwester,	Cécile Godrington.
Herzog Uffo, sein Schwager,	Vinl Godrington.
Prinzess Dornröschen,	Mathilde Schmeller.
Zucunde,	Igna Berner.
ihre Gespielinnen.	
Mine,	Erna Flach.
Prinz Arthur,	Hedwig Hansen.
Der Hofmarschall,	Bauf Willaret.
Der Kammerherr,	Berbert Brintmann.
Ein Offizier,	Walter Flach.
Dornrosa,	Helene Steves.
Elie,	Ella Roggenbude.
Zulpine,	Nettchen Börner.
Camelia,	Ida Schwethelm.
Aurikel,	Gretchen Roggenbude.
Viola,	Clara Flach.
Heliotropa,	Erna Holecamp.
Balsamine,	Clara Stieler.
Jasmina,	Erna Flach.
Hyacintha,	Martha Flach.
Reseda,	Erna Berner.
Asteria,	Alma Holecamp.
Belladonna,	Agnes Holecamp.
Tros, Diener der Fee Belladonna,	Felix Flach.
Schalt, der Koch,	Alex Willaret.
Muz, der Küchenjunge,	Ella Roggenbude.
Die, Diener des Prinzen Arthur,	Marta Schmeller.
Wirthin der Dorfschenke,	Betty Karger.
Morian, ein alter Mann,	Felix Flach.
Eine alte Frau,	Ella Holecamp.
Hals, ein alter Soldat,	Vinl Godrington.
Hans, ein blinder Mann,	Rudolph Schwethelm.
Führer des blinden Hans,	Gretchen Haut.
Ein kleines Mädchen,	Martha Flach.
Ein kleiner Knabe,	Gretchen Roggenbude.
Zwei Diener,	Robert Haut und Rudolph Schwethelm.
Vier Pagen,	Concordia Hattin, Ella Roggenbude, Ella Steves und Betty Haut.

Erstes Bild: Die Taufe und das Geschenk der Pathe. Zweites Bild spielt 15 Jahre später. Der Spruch der bösen Fee geht in Erfüllung. Drittes Bild spielt 100 Jahre später. Das Erwachen.

Eintritt 25 Cents.

Kinder 10 Cents.

Nach der Vorstellung, Ball.

OPAS RUMPEIKAMMER

Julia Mellenbruch

Much attention has been given to the stitchery of the women who provided an esthetic quality to functional items in the homes of Germans in Texas. In many instances, however, the men, while also providing functional items for the home, added an artistic touch which continues to beautify the homes of their descendants.

Franz Friedrich Johan Hagn, who lived to be 91 years old, is typical of the home-woodwork craftsmen. The sturdy, yet decorative furniture which he built years ago for his own home is found today in the homes of his children and grandchildren.

Born in Pflugerville, Texas in 1874 of German immigrant parents, he spent all of his life in Texas, principally in Guadalupe County. Although it is assumed that he had a limited rural education, the family has the records and work which he produced while taking a correspondence course in drawing from the International Correspondence Schools of Scranton, Pennsylvania in 1912.

When tragedy struck, the death of his first wife at a young age, he spent several years of rural life in the Zorn Community, near Seguin. Here he began to perfect his skills in chip carving, while occupying himself in his spare time. At this time he used a pocket knife, but was later able to obtain the appropriate tools for his carving.

In the early 1900's he took up carpentry, serving first as a journeyman. For a while he traveled over the western part of Texas by stagecoach, carrying his tools in a box. Later he settled in San Antonio. Many of the first homes in Terrell Hills bear his handiwork. He also built cotton gins in Nueces and Guadalupe Counties. Finally it was in the Seguin area where he returned to spend the rest of his life as manager and operator of cotton gins until his retirement.

Franz Hagn was never a cabinet maker by profession. Although he gave away some of his furniture, he never sold anything. His furniture-making was his contribution to the comfort and beauty of his own home.

Much preparation went into the building of the furniture. He felled his own walnut and other types of trees, cured the wood, and built the various items from patterns which he drew himself. The models for some of the decorative trim were taken from 1897 and later issues of Unterhaltungsblatt zur Modenwelt and from Stylevolle Musterblätter für Kerbschnitt published by Mey and Wedmayer Verlag of München. Each step was meticulously followed. When he finished, he inscribed his signature and the date on the back of each piece.

The designs which he so carefully preserved; his own drawings, which were used to trace the designs on wood; and the tools with which he worked are in excellent condition, although some are over eighty years old. His daughter, daughter-in-law, and grandson treasure the results of his labors.

Mrs. Monroe Hagn, his daughter-in-law, proudly exhibits the furniture which her husband made, too, as she tells of the admirable qualities of Franz Hagn, pointing out his skills in draftsmanship, creativity, and furniture-making. She tells of her deep respect for him as a person as she shows evidence of some of his other hobbies, such as collecting and labeling of Indian artifacts, which are other insights into the remarkable character of this self-educated, quiet, unassuming, talented German-Texan.

DID YOU KNOW....

the old Texas land office building on the southeast corner of the Capitol grounds in Austin, now a museum, was designed by Conrad Stremme and is presumably based on castles along the Rhine in his old homeland.

Mancher hat so viele Eisen im Feuer, daß es davon ausgeht, (John Priestley)

DID YOU KNOW....

the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia has a chapter in Texas? It is the Golden Spread Chapter and its president is Elmer D. Bechthold, 1101 Northwestern, Box 33, Perryton, Tx. 79070. That should interest Texans who are also German-Russians in the Panhandle and Wichita Falls areas

-D.R.

MEMBERS' PROJECTS AND SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Walter Hoppe Richter, Austin, is a well-known public servant of Central Texas. He wrote a story about his great-grandfather, Adolph Hoppe, who was murdered for alleged support of the Union and thrown into the infamous Dead Man's Hole near Marble Falls. The story was published in Frontier Times and reprinted in the Marble Falls Highlander. He is also involved in the SMACK(Shovel Mountain and Cypress Kinfolks) reunion of German-American settlers of the Texas Hill Country(Burnet and Blanco Counties).

Charles W. von Rosenberg, Dallas, has The von Rosenberg Family Record, Book II in press. He has already published Ancestral Voices, the letters of the von Rosenberg and Meerscheidt families.

Hans-Martin Sass, Bochum, W. Germany, was in San Marcos last year to make his fascinating presentation about the re-discovery of Ernst Kapp. He has recently published a reproduction of Kapp's book, with a Sass introduction.(See list of new books)

Daniel and Mary Schuetz, Boerne, both have forefathers from Alsace-Lorraine who came to Texas through Indianola. They visited in Germany, Austria and Switzerland and noted: "The one compliment that we enjoyed was to have German people tell us of the good German we spoke and how wonderful it was to know that some German people retained their true heritage after so many years." They are interested in meat preservation, farming, gardening, etc.

Arno Struve, Abernathy, who calls himself a pharmacist, merchant, cheese-maker, piano tuner, farmer and investor, is working on a book written by his grandfather.

Dr. Urban Terbieten, Guadalajara, Mexico, tells us that the Goethe Institute there is 17 years old this year with 250-350 students, six teachers and a special teacher for technical courses. There is another Institute in Mexico City. He sends out a newsletter there written in German and Spanish.

Leola K. Tiedt, La Grange, after 51 years of teaching has decided to change jobs; she is now restoring and remodeling old houses and 'native' Texan furniture. She has also authored "Was ist das?" for the TSTA magazine Texas Outlook. We are proud to claim her as a Southwest Texas State University graduate!

DER DEUTSCH-TEXANER LIED

Ich bin ein Deutsch-Texaner
Und lieb' mein Texasland.
Und will ihm Treue halten
Gewiss mit Herz und Hand.

In dir hab ich gefunden
Die Heimat, schön und reich.
Für mich ist auf der Erden
Kein and'res Land dir gleich.

O, Texas, in dir leben
Ist Lust und Wonne mir.
O möge Gottes Segen
Für immer ruh'n auf dir!

Doch darum sei vergessen,
So treu ich Texas dir,
Niemals das Land der Väter,--
Germanias Blut in mir.

Und in der Muttersprache,
Der heiligen, hehr und rein,
Soll denn auch stets erklingen
Mein Texaslied allein.

Ich bin ein Deutsch-Texaner
Und lieb' mein Texasland,
Und bleibe treu der Sitte
Der Väter zugewandt.

...Reinhard Sauberzweig
(from Selma Metzenthin-Raunick's
Deutsche Schriften in Texas, Vol. I,
p. 83, 1935-1936)

THERE'S A STORY TO BE TOLD HERE-----
from the Houston Chronicle, June 14, 1919

Dallas.---Joe Stahl, enemy alien released from an internment camp at Atlanta Georgia last week, was shot and killed when he reached his home at Fluvanna, Scurry Co., according to department of justice agents here tonight. Stahl was a member of the farmers' and workingmans' alliance which was investigated for alleged pro-German activities. Bad feelings growing out of the trial is believed responsible for Stahl's death.

According to Dr. Paul G. Reitzer, Charleston, South Carolina, there were 885 first generation Germans from Russia in Texas in 1920, and 2301 of the first and second generations.

THE BOOK SHELF...

Gold, Theresa. The Hoelscher Family of Texas.(History and genealogy of Anton and Mary Katherine). 600 pp. May be ordered from the author.

Ernst Kapp: Grundlinien einer Philosophie der Technik. Zur Entstehungsgeschichte der Kultur aus neuen Gesichtspunkten. With an introduction by Hans-Martin Sass. Photoreproduction of the first edition of 1877. Düsseldorf: Stern Verlag, 1978. (Available from the Stern-Verlag Janssen & Co., Friedrichstr. 24, 4000 Düsseldorf 1, West German) DM 88,-- (\$48.00)

Alice Hutson, From Chalk to Bronze. A biography of Waldine Tauch. Austin: Shoal Creek, 1978. \$12.75.

William W. Newcomb, Jr. German Artist on the Texas Frontier: Friedrich Richard Petri Austin: UT, 1978.

Elise Kowert. Old Homes and Buildings of Fredericksburg. Fredericksburg: Fredericksburg Publ, 1977.

Brownson Malsch. Indianola: The Mother of Western Texas. Austin: Shoal Creek, 1977.

Willie B. Rutland. Sursum! Elisabet Ney in Texas. Austin: Hart Graphics, 1977.

Terry G. Jordan. Texas Log Buildings. A Folk Architecture Austin: UT Press, 1978. \$15.95.

Lehmann, Elizabeth. Schwawe Family. self-published, 1978. May be ordered from the author.

SOME FAMILY REUNIONS.....

Seiler/Kreitz Reunion(first Sunday in June in Alvin, Tx.)

Zwahr Family(second Sunday in June, Needville) German Texans for the Southwest Collection.

Shovel Mountain and Cypress Kinfolks, June 11, 1979, Shovel Mountain

Pflugger Family(July 4 in Pflugerville)

Klattenhoff Family(first Sunday in August in the American Legion Hall, Round Rock)

Schlueter Family (second Sunday in June, every other year in New Braunfels or Geronimo)

GERMAN HERITAGE TOUR UNDERWAY

Once again this year, Iera and Glen Iich of San Marcos are directing a tour of family historians and genealogists to Germany, Switzerland, and Austria. The group will leave from San Antonio on 17 May and fly direct to Germany for two weeks.

The participants in this second tour come from Comfort, Fredericksburg, Kerrville, San Antonio, New Braunfels, Yorktown, and Dallas.

Like last year's tour, this one emphasizes variety and authenticity. The itinerary was especially arranged for German Texans as a cultural and ethnic heritage tour emphasizing folklife, homes, clothing, food, drink, livelihood of different regions of these three countries.

Travel is by air-conditioned autobus and by excursion boats on the Rhine River and Alpine lakes. Tour price is kept low by group travel rates, early booking, and direct reservations with the European hotels. Although the tour already has the minimum required number of participants, there is still room for a few more to join. Interested parties should contact Glen Iich in San Marcos, Tel. 512-392-5007.

MEMBERS' PROJECTS AND SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Emilie and Fritz Toepperwein, Boerne, have published several children's books about German Texan subjects. They are doing research about German immigrants and their involvement in the Chihuahua Trail.

Bobby Weaver, Lubbock, archivist and field representative for Southwest Collections at Texas Tech U. He is writing his Phd dissertation on "Castro's Colony". He has published an article, "Germans in the Panhandle Plains Area of Texas" in a 1979 Permian Basin Historical Society Publication. He is collecting material pertaining to German Texans for the Southwest Collection.

Mrs. Esther M. Richter Weaver, Fredericksburg, retired high school librarian, has recently conducted research and written histories of six families who were pioneers in Burnet County---all from German immigrants-- for the Burnet County History to be published soon by the Burnet County Historical Society. Her ancestors(Fuchs,Hoppe,Richter,Giesecke, Romberg) came to Texas from Germany. She has also written an article, "Adolf Fuchs-- Pator, Poet, and Pioneer," for the Highlander, Feb. 10, 1972.

BI-FOCAL

Minetta Goyne

When the Amon Carter Museum of Western Art (Fort Worth) published Pauline A. Pinckney's Painting in Texas: The Nineteenth Century in 1967, German Texans were delighted to discover that Richard Petri's charming "Going Visiting" had been selected for the attractive dust jacket. Those who take more time to examine the valuable book will soon discover how prominent a part artists with German birthplaces or surnames played in the visual arts of Texas. One might even say Germans dominate some sections, such as that devoted to topographical artists recording what they saw while accompanying the Bartlett, Emory, and Gray surveying expeditions. Still closer examination of the text unfortunately reveals some quite ludicrous misinterpretations of data gleaned from German-language sources. Especially the footnotes were not screened by anyone with a secure knowledge of German, and the resulting flaws detract from the quality of the finished product in this case as in several books of Texana that have appeared more recently. It would seem that the newly-formed German-Texan Heritage Society could perform a real service by bringing together people with editorial expertise in the form of special skills such as ease in reading Fraktur (German type) and Schrift (Gothic script) and those authors and compilers working with German sources but lacking the resource of thorough training in the German language.

Commendable Pinckney called attention to several German artists working in early Texas who, though the subjects of articles, these, and occasional retrospective exhibitions, had neither received their due from the general public nor been treated adequately by publishing scholars. In addition to Richard Petri these included Hermann Lungwitz, Carl G. von Iwonski, and Louise Heuser Wuests, as well as several other German artists represented by fewer or lesser works. Anyone with an attachment to the old mill, churches, hotels, and homes that are gradually disappearing from the area between the coast and the Hill Country, except where someone has undertaken a restoration, will take pleasure in comparing older prints such as those by Lungwitz with those of German Texans of more recent vintage, like Edward M. "Buck" Schiwetz, who has been recording Texas landmarks with his sketches for some fifty years. The older artists' prints concentrate more upon a triangle formed roughly by Austin, San Antonio, and Fredericksburg, while Schiwetz, a native of Cuero, encompasses the entire state in his works. His pictures also, more often than not, impart a slight romanticism to his subjects, while the older artists are more inclined to realism in their pictures of buildings. Iwonski in particular conveyed quite a sense of animation and humor, however, when documenting amateur theatrical performances or adopting the methods of the political cartoon.

In the first of what one hopes will become a succession of books about individual artists among the early Texas Germans, James Patrick McGuire, a research assistant for the University of Texas at San Antonio Institute of Texan Cultures, made available two years ago Iwonski in Texas: Painter and Citizen, published by the San Antonio Museum Association in conjunction with a like-named exhibition held at the Witte Memorial Museum (San Antonio) in the late summer of 1976. Carl G. von Iwonski began as a self-taught artist at New Braunfels, for ten years taught drawing at the German-English School in San Antonio, and finally went to Berlin for study during 1871. He returned

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Minetta Goyne

only briefly to Texas before settling permanently at Breslau, where he died in 1921. Iwonski, who had emigrated from Silesia with members of his family in 1845 at the age of fifteen, thus can truly be said to have been shaped by Texas. The book, which is said to include essentially all of his known work gives detailed account of his life. His principal production was as a painter of portraits, a number of which are highly expressive likenesses of people known to anyone conversant with German Texans. Among the works reproduced in the book is Iwonski's oil copy of Richard Petri's "Indian child eating melon," a watercolor that became the property of Hermann Lungwitz, Iwonski's partner in a studio at San Antonio and also brother-in-law to Petri.

During recent months the University of Texas Press has published an outstanding volume by William W. Newcomb, Jr., long-time director of the Texas Memorial Museum (Austin) and currently a professor of anthropology at The University of Texas in the same city. Author of several books about the American Indian, Newcomb was able to enrich his work with an obviously uncommon scholarship. German Artist on the Texas Frontier: Friedrich Richard Petri will be eminently attractive to a wider range of readers than many another work that would properly be included in this column. Newcomb supplies one chapter on Petri's heritage as an artist born and trained in Dresden and another on the Texas scene of which the Petri and Lungwitz families became a part after a brief sojourn at Wheeling, (West) Virginia, early in the sixth decade of the last century. Because Lungwitz trained with Petri in Dresden, married Petri's sister, and continued to live near him in Texas, both artists are given space in the text, although the lavish illustrations are devoted to Petri's works only, except for two valuable maps and an occasional photograph.

Two aspects of this book are noteworthy: the paucity of information about Petri himself, a lack that Newcomb readily and regretfully admits, and the wealth of informed material about the Texas Indian bands most closely in contact with the German immigrants, namely the Lipan Apaches and the Penateka Comanches. It was primarily if not exclusively from the first of these that Petri took his models for drawings and paintings of Indians. In additional chapters on the Germans' contacts with the Indians and on immigrant life in the new land material from a rich variety of sources is laced with Newcomb's well-honed judgements. When the reader reaches the chapter entitled "Richard Petri's Indians," he has been prepared for these gems in such a way that appreciation of their excellence is inevitable.

Newcomb emphasizes that the Germans in Texas, unburdened as they were by memories of generations of conflict such as the Americans brought with them, had a generally better relationship with the Indians by far than did other settlers. Some of this receptive attitude Newcomb ascribes to Meusebach's extraordinary willingness to establish a policy of compassion and consideration toward the Indians, in which the immigrants cooperated. He is quick to point out, however, that Meusebach's treaty with the Indians in the spring of 1847 was not really quite so daring as many have thought, since others had done much of the groundwork earlier. Newcomb particularly admires Robert S. Neighbors, the Indian agent, and stresses the role of Delaware guides such as Jim Shaw and John Conner. Toward the end Newcomb comes close to implying that the dying artist felt mystically drawn to the Indians, who were being progressively weakened like his fever-ridden body, and was therefore capable of particularly discerning treatment of his subjects, going far beyond merely a meticulously accurate recording of their appearance and behavior. After the Lipans were pushed southwestward, we learn, Petri did little more original work,

BI-FOCAL-3

Minetta Goyne

and, when in 1859 the Penatekas were forced beyond the Red River, Petri was near death. In December of that year, presumably in an effort to cool his body, wracked by tuberculosis and malaria, he drowned in the Pedernales. He was thirty-three years old.

Petri's Indian pictures receive more attention from Newcomb than the others because, as he points out, they are not stereotypes and because Texas Indians have not been authentically depicted by many artists. Just as they are shown in peaceable intercourse with the settlers and an occasional military man, the settlers are repeatedly pictured at work or at leisure. Consequently there is a warmly human quality in many of the works that is traceable more often to the expressive faces than to any dynamism of the bodies; for, as Newcomb states, Petri's figures, whether human or animal, are inclined to be static. In group paintings such as the one called "Fort Martin Scott" (Petri did not title his works) there is a tendency to arrange the figures somewhat theatrically, a remnant of Petri's association with members of the Nazarene school of painting in Europe. But the stiffness in that tableau is relieved by a tiny bronzed body creeping in the sand in the central foreground, only one of the instances in which Petri revealed his tenderness toward children. Included in the book also are several life studies, numerous sketches, and portraits in a variety of media, mostly of the artist's relatives.

Not an inexpensive book to produce or to buy, this would represent a good investment and would make a cherished gift. There are thirty-five excellent color plates, among which are a likeness of Lungwitz, who lived out his life in Austin, as well as a self-portrait, and several Biedermeier paintings that exhibit a witty turn of mind reminiscent of the works of Karl Spitzweg. To underscore the importance of Petri's art, it is worthwhile to paraphrase Newcomb's evaluation: "Nowhere is the challenge of the indivious myths and the self-serving folklore concerning the Indian more direct and succinct than in the paintings of Richard Petri."

MEMBERS' PROJECTS AND SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Karl Weigand, Flensburg, Germany, studied at SWTSU in 1950/51 where he became interested in the German Texans, especially in Hays County. His special project concerns the social structure of present-day German Texans with sample studies. His wife comes from Weilburg, 8 km. from Old Braunfels. He has offered his services to the Society as "publicity agent" in Germany. We accept!

Mrs. Miriam York, Giddings, has compiled research and documents relating to Friedrich Ernst, and has donated a copy to the library of Southwest Texas State University.

Rev. H. C. Ziehe, Taylor, is continuing research on the establishment and development of the Lutheran Church in Texas, as well as other denominations serving German immigrants. He has published A Centennial History of the Lutheran Church in Texas, 1851-1951, 2 volumes, and his essay on churches serving German immigrants in Texas will appear in Retrospect and Retrieval: The German Element in Review, Jan. 1979.

-D.R.

INFORMATION, ARTICLES, LETTERS are accepted by the editor of this Newsletter concerning any topic related to German Texans - Swiss, Austrians, Wends, Alsatians and all other connected groups.

GATHERING GERMAN HERITAGE MATERIALS

Gilbert J. Jordan

The German-speaking people of the Texas German Belt have retained a veritable treasure of folklore and ethnic heritage that can and should be, collected. There still are many people who speak German or Texas German, and these people have precious memories of their cultural background. Even some whose German has become rusty can produce priceless gems of poems and stories when they are properly motivated to do so. If this material is not gathered and preserved soon, much of it will disappear and be lost.

The cultural heritage falls into two main categories: first, the oral and written traditions in the minds of people, and second, their actual material possessions. The former is not as well known and appreciated as the latter, and often it is not as well identified as the more visible material treasures. In general, such matters are called folklore, but they include much more than is generally understood.

Perhaps it would be best to list a number of the non-material treasures that can and should be collected. Among these we might enumerate: poems, ditties, songs, stories, anecdotes, proverbs and sayings, riddles, weather signs, customs, games, children's poems, nonsensical and humorous verse, tongue twisters, prayers and table blessings, church songs and practices (such as confirmations, camp meetings, and weddings), language oddities, epitaphs, autograph album verses, Christmas and Easter customs and songs, club activities, folk singing and festivals, preparation of food (cheese, sausage, and sauerkraut making), home and family life and customs.

This material should not be gathered from books; it must be supplied from informants with a German-Texan background and it must relate to their heritage. To be sure, some can be traced back to books, but it must come from the people and be a part of their lives.

The physical-material heritage includes books, magazines, Bibles, newspapers, pictures, photographs, autograph albums (Stammbücher) with German verses, certificates of christening, confirmation, and marriage, obituaries and funeral notices, so typical of the Texas-German country, printed programs of club activities, dances, festivals, maps, clocks, pottery, glass, etc. Some of these items are hard to procure because many people hesitate to part with their precious heirlooms. In such cases, the field researchers should document the items-- what they are and where, if possible. On the other hand, many family treasures will be destroyed or discarded sooner or later, and these should be collected while they are still available. If the people can be made aware of the importance, not the monetary value, of their possessions, they may become more inclined to preserve them and ultimately give them to schools and museums. Students can often render a great service by locating and identifying cultural materials.

One especially productive phase of material culture will be studies of the types of homes, churches, well curbing, and roads in the German communities, and material used in their construction. Also an examination of cemeteries, types of gravestones and their inscriptions and symbols might be rewarding. Moreover, a study of various agricultural practices and machinery, of crafts and trades, furniture making, for example, as well as the fine arts of music, painting, and theater, prominent among the German-Texans, might be useful and interesting.

In later essays, I will give more detailed information on how to collect different kinds of folkloric treasures, how to interview elderly people, how to find the desired items, and then give some specimens of this sort of material I have gathered.

GATHERING HERITAGE MATERIALS

is a special feature which will be continued in each issue. Gilbert J. Jordan is Emeritus Professor of German at Southern Methodist University. Dr. Jordan's vast knowledge, resources and interest are a great asset to the Newsletter.

EINE DEUTSCHE ZEITUNG FÜR UNS

Viele von Ihnen wissen vielleicht schon, daß es bis ca. 1957 deutsch-sprachige Zeitungen in Texas gab, nämlich "Die Neu-Braunfelser Zeitung" und "Die Freie Presse". Die New Yorker Staats- Zeitung und Herold ist seit 143 Jahre Amerikas führende deutsch-sprachige Zeitung und hat Zweigstellen in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Rochester und Florida. Nun haben wir die Möglichkeit, für diese Zeitung Artikel über Texas zu schreiben. Es wäre einfach herrlich, wenn so viele Texaner wie möglich sich die Zeitung im Abonnement bestellten. Die Jahresbestellung kostet \$24.00 und sollte an die Staats-Zeitung-Herold, 36-30 37th Street, Long Island City, N.Y. 11101, gerichtet werden. Diese Zeitung erscheint an jedem Wochenende und ist voll von Information über das gegenwärtige Deutschland und die Vereinigten Staaten. Reisebeträge und nette Geschichten füllen die Unterhaltungsseiten. Seit einiger Zeit erscheinen einige Artikel auch in der englischen Sprache, doch das Format einer typisch deutsche Zeitung wird beibehalten. Was unsere Beiträge in dieser Zeitung anbetrifft, so stellen wir uns kleine Aufsätze über die deutsche Ansiedlung in Texas vor, also viel Geschichtliches, aber auch Information über unseren Staat, die Schönheit und Vielfältigkeit der Landschaft zum Beispiel. Allerdings beruht die Länge der Artikel mehr auf die Werbung der texanischen Geschäftsleute. Je mehr Texaner im Herold Reklame abonnieren, desto mehr Zeitungsplatz bekommen wir zur Verfügung gestellt. Auch hierfür können Sie die Preise bei der obigen Adresse anfordern oder bei mir deswegen anfragen.

Ich freue mich, Ihnen auf dem Wege dieses Newsletters über den Herold zu informieren und hoffe sehr, daß recht viele von Ihnen ein Abonnement für diese Zeitung bestellen werden. Auch möchte ich Ihnen allen ein herzliches Willkommen zu unserer German-Texan Heritage Society sage. Ihre...Ingrid E. Kokinda, 9202 Attleboro, San Antonio, Texas 78217 (Texas reporter for the New Yorker Staatszeitung u. Herold)

GERMAN - TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

M E E T I N G

September 1 - 2, 1979

Hilton Inn, Austin, Texas

Why at the Hilton Inn? It is very convenient for those of us who hate to find our way around in a strange city, because it is just off the freeway. It is next to Highland Mall Shopping Center and not far from Austin's German community, Pflugerville.

We have informed the Inn that we will have at least 50 people there...and we will. There will be special convention rates, which are to appear in the next Newsletter.

The meeting is planned for all day Saturday until noon on Sunday. Wouldn't it be nice to have an ecumenical service in German?

Anna Thompson is making all of the arrangements for us.

Here are some ideas we have in mind: Entertainment, i.e., Polka Bands, Dancers, Sängervereine, Theaterstück, etc. Exhibits of folklore A showing of new books from publishers Workshops and Interest groups: more "how to" than just speakers Special Austin Tour for German-Texans

Please tell us what you would like to do. What are your interests? and suggestions?

Address all inquiries, suggestions to the Editor.

GERMAN - TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

Thank you for your interest in the German-Texan Heritage Society. We want this to be truly an organization for its members. We need your help.

1. Would you please fill out and return the enclosed membership form? Memberships received before January 31, 1979, will be considered **CHARTER MEMBERSHIPS.**
2. Would you bring the organization and its objectives to the attention of your friends who might be interested in it. Or tell your local newspaper, heritage or conservation society about us. We want to collaborate with all existing historical preservation organizations.
3. If you would like for us to contact people who might be interested in our objectives, please detach the form below and return to us.

Please send information about the German-Texan Heritage Society and membership forms to:

NAME

ADDRESS

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Return to: Dona Reeves
Rt. 2 Box 239A
Buda, Texas 78610

GERMAN - TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: _____
STREET: _____
CITY: _____ ZIP: _____
COUNTY: _____

Membership Classification
(Check one)

- \$25.00 Patron
- \$10.00 Contributing,
Library
- \$5.00 Regular
- \$3.00 Student
(Verified by
teacher)

Occupation (if retired, former occupation):

Special Project(s):

Other Interest(s) Relating to German-Texana:

Have you published anything related to German-Texana?

Would you like to help?

- _____ Newsletter (how? which columns?)
- _____ transcribing/translating old German hand-writing
- _____ show visitors historical sites
- _____ do research in archives, libraries, etc.
- _____ genealogical exchange
- _____ publicity
- _____ other?

Please fill out and return to:

Dona Reeves
Rt. 2 Box 239A
Buda, Texas 78610

Anna Thompson

EVENTS CALENDAR

Permanent Exhibits

Austin - Elisabet Ney Museum, East 44th and Avenue H

This museum was the 19th century studio of Elisabet Ney, Texas' first internationally known sculptor, and contains sculptures she did while living in Austin.

Hours: 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday; 2 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

- Daughters of the Confederacy and Daughters of the Republic of Texas Museums, Old Land Office Building, 112 E. 11th St.

These two museums exhibit such items as flags, guns, clothing, stitchery and documents of the periods of the Confederacy and of the Republic, and maintain souvenir sale cases. The building was designed by a German architect and contains interesting features.

Hours: 9 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

San Antonio - Institute of Texan Cultures, on the HemisFair Plaza grounds
Historical displays introduce the viewer to the twenty-six ethnic groups that developed the Lone Star State.

Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day but Monday.

- King William Street

The San Antonio Conservation Society has a pamphlet outlining a walking tour of King Street which also includes historical information about the early Victorian homes built mostly by wealthy Germans.

Selected houses are open to the public for a tour during Fiesta Week.

- Steves Homestead, 509 King William Street

Owned and operated by the San Antonio Conservation Society as a museum of antiques. It is one of the finest examples of the fashionable old German residences and contains primarily Victorian antiques.

Hours: Daily, 10 a.m. to noon, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Friday morning. Admission 50¢.

Stonewall - LBJ State Historical Park, Harold Woods, Park Superint., (512)-644-2252
Restored German pioneer log cabins and the Sauer-Beckmann Homestead Living History Exhibit, run by the Park Rangers as it was around 1915. Guided tours for busloads or individuals in English or German.

Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. year round.

Comfort - 1979 is the year for the celebration of the 130th Jubiläum of the founding of the town. We need a list of the events for this wonderful year. Someone in Comfort send the information!

German-Texan Heritage Society

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