

German-Texan Heritage Society

NEWSLETTER



FOUNDED 1978

VOLUME VII

NUMBER 2

SUMMER 1985

ISSN 0730 - 3106

PRICE PER ISSUE: \$2.50 (MEMBERS)
\$3.00 (NON-MEMBERS)

NEWSLETTER

EDITORIAL BOARD

GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY (1978)

PRESIDENT (EDITOR-IN-CHIEF)

Mary Mathis El-Beheri
238 Pershing Ave.
San Antonio, Tx. 78209
512-828-7815(H)

VICE-PRESIDENT (MANAGING EDITOR)

Anna Thompson
2116 Lynnbrook Dr.
Austin, Tx. 78748
512-282-1933

TREASURER (MEMBERSHIP EDITOR)

Dona Reeves-Marquardt
Rt. 2, Box 239A
Buda, Tx. 78610
512-295-5901

SECRETARY (CORRESPONDING EDITOR)

Glen E. Lich
Westland Place, 718 Jackson Rd.
Kerrville, Tx. 78028
512-257-3439

PUBLICITY/SPECIAL PROJECTS

Daphne Dalton Garrett
12429 Pebblebrook
Houston, Tx. 77024
713-468-7516

Box 35
Warda, Tx. 78960
409-242-3822

GENEALOGY AND RELATED SUBJECTS

Theresa Gold
106 Ranchland
San Antonio, Tx. 78213
512-344-7229

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

FOLKLORE

Gilbert Jordan
3228 Milton Ave.
Dallas, Tx. 75205
214-363-2092

SURNAME INDEX (NEWSLETTER)

Ann Lindemann
17914 Nanes
Houston, Tx. 77090
713-444-4446

Lorene Froehner Windle
13167 Barryknoll
Houston, Tx. 77027
713-465-7792

TOPIC INDEX (NEWSLETTER)

Sister Marlene Fritz
Mt. St. Mary Academy
1645 U. S. 22
Plainfield-Watchung, N. J. 07060
201-756-0994

BI-FOCAL (GERMAN-TEXANA BOOK REVIEWS)

Hanna Lewis
Sam Houston State University
Office of Foreign Languages
Huntsville, Tx. 77341
713-294-1443

HISTORIAN/SCRAPBOOK

Leola Tiedt
510 No. Franklin
LaGrange, Tx. 78945
409-968-5639

GERMAN-TEXAN WOMEN

Ingeborg H. Rueberg McCoy
Southwest Texas State University
Dept. of Modern Languages
San Marcos, Tx. 78666
512-288-0297

NEW TOPICS AND RESERACH PROJECTS

Lera Patrick Tyler
718 Jackson Rd.
Kerrville, Tx. 78028
512-257-3439

ART

Richard J. Burges, II
1701 Bluff Dr.
Round Rock, Tx. 78664
512-255-5223

CALLIGRAPHY

Barbara Ann Dielmann
MacArthur High School
2923 Bitters Rd.
San Antonio, Tx. 78217
512-494-7139

NEWSLETTER PRINTER

Sergei Kabantschuk
11809 Dove Haven
Austin, Tx.
512-836-4653

CORRESPONDENCE, CONTRIBUTIONS, AND MANUSCRIPTS for publication should be sent to the editor-in-chief or to one of the associate editors; SUBSCRIPTIONS to the membership editor. For subscription rates, see special membership form in the back of this issue. NEWSLETTER is published three times annually, in the spring, summer and fall. It is written, compiled, edited and published by volunteers. The editor-in-chief has the right to refuse to publish any materials that may not be in accordance with the by-laws of the GTHS.

SEE BACK COVER FOR CONTINUATION OF EDITORIAL BOARD AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS.....

GERMAN TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME VII

NUMBER 2

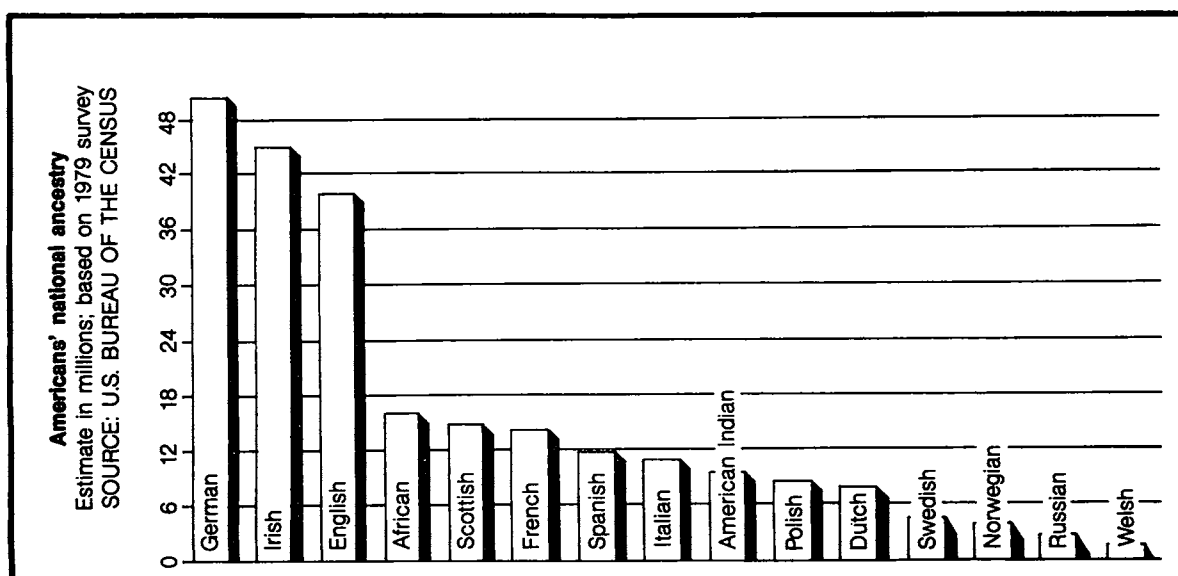
SUMMER, 1985

- Inside front and back covers: Editorial Board, Board of Directors
 99 Table of Contents
 100 American Ethnicity
 101 Notes from Your (Guest) Editor
 102 1985 Patron Members (Dona Reeves-Marquardt);
 Texas Land Measure (General Land Office)
 103 New Braunfels: Founded by Prince Solms; A History Buff's Delight
 104 GTHS Annual Meeting, Tentative Schedule
 106 Walking Tour of Historic New Braunfels
 107 GTHS Annual Meeting, Registration Form
 108 GTHS 1986 Kalender, Announcement, Order Form
 109 The Cabin Book/Das Kajutenbuch (Eakin Press)
 110 Antique Collectors Donate Home (New Braunfels)
 111 Herman Seele's Texas Fahrten/Travels in Texas (Theodore Gish)
 112 GTHS Sesquicentennial Projects (Daphne Garrett)
 112 Registry of German Texan Heritage, Chairpersons
 113 Registry Categories
 114 Entries Received
 116 Registry Application Form
 117 Settlers and Soldiers
 118 The German Experience (MacArthur High School)
 120 Upholding the Tradition (Deutsche Welt-U.S.A.)
 121 Order of Merit Bestowed upon Mrs. Liselott Babin
 122 What the Explorers Saw (The Explorers' Texas)
 123 Publications Cited on Founders Day (San Antonio Conservation Society)
 124 Letter to Tyler (Leola Tiedt)
 126 A German-Texas Woman (Mary Wuemling Mauldin)
 127 Lisa aus Amerika... (Lisa Hering)
 128 Koehler Home Is Showcase
 129 Out of the Woodwork (Daphne Garrett)
 133 More Sesquicentennial News; Dallas Frohsinn;
 Keeping Tradition Alive; Genealogy Bookstore
 134 Violet Church and Community 75th Anniversary
 136 German Texan History after the Civil War (Cres Merrell)
 137 Texas Folklife Festival; Ethnic Folklife Mass
 138 German POWs Will Reunite in Mexia; South Austin Graves;
 Texane Ceskeho Puvodo Set Pace for Group Organization
 139 Gillespie County Native Marks 100th Birthday (Otto Dittmar)
 140 Student Finds Heritage
 141 German Ladies Meet; Metalworking Exhibit; Oral History Projects
 142 Students of German Language; Hulda Timmerman Obituary
 143 German-Americana Collection (U. of Cincinnati)
 144 Village Band (Fredericksburg); Klein Area Cookbook; Alvin Zoch
 145 Bill Finck...Cigar Maker
 146 Who Are the Wends? (brochure)
 148 Grundung der Amerikanischen Tucholsky Gesellschaft
 151 How America Averted a German-Language State
 152 Humboltsburg, Texas; Super Stein; German POWs (Gayla Lawson)

Table of Contents (Continued)

- 153 German-born Founder...Independence (August Siemering)
- 154 In Her Mother's Tongue, Book Review (Hanna Lewis)
- 155 On the Flach Family Trail, Book Review (Hanna Lewis)
- 159 Kidnapped by Indians (George Carmack)
- 162 Recipes; Knitting
- 163 Deutsch-Texanisches Saengerfest
- 164 Program, 39th Annual Saengerfest (Saengerbund)
- 165 History of Houston Liederkrantz (Franz Schoennagel)
- 166 Remarks...San Antonio Liederkrantz (Wm. V. Dielmann, Jr.)
- 168 History...Concordia Gesang-Verein...125 years
- 169 Dialect in Berlin; German Archives
- 170 Recent Publications (Society for German American Studies)
- 171 1990 Census and the German Element; Hermann, Missouri
- 172 Day Trips: Fayette County (Texas Homes)
- 176 Round Top Festival
- 177 San Antonio's German Legacy (Southern Living)
- 181 German Texans' Genealogy Section (Theresa Gold)
 - 181 Bits & Pieces & News
 - 183 From Our Members
 - 185 GTHS Members' Genealogical Exchange
 - 186 Fischer-Zschesche Dual Anniversaries (Ernest G. Fischer)
 - 187 Family Reunions: Schwab, Hoelscher-Buxkemper
 - 188 Zuehl Family (Joyce A. Zaiontz); Murphy's Law?
 - 189 Zuehl Family Reunion
 - 190 Willrich Family Reunion
 - 191 Germanic Genealogist, Contents Issues 1-27
- 196 Roemer's Texas, order blank
- 197 GTHS Membership Application

American Ethnicity



NOTES FROM YOUR (GUEST) EDITOR

Since Mary El-Beheri has been in Germany with a group of students for the first part of the summer, it has been our pleasure to organize and edit this Summer issue for our members.

The one message that cannot be stressed too strongly is our reminder to register and make your hotel reservations NOW for our Annual Meeting slated for September 13, 14, & 15, in New Braunfels. Be sure to see the tentative schedule, reservation form, and other information about the meeting and about New Braunfels.

Note to exhibitors: There will be no fee for exhibit tables, sales or displays. BUT, it is required that all exhibitors be members of GTHS (or pay membership fees) and register for the meeting (and pay the general registration fee). For additional information on exhibit tables and to make your requirements known, contact Helgard Suhr, 8 Mission Drive, New Braunfels, Texas 78130, phone: (512) 625-6330.

Liason between Texas and West Germany: For information, or to have your questions answered, contact Horst Hueske, Rt. 1, Box 85, Driftwood, Texas 78610, phone: (512) 858-7303. His wife Virginia is on the Texas Sesquicentennial committee.

In this issue, you will find a potpourri of items of interest--a day trip in and around Fayette County, a tour of San Antonio's

King William District, a collection of stories on the singing societies, and several articles with contrasts: compare the elegance of the Koehler Home in San Antonio with the Fachwerk homes of the Hill Country pioneers; note the contrasts in Mary Wuemling Mauldin's "A German-Texas Woman" and in Leola Tiedt's letter to Tyler. We hope you will enjoy all the stories.

Did you see the February, 1985, issue of Texas Highways? If not, find yourself a copy; if you saw it, find it and look at it again. This was an outstanding issue, with stories and beautiful photographs of Admiral Nimitz and the museum in Fredericksburg and of the Wends and the settlement at Serbin. Folklorists will also enjoy the story "Bee Barns and Toothache Trees" about O. T. Baker's latest project.

With our 1985 meeting coming up, plans are already being made for the 1986 meeting to be held in Houston. At our June 2 board meeting, Ann Lindeman reported on her committee's work for the 1986 GTHS meeting to be held in Houston. You can be sure there will be plenty in forthcoming Newsletter issues about this.

And, a final reminder to keep those articles, clippings, and other contributions coming in for our Newsletter! Be sure to check the manuscript specifications on the back cover and please abide by them. If you send xerox-type copies of articles, please send us a top-quality copy. Remember, we reproduce exactly what you send us.

Theresa G. Gold

Guest Editor, Summer, 1985, issue

1985 PATRON MEMBERS as of June 20, 1985

Compiled by Dona Reeves-Marquardt

- | | |
|--|---|
| Adkins, Dr. Charles F. & Billie Beaumont TX | Kothmann, Quincy & Alice Fredericksburg TX |
| Arnold, Helen C. Austin, TX | Kronkosky, Dr. Preston C. Austin TX |
| Becker, Mr. & Mrs. Charles D. Melotes TX | Lich, Mr. & Mrs. Glen E. Kerrville TX |
| Becker, Mr. Herbert H. Austin TX | Luhn, James Columbus TX |
| Benteler, Petra Houston TX | May, Olivia L. Katy TX |
| Bohafalk, Dr. Stanley W. Fredericksburg TX | McClain, Prof. Meredith Lubbock, TX |
| Bondi, Dr. Edith F. Houston TX | Mellenbruch, Julia Austin TX |
| Breshears, Jr., Mrs. Frank S. (Geraldine) Houston TX | Mid-City German-American Club of Arlington Arlington TX |
| Burges, III, Mr. & Mrs. Richard J. Round Rock TX | O'Bryant, Tina Salge Aurora CO |
| Dallaeuer, Mrs. Thecla M. Brenham TX | Delkers, Galen Lee Dallas TX |
| Dedeke, Edward R. New Braunfels TX | Overstreet, Carolyn Hondo TX |
| Dietert, Mr. & Mrs. Clarence E. Boerne TX | Powell, Jr., Mrs. Joseph V. Houston TX |
| Dudney, Mrs. N. E. League City TX | Reeves-Marquardt, Dona & Lewis R. Marquardt Buda TX |
| Duewall, Lois Pressler San Antonio TX | Richter, Walter Austin TX |
| Durst, Nelson D. College Station TX | Robinson, Elsie Zwahr Lubbock TX |
| Eakin Publications Austin TX | Robinson-Zwahr, Robert R. Lubbock TX |
| Eckermann, Col. C.E. Orcutt CA | Rogers, Gerhild B. Austin TX |
| El-Beheri, Mary M. San Antonio TX | Scheel, Clarence & Jean Colorado Springs CO |
| Engelhardt, Jr., Dr. & Mrs. H. T. Houston TX | Schmidt, Curt E. New Braunfels TX |
| Gerfers, Alice K. Boerne TX | Schmidt-Lange, Wolfgang & Angelika Houston TX |
| German-American Club of Fort Worth Ft. Worth TX | Smith, Mrs. Adelheid G. Dilley TX |
| Giles, Joy Gayle Austin TX | Spitzenberger, Ray East Bernard TX |
| Goedeke, Ted M. Houston TX | Steglich, Winfred Norman OK |
| Gohlke, Dr. & Mrs. Marvin H. Kerrville TX | Stobb, Gary D. Houston TX |
| Gott, Dr. Clyde M. Boerne TX | Sundstrom, Mrs. R. W. Sioux Falls, SD |
| Griffin, Mrs. V. T. Pasadena TX | Tost, Dietrich Houston TX |
| Hale, Margie Nornhausser Austin TX | Von Rosenberg, Charles W. Dallas TX |
| Hartung, Louis A. San Antonio TX | Wegner, Verlie Burton TX |
| Hertzberg, H. T. E. Ashland OR | Wehmyer, Carl & Betty Ann Ingram TX |
| Houston Saengerbund Houston TX | Wendl, Erich, Hon. Consul Corpus Christi TX |
| Hueske, Virginia & Horst Driftwood TX | Werner, Ernst H. Santa Fe TX |
| Huffhines, Dr. R. A. Dallas TX | Windle, Mrs. Lorene Froehner Houston TX |
| Kargl, Rolf San Antonio TX | Wottrich, Mrs. Pat Houston TX |
| Kelley, Marian H. Melrose Park PA | York, Mrs. Miriam Giddings TX |
| Knopp, Rev. Mr. Kenn Fredericksburg TX | Zeiss, Dr. & Mrs. George H. Dallas TX |
| Koenig, Rodney C. Houston TX | |

GLO-SD-01-(1-82)

GENERAL LAND OFFICE

TEXAS LAND MEASURE

Unit of measure: The vara = 33 1/2 inches; 36 varas = 100 feet.

1900.8 varas = one mile = 5280 feet.

5645.4 square varas = one acre = 4840 square yards = 43,560 square feet.

One league = 5000.0 varas square = 4428.4 acres = 13,889 feet square.

One labor = 1000.0 varas square = 177.1 acres = 2,778 feet square.

1900.8 varas square = 640.0 acres = 5280 feet square.

1344.0 varas square = 320.0 acres = 3733 feet square.

950.4 varas square = 160.0 acres = 2640 feet square.

To reduce varas to feet

—multiply by 100, then divide by 36.

To reduce feet to varas

—multiply by 36, then divide by 100.

To reduce square varas to acres

—multiply by 177, then divide by 1,000,000.

To reduce square feet to acres

—multiply by 23, then divide by 1,000,000.

U. S. LAND MEASURE

The Gunter chain = 66 feet.

0 "

GARRY MAURO, COMMISSIONER

City Founded by Prince Solms

Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels established a German colony on the Comal River and named it New Braunfels after Braunfels, Germany, site of his castle on the Lahn River. At the time, San Antonio, 30 miles to the south, was in ruins and Austin, 50 miles north, was half-deserted.

No white man lived in the New Braunfels area at the time of its founding. In fact, cannibalism thrived among the Indians living in this area. Lipon, Tonkawa, Karankowa and Waco Indians were the more permanent inhabitants of the area when the first German settlers arrived by ox carts and wagons on Good Friday, March 21, 1845.

This was the beginning of a mass immigration involving about 6,000 German immigrants.

Prince Carl was appointed commissioner-general for the colony which the Adelsverein

(Association of Noblemen) in Germany proposed to establish. He was an active member of the Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas and bore the responsibility of making all arrangements for the prospective colony.

Prince Carl landed at Galveston July 1, 1844, and traveled by horseback into many areas of Texas.

Immigrants from Germany began to arrive in the coastal area during the last two months of 1844. But it wasn't until March 15, 1845, that the Prince came to an agreement on land acquisition with the Juan Martin de Veramendi family.

From one of the Veramendi daughters, Maria Antonio Garza, and her husband Rafael E. Garza, Prince Carl purchased 1,265 acres of land at a sum of \$1,111. On Good Friday, March 21, 1845, the first wagons with immigrants

crossed the Guadalupe River.

Originally, the site for the first colony was planned for the Medina River Valley area. Because of delays and other circumstances, the contract for land development in the Medina Valley was negated.

It was this action that caused the Prince to look elsewhere, finding the Comal Springs, which, at the time, were called "fountains."

Several notable persons evolved from the early German immigration of Texas, one of whom was Ferdinand Jakob Lindheimer. Lindheimer has been referred to as the "Father of Texas Botany", having had many species of plants named in his honor by scientific specialists. Lindheimer rode into New Braunfels with Prince Solms in 1844 to inspect the land. He also was editor of the *Neu-Braunfelser Zeitung*, 1852-1872. His home has been restored and is open for public

inspection.

The conservative, ingenious, and hard-working German immigrants began to build the unique community of New Braunfels. In its early days, the community rapidly became an industrial community and industries initiated in the pioneering days still are operating today.

German immigrants played a significant role in the development of Texas as other communities in Texas were founded by off-shoots from the colonization of New Braunfels.

Business and industrial leaders in the metropolitan cities of Austin and San Antonio trace their lineage to the pioneer families of New Braunfels and Comal County.

Today, the citizens of New Braunfels are cognizant of their heritage and are taking steps to insure preservation of historical evidence of its culture, customs and traditions.

New Braunfels and Vicinity

It's a History Buff's Delight

New Braunfels has numerous historical sites, buildings, and homes that appeal to the amateur and professional history buff. There is also an excellent museum, recently renovated and expanded, that has exhibition areas comparable to any museum in the land.

The Sophienburg Museum, which is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., is a must for any visitor to New Braunfels and especially those interested in history.

The exhibits bring to life what the early German immigrants in Texas experienced and how they lived. Furthermore, there are exhibits that indicated the tremendous influence Texas Germans have had over the growth and development of the education system as well as other professional areas.

The museum is on the site which was the meeting place, as well as the seat of government, for the German Immigration Society in New Braunfels. Here the immigrants received their town and acre lots, as well as their rations in 1845.

The original building was torn down in 1886 after a tornado practically demolished it. Prince Carl zu Solms-Braunfels had designated this site for Fort Sophia, which was named after his bride-to-be, Princess Sophia.

The home of one of Texas' unsung heroes has been completely restored and is in itself a museum piece. This restored home is a perfect example of the unique architectural style of construction called "fachwerk."

The Lindheimer Home, located on the Comal River in

downtown New Braunfels, is typical of the ancient fachwerk which German settlers adapted to Texas cedar and limestone.

A framework of handhewn studs and braces for each wall was mortised and pegged together on the ground, then raised into place. Rock or handmade brick filled spaces between the squared timbers.

The home is furnished with some original pieces as well as furniture that was made in New Braunfels at that time. In touring the home, a visitor gets the feeling the Lindheimer just walked outside.

Prince Carl hired Lindheimer as a guide into the frontier wilderness, and he led the colonists to the site of their first settlement, New Braunfels. He was the pioneer who made friends with the Indians and could pass among the Comanche unmolested.

The history books truthfully picture Lindheimer as a romantic and colorful figure whose important contributions to American botany led to international renown among scientists.

He was the first to classify much of the native Texas flora, and over 30 varieties bear his name in their botanical files.

His passion for journalism was intense and he was selected as editor for a German language newspaper in 1852.

Included among the exhibits in the Lindheimer Home are a sword which was a gift of Prince Carl, framed botanical specimens, and a family Bible published in Germany in 1701. The Lindheimer Home is open daily, except for Mondays, from 2-5 p.m., June through August.

104

GTHS ANNUAL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 13-14-15, 1985

T E N T A T I V E SCHEDULE

NEW BRAUNFELS CIVIC CENTER
180 SOUTH SEGUIN AVENUE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13. 4:00 - 7:00 P.M.

REGISTRATION IN THE MAIN LOBBY, CIVIC CENTER

SLIDE PRESENTATION: "CITY OF A PRINCE"
will be shown every 30 minutes Friday only.

AFTER REGISTRATION AND THE SLIDE SHOW,
enjoy some of the sites of New Braunfels on your own.
We suggest: LOG HAUS(excellent German food)
OMA HAUS
BAVARIAN VILLAGE

6:00-7:00...COMMITTEE MEETING, REGISTRY CHAIRS (Civic Center)

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF THE GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY
7:00 - 9:00 P.M. ----CIVIC CENTER

7:00 - 8:30 p.m. -Exhibits of books, etc.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14.

BREAKFAST (at your hotel or elsewhere)

7:30-8:30 a.m...Committee Meeting, Settlers and Soldiers, German
Texans before and during 1836(Civic Center)

8:30 - 1:00 THE TOUR BUSES WILL DEPART FROM THE CIVIC CENTER
for the tour of historical sites. Those who do not
wish to go on the bus tour, may choose workshops
to attend.

WORKSHOPS

9:00 - 9:30 - HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE
Michael O. Hooks, Director and Archivist
Archives and Record Division
Texas Land Office

9:30 - 10:00 - GENEALOGY REPORT FROM THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC
ROBERT ROBINSON-ZWAHR, Genealogist, Author
Lubbock

10:00 -10:15...coffee break

10:15 - 11:00 - ORAL HISTORY FOR THE TEXAS CELEBRATION
DR. ROBERT L. CHARLTON, Baylor University

11:00-11:30 - GERMAN-TEXAN PUBLICATIONS
Meet the authors, browse and buy books.

11:30 - 12:45 - GENEALOGY WORKSHOP
Theresa Gold, San Antonio (Chairperson)

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - CATERED LUNCH AT THE CIVIC CENTER.
This is included in the registration fee.

2:00 - 2:45 - REPORT FROM THE GERMAN-TEXAN SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE
Daphne Garrett, Chairperson, GTHS
Meredith McClain, State Committee Chair

2:45 - 3:00 PRESENTATION: Sophienburg Museum Project

3:00 - 3:15 - Coffee Break

3:15 - 4:30 - GENEALOGY WORKSHOP (SAME AS MORNING SESSION)
Theresa Gold, Chairperson

NOTE: If you attend the morning genealogy workshop, take the time in the afternoon for sightseeing in New Braunfels

6:30 P.M. CIVIC CENTER Time for Gemuetlichkeit
Cash bar (beer and wine)

7:00 p.m. BANQUET (included in registration)
German style buffet will be served and Ron Tippelt, formerly from Bavaria, will play during dining.

PRESENTATIONS: Persons to be honored by the GTHS Board, Mary El-Beheri, presiding

ENTERTAINMENT is scheduled until 11:00 p.m. Ron Tippelt will play for a sing-a-long and dance. German Folk Dancers and a Gesangverein will also perform. Refreshments may be purchased at this time, wine, beer, soft drinks.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15.

BREAKFAST (at your hotel or elsewhere)

WORKSHOPS. CIVIC CENTER

9:15-10:00.....CHURCH SERVICE in German will be held at the First Protestant Church, 296 South Seguin Ave. (One block from the Civic Center)

10:00-10:30NEW BRAUNFELS AND ITS ARCHIVES
Anne Jones, Archivist, Sophienburg Museum

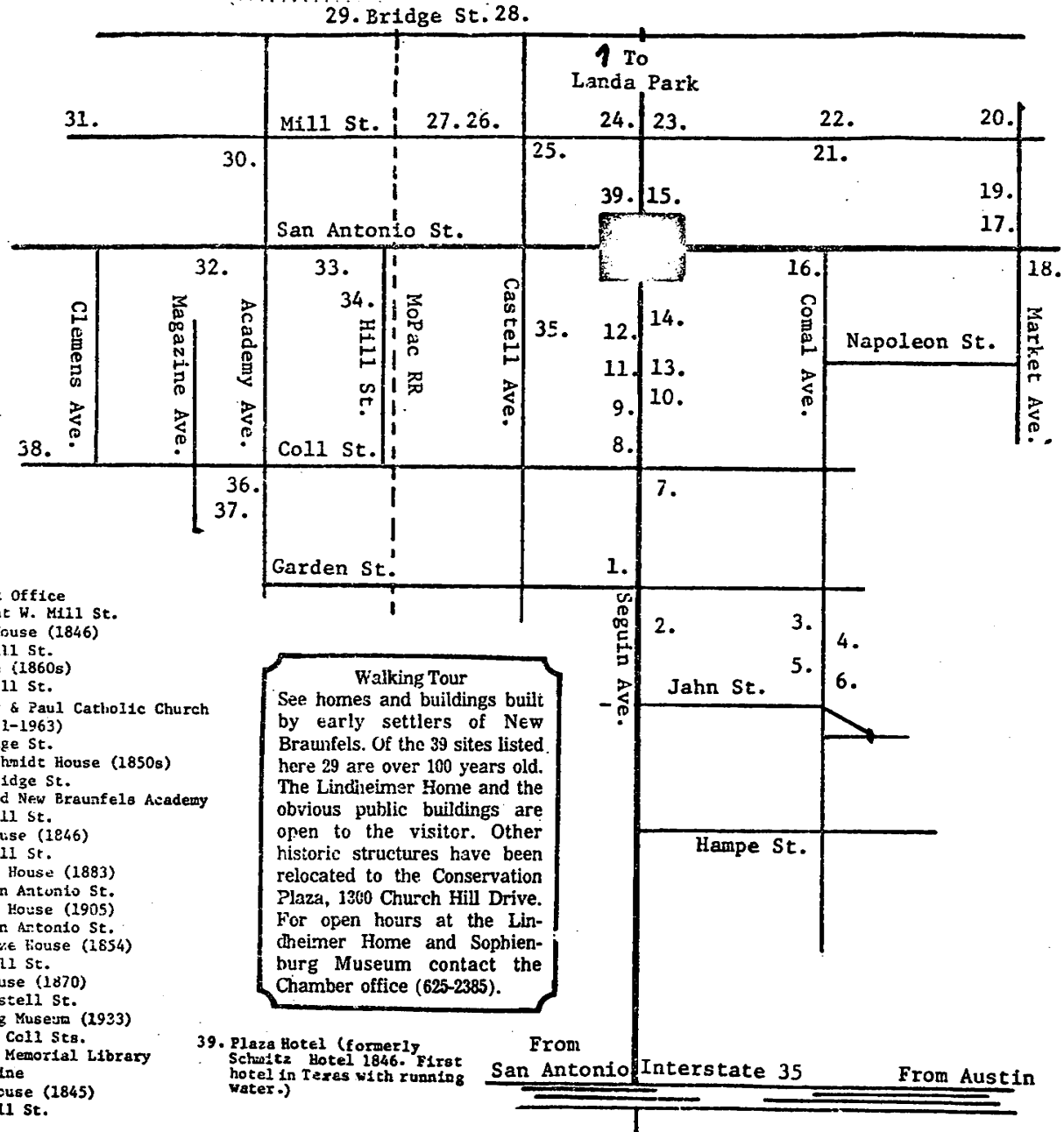
10:30 - 11:00.....GERMAN-TEXAN PUBLICATIONS
Meet Authors of new publications
(If interested, contact Mary El-Beheri)

11:00 - 12:00.....CLOSING BUSINESS MEETING
INTRODUCTION: Horst Hueske, Berlin-Texas Liason
NEW AND OLD BUSINESS ITEMS
COMMITTEE REPORTS
ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS
NOMINEES: 1985-1988...Charles Trenckmann, Austin
1985-1987...August Faltin, Comfort

Walking Tour Of Historic New Braunfels

1. Civic Center & Chamber of Commerce
S. Seguin at Garden St.
2. Dr. Koester House (1860)
421 S. Seguin
3. Rudolph House (1846)
424 Comal Ave.
4. Ferdinand Lindheimer House (1852)
489 Comal Ave.
5. Heinrich Scholl House (1855)
550 Comal Ave.
6. Joseph Homann House (1847)
575 Comal Ave.
7. Joseph Faust House (1880s & 1905)
305 S. Seguin
8. First Protestant Church (1845-1875-1955)
S. Seguin at Coll St.
9. Walter Faust House (1904)
260 S. Seguin
10. Heinrich Bevenroth House (1850-56)
251 S. Seguin
11. Rennert House (1860-70)
228 S. Seguin
12. Morreau House (1869)
190 S. Seguin
13. Krause Store (1860s)
173 S. Seguin
14. Stephan Klein House (1846)
131 S. Seguin
15. Comal County Court House (1889)
Main Plaza
16. Somers Pfeuffer House (1910)
170 E. San Antonio St.
17. Prince Solus Inn (Comal Hotel) (1900)
295 E. San Antonio St.
18. Dr. Lehde House (1870)
308 E. San Antonio St.
19. Joseph Klein House (1852)
135 N. Market St.
20. Eiband House (1870s)
295 E. Mill St.
21. Fritz Goldbeck House (1870s)
182 E. Mill St.
22. August Dietz House (1866)
197 E. Mill St.
23. New Braunfels City Hall
N. Seguin at Mill St.
24. Joseph Peters House (1850s)
259 N. Seguin St.

25. U. S. Post Office
Castell at W. Mill St.
26. Pfeuffer House (1846)
230 W. Mill St.
27. Geue House (1860s)
256 W. Mill St.
28. S.S. Peter & Paul Catholic Church
(1849-1871-1963)
West Bridge St.
29. Phillip Schmidt House (1850s)
354 W. Bridge St.
30. Part of Old New Braunfels Academy
407 W. Mill St.
31. Ullrich House (1846)
554 W. Mill St.
32. H. Gerlich House (1883)
505 W. San Antonio St.
33. John Faust House (1905)
361 W. San Antonio St.
34. F. W. Tietze House (1854)
194 S. Hill St.
35. Hinmann House (1870)
161 S. Castell St.
36. Sophienburg Museum (1933)
Sophienburg & Coll Sts.
37. Dittlinger Memorial Library
373 Magazine
38. Von Coll House (1845)
624 W. Coll St.



106 NEW BRAUNFELS HERALD, New Braunfels, Texas.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

ROOMS HAVE BEEN BLOCKED OFF AT GROUP RATES AT THE FOLLOWING HOTELS: (FOR THESE RATES, MENTION THE GTHS)

HOLIDAY INN, 1051 IH 35 E. (40 rms)
NEW BRAUNFELS 512-625-8017
\$40.75 plus tax (Children free)
(all rooms)

THE FAUST HOTEL (30 rooms)
240 SOUTH SEGUIN
NEW BRAUNFELS 512-625-7791
\$34.00 - \$46.00 (all rooms)
within walking distance to Civic Center

RODEWAY INN (30 rooms)
1209 IH 35 E
NEW BRAUNFELS 512-629-6991
\$33.00 - single; \$38.00 - double

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS: AUGUST 15, 1985

NOTE: We encourage you to call in your reservations, use VISA, Mastercharge, American Express, Diner's Club. Mention that it is for the meeting of the GERMAN TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY. September 13-14-15. Please reserve a room as soon as possible...after the GTHS blocks are gone, the rooms are then on a first come, first serve basis.

REGISTRATION FORM...GTHS MEETING NEW BRAUNFELS

GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY 1985 MEETING...SEPTEMBER 13-15...NEW BRAUNFELS

TOTAL COST before August 15 - \$23.00 (without the bus tour) - \$35.00 (with the bus tour)

after August 15 - add \$5.00 late fee
INCLUDES: LUNCH, DINNER BANQUET, ENTERTAINMENT (MUSEUM ADMISSIONS ON THE TOUR), FILM

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: German-Texan Heritage Society
MAIL REGISTRATION FORM TO: Anna Thompson, 1985 GTHS Registrar
2116 Lynnbrook Dr.
Austin, Tx. 78748

NAME(S):

ADDRESS: ZIP:

TELEPHONE NUMBER: () NUMBER ATTENDING:

INCLUDE BUS TOUR: HOW MANY? (\$35.00 EA)

NOT INCLUDE BUS TOUR: HOW MANY? (\$23.00 EA)

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: (AFTER AUG 15, ADD \$5.00)

PLEASE NOTE: Personal vehicles will not be acceptable on the tour. Bus passengers only.

CLIP AND MAIL THIS FORM TODAY....SEND TO ANNA THOMPSON.....



LIMITED EDITION

1986 GTHS KALENDER

ORDER TODAY!

- Available at the convention for \$4⁵⁰ (incl. tax)
- Available thru mail order for \$6⁰⁰ (incl. tax) U.S.A. only
- Dealer inquiries invited.

Twelve Sepia-Tone pages suitable for framing.

All orders promptly mailed beginning September 16.

MAIL YOUR ORDER TO: **ANNA THOMPSON**
2116 LYNNBROOK DR.
AUSTIN, TX 78748

PLEASE SEND _____ KALENDERS @ \$6⁰⁰ EACH

NAME (PLEASE PRINT) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

TOTAL AMOUNT

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

German-Texan Heritage Society



THE CABIN BOOK 109

EAKIN PRESS

P.O. Box 23066
Austin, Texas 78735
(512) 288-1771

THE CABIN BOOK
(Das Kajütenbuch)

By Charles Sealsfield, pseudonym
(Karl Anton Postl)

This nineteenth-century novel of Texas was written in German by Karl Postl under the pseudonym of Charles Sealsfield and translated into English and published in this country in 1871 by St. John and Coffin. This special Texas facsimile reprint is published as a joint venture with the German-Texan Heritage Society. Included are an introduction and index by Professor Glen E. Lich of Schreiner College and an edited translation, also by Dr. Lich, of Alexander Ritter's Nachwort from the 1982 Reclam edition. Sealsfield made his home in New Orleans for a while, but he also traveled extensively in the South. This novel takes place mostly during the days of the Texas Revolution.

5 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 8 $\frac{3}{4}$, illustrations, 300 pages \$14.95

Excerpts from the "Foreword"

"Charles Sealsfield understood the power of the New World as a symbol of all things for all people. The frontier flourished and blossomed under his pen, and he populated it with romantic rebels like himself.

"Sealsfield's hopes for America focused on Texas when he wrote Das Kajütenbuch in 1841. This novel, in part about Texas life in the 1830s, became a bestseller.

"No other early writer so richly captured the mystique of Texas. The Cabin Book, its English title, painted Texans as they have ever since like to see themselves: bigger than life, better than most other people, mavericks, strutting around and crowing rambunctiously, thoroughly unpromising about their freedom and dignity, . . . and courageous if not downright foolhardy. . . .

"This translation by Sarah Powell captures the spirit and charm of Sealsfield's German remarkably well. . . . Reading The Cabin Book in English today reminds one of the fine novels of Tobias Smollett, Walter Scott, and Charles Dickens, with a little bit of Edgar Allen Poe and Mark Twain thrown in for an American flavor."

Ready For The Sesquicentennial

Antique collectors donate home

Refurbished home turned into museum

By HOLLY WOOD
Express-News Staff Writer

NEW BRAUNFELS — Antique collectors Bill and Nan Dillen restored the historic Andreas Breustedt home, filled it with 19th Century Texas handmade furniture and donated it to the New Braunfels Foundation Trust.

The fachwerk home constructed in 1858 is now open to the public six days a week as the Museum of Texas Handmade Furniture.

A mass immigration from Germany in 1844 included 46 cabinetmakers. Approximately one-fourth of them stayed in New Braunfels. The new museum features the work of Johann Michael Jahn, Frans Stautzenberger, Heinrich Scholl, Frederick Wilhelm Tietze, Theo Schmiedekind and Joseph William Kleine.

English Ironstone was used as ballast in the sailing ships, and one of the most extensive collections of white ironstone in the state is displayed in the family room.

The 50-piece collection, which took half a century to accumulate, includes soup tureens, syllabub bowls and cups, platters and pitchers.

Syllabub was a dessert beverage made from sweetened milk or cream and wine or cider beaten to a froth.

The area of town where the museum is located, 1370 Church Hill Drive, was known as Hortontown and was the home of many Union sympathizers during the Civil War.

"We discussed whether we should have a picture of Abraham Lincoln in a frame dating back to the Civil

War period in a southern home," docent Marsha Orr said on a recent tour.

"But there were so many Union sympathizers here, we felt like it was just as likely they would have pictured Lincoln in their home," she said.

A number of popular Biedemeier pieces are in the parlor.

Laverne Eberhard, executive director of the Heritage Society of New Braunfels, manager of the museum, said that German royalty in the 1800s had furniture made in the French Empire style.

Middle class Germans decided they would copy the aristocratic style of furniture, she said.

"There was a comic strip in German called 'Papa Biedemeier,' and royalty made fun of the middle class calling their look-alike furniture 'Biedemeier,'" Eberhard said.

A tilt top tea table holding Nymphenburg china from Germany sits in front of the settee in the parlor, and above the sofa is a massive 18th Century clock carved from one piece of wood into a bird.

Munich clockmaker Joseph Neeg carved the clock sometime between 1747 and 1750.

The Dillens are in England and Germany looking for antique Ironstone and Nymphenburg china pieces, Eberhard said. The German china is still produced.

On the writing desk in the parlor is

“There was a comic strip in German called 'Papa Biedemeier,' and royalty made fun of the middle class calling their look-alike furniture 'Biedemeier.'”

— Laverne Eberhard

a letter dated in 1856 from the Duke of Nassau appointing merchant Franz Moreau as the consul of New Braunfels.

Scattered throughout the home are small stools with a hole cut in the top so children could carry them around. The Breustedts had 13 children. The children stood on the stools at the dining table because there wasn't room for everyone to sit.

Docent Chere Dedeke Stratemann, whose husband is a descendant of cabinetmaker Scholl, described the family room added after the Breustedt house was moved to the Church Hill Drive site in 1969.

Old pine timbers the Dillens collected from the Bastrop area form the floor of the family room where the Ironstone collection is displayed.

"The forerunner of the six-pack was this beer or wine cask with a handle so they could take it along on socials," Stratemann quipped. "Wouldn't this be great to take on a

float down the Guadalupe or Comal River?"

The Stratemann family has preserved the Scholl cabinet shop, but it is not open to the public. Perhaps it will be someday, the docent said.

Pine and cedar, woods resistant to termites, were used extensively by the German immigrants to build their homes and log cabins. A one-room log cabin built of cedar and mortar from the Solms area south of New Braunfels has been moved onto the property.

The immigrants would build a two-room log cabin to live in while they were building a permanent home.

"Each immigrant family was allowed to bring one chest," docent Helgard Suhr said. "Some brought china and others brought books and poems to their new home."

Through the Labor Day holiday, the museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and from 1 to 4 p.m. Sundays.



PHOTOS BY HOLLY WOOD
CHERE DEDEKE STRATEMANN EXPLAINS IRONSTONE COLLECTION
... at Texas Museum of Handmade Furniture in New Braunfels

110

**HERMANN SEELE'S TEXAS FAHRTEN (TRAVELS IN TEXAS) TO BE
PUBLISHED IN SUMMER, 1985 AND PERFORMED AS A
SESQUICENTENNIAL EVENT IN NEW BRAUNFELS IN MARCH, 1986**

In 1980, when I was at the Sophienburg Memorial Association Archives, examining Hermann Seele's (1823-1902) historically valuable diary for microfilming and its eventual publication, I had the opportunity to look at what is very likely the only German-Texan musical in existence, Seele's unique, unpublished Texas Fahrten. Although the New Braunfels native, Bob Govier, had mentioned the work in a footnote in his Master's thesis twenty years earlier, Texas Fahrten seemed to have escaped the scrutiny of scholars in the intervening years.

This musical (which is actually more like a musical pageant or the 19th century Singspiel), chronicles the adventures of four immigrants to Texas at the time of the Adelsverein colonization to the state. With a bow to the traditions of the Turner movement, Seele named his four immigrants Frisch, Fromm, Fröhlich and Frei. In twelve narrative doggerel verse scenes, each containing a song, Texas Fahrten describes the arrival of the immigrants in Galveston, life in the open in Texas, farming along the Colorado, riding with the Texas Rangers and fighting Indians, visiting San Antonio and taking up the settler's life.

Despite the rich singing society tradition in Texas, the Gesangvereine never fostered a tradition of performing musicals or locally written music. Consequently, the songs of Texas Fahrten - including a wagon driver's song, one sung by the Texas Rangers, two Indian songs and an "Alamo" song - represent a rare contribution to the musical life of the German Texans. Texas Fahrten is also a unique expression of patriotism toward Germany, Texas and America and it provides, moreover, unusual examples of mythical German Texans, Anglo Texans and Texas Indians. For these reasons, Seele's work represents, culturally, a culminating development for German-Texan literature.

While Hermann Seele is well-known as a pioneer German-Texan civic and cultural leader, there is no information in any of his writings about the composition of the work. Also very little is known about the life of the composer, "C. Wilke." He is listed in the 1860 census as being a music teacher from Saxony, born in 1800. Wilke was a member of the La Grange Gesangverein in the 1850s, where he was described as "Professor Wilke." He also wrote four original songs (one of the few German Texans, as mentioned above, to do that), one of which was performed at the 1854 singers' convention in San Antonio, which Seele also attended. In 1867, Wilke died of yellow fever during an epidemic in LaGrange. In unknown circumstances, Wilke and Seele collaborated on Texas Fahrten sometime during the 1850s.

As far as is known, the musical was never performed publicly.

Because of its historical and literary importance, I undertook in 1980 the publication of a critical edition of the text, with an English translation. The publication, by Eakin Press, is scheduled for late summer 1985. This project has been a considerable "travel" story itself which would have likely amused (or bemused) Hermann Seele! Barbara Thoma, the wife of the former Director of the Goethe Institute in Houston, initially read the script text into a tape recorder. To facilitate my own reading of script, the University of Houston enabled me to attend in the summer of 1981 the only script reading workshop in the United States at the Moravian Church Archives at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. At the University of Siegen, in 1983, the initial copy of the text was prepared from the tape cassettes, while the next year, the final copy was prepared on a word processor with the assistance of a script-reading graduate student.

Numerous experts, in Texas and Germany, have helped greatly in the editing of the work. They have ranged from Leola Tiedt who provided useful tips on Seele's use of German plant names to the folklorist Lutz Röhrich and his colleagues at the Institut für Volkskunde at the University of Freiburg who assisted in the identification of the 19th century folk songs and popular music used in one of the scenes.

The Sophienburg Memorial Association which not only approved the publication in the first place, has also generously underwritten the publication expense itself. Ruth Seele Aniol of San Antonio, the sole remaining grandchild of Hermann Seele, has also made generous financial contributions, as a help in bringing her grandfather's musical to light.

During 1984 and 1985, performances of excerpts from Texas Fahrten, were given in Houston and Ft. Worth. In these performances, the narrative text was recited in its English translation, while a Houston sextet, Round Robin, sang the accompanying songs in German, either a capella or with the accompaniment of a pump organ.

In keeping with its sesquicentennial spirit, the premier performance of Texas Fahrten in its entirety will be in New Braunfels at 7:30 pm on Saturday, March 22, 1986 during Founders' Day Weekend. Plans still developing for this event include the possibility of a local actor for the "narrator" of the work.

The next issue of the GTHS Newsletter will have more particulars about this sesquicentennial premier of Texas Fahrten in New Braunfels.

The published edition of Texas Fahrten will be sold through the Sophienburg Memorial Museum and will be available at the 1985 annual meeting of GTHS in New Braunfels.

Theodore Gish, University of Houston



112

REGISTRY of GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE

GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY
Southwest Texas State University
Dept. of Modern Languages
San Marcos, TX 78666

Chairpersons

Category:

- I. Old Businesses - - - - Ann Lindemann, 17914 Nanes Dr., Houston 77090 / 713-444-4446
- II. Vereine - - - - - Verlie Wegner, Box 73, Burton, 77835
- III. Churches & Synagogues
 - Lutheran - - - - - Elizabeth Lehmann, 604 Atlow Dr., Brenham 77833/ 409-836-7689
 - Methodist - - - - - Lauren Kattner, 3381 Ave. P, Plano 75074 /214-881-0849
 - Other Protestant - -
 - Catholic - - - - - Arliss Treybig, PO Box 1236, El Campo 77437/409-543-3730
 - Synagogues - - - - -
- IV. Cemeteries - - - - - Renate Meiners, Route 1, Round Top 78954 /409-542-2218
- V. Schools - - - - - Miriam York, 1409 East Austin, Giddings 78942/409- 542-2218
- VI. Farms and Ranches - - - Lornette Dukes, Route 1, Box 383A, Cuero 77954/512-275-2028
- VII. Fachwerk Construction - -Daphne Garrett, Box 35, Warda 78960 / 409-242-3822
- VIII. Museums, Historical Soc.- Margaret Bracher, 202 West Morse, Fredericksburg 78624
Institutions
- IX. Historical Marker, Monuments & Statues (by counties)
 - Austin, Lee, Bastrop - - - Miriam York (see above)
 - Galveston - ----- Mary Faye Barnes, 2805 Woodlawn, Dickinson 77539
 - Kendall----- Alice Gerfers, PO Box 807, Boerne, 78006
 - Washington----- Elizabeth Lehmann (see above)
 - Panhandle area ----- Meredith Mc Clain
 - North Texas area - - - - - Lauren Kattner (see above)
 - Colorado ----- Arliss Treybig (see above)
 - Comal - ----- Agnes Lehmann,
 - Lampasas, San Saba ----- Charlene Nash, Route 2, Box 30, Lampasas 76550
 - Gillespie ----- Glen Treibs, Fredericksburg 78624
 - Travis, Williamson ----- Winnie Mae Murchison, PO Box 814, Pflugerville 78660
 - Hays, Caldwell, Blanco, Guadalupe ----- Anna Thompson, 2116 Lynnbrook, Dr. Austin, 78748
 - Bexar ----- Mary El-Beheri, Ingrid Kokinda, 9202 Attleboro, S.A., 78217
 - Victoria ----- Patsy Hand, 13 Tonto Cir., Victoria 77904

Volunteers are needed in all categories where a chairperson is not indicated, and for other counties where German heritage is found--contact Daphne Garrett

PLEASE SUBMIT ALL MATERIAL DIRECTLY TO THE APPROPRIATE CHAIRPERSON

REGISTRY of GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE

REGISTRY CATEGORIES, 1986 Sesquicentennial Edition

- I. Old Businesses ----- Stores, banks, newspapers, mills etc. founded before 1887 and still in business today. Need not be under the original owner, buildings alone may registered if 100 years old.
- II. Vereine ----- Organizations founded before 1887 and still active, including agricultural, musical, literary, shooting clubs, etc., and/or their buildings.
- III. Churches & Synagogues ----- Congregations founded and/or buildings erected before 1887 by German speaking people and still in existence.
- IV. Cemeteries ----- Public, private, and church cemeteries which primarily contain German-Texan graves.
- V. Schools ----- Public, private, and parochial schools founded before 1887 and still in existence and/or their buildings
- VI. Farms & Ranches ----- Historical homesteads of considerable size and/or significance developed before 1887 and still intact. Ownership need not be the original family.
- VII. Fachwerk Construction ----- Buildings using fachwerk (half-timbered) construction in all or part of the structure.
- VIII. Museums, Historical Societies, Libraries, Institutions ----- Those devoted to preservation of German-Texan history, culture, or the work of a German-Texan, or housed in a historic building of German-Texan significance.
- IX. Historical Markers, Monuments and Statues ----- State of Texas historical markers, local plaques, monuments, statues, and National Register of Historic places plaques pertaining to German-Texan heritage or history.

The German-Texan Heritage Society is planning to publish a Registry of German-Texan Heritage as a guide for those who wish to visit or know of such places. The material submitted will become part of a permanent file to be available for study. It is planned to prepare county maps pin-pointing these locations. The Registry and Maps will be available to members and the public for a fee. Please submit entries to the appropriate chairperson listed on the following pages, according to the guidelines furnished.

German-Texan Heritage Society
Southwest Texas State University
San Marcos, Texas 78666

GTHS is a non-profit organization founded in 1978 to preserve German-Texan heritage.

114

ENTRIES RECEIVED FOR REGISTRY

Old Businesses (see report by Ann Lindemann)

Vereine

La Bahia Turn Verein
Houston Turn Verein
Boerne Village Band

Churches

St. Roch's Catholic, Mentz
Bethlehem Lutheran, William Penn
Salem Lutheran, Rosehill
First United Methodist, East Bernard
St. Peter's Evangelical, West
Zion United Church of Christ, Waco

Synagogues

none

Cemeteries

St. Peter's Evangelical
Theis Family, Rosehill
Witte-Hagedorn-Jaeger, Washington County
Witte-Schmid, Austin County
St. Roch's, Mentz
Salem Lutheran Cemetery, Rosehill
Jonischkie Family, Yorktown

Schools

St. Paul's Lutheran, Serbin
Blinn College, Brenham
German-English School, San Antonio

Quihi School

Farms &
Ranches

Andreas Martin Farm, near Vanderburg
Johannes Lindeburg Farm, near Quihi
Johannes Breiten Farm, near Quihi
Witte Farm, Austin County
Raeke Farm, near Industry
Klett Ranch, near Johnson City
Johnson Ranch, Markham
Schaefer Farm, Comal County
Woller Farm, Bexar County
Ranch, Comfort (Stewart)
Schorlemer-Rabke Farm, near Cuero
Hilltop View Farm, near Pflugerville

Fachwerk

Witte-Schmid House, Austin County

Museums

Elisabet Ney Museum, Austin
Nimitz Museum, Fredericksburg
Pioneer Museum, Fredericksburg
Vereins Kirche Museum, Fredericksburg

County Markers--- a few have been received

ATTENTION MEMBERS: 99% of the above listings were received from the general public in response to a Press Release sent out in February. WHERE IS OUR MEMBERSHIP ?

DON'T YOU CARE?

SEND YOUR ENTRIES AT ONCE TO THE APPROPRIATE CHAIRMEN

GERMAN-TEXAN BUSINESS REGISTRY
Ann Lindemann
17914 Nanes Dr.
Houston, Texas 77090

115

Entries already received in the German-Texan Business Registry are:

CENTRUY OLD BUSINESSES

- ALAMO IRON WORKS, established in 1876, original owners Jacob Schuehle and Richard G. Nixon, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas
- GROSS NATIONAL BANK, established in 1874 by Carl, Gustav and Friedrich Gross, San Antonio, Bexar, County, Texas
- LA GRANGE STATE BANK founded in 1865 by John Schuhmacher in La Grange, Fayette County, Texas
- LINDEMANN STORE established in 1884 by Edward Lindemann and Franz Getschmann in Industry, Austin County, Texas
- OTTO M. LOCKE NURSERY established in 1856 by Johann Joseph Locke in New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas
- LONE STAR BREWERY built in 1883 by Edward Hoppe & Stock Company in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas
- THE MENGER HOTEL established 1859 by William Menger in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas
- NEU BRAUNFELS ZEITUNG & NEW BRAUNFELS HERALD established in 1852 by F. Lindheimer and D. Feick in New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas
- PIONEER FLOUR MILL founded in 1859 by Carl Hilmar Guenther in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

BUSINESSES NEAR A CENTURY OLD

- ANGELINA COUNTY LUMBER COMPANY established by Joseph Kurth, Lufkin, Angelina County, Texas
- ANGELINA AND NECHES RIVER RAILROAD founded in 1889 by Joseph Kurth in Lufkin Angelina County, Texas
- EILENBERGER'S BAKERY established in 1898 by F. H. Eilenberger in Palenstine, Anderson County, Texas
- LUFKIN INDUSTRIES established in 1902 by Joseph H. Kurth in Lufkin, Angelina County, Texas
- LUFKIN NATIONAL BANK (part of FIRST CITY BANK TEXAS today) established in 1901 by Joseph H. Kurth in Lufkin, Angelina County, Texas
- WESSENDORFF LUMBER COMPANY began in 1891 by Anton B. Wessendorff in Richmond, Fort Bend County, Texas

BUSINESSES ESTABLISHED A CENTURY AGO WITH ONLY THE BUILDING REMAINING

- MENGER BREWERY established in 1855 by William Menger (exists as the Menger Hotel basement today) San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas
- SCHRAMM GIN built in 1857 for E. Knolle (gin operated until 1974 in remodelled building used as warehouse today) Industry, Austin County, Texas
- THE SOAP WORKS established by Simon Menger (factory operated over 50 years and is the present office of the Soap Works Apartment Complex) San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas
- STAARCKE GENERAL MERCHANDISE AND CARRIAGE COMPANY established in 1849 by F Staarcke (building being restored by San Antonio Conservation Society) San Antonio, Texas

GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

116

Southwest Texas State University
Dept. of Modern Languages
San Marcos, TX 78666

REGISTRY

1986 Edition-----REGISTRY OF GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE-----APPLICATION FORM

Name of person submitting entry _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

Category: _____

Name of entry : _____

Address of entry (be specific) _____

Present owner --Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

(if submitting an organization or institution, give name of director, pastor, or Pres.)

Summary History: Date Founded or erected _____

Founder _____

Original name of entry _____

Later names _____

Brief Description of entry _____

Old photograph available on loan--- Yes _____ No _____

Full History : Please attach any material available on this entry. Examples of suitable material to submit with a proposed listing on the Registry:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Pamphlet, book, newspaper clipping | Modern photograph |
| Copy of historical marker application | Text of a marker |
| Biographical sketch | Architectural drawings |
| Bibliographic references | Family history pertinent to entry |

Send this application form and supporting material to the appropriate Chairperson listed on the attached sheet. All material will become a part of the GTHS permanent file, available for study. Old photographs will be returned.

Deadline: The original target date for completing entries was to be Sept 1, 1985
Chairpersons are supposed to have their summaries written by Sept. 13, 1985

Please help us to meet this schedule. We hope to publish in early 1986.

SETTLERS and SOLDIERS

Germans in Texas before and during 1836

GROUP RESEARCH PROJECT

Although much has been written and said about the German immigration to Texas starting in 1844, little has been researched and published about the early German immigrants and volunteer soldiers who came to Texas before and during 1836.

It is the purpose of this project to research primary sources, explore family traditions, and write the story of these Germans in early Texas. Although the results of this investigation are to be presented in narrative, readable style, each fact or family tradition related is to be specifically documented.

Everyone is invited to participate. We are especially anxious to contact descendants of these early Germans, as many have already done some work on their ancestors, and have family momentos at their disposal. Each chapter in the biographical section will present an individual or family, giving as complete a picture as practical of their origins in Germany, their voyage, activities in Texas, and their participation in the War of Independence and the Republic of Texas.

Naturally, there will be a great deal of information about some people, and very little about others. This is not planned as a book of genealogy. Where published works are available on specific families, bibliographic references will be given. In addition to the biographies, additional chapters would treat subjects such as the "Runaway Scrape", German settlements, Texas land grants etc.

Although it would be appropriate for the biographies to be researched and written by a descendent, it is not necessary to be a descendent to participate. Anyone interested in basic research and/or narrative writing is invited to participate. Each writer and researcher will be given credit for their work. Descendants who are not interested in research or writing are invited to share their knowledge with those who will "adopt" an ancestor.

The final form and presentation of this effort will be determined at a later date by the board of GTHS. It is proposed that GTHS publish this as a book in 1986.

Approximately a dozen people are already hard at work on this project - won't you join us? Specific guidelines for research, a proposed outline, related documents and maps, source lists, and other material will be provided as available. Suggestions are welcome!

Persons interested in researching, writing, or contributing information are urged to contact:

Daphne Garrett
GTHS Special Projects
Box 35, Warda, Texas 78960
(409) 242-3822 or (713) 468-7516

GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY
Southwest Texas State University
Dept. of Modern Languages
San Marcos, TX 78666



Ms. El-Beheri

Julia Meriweather, Ms. Mary Jo McLaughlin, Reagan Coblentz and Pam Harboth gather at the airport to welcome their German guests with signs and balloons.

*From: B.T. The Magazine MacArthur High School, San Antonio
May, 1985*

Banners flew, the band began to play, and the red carpet was rolled out to welcome the twenty tired German students after their long flight from Meerbusch, Germany on April 2 as they began their three week stay.

"The welcome was great. I did not think you would make such a big deal out of it. I loved it," Heike Grauting, a German student said.

These students and their American hosts were participating in a pilot program, the first of its kind in Bexar county, called the German-American Partnerships Program.

Each German student attended Mac classes and participated in extra-curricular activities, finding many differences between their school and Mac.

"In Germany, our school sys-

tem does not offer courses such as typing and journalism classes," Ralf Raebel, said.

Apart from attending classes, the German guests travelled with their host families to such places as Port Aransas, Dallas, Austin, and downtown San Antonio.

"The coast has been the best trip so far. We had so much fun. We are all enjoying this experience," Senior Pam Harboth said.

The exchange program was created to extend the learning experience out of the classroom.

"The program is a learning experience on how to adjust to the similarities and the differences in human beings," Ms. Mary El-Beheri, German teacher said.

"I think this program is really working. Already most of the

Germans' English is faster and they are losing their accent," Junior Joe McGinty said.

During sixth period all the German students gathered in a room and discuss their observations. The students were required to keep an account of their day.

"They had other assignments they had to do with their host student, such as visiting certain places and answering questions about those places," Ms. El-Beheri said.

The American students are finding that all teenagers no matter what their nationality have similar interests.

"Tanya, my guest, and I were discussing abortion. Not only is it an issue over here but it is also one of great concern in Germany. We all care." Sophomore Heidi Schmidt said.

The German Experience, continued



Ms. El-Beheri

Chris Hagen, Frau Meyer, Ms. Mary El-Beheri, Metias Nicholi, Stephan Meyer, and Ms. Mary Jo McLaughlin greet each other in their native languages.

Other controversial issues that both countries are concerned with have also been discussed.

"Personally, I am against MX missiles and military bases but I feel that they are necessary to maintain peace. Just because America and Russia may have different political views towards those issues, that does not mean that if I disagree with their views that I hate the American or the Russian people," Marcus Becker, a German student said.

Most of the guests were surprised at the amount of freedom Mac students seemed to have, also they were shocked to see how close a relationship the students

and teachers have.

"In Germany we have so much homework that we have no time to work, also there are not many jobs open to teenagers," Ralf said.

"One of the students could not believe that one of my students actually called me, she was so shocked to see how close the teachers are with the students," Ms. El-Beheri said.

Although the students do not feel there are any major differences between the students, they do say there are some small differences.

"The girls wear so much makeup, and all students look much older," Maren Leupelt, a German student said.

On April 23, the German students took their flight home, but

that marks only the halfway mark for this program. The second leg of the program will begin on June 5, when the 20 Mac students participating in the program fly to stay with the their students they had hosted.

The Mac students will visit Meerbusch City Highschool, and learn more about the German culture. The trip will end on July 3, when the students fly home.

"I have always wanted to go to Germany, and thought hosting a student would be neat. I cannot wait; I already have my bags packed!" Heidi said.

Alisa Lane

120

Upholding the Tradition

In 1846 there was one. By 1907 there were twenty-nine. In 1950 there was one----and then there were none. That is, until DEUTSCHE-WELT U.S.A. appeared with its first issue in September 1979. And so, for the past five years we again have had a German language newspaper published in Texas.

Zeitung, Wochenblatt, Volksblatt, Demokrat, Volksfreund, Vorwärts, Freie Presse, Volksbote, Volkszeitung, Beobachter, Deutsche Post, Herold, and Rundschau were at one time or another household words in towns all over the State of Texas. Local, State, National, International, and news from the Homeland; home and garden tips, local advertising, political commentaries, letters from readers; poems, and serialized novels filled these newspapers with all the reading material one could desire--- and in the mother tongue for comfortable reading.

Like DEUTSCHE WELT-U.S.A., many were family operated. Some were printed in the home, and certain days of the week were devoted entirely to the production of the paper. Some were weekly, others bi-monthly or monthly. Some lasted only a year, others lasted decades. Like DEUTSCHE WELT-U.S.A., some included columns in English. After all, the huge German immigrant population of Texas was slowly, but slowly, beginning to think, read, speak, and officially record in English.

It was not the First World War which caused the demise of the German language paper in Texas, for in 1922 there were still 16 being published. Nor was it the Second World War, for in 1942 there were still 6. No... it was the assimilation of the German speaking immigrants and their descendents into the mainstream of everyday life which caused the demise of the German language newspaper in Texas. Only recently has the popularity of preserving our Texas heritage, coupled with a new breed of German immigrants (the new pioneers), renewed the need

and interest in a German language newspaper.

However, the same old problems exist. Subscription prices never cover the costs, advertising comes and goes, support runs hot and cold, and there is never enough time or space to do all the staff desires.

Many of the earlier editors and publishers were distinguished citizens in other activities. Ferdinand Lindheimer, editor and founder of the *Neu-Braunfelser Zeitung* (1852-1957) was an accomplished botanist and is known as the "Father of Texas Botany". W.R. Trenckmann, editor and founder of the *Bellville Wochenblatt*, served in the State legislature and moved his paper to Austin. However, none that I know of received such an honor as did Liselotte Babin on March 6, 1985. The presentation of the BUNDES-VERDIENSTKREUZ (ORDER OF MERIT) by Consul General Vogel on behalf of the German Government was truly a distinctive honor for the publisher and editor of DEUTSCHE WELT-U.S.A.

The staff of DEUTSCHE WELT-U.S.A. and its readers join in heartfelt congratulations to Liselotte for she truly deserves to receive this high award bestowed upon her by the President of the Federal Republic of Germany. But let us not forget Robert and Bruce, her husband and youngest son, who, like many earlier German newspaper families, not only morally support her in the endeavor, but actually help to produce the paper.

In the old days, the editors and their families were fondly called by their paper's name. Everyone knew *der "Wochenblattmann"*, or *die "Volksblattfrau"*, or *die "Zeitungsfamilie"*, and referred to them by that name. So let us say congratulations to *die "Deutsche-Weltfamilie"*, and thanks for upholding the German-Texan newspaper tradition.

Daphne Garrett
Contributing Editor

Deutsche Welt - U.S.A.
Fifth Year - No. 8
March 1985

Publisher
Liselotte G. Babin

Co-Publisher
Bruce A. Babin

Editor
Liselotte G. Babin

Contributing Editors:
Elke Ditges
Lisa Kahn
Hildegard Graeter
Daphne Garrett
Artur E. Straub

Layout:
Leroba Design

Advertising
Deutsche Welt-U.S.A.
(713) 721-7277

1985 Leroba Enterprises, Inc.
DEUTSCHE WELT - U.S.A.
-a bilingual German-American
newspaper- is published monthly
by Leroba Enterprises, Inc.

P.O. Box 35831
Houston TX. 77235
9727 Fondren
Suite 208
Houston, Tx 77096
(713) 721-7277



**Top picture: Publishers Robert
and Liselotte Babin**

Bundesverdienstkreuz für Liselotte Babin

'Order of Merit'
bestowed upon Mrs. Liselotte Babin



After presentation of the Order of Merit to Mrs. Liselotte Babin, Consul General Joachim Vogel (l.) and Member of Congress Helmut Sauer (r.), enjoyed a celebration

Bundestagsabgeordneter Helmut Sauer (CDU/CSU) aus dem Kreis Salzgitter, der sich gerade mit einem Sonderausschuß in Houston aufhielt, ergriff dann das Wort und ermutigte Frau Babin, ihre gute Arbeit fortzusetzen und den Menschen hier ein gerechtes Deutschlandbild mittels ihrer Zeitung zu präsentieren.

Frau Babin bedankte sich in einer kurzen Ansprache bei Herrn und Frau Vogel für die schöne Feierstunde, bei ihren Freunden und Inserenten für treue Unterstützung und nicht zuletzt bei ihrer Familie, ohne deren tatkräftige Mithilfe das deutsche Radioprogramm, das nunmehr seit fast vierzehn Jahren ausgestrahlt wird, und die deutsche Zeitung (ins sechste Jahr gehend) wohl kaum existieren würden. Die Gäste stießen mit Sekt auf noch viele weitere Jahre erfolgreichen Schaffens für Frau Babin an. Herr Kindermann, Besitzer des Restaurants 'Golden Elk' überreichte ihr einen Rosenstrauß und von 'Kranzler', dessen Besitzerin leider nicht kommen konnte, wurde eine riesige Tortengeschickt, die den Gästen, darunter Angehörige des Generalkonsulats, des Goethe-Instituts, der deutschen amerikanischen Handelskammer, verschiedener Reisebüros sowie einiger Firmen und Clubs, zu später Stunde noch vortrefflich mundete.

Sicherlich waren sich alle Anwesen den in einem Punkt einig, nämlich, daß Frau Babin diese Auszeichnung volllauf verdient hat. E.D.

Der 6. März 1985 war ohnehin ein schöner Frühlingstag, aber ein ganz besonderer Tag im Leben von Liselotte Babin, Herausgeberin dieser unserer Zeitung DEUTSCHE WELT-U.S.A. und Moderatorin der Radiosendung "Musikalischer Trot mit Liselott" sonntagsmorgens.

An diesem Tag wurde Frau Babin für ihre Verdienste um die Pflege der deutschen Sprache das Bundesverdienstkreuz samt Ehrenurkunde verliehen. Die Feierlichkeit fand im Hause des Generalkonsuls, Herrn Joachim Vogel und seiner Frau Antonia statt. Die versammelten Gäste, Familienangehörige, Freunde, Mitarbeiter und Inserenten von Frau Babin, erhielten eine Kostprobe von Herrn Vogels amüsant-spritzigen Reden. Er erinnerte sich in seiner Ansprache, daß er vor ca. drei Jahren bei einer Autotour an den Golf plötzlich ein bayrisches Scherzlied im Radio hörte und somit seine erste Bekanntschaft mit der deutschen Radiosendung machte. Auch lobte er Frau Babins Initiative zur Herausgabe der Zeitung, die die letzte deutschsprachige Zeitung in den Südstaaten ist. Noch um die Jahrhundertwende gab es allein in Texas 35 deutschsprachige Zeitungen.

Dann las Herr Vogel die von Bundespräsident Dr. Richard von Weizsäcker unterzeichnete Ehrenurkunde vor und befestigte anschließend unter dem Beifall der Anwesenden das Bundesverdienstkreuz an Frau Babins Jacke (später wurde es von einigen modebewußten Damen an eine bessere Stelle gerückt!).

Fifth Year - No. 8 - March 1985

Deutsche Welt - U.S.A.

122 What the Explorers Saw

In writing "The Explorers' Texas," Weniger assembled more than 300 pre-1860 eyewitness observations, including more than 10,000 separate references to and descriptions of the wildlife and landscapes of Texas.

Alligators roamed the palm-lined river when the first explorers arrived in the 1690s at the site of what is now San Antonio. The river was clear and flowing, and huge herds of deer and buffalo grazed among the mesquite and five-foot high grass.

"The herds of elk and buffalo along the San Antonio River were so fierce that the exploring Spaniards' horses bolted in terror and were never seen again," says OLLU botanist and biology department chairperson Del Weniger.

Since Weniger's ancestors weren't lurking around then with paint brush and palette to capture the countryside on canvas, how can he be so sure of his word picture of San Antonio before the settlers came?

Weniger is probably the only person in the state who has spent 14 years studying the records of 40,000 pre-1860 surveyors' "witness trees," as well as surveyors' field notes, diaries, military expedition notes, letters, official reports, journals, railroad records, and other data.

The result of all this painstaking research is "The Explorers' Texas—The Lands and Waters," published in November 1984 by Eakin Press in Austin. The book covers Texas' natural history, from the first explorer to 1860.

"By that time, fundamental changes

in much of the Texas flora and fauna had begun taking place," Weniger explains.

"Witness trees" were literally the trees that surveyors used to define the limits of the piece of land they measured. For example, the first corner of a piece of land to be surveyed was always described as being so many yards north, south, east or west from the largest nearby "witness tree." They carefully described the size, variety and age of the tree. These descriptions give historians an exact picture of how Texas looked.

In writing "The Explorers' Texas," Weniger assembled more than 300 pre-1860 eyewitness observations, including more than 10,000 separate references to and descriptions of the wildlife and landscapes of Texas.

"Cacti of Texas"

"The Explorers' Texas" is not Weniger's first book. In fact, it's not even his only book published in November. The other is "Cacti of Texas and Neighboring States" (University of Texas Press, Austin, 1984), drawn from his now out-of-print book, "Cacti of the Southwest" (1970). Weniger is a renowned expert on cactus and other Texas plants. A Texas cactus, *Echinocereus wenigeri*, is named after him.

"Cacti of Texas" lists almost 200 forms of cacti by their scientific and common names. Weniger's color photographs accompany the descriptions.

Weniger was one of the authors of "San Antonio in the Eighteenth Century," which won the Texas Historical Commission's 1978 official Texas award for the best publication of the year in local or regional Texas history. He is the recipient of the Socio Emerito award from the Sociedad Mexicana de Cactologia, Mexico City.

After 14 years of work on one book such as "The Explorers' Texas—The Lands and Waters," less energetic people might be content to take a rest from research. Not Weniger. He is working now on a second volume, to be titled, "The Explorers' Texas—The Plants and Animals," which he expects to take two more years to complete. And, he is working on turning a novel he has written into a film script.

Copies of Weniger's books are available from Sister Isabel Ball, CDP, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "The Explorers' Texas" is \$24.95. The 365-page "Cacti of Texas" costs \$14.95 in paperback and \$24.95 in hardback. To order your copies, send in the coupon below.

Please send me the following book(s) by Del Weniger:

"The Explorers' Texas"	\$24.95	
"Cacti of Texas"	\$24.95 (hb)	\$14.95 (pb)
+\$.50 for postage and shipping	Total enclosed	_____

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please return to Sister Isabel Ball, CDP, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences,
 OLLU, 411 S.W. 24th St., San Antonio, Texas 78285.

On Founders Day

March-April, 1985

Publications Cited

Publications awards were presented by the San Antonio Conservation Society to ten individuals or organizations on Friday, March 22, during its annual Founders Day celebration held in the garden at the Wulff House.

Winners were:

Dr. John L. Davis, Institute of Texan Cultures. "Exploration in Texas: Ancient and Otherwise"—stories of old world explorers who may have come to Texas before 1520.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church. "Treasures of St. Mark's"—an aesthetic and historical work portraying, in color and black and white photographs by Joseph K. Brown, some of the stained glass windows and other memorials contained in one of San Antonio's oldest and most historical churches. The book was produced by a committee of church members composed of Charlotte Cummings, Joyce Pursley Maret, Richard C. Halter, Hazel Yochem, Leslie Adams and Ruth Plewes.

Marian Martinello and Thomas Robinson. "San Antonio: The First Civil Settlement in Texas"—a curriculum guide for teachers of kindergarten through 12th grade which provides historical information and suggestions for teaching Hispanic American history of the 18th century new Spain.

Jack McGuire, Institute of Texan Cultures. "Texas: Amazing But True"—a collection of odd, unusual and rarely-told stories of Texas people, places and events discovered during 40-plus years of research.

Virginia and Lee McAlester. "A Field Guide to American Houses"—a guide to identifying house styles which should give readers an understanding and curiosity about America's architectural heritage.

Del Weniger, chairman of the Biology Department, Our Lady of the Lake University. "The Explorers' Texas"—a unique view of the development of Texas from the earliest observations of

travelers in this area. Weniger describes the prairies, waterways and mountains of Texas through the writing of early explorers and notes the changes many years of settlement have had on our environment.

Claude Stanush. "The World In My Head"—a collection of writings by A San Antonio Express-News columnist who has entertained and impressed readers with his insight and observations on wide-ranging local, state, national and international matters. In this book he addresses almost everything, from "Wild Horse Bob" Crosby to the late Lyndon B. Johnson.

June Rayfield Welch. "Texas Courthouse Revisited"—a sequel to his book, "The Texas Courthouse." In this new book, Mr. Welch pays tribute to the architectural and historical past of Texas' counties. He tells the history of all of the state's counties, using photos and vignettes gathered in many hours and miles of travel to all 254 county seats.

Paul Schaefer and Roy Pedroza, KMOL-TV, producers. "Espada Aqueduct"—a television documentary about an irreplaceable landmark.

Allison McCune, KLRN-TV, producer. "Citysites"—a six-part TV series which documented and analyzed San Antonio's diverse urban environment. Through this series, San Antonians learned of historic building, changing neighborhoods, colorful streets and Salado Creek.

The awards were presented by SACS President Bebe Inkley.



Del Weniger



Bebe Inkley, Jack McGuire

124

Letter to Tyler

Dear Tyler,

Tyler Mclean Simpson, I welcome you to the Kiel Klan. I, Leola Kiel Tiedt, am the oldest member of the Annie Eichler and Paul A. Kiel family and, as of now, you are the youngest. I was born July 15, 1907, and you came seventy-five years later. I would like to tell you about the similarities and differences in our births, so that you can know some of the changes that have happened in these seventy-five years.

I was born in a four-room rent house on a farm near Carmine. The doctor, Dr. Paul Suehs, had to come six miles in a buggy. There was no telephone to call him that his services were needed. My father had to ride horseback for over a mile to Hermann and Helen Eichler's farm. They are my grandmother and grandfather and your great-great-grandparents. Grandmother Eichler came to help, and my uncle Albert rode to Carmine to notify the doctor. All went well and I was born.

How different that big and sniny hospital in Oklahoma City where you were born! All the facilities immediately available for any and all emergencies. Thank goodness, you made your appearance in record time without any problems.

Like you, I was my parent's first child and my grandparent's first grandchild. Our names have something in common, too. I was named after Leola Roosevelt, the daughter of T. R. Roosevelt. After me, came Montee, Margaret (after Wilson's daughter) and Garfield. My father was very interested in history, so I am glad that your parents named you after a president, too.

Let's look at a few differences. The navel- and - head care certainly has changed in seventy-five years. I was wrapped around my middle by a four-inch cloth band, cut from a washed flour sack. This kept my navel covered, and a clean band was wrapped around each morning after my bath (which took place in a dish pan). It took a long time for the navel to heal. Now, there is just the clamp and the exposed navel.

The soft spot on my head was considered the part that you did not wash too often and too vigorously. A scab, or cradle cap, was then formed as the result of this lack of washing. To remove this, a salve was cooked from Schafgarbe (yarrow) that everyone grew in their yard. Then a rectangular comb with tiny teeth on two sides was used to remove the scab that was loosened by this yarrow mixture. Just think of the time saved by your mother when she washes your head in the same manner as the rest of your body. No modern baby has become an idiot, or had his brain damaged, because of this washing of the soft spot. Traditions in doing things was very deep-rooted.

To help my teething, I wore a necklace made from the roots of a potato-tomato type plant or a silver dime on a string. Clothes have certainly changed, too. I admired your beautiful baby (could you really call jogging suits, Saks Fifth Avenue, etc., etc. "baby" clothes?) clothes. The little knitted undershirt you wore looked familiar, but had you been born in my time, you would have worn a dress with it. In fact, you would have worn dresses for about four or five years more. Then you would have gotten short pants, and, finally, as a twelve-year old you might have gotten your first long pants.

Your diapers are disposable, but mine were made of sugar sacks or flour sacks and had to be washed and reused. The Sunday diapers were made of flannel or diaper cloth. All were about a yard square, and were then folded into a triangle, and then folded into another triangle. One safety pin held the three tips together.

Mother had no running water, when she was ready for the washing. She did the "running" to the dug well; where she pulled up the water with two well-buckets, tied to a rope that ran through a pulley, which hung from a scaffold, or a tree limb, above the well. She used a rub-board and homemade lye soap and washed in a big wash tub. A large black kettle furnished the hot water after she had built a fire around it. After washing in cold water, the clothes were boiled in the kettle, then rinsed in two more tubs of water, and then hung on an outside washline to dry. You might see the reason for the "dresses", which did not get wet or dirty when the diaper was soiled. How lucky your mother is to put your clothes in the washer, push a button, and wait! The dryer then dries with another push of the button!

Both you and I were breast-fed, but what about the food after that? We had cows that were milked in the morning and at night. That meant fresh milk then, but nothing was known about "Pasteurized" milk. Putting a pot of milk at the back of the wood-burning cook-stove until a "skin" appeared on top served the purpose. A fruit jar of milk in a flour sack was hung from a rope and then put in the well. Another way was to put the jar of milk, wrapped in a cloth, in a pan of water and then set on a windowsill. The air

would dry the cloth by evaporation and thus cool the milk. On rare occasions, ice was bought at Carmine and kept in cottonseed in the barn. This was mainly used for making ice cream.

You will now be using baby food and cereals. My "baby food" was grown in the garden and cooked with the rest of the family's meals.

Although orange juice is a part of your daily diet, it was never a part of mine. Oranges were scarce and usually available only at Christmas. How we prized getting an orange in our stocking! Therefore, it was not unusual for the child to be nursed for eighteen months. The baby did not make the physical gains that a modern baby makes. Also the bones and teeth suffered from needed minerals and vitamins that its diet lacked.

Many babies in my time died from "summer complaint", which was a diarrhea caused by germs from improperly kept foods.

Again how lucky you are to have the refrigerator, the freezer, the micro-wave, the electric stove and the many, many other time-saving devices.

So, Tyler, welcome to the Kiel Klan. May you take advantage of your heritage, your modern life, and your promising future and become a happy, successful, and productive individual.

*With love,
Your Great-Aunt Leola*

Leola Tiedt, Lu Grange, Texas

125

126

A GERMAN-TEXAS WOMAN

This article was written to show the progression of women in society. With the changes that have come in women's position in society have come changes in men's roles in society.

My mother was born 71 years ago to German immigrants. My grandfather sent for my grandmother after he had been in America five years. They married within a day or two of her arrival in Galveston. My mother was born a year later and within four and one-half years, she had three younger brothers.

The family lived on a farm about fifteen miles out of town. The mode of transportation was by horse and wagon. Their income was very meager and their conveniences were nil.

My grandfather was a very dominating man. He controlled all the money in the family. If a child or his wife asked for any money, he intimidated them with a barrage of questions as to what for and why they needed the money. In desperation they would give up and do without before they would ask for money. He did all the buying of groceries, clothes, shoes and fabric. He also did all the Christmas shopping. My mother said he was very generous with Christmas gifts. He enjoyed his family, but he just thought that complete domination was the way to run a household and family.

Due to the fact that my mother was the oldest child and a girl, she was expected to help in the house. The boys did not have to help with household chores; however, they did have to help carry the laundry to and from the river on washday if my grandmother could catch them. Eventhough my mother had to help in the house, this did not excuse her from working in the fields and milking the cows as needed. They lived in a remote area and playmates were few, so her brothers were her only playmates. She was allowed to play as far away from home as they were, however she always had to play whatever the boys wanted to play.

She went only through the 8th grade. The children were not allowed to start to school until after the harvest was in each fall. Therefore, they were always behind the others in class and were never given special attention to bring them up with the other members in the class, and consequently they all eventually dropped out of school.

She then married my father, who was also a German immigrant and not nearly so dominating. He was generous with his money and he allowed her to do the shopping for the family. She did not work outside the home, as there were no available jobs, however she did work in the fields when the need arose. She had three daughters, all of whom graduated from high school and immediately entered the work force. We were never encouraged to go to college, because there was no money and we all married within a year or so of graduation. We all worked to help our husbands through college, all of whom are now professionals, and as a result, not a one of us went to college.

My mother now has three married granddaughters, all of whom were in college when they married. The men were not in school at the time. Their husbands encouraged and supported them financially, as well as domestically, in order for them to finish their degrees. All three girls are professionals and probably when they are established in their careers, their husbands will go back to college and become some type of professional.

At the age of 50, my mother was widowed and forced to go to work to support herself. She had never had to depend on herself for sole support, so she was terrified at the thought, but she soon found that she could depend on herself. She now has a three bedroom-two bath home, luxury automobile and a substantial savings account, which is something she has done entirely on her own, as the life insurance that was left was used to pay my father's hospital debts. There is a confidence about her now that I never saw in her when I was growing up. She feels that every woman should work in order to have her own identity. She also feels that she has lived several life styles; from going to town in a horse and wagon to going in a luxury automobile; from washing laundry at the river on a rub board to using a modern washer and dryer; from enduring a completely dominating father to seeing her granddaughters and their spouses sharing an equal partnership.

The role of female has changed tremendously in seventy-one years, but so has the role of male. In view of the changes she has seen, she feels that women have made great strides in equality. However, having now worked twenty-one years, she sees there is still a great disparage in salaries and opportunities. She has observed that men do not necessarily need a college degree in order to make a lot of money, but she feels that it is almost essential for women to be degreed in order to be financially successful and respected in society. - - - by Mary Wuemling Mauldin

Ungewöhnliches Ereignis in Oberkaufungen

Lisa aus Amerika: Extra zur Taufe ins Dorf ihrer Vorfahren

Kaufungen (ing). Eine Taufe in der Kaufunger Stiftskirche - eigentlich nichts ungewöhnliches. Doch der Täufling am Himmelfahrtstag sorgte für Gesprächsstoff in der Landkreis-Gemeinde, ist er doch 25 Jahre alt und extra über den Ozean nach Oberkaufungen gekommen: Lisa Hering aus den USA wollte sich in der geschichtsträchtigen Heimat ihrer Vorfahren taufen lassen, wo der Name des Obergreben (Bürgermeister) Hering mit dem Baujahr 1822 einen Balken am Pfarrhaus zierte.

Bis zu ihrem Ur-Ur-Ur-Großvater Heinrich Wilhelm, der um 1845 als Zehnjähriger mit seinen Eltern in die Vereinigten Staaten kam, hat Lisa ihre Familiengeschichte zurückverfolgt. Als die junge Frau dann vor sieben Jahren für zwölf Monate als Austauschschülerin nach Hamburg kam - ihr gutes Deutsch erlernte sie damals -, beschloß sie, auch einmal das Dorf ihrer Ahnen zu besuchen und schrieb an die Gemeinde Kaufungen. Die vermittelte das US-Girl an Johannes Schwidurski, der seitdem mit Lisa in regelmäßigem Kontakt steht und sie nun auch als Gast in sein Haus aufgenommen hat.

Als Miss Hering aus Houston/

Texas, engagierte Christin in einer evangelisch-methodistischen Kirchengemeinde („Ich bin sehr einig mit dem Christenglauben“), für 1984 einen Europa-Trip plante, kam ihr Vater Henry Lee auf die Idee, seine Tochter könne sich doch bei dieser Gelegenheit in Oberkaufungen taufen lassen. Lisa hat diese Zeremonie nämlich schon zweimal in ihrem Leben „verpaßt“, wie sie erzählt - weil sie mit ihrer Familie mehrmals umzog und dann jeweils in Kirchengemeinden lebte, wo es entweder keine Baby- oder keine Erwachsenentaufe gab.

Diesmal nun sollte es klappen, und so reisten auch die Eltern der 25jährigen über den großen Teich, um dem Ereignis in der Stiftskirche beizuwohnen. Lisa hatte vorher das übliche Taufgespräch mit Pfarrer Gerhard Schaefer geführt, der dann seine Predigt an Paulus' Brief an die Epheser anlehnte. Tenor: Der Täufling sei in den Herzen der Kaufunger Gläubigen genauso beheimatet wie in ihrer Gemeinde in Texas. Orgelmusik und die Klänge des Posaunenchores umrahmten den Gottesdienst.

Noch bis Mitte nächster Woche bleibt Lisa in Oberkaufungen und bis Anfang Juli in Euro-

pa. Dann kehrt die 25jährige zurück nach Amerika, wo sie übrigens mit den gleichen Problemen zu kämpfen hat wie viele Jungakademiker in der Bundesrepublik. Die studierte Geologin, die in der Ölindustrie arbeiten wollte, hat bisher keine Stelle gefunden. Nun will sie sich weiter um einen Job bemühen oder noch eine weitere Ausbildung als Lehrerin absolvieren.

Gern würde die 25jährige bald wieder nach Kaufungen kommen; doch ob das so schnell klappt, weiß sie selbst nicht: Finanzielle und zeitliche Probleme. Was sie am meisten an der Bundesrepublik und am Dorf ihrer bierbrauenden Vorfahren begeistert hat? „Bei mir in USA ist alles neu, höchstens 150 Jahre alt“, doch in Deutschland begegne man den Zeugnissen vieler Jahrhunderte Geschichte. Und Lisa verweist auf die Stiftskirche in Oberkaufungen, die fast 1000 Jahre alt sei.

Die Geschichte der Familie Hering („In Amerika schreiben viele den Namen falsch, aber hier gibt es keine Probleme“) hat die 25jährige aufgeschrieben. Die zehn DIN-A4-Seiten sind bereits übersetzt und sollen im Jahrbuch 1985 des Landkreises Kassel erscheinen.

Koehler Home Is Showhouse

Twenty-four of San Antonio's top interior designers combine the best of yesterday with the newest of today in this year's Symphony Designers' Showhouse.

Working with the Symphony League, the Junior committee and the Alamo Community College District, members of the American Society of Interior Designers donated their time and talent to the restoration and redecoration of the historic Koehler house at 310 West Ashby. Dates of the Showhouse viewing are May 4-26.

Built before the turn of the century by Pearl Beer founder Otto Koehler, the castle-like mansion today is a center for the educational, cultural and social life of the Alamo Community College District and headquarters for the San Antonio Art League.

When Koehler died in 1914, followed by his wife in 1943, Koehler's nephew, Otto, became the owner. He bequeathed the estate to the college district for use as a cultural center and the ACCD assumed ownership in 1972 when his widow moved.

The property became the Koehler Cultural Center in 1973 when the San Antonio Art League became co-operator with the ACCD.

According to a brief history of the historical landmark by San Antonio art professor Mary George, the home was once considered the city's most costly residence with an estimated value in 1915 of more than \$132,000.

The basement once included a bowling alley decorated by a mural showing Pearl-drinking dwarves bowling; the third floor was a ballroom. The home also included the city's first electric elevator.

Architect for the Koehler House was Carl Von Seutter who had worked with the architect who designed the Bexar County Courthouse.

The ACCD's architectural firm for the restoration is Stubblefield and Mogas.

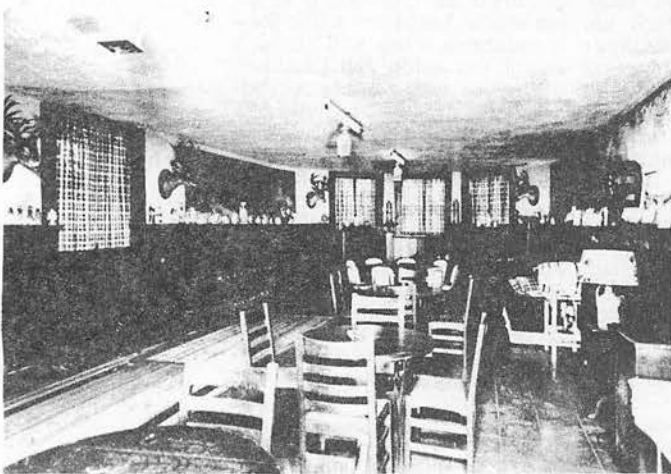
The basement will become offices for the San Antonio College Art Department, but



The Otto Koehler House about 1901.



Entry hall after remodeling and redecorating in 1944.



Bowling alley in basement as it looked in 1944.

the designers will incorporate the original brick walls and bowling alley into the design.

The ground floor of the house will continue as public space and Art League office.

The second floor will serve as gallery space, and the third floor will find expanded use by the college district and community as a reception and meeting area.

feature

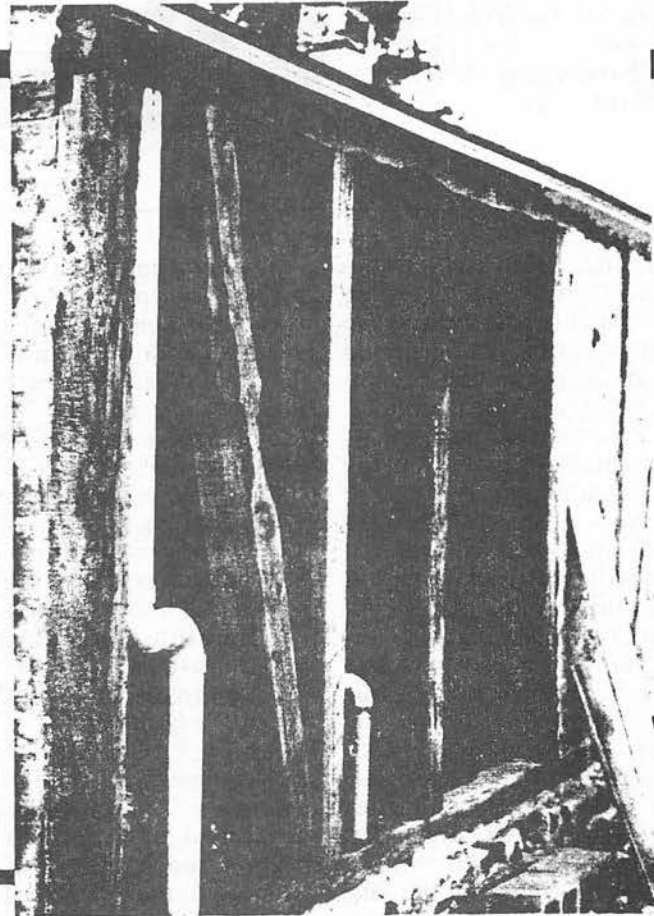
Out of the Woodwork

Story and photos
by Daphne Garrett

Tourists and resident Texans alike are well aware of the value and historical significance of old log cabins remaining from the time of the Texas pioneers. They admire the ornateness of Victorian homes, the elegance of the Alfred Giles designs, the sturdiness of the hill country stone houses and the quaintness of the Sunday houses. But there is one type of nineteenth-century construction in Texas which has been largely unappreciated, or even unnoticed, for it is often concealed behind white plaster or board siding.

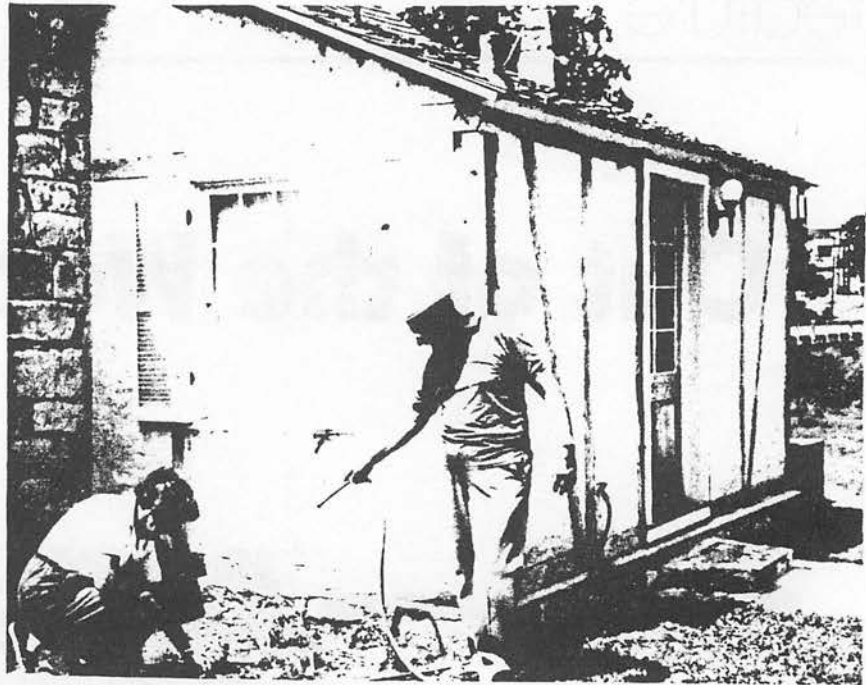
Wooden timbers, set horizontally, vertically, and diagonally create a striking design which, if visible, is often mistaken for pure decoration. In fact, these timbers are the structural framework of the building, and this method of construction, *fachwerk*, is a legacy of German pioneers.

Whether it was the small groups of German families who immigrated to Texas in the 1830's and joined the Stephen F. Austin Colony, or the thousands who arrived in the 1840's and settled



The horizontal, vertical and diagonal timbers of the old fachwerk structures peacefully co-exist with modern amenities, as more old German homes get a facelift.

Fachwerk construction is strongly evidenced in Fredericksburg's Wallace house, where Sammie and Phil Funderburk exhibit and sell wood carvings.



the Hill Country, they all faced the same basic problems regarding food and shelter. Many lived in tents temporarily, or fashioned crude huts with small trees rammed vertically into the ground. A few, with the help of friends, constructed small log cabins using primitive techniques.

Once the basic necessities were arranged, however, these German pioneers could turn their attention to larger and more refined structures requiring skilled carpenters. Some families chose to build bigger and better log homes, but many preferred the more familiar *fachwerk* construction, which dates from the Middle Ages and was extremely popular and widespread in Germany. Of course, the Texas version was much smaller than its counterpart in the old country, and was adapted to the Texas climate. It utilized the traditional arrangement brought to this new land by the Anglo-American settlers of front porches with gable ends to the side. The German-Texas home was usually one or two rooms deep, one or one-and-a-half stories high, and used shingle roofing.

Timbers, hand-hewn from oak, cedar, or cypress were used to create a skeletal framework of vertical and horizontal beams, diagonally braced. The resulting voids (*fach* means "compartment") were then filled with locally available material such as brick, rock, or hand-hewn stone. The resulting sturdy structure, with its mortise and tenon joints and wooden pegs, was built to last for centuries, but each of the carefully fitted timbers was numbered, just in case of a later decision to dismantle and reconstruct the building.

So too, in Germany the *fachwerk* houses were built to last for centuries. Timber framing was developed and perfected, and became more refined, more elegant, and more decorative between 1550 and 1750. In some regions of Germany, the filled area between the timbers was plastered over, creating a pleasing contrast between the dark wood and the white or colored plaster. When stone construction began to replace timber framing, many people plastered over the entire *fachwerk* structure, timbers and

all, an attempt to "keep up with the Schmidts". The same thing happened in Texas. Homeowners began to completely disguise the old-style construction with plaster or board siding. In Texas, this may have been an attempt to "keep up with the Joneses" and blend into the ethnic scene.

Staying abreast of current styles is not so important now, thanks to worldwide interest in historical preservation. In Germany there is a great deal of interest in timber-framed houses, and people are going to considerable trouble and expense to find and restore such buildings. Infrared cameras are being used to determine the condition of timbers which have spent many years hidden behind plaster. Even those structures doomed for destruction resist. A German demolishing contractor commented to the author during a visit to Texas, "*Fachwerk* houses are so strong that, when I push against them with my bulldozer, they push back."

Each year finds more *fachwerk* construction in Texas being dis-

covered, uncovered, or reconstructed. Any area of Texas settled by German immigrants, such as Fredericksburg, Comfort, New Braunfels, or Fayette County is likely to turn up some examples of this unique type of architecture. No two buildings are exactly alike, for the pioneers built to suit their individual needs and tastes, and according to the availability of materials.

A comparison of buildings using the same basic method of construction and all built between 1848 and 1860 in the typical early Texas style will reveal a number of differences.

Two homes in Fredericksburg, which at first glance seem quite similar because of their size, shape, front porches, white plaster between timbers, and outside staircases, are actually quite different. The 1847 Klingelhofer home at 701 W. Main is really a dogtrot plan, originally with an open central hall between two rooms. The timber framing was filled with brick, which was later plastered over. This home is the oldest continuously used home in Fredericksburg, and is still owned by the Klingelhofer family. Through the years, additions have been made, and the open central hall enclosed, thus disguising the dogtrot floor plan.

In contrast to the Klingelhofer home, the house at 512 W. Creek is only partly *fachwerk*. This 1848 home built by Adam Krieger with timber and rock received a solid rock addition and the entire house, inside and out, was plastered over. During restoration, the owners exposed the timbers of the earlier portion. Each section has a front door, with the long front porch and Victorian gingerbread unifying this charming home.

The Peter Walter home, also on Creek Street, was built around 1848 to replace an earlier log cabin. Hand-hewn timbers—securely pegged with square pegs in round holes—and stone infill can be seen. This small house is the property of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, and was used as a chapel for many years. Recently, wood shingle siding on the side walls has been removed, revealing the full beauty of the *fachwerk* construction. A solid rock addition to the rear of the

house was a typical solution for growing families.

Although the Kammlah house (now the Pioneer museum) on Fredericksburg's Main Street was also expanded to accommodate an ever-enlarging family, the original structure, built in 1849, was large enough to house a general store as well as to serve as the family home. The one-and-a-half story timber framework was filled with stone, but then was completely plastered over. However, the Gillespie County Historical Society has removed the plaster from the interior side of the timbers, as well as the flooring to the upper part. Visitors entering through the central doorway, shaded by a deep front porch, see a spectacular array of hand-hewn oak beams, pegged with square pegs in round holes, filled with white plastered rocks.

Sometimes a log building received a *fachwerk* addition, and such was the case of the Loeffler-Weber home at 506 West Main. An 1846 log home was enlarged with vertical and horizontal timbers filled with plastered rock. The front porch, however, was not extended over the 1847 addition.

In Comfort another log home, believed to be the oldest building in its original location, also exhibits a *fachwerk* addition. When the Goldbeck brothers sold their home on 7th Street to August Faltin in 1856, he enlarged the log structure to the side and back using cypress timbers and large sections of limestone, and extended the front porch to include the side addition. The present owner, August Faltin, great-grandson of the original owner, points out that, although the exterior and interior were at one time plastered, the large native limestone sections were carefully sawn and fitted to form a weather-tight fit.

Large native stones also fill the timber framework of the 1860 Otto Brinkman cottage on the corner of High and 6th in Comfort. This adaptively restored home was the first structure in Comfort to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and is one of seven *fachwerk* buildings recorded in the Comfort Historic District.

The 1852 Ferdinand Lindheimer home in New Braunfels, which has only been lived in by his descendants, was at one time completely boarded over and a front porch was added. However, when the New Braunfels Conservation Society acquired the building, they restored it according to a painting made by Lindheimer's son-in-law in 1880. Visitors to this historic home on Comal Street now see a plastered exterior and interior, with no porch. A lean-to addition to the rear exhibits exposed timbers and rock fill, but inside, the early *fachwerk* construction of cedar timbers and handmade adobe bricks can be seen in the kitchen and the attic. A viewing panel in the bedroom exhibits the technique of placing grapevine twigs and mortar over the timbers, so that the finish plaster would adhere.

The New Braunfels Conservation Society has also acquired another timber-framed house, a unique structure in many ways. Built by German civil engineer Carl Friedrich Baetge, it is probably the largest home in Texas employing *fachwerk* construction. Baetge, who was commissioned by the Russian Czar to build a railroad from St. Petersburg to Moscow, no doubt designed the structural framework and supervised the construction. Also built in 1852 with cedar and handmade bricks, it bears no resemblance to the Lindheimer house. Two-story, completely covered with cypress siding, the central entrance doorway is topped by a second floor porch with railing, and simple columns support a Greek pediment. This house was moved from Canyon Lake to Conservation Plaza in New Braunfels.

During reconstruction, the infill and timbers in the kitchen were left exposed, although the interior walls were originally plastered. The entire second floor was left unfilled and unfinished, so that the skeletal framework may be seen. Here visitors have the unique opportunity to literally walk through *fachwerk* walls, inspect the joints, the pegging, the cutting marks, and look for the numbering on each timber. On display is a scale model of the timber framing which gives a valuable insight into the nature of *fachwerk* construction.

132

One of the best kept secrets about existing *fachwerk* construction in Texas concerns a building well known to anyone who has visited Fredericksburg or seen any publicity about the town. This famous symbol of old Fredericksburg, the octagonal Vereins Kirche, was built in 1847 using timber framing which was covered with weatherboarding. Later the boarding was removed and replaced with limestone rock between the timbers, proof of which can be seen in a sketch made on January 24, 1849, by Seth Eastman, one of the earliest tourists in Texas. In a further remodeling of this community church and municipal building, the entrances were modified and the building plastered over, inside and out. A final alteration occurred when all the stone fill was removed to create an open pavilion for the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Fredericksburg in 1896. The building, which had fallen into disuse and disrepair, was then razed.

When the present replica of the Vereins Kirche was constructed for the 1936 Texas Centennial, the timber and stone construction was duplicated and then plastered. Thus, modern viewers have no inkling of the true nature of the structure.

Just as some timber framing can not be seen, not all visible timbers and plaster are true *fachwerk*, which is by its nature structural and load bearing. Sometimes modern construction is finished with boards set into plastered walls, creating the look of the old half-timbered buildings. Joe Bolin, owner of the Fredericksburg restaurant, Immigrants Landing, explains that he and his wife like new construction to blend with the traditional, so they have used old boards and logs set in plaster both in their new home and in the restaurant construction.

One of the most recently completed restorations of *fachwerk* homes in Texas is located at 201 S. Washington in Fredericksburg. Owner J. David Bamberger of San

Antonio says that the historical marker which he will soon hang names it the Mueller-Petmecky-Alberthal house, after the families who occupied the home and added the cut stone portion in 1895. But the old portion was built by William Wallace before 1853, using oak timbers, rock and mortar fill, and plaster over the rocks. When rescued by the Bamberger family, the house was in poor condition and almost buried beneath shrubbery and vines. Much of the rock infill had to be removed, and a few timbers replaced, but this necessity also presented an opportunity to include a few modern conveniences, such as plumbing and electricity. This adaptively restored home has been leased to Phil and Sammie Funderburk, wood carvers from Kerrville. They will use the *fachwerk* portion as an efficiency apartment and the larger stone addition for their exhibits and sales of wood carvings. Being craftsmen themselves, they have a special appreciation for the timber framing, with its round pegs and numbered beams.

Texas has an undetermined number of *fachwerk* houses, and the rescue of these structures from oblivion or destruction is an on-going process. Mount Eliza, a famous home in Fayette County with a two-story *fachwerk* portion, was rescued from the bulldozer by a matter of hours, and is currently being reconstructed on another site. In Fredericksburg there is a two-story house on Creek Street which causes one to stop and look—a hint of *fachwerk* can be seen in one section where three layers of old siding are in the process of being removed.

The movement to preserve *fachwerk* continues to see positive results and the future is destined to continue its rescue of the past. Whether camouflaged by dense foliage, completely covered by white plaster or board siding, or fully exposed, there is an architectural legacy of old world construction in Texas begging to be discovered and appreciated.

Fachwerk Sampler

FREDERICKSBURG

Peter Walter home
S. Bowie and W. Creek
(Chapel of St. Barnabas
Episcopal Church)

Adam Krieger home
512 W. Creek

John Klingelhofer home
701 W. Main

Loeffler-Weber home
506 W. Main

***Willis Wallace house**
201 S. Washington

(Currently Fundy Decoy Co.)

***Kammlah home and store**
(interior only)

309 W. Main
(Pioneer Museum)

COMFORT

Otto Brinkmann cottage

corner Sixth and High
Golbeck-Faltin home
400 block Seventh St.

NEW BRAUNFELS

***Ferdinand Lindheimer home
and museum**

489 Comal Ave.

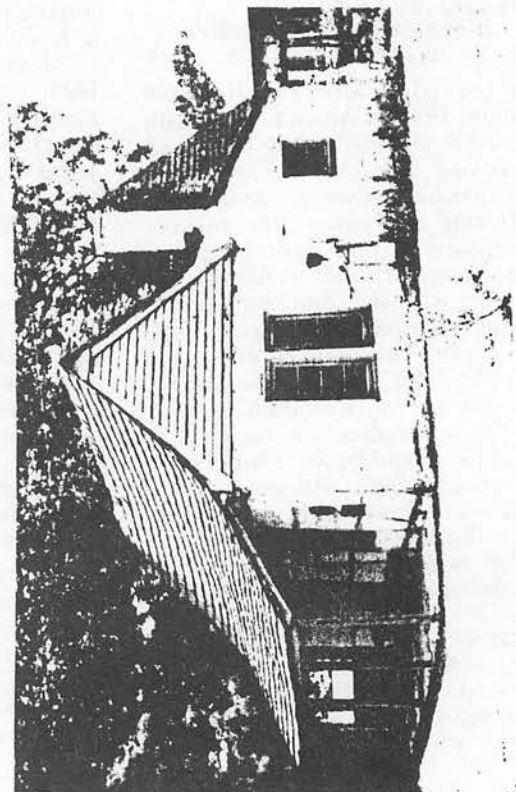
(N.B. Conservation Society)

***Baetge House (interior only)**
Conservation Plaza off Hwy 337
& Church Hill Dr.

Privately owned homes are often open to the public during historic homes tours.

*open to the public, hours depending on the season.

The old Peter Walter home in Fredericksburg displays classic examples of the German-Texans' use of fachwerk.



June, 1985 TEXAS NATIONAL DISPATCH

Texas Tech's Sesquicentennial German Folk Dancers will be hoofing their way through Germany this summer on a six-week goodwill tour representing the Lone Star State and its 150th birthday. In 1986 the group plans to go South Australia to celebrate the Bi-State Sesquicentennial Program. For more information contact Dr. Meredith McClain, Dept. of Germanic and Slavic Languages, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas 79409.



The Dallas Frohsinn Singing Society enjoyed another successful Festival.

The Dallas Frohsinn Singing Society held their annual Tirolean Spring Festival on April 20th in the Enterprise Ballroom of the MFAC Hotel at D/FW International Airport.

This was an evening to be remembered by some 800 participants, with entertainment begun by the 17-piece Dallas Frohsinn Kapelle playing German and Alpine favorites for dancing and listening. The Dallas Frohsinn Schuhplattler brought the crowd to their feet when they performed the intricate and strenuous dances for which they are noted. The Dallas Frohsinn Men's Choir sang not only the old classical style German songs, but also rendered some modern German compositions.

Heiga Beckman, well-known accordionist and singer, won the hearts of many with her yodeling, and literally enchanted the audience with her playing the alpine bells. The "Alpine Brass" from Madison, Wisconsin provided dance music until the wee hours, singing and yodeling along to many favorite dance numbers. One of the highlights of the evening was the "Alpine Brass" playing several pieces on the huge Alp Horns accompanied by alpine bells.

The Dallas Frohsinn Singing Society will hold their annual Oktoberfest on October 26th this year at the AMFAC Hotel and have engaged the 16-piece Heilbronn Stadtkapelle to provide dance music for the affair.

Keeping traditions alive

WINEDALE— On the porch of a restored cottage in this village, the glee club sang the songs in German. But the gusto was pure Texan.

Rosa Lee Leonhardt Hinze, one of the members of Der Friedliche Gesangverein of Winedale, sang the old German songs with spirit and a smile. The occasion was Winedale's annual Oktoberfest Saturday and Sunday.

"Just think of it," Hinze said with an accent straight from the old country. "all these people celebrating their German heritage."

She recalled a different time when being of German descent was not easy in this country.

"My papa came from Baden; my mama from Westphalia. When I was 7 years old, men came in the night and took my papa away.

"It was the Ku Klux Klan. They took him out to a field and told him they would kill him if he had not bought Liberty Bonds.

"Of course, he had bought bonds. They brought him back at 3 o'clock in the morning. We were all huddled together in one room, wondering if we would ever see papa again. We didn't know."

Hinze lives today on the land her

father settled near Winedale. She is proud of the work at the Winedale Historical Center.

"Miss Ina Hogg wanted to preserve the national cultures that influenced Texas. This is an educational and academic center, but it also preserves the various heritages that made Texas what it is today."

On display this month at Winedale is an exhibit sponsored by the Goethe Institut Houston German Cultural Center entitled *Lone Star and Eagle: German Immigration to Texas*.

The exhibit tells of the promise of Texas that lured Germans to this land and of the contributions German immigrants have made to Texas.

Hinze is one of 30 or so members of the Winedale German Singers, organized in 1976 to provide an outlet for those in the community who enjoy singing the old songs.

Saturday the group sang the old songs accompanied by Dwight Nitsche on his accordion.

Rosa Lee Leonhardt Hinze sang the old songs with gusto, a smile and tears in her eyes.

"Just think of it," she said.

Books • Supplies • Research
Genealogy Classes
Eddie Scott Simmons
Lisa B. Simmons

E. SIMMONS GENEALOGY BOOKSTORE

1217 Oakdale
(Across from Clayton Library)
Houston, Texas 77004

Hours 10 - 5:30
Monday - Saturday

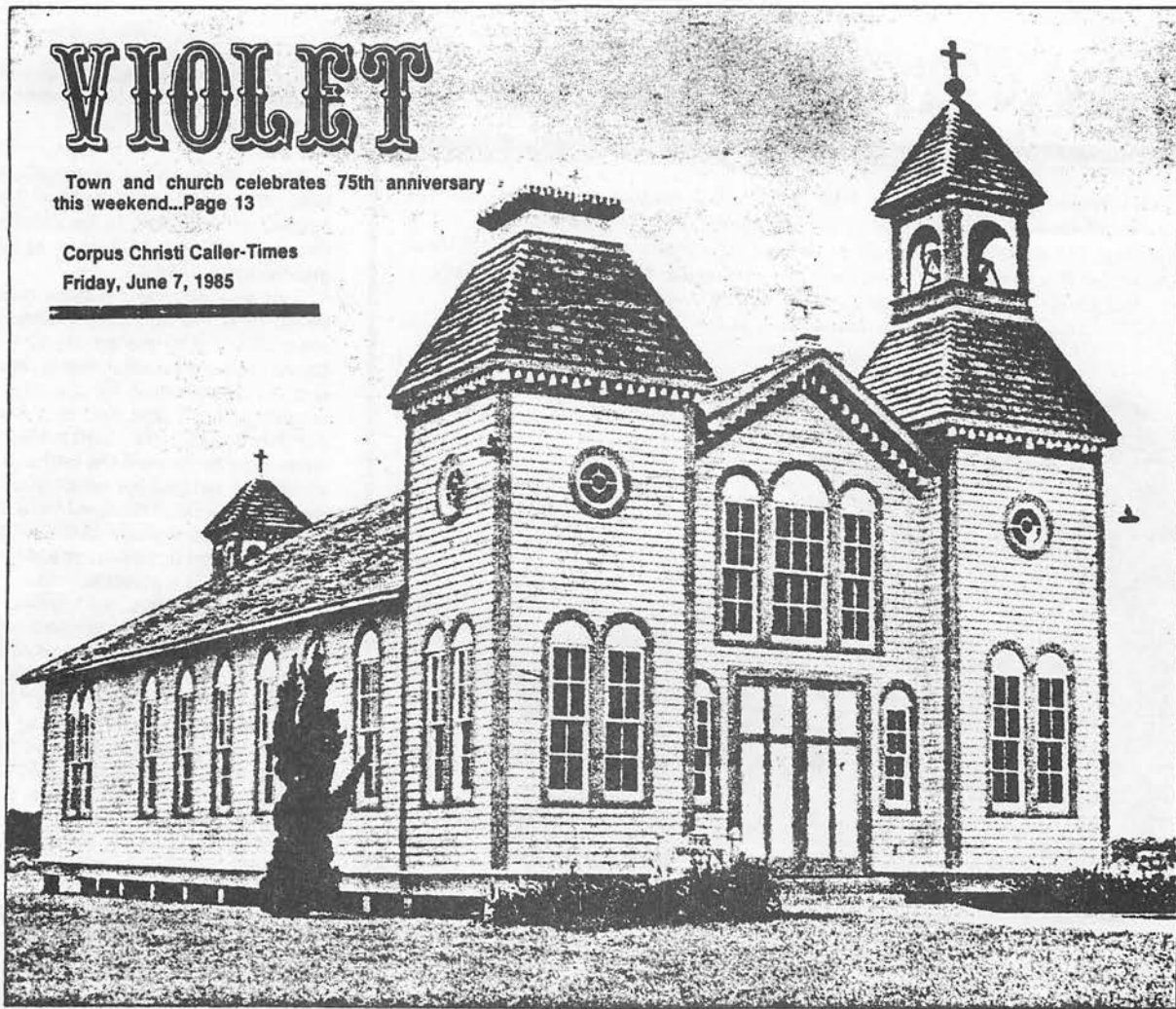
Master Card • Visa
(713) 522-7444
Res. 482-5585

134

VIOLET

Town and church celebrates 75th anniversary
this weekend...Page 13

Corpus Christi Caller-Times
Friday, June 7, 1985



Violet church celebrates 75 years

St. Anthony's parish in Violet, will celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the church and school on Sunday, June 9.

Founded in 1910 by settlers of German descent, they came by wagon and train from as far away as Missouri, Kentucky and 21 areas from within the state of Texas.

John W. Hoelscher, agent in Louis Petrus of Alexandria, Louisiana, was instrumental in contacting family and friends in settling the area of Violet, known then as Land Siding. Petrus owned 1,030 acres of uncleared land that was offered for sale beginning in 1908.

Life was centered around church, school and family. The first church and school structure was built in 1910 by the settlers. It was enlarged in 1920 and served the parish until the present church was built in 1952. Moved to Clarkwood, the old church was brought back to Violet in 1975 and now stands as a museum. In 1978 it was recognized as a Texas historic place and in 1979 it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Violet Common School District #18 was in existence from 1910 until 1969 when it was consolidated with the Tuloso-Midway School District.

The settlement had a Post Office, grocery store and blacksmith shop. In later years, a cotton gin, service station and garage repair shop were added. In 1964 the Highway Department acquired a right-of-way for a proposed widening of State Highway 44 and the last remaining business of grocery store and service station was closed. Today, the Violet gin and grain elevator business is the only one remaining.

Reaching this milestone, the parish was mindful of concentrating the celebrating of this Diamond Jubilee on the reunion of pastors serving the parish, teachers, family, neighbors and friends from near and far.

The festivities will begin on Saturday, June 8, with a public dance at the Robstown Community Hall. Music will be provided by the Bay City Dutchmen from 8:30 p.m. until 12:30 a.m.

The Most Reverend Rene H. Gracida, Bishop of the Diocese of Corpus Christi will be principal celebrant of the Mass of Thanksgiving Sunday, June 9, at 11 a.m. at St. Anthony Church in Violet. The parish choir under the direction of Margie Hoelscher Knight with Catherine Hoelscher Green as organist will sing the Mass. Their father, the late George Hoelscher served the parish as organist for over 30 years.

The blessing of a marble statue of St. Anthony of Padua, patron saint of the parish will follow immediately after Mass. Cast and imported from Italy, it is placed on the front lawn of the church in commemoration of the early settlers, priests who served the parish, teachers and families who have contributed time and talent throughout these many years.

The well known Weiser's catering service from Hallettsville, Texas will serve a barbecue dinner at the parish hall following the blessing of the statue. Entertainment for the children will be provided by a mini-carnival and souvenirs of commemorative plates, mugs, pens, T-shirts and caps will be available.

As a reminder of the legacy of the community, the Violet Museum will feature memorabilia of church, school and families. There will be no admission charge.

The public is invited to share this event with the community. Dinner reservations may be made before June 5, by calling one of the following numbers: Rev. Vincent Patrizi, 387-4434; Barbara Kircher, 387-2273; Loretta Boerner, 387-2308 or Melvin Schanen, 387-3245.

VIOLET is in Nueces County, between Corpus Christi and Robstown, on Hwy. 44. The celebration was attended by thousands of relatives and friends from all over the U.S. The newspaper articles published before the event best describe the history of the settlement. See next page, also.

Violet and St. Anthony's celebrate

Tiny community and church observe their 75th anniversary

By Deborah K. Mann
STAFF WRITER

They rode the rails across the country just after the turn of the century and stepped off the train expecting to find an Eden where an acre of beauty went for \$25.

What greeted them instead was hardy South Texas brush, mosquitos and rattlesnakes.

Those tough farmers of German descent lived in tents and endured the brutal heat and insects to build a box-shaped school, which served as the church, before they built their homes.

That church, named after St. Anthony of Padua, and the town of Violet will celebrate the 75th anniversary this weekend by opening the church, now Violet Museum, to the public.

The founder of the settlement, John W. Hoelscher, arrived in 1908 and promptly spread the word to family and friends. Hoelscher, acting as agent for the owner, made a whopping 50 cents an acre commission.

In 1910, the other "first families" began to arrive from as far away as Kentucky and as close as West Texas to tame the 1,030 acres. By 1914, there were 14 families working to turn Violet, first known as Land Siding, into a community.

The first project was the school/church, built by the farmers with Hoelscher serving as foreman. The cost was \$655.50 and Hoelscher donated \$500 of it from his commission off selling the land.

"People don't do that now. They build everything but the church," said caretaker David Kircher, whose grandfather Albert Kircher was the fourth to bring his family to Violet. "That showed their dedication."

The first three settlers were Hoelscher, Herman Boerner Jr. and Joseph Hoegerl. All the early arrivals discovered a land with no water. Rain caught in cisterns had to serve their needs while mesquite and cow chips were burned in the houses to keep the mosquitos away with the smoke.

After the church was built, a missionary priest traveled by train once a month from Corpus Christi to perform Mass. On the other three Sundays, the families would gather together to say the rosary or recite prayers. Sitting in a small room off the church today is the trunk used by Father Ferdinand Joseph Goebels, who celebrated the first Holy Mass on Dec. 26, 1910.

In 1913, the town was renamed Violet after Violet Fister, whose husband John was the first storekeeper. During that same year, a

rectory built in 1912 for the missionary priest became the school.

The year 1913 also marked the first burial. Mathias Bauer, a carpenter who had purchased land and planned to move to Violet, never made it alive. He was shot off a roof by a disgruntled employer and arrived in Violet in a box. Sadly, after his death, his large family was never able to make the move.

The next year, the Beef Club was formed. The club was made up of two divisions with 12 families in each. Once a week, a cow would be butchered by a family with different parts going to different families on a rotating basis. The club ended with the arrival of electricity in the early 1940s.

By 1919, the town had grown large enough to require additional space in the church. Father Mark Moeslein, who had architectural skills, led the remodeling of the church. Two towers were added in the front for the baptismal font and a staircase to a new choir loft and bell tower. A third tower was added at the back for an altar, designed to let light stream in on a scene of the Crucifixion.

Once more, families pitched in to do the remodeling and they donated their wages to the church.

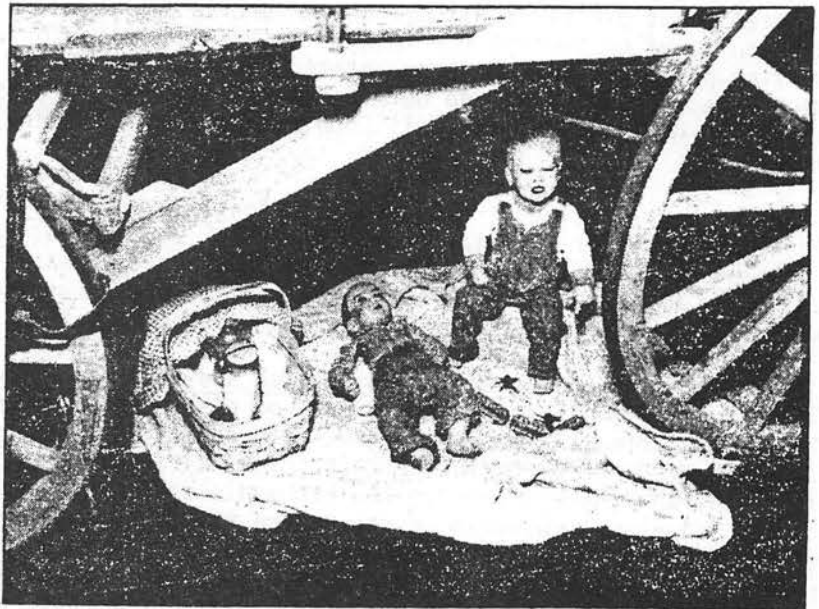
In 1920, the small building that served for the rectory and school was connected to the church and turned into a priest's cottage. In one of the glass cases stands a sunburst cross, brought from France by Father Nicolau Bauer, the first resident priest. In another case is his smoking pipe, which had a bowl for wine in the bottom.

A new church was built in 1952 and the old building was transferred three miles away to Clarkwood, where it became Our Lady of Mount Carmel for the next 20 years. Clarkwood then built a new church in 1972.

For three years, the old building was left abandoned. Clarkwood was going to strip the inside and turn it into a parish hall and gymnasium when the families of Violet petitioned to the bishop for the church's return.

This time it was the third generation, using their own resources as their fathers and grandfathers did before them, who brought the church home and restored it, right down to matching the original paint from scratchings.

Kircher said 90 percent of the original furnishings and artifacts of the church were returned from closets and attics of the families and it looks exactly as it did in 1920. Displays include unusual keepsakes like flower hair corsages, dated 1890 and made from the hair of Louise Ahren, and antiques such as a corn sheller and coal iron.



Exhibits like these, reflecting the clothing and lifestyle of early residents of Violet, are on display in St. Anthony's Museum. The museum will be open this weekend when Violet and St. Anthony's celebrate their 75th anniversary.

For information on the Violet Historical Society and Museum, contact curator (and GTHS member) David Kircher, Rt 3, Box 152, Robstown TX 78380 (512) 387-2273.

GEORGE GONGORA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The festivities begin Saturday with a public dance at the Robstown Community Hall from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. The Bay City Dutchman will play. Admission is \$5.

Sunday's schedule starts with a Mass of Thanksgiving, celebrated by Bishop Rene Gracida of the Corpus Christi Diocese, at 11 a.m. A barbecue dinner will be served and a mini-carnival designed for children will be held.

The museum will be open free of charge all day. The exhibit centers on working the land, particularly the importance of cotton. Souvenirs will be on sale.

A LOOK AT GERMAN TEXAN HISTORY AFTER THE CIVIL WAR

BY
CRES MERRELL

German Texans who are interested in their ethnic history, will find very informative and interesting one article and three books which will be briefly reviewed here. Much has been written about pre-Civil War German immigration to Texas. But until recently very little was written about post-Civil War immigration of Germans into Texas. One article reviewed here is written primarily for the above stated reason. Two of the books are important because they explore the German Texans and German folk-islands in Northwest Texas, which are often overshadowed by the dominance of the Hill Country, Central Texas and Southeast Texas German population area.

The books include: A Diamond Jubilee: Seventy-Five Years of Lutheranism in the Texas Panhandle by Peter L. Peterson and Frederick W. Rathjen; Pause to Ponder: A History of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in Texas by Robert J. Koenig; Panhandle Plains Historical Review 1983, and the article, "The German Settlement of Texas after 1865," by Terry G. Jordan, South-western Historical Quarterly 73-2 (Oct. 1969).

Two of the books, A Diamond Jubilee and Pause to Ponder, are histories of Lutheranism in Texas. Religion is an important part of every ethnic group, and the Germans who arrived in Texas were primarily Lutherans and Roman Catholics. A Diamond Jubilee was written to celebrate 75 years of Lutheranism in the Panhandle. With only 2 exceptions, (one Norwegian and one Slovak) all Lutheran congregations in the Panhandle area are predominately German. If a Panhandle community contains a Lutheran Church, there are persons of German descent living in the area. Many of the congregations are rural German folk islands in Northwest Texas, such as Rhea in Parmer County and Providence in Floyd County. This book can be purchased by writing the authors who are Professors of History at West Texas State University in Canyon, Texas.

Pause to Ponder is a history of the Texas District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, which is overwhelmingly a German group. A history of every Missouri Synod congregation in Texas is recorded. Also included is a history of John Kilian and the arrival of the Wendish Germans to Southeast Texas. This book can be purchased by writing the Texas District of Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, in Austin.

The Panhandle Plains Historical Review 1983 is a volume dedicated to European Folk Islands in Northwest Texas. In 1980, the National Endowment for the Humanities provided a grant to the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum to research and build a traveling exhibit depicting these ethnic groups. The tremendous interest generated by the exhibit caused those associated with the project to write this book.

Since the majority of the folk islands are German, six of the articles are about German communities or persons. Dr. Bobby Weaver wrote one article about Father Joseph Reisdorff, the Roman Catholic priest who founded several German Catholic communities in the Northwest Texas area: Windthorst, Rhineland, Umbarger, Nazareth and Slaton, and Dr. Meredith McClain wrote an article on the Castro County German Catholic colony, Nazareth. Another article deals with the priests of the Carmelite Order and the German Catholic colony at Marienfeld which eventually becomes Stanton in Martin County. Dr. Peter L. Peterson included an article on two German Lutheran communities in the Panhandle, one at Canyon and the other at Rhea. Another article focuses on the Russian-German settlers in Lipscomb County and still another on the school at Old Glory, a German community in Stonewall County.

"The German Settlement of Texas after 1865," is written by Dr. Terry Jordan, a well known German Texan, whose articles often frequent this publication. This article explored the settling of Germans in Texas following the Civil War. Since Dr. Jordan is an expert geographer, he included four excellent maps outlining the German settlements in Texas. One map outlines the well known German areas of the Texas Hill Country and the German-Czech belt of Southeast Texas. The other three maps deal with German settlements that are not so well known: those on the South Texas Plain, North Central Texas and the Plains of Northwest Texas.

Cont.

Dr. Jordan contends that the railroad sales, and the break up of the plantations and ranches make this continued German growth in Texas after the Civil War possible. Many of the "newer" areas are populated by Germans already living in Texas in the "older" settled German areas. This type of colonization continued all the way up to 1923, with the settling of Pep in Hockley County.

As was mentioned in the introduction of this article, many people are familiar with the Adelsverein, and the work of Henri Castro, Frederick Ernst, John Kilian and other pre-Civil War colonists and settlers. Much less familiar are the German settlements and folk-islands of North Central Texas and Northwest Texas. I think the article mentioned along with the three books will help the readers of German Texan History obtain a better picture of German Texas life, religion, and culture all across the state.

Cres Merrell
8408 Elkrigde Avenue
Lubbock, Texas 79423
(806) 745-3893

14TH ANNUAL TEXAS FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL
August 1-4, 1985

WHAT: The Texas Folklife Festival is an annual celebration of the state's ethnic diversity and pioneer heritage. Sponsored by The University of Texas Institute of Texan Cultures at San Antonio, the Texas Folklife Festival is an extension of the educational programs offered throughout the year by the statewide learning and communications center.

WHERE: On the 15-acre grounds surrounding the Institute of Texan Cultures located at Durango Boulevard and Bowie Street on HemisFair Plaza in downtown San Antonio.

WHEN: Thursday, Aug. 1, 5-11 p.m. **ADMISSION:** \$5 for adults
Friday, Aug. 2, noon-11 p.m. \$1 for children 6-12
Saturday, Aug. 3, noon-11 p.m. Free for children under
Sunday, Aug. 4, noon-10 p.m. six

PROGRAM: -- Nearly 6,000 representatives of the more than 30 ethnic groups who settled and developed Texas share their proud heritage. Visitors from across Texas and throughout the nation learn of the traditions, crafts, games, music, food and dance of their forebears in a blend of education and entertainment for the whole family.

-- Jump on stage and learn the various dances, sing along with folk musicians, sample from the international menu of authentic ethnic food, milk a goat, twirl a lariat, shear a sheep, spin some wool, and much more during the four-day Texas Folklife Festival.

-- Truly an international event, the culture of Afro-American, Alsatian, American Indian, Belgian, British, Cajun, Chinese, Dutch, Filipino, German, Greek, Hungarian, Indian-Asian, Irish, Italian, Japanese, Jewish, Khmer, Korean, Lebanese, Mexican, Norwegian, Polish, Scandinavian, Scottish, Spanish, Ukrainian, Welsh and Wendish Texans.

-- At the Texas Folklife Festival the list of things to do, see, hear, taste and touch is virtually limitless!



Texas Catholic Conference of Community Ethnic Affairs
While you are in San Antonio to attend the Folklife Festival, also plan to attend the Texas Catholic Conference on Ethnic Community Affairs annual Ethnic Folklife Mass--Sunday, August 4, 1985, at 10:00 AM at the Villita Assembly Hall.

138

GERMAN POW'S WILL REUNITE IN MEXIA

In one of the most poignant projects under way for the Sesquicentennial, former German prisoners-of-war have been invited to a reunion at their old prison camp in Mexia in 1986. Commemorating the friendships formed between the German prisoners and the citizens of Mexia during World War II, the reunion will be part of a two-week tour of Texas being planned by the city of Mexia and the Texas-Germany Committee.

The background for this project began in July, 1942, when the federal government announced that Mexia would be the site of a prisoner base camp. During the early months of 1943 prisoners began arriving—mostly German officers from Rommel's Afrika Korps who had been captured in North Africa and shipped to the U.S. for internment.

Because of the war-time manpower shortage, the prisoners were put to work on farms around the community and were paid \$1.50 a day. The farm labor proved to be highly satisfactory, and many warm friendships were founded during that time. In 1946 the Mexia camp was converted to a facility housing the mentally retarded and operates today as the Mexia State School.

In 1973 more than three hundred former prisoners gathered for a reunion in Heidelberg and mailed postcards to friends made while in Mexia during the war. The correspondence led the City of Mexia to extend an official invitation to the Germans to hold their reunion in Mexia during 1986. The invitation was warmly received, and now the city expects as many as 200 to 300 Germans to come.

TEXANE CESKEHO PUVODU SET PACE FOR ETHNIC GROUP ORGANIZATION

So many kinds of people have contributed to the history and heritage of our state. In celebrating our cultural inheritance in 1986, it would be a shame to leave out anyone. The *Texane Ceskeho Puvodu* (Texans of Czech Descent) have a plan for Sesquicentennial activities which is so comprehensive that we decided to summarize it here in hopes that other ethnic groups around the state might benefit from the information in drawing up their own plans.

Organization—The Texane Ceskeho Puvodu Sesquicentennial Project is administered by a *director* under the guidance of a *steering committee* composed of representatives from (1) various Czech organizations and institutions and from (2) ten regions across the state.

Chamber of Commerce Director Bill Parker has worked up a two-week tour for the former prisoners, which will last from May 12 to May 26. Parker suggests that other cities which held POWs might

be interested in holding similar reunions, and he has offered his help in setting up a tour. For more information contact Bill Parker, Mexia Chamber of Commerce, Mexia, Texas 76667.

South Austin graves hold bodies of slaves

By JULIE FERNANDEZ
American-Statesman Staff

She's never been trick-or-treating in her life, but Ina Ray Smith knows enough graveyard facts to fill anyone's casket on an eerie Halloween night.

The longtime Austin resident and historian is taking inventory of all cemeteries in the county for the Travis County Historical Commission. Her 3-year-old project, to be finished in December, will be used as a research tool for individuals wishing to trace family genealogy.

The project has been no easy task for Smith and her assistants. Boy Scouts and 4-H and Junior Historian Club members, including several from Crockett High School, dug the idea for their own club projects and joined the scavenger hunt for the hidden burial plots, tombstones and unmarked graves. Red bug bites went hand and foot with their investigations which were a bit curbed during the summer snake seasons.

While she rates East Austin's Oakwood Cemetery tops in historical val-

ue — "Anyone who was anyone was buried there," Smith said — she places several South Austin graveyards close behind.

The Bouldin family slave cemetery is believed to be buried underneath Becker Elementary School at 906 W. Milton St. Col. James Bouldin, who in the 1850s owned a large part of what is now South Central Austin, set aside acreage for the graves of family slaves. Two other slave cemeteries are located in South Austin: the Barton Springs Baptist Church Cemetery at 2107 Goodrich Ave. with as many as 2,000 graves and the Williamson Creek Cemetery located on Little Texas Lane in far South Austin with more than 240 graves, said Smith.

The Masonic Cemetery of Onion Creek Lodge at Little Texas Lane and IH 35 South dates back to 1850 and is the county's only Masonic graveyard, said Smith. An estimated 1,100 graves are located on the site which is the largest burial plot for "European" or white pioneers in South Austin.

Projects—Ten projects have been planned, and each is managed by a *project committee*. Each committee has an *activity coordinator* who reports to the *project director*, who coordinates all the activities across the state. The projects are:

1. Every Czech community will compile and publish a *history of their community*.
2. Descriptions of Czech ancestors will be compiled and published in a comprehensive *pioneer registry*.
3. *Historical markers*, both from the state and local groups, will be placed at sites significant to Czech history.
4. *Cemeteries* containing pioneer Czech and Moravian ancestors will be cleaned up and inventoried.
5. The history of Czech *pioneer schools* will be researched and published.
6. *Symposia* on Czech music and other aspects of Czech cultural life will be held around the state in 1986.
7. *Czech churches* will compile and publish their histories.
8. Czech families will be encouraged to compile their *family histories*.

9. A *book of Czech autobiographies* published in 1936 for the Texas Centennial will be *updated and reprinted*.

10. All *Czech festivals* and gatherings in 1986 will have the Sesquicentennial as their theme.

Texane Ceskeho Puvodu also has a *publicity committee* which receives news from the project committees and disseminates it for them. For more information on the Czech project, contact Jeanne Jacques, Czech Heritage Society, 500 E. Riverside, #253, Austin, Texas 78704.

Other groups have submitted wonderful plans for the Sesquicentennial, but the Czech plan, prepared by retired engineer Albert J. Blaha, Jr., is so simple and yet so comprehensive that we thought it might inspire others who would like the achievements and contributions of their group to the state of Texas recognized in 1986. If we can help you get organized, contact our office, the Texas Sesquicentennial Commission, Box 1986, Austin, Texas 78767.

Gillespie native marks 100th birthday

By KAY POWERS
American-Statesman Staff

FREDERICKSBURG — Otto Dittmar, who begins his second century today, remembers well the settling of the Hill Country, a time of no fences and lonely nights guarding his father's sheep.

He and his younger brother, Alfred, tended the sheep for their father and uncle, and spent many nights around campfires.

"It was a tough job," Dittmar said on the eve of his 100th birthday. "We always made sure to take our dogs along because the coyotes would come in after the sheep if it wasn't for the dogs."

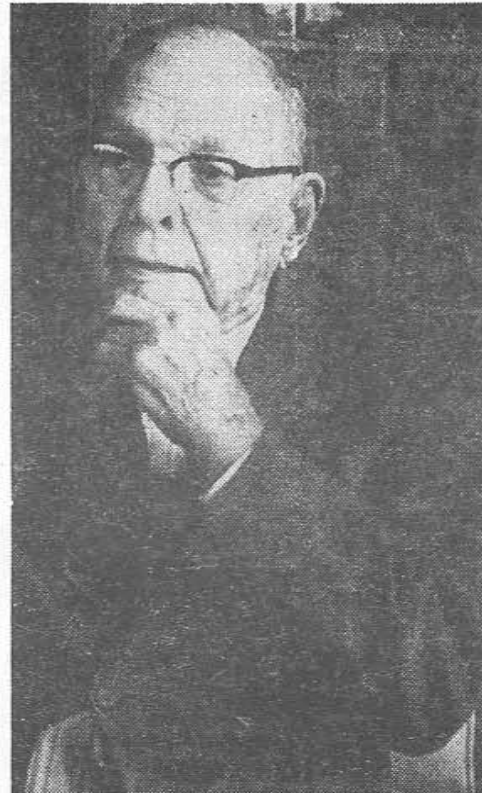
Dittmar's father, Martin, loved the land. In 1868, he acquired 110 acres near Cherry Spring in northern Gillespie County to establish his own ranch, which still remains in the Dittmar family. He also loved good cattle, and was one of the first ranchers in the area to purchase a registered Hereford sire.

HIS 701 BRAND was widely known for many years, and is still registered to the Dittmars. The original branding iron is in the possession of Robert Dittmar, Otto's son, who lives near Harper.

"I've used that iron many a time," said Otto Dittmar, a resident of Knopp's Nursing Home in Fredericksburg. "We all had to help out at branding time."

The 701 appears among other famed Texas cattle brands in the branded staircase of the Kleberg Animal Sciences Building at Texas A&M University.

He remembers that his mother, Elizabeth, worked almost constantly. There were many mouths to feed, and everything had to be saved. Cabbages, green beans, turnips, beef,



Staff Photo Tom Hirschfeld

Otto Dittmar, 100, has many memories of ranching chores in the Hill Country.

and venison were all preserved in brine so they could be eaten in the winter months.

CLOTHING WAS all sewn by hand. Much of it was from wool that had been shorn from sheep on the ranch, then washed, carded, spun, and woven into fabric.

Otto Dittmar was born in a log cabin. When he was about a year old, his parents moved their sizable brood into a big two-story house with rock walls 20 inches thick. Family prayers were said around the dining table after the girls had cleared supper away, because religion was an everyday matter with the Dittmars, who were devout Lutherans.

Otto Dittmar became a rancher, as his father had. His wife, Olga, a schoolteacher, is believed to have been the first woman to cast a vote in the Doss community in Gillespie County, when Texas women were first allowed to vote in primary elections in 1918.

"Dad told me he bought the poll tax for her, and everybody stood around and watched when they went in to vote," said Robert Dittmar, Otto's only son. "He said those men sure looked real big to him that day." Olga died in 1965.

DITTMAR, WHO HAD very little schooling, always insists that his education was "herding sheep, staying in a sheep camp, and eating rancid bacon." But he was a successful rancher, and one of the first in Gillespie County to own an automobile. When both Fredericksburg banks failed during the Depression and a new bank was desperately needed, he became an investor in the new Fredericksburg National Bank, which is now the Texas American Bank of Fredericksburg.

He has always loved good cigars. Tuesday, as he turned over and over in his hands a birthday card signed by President and Mrs. Reagan, Dittmar said wistfully, "I haven't smoked a cigar for a long, long time now. They don't let me have them now."

Family and friends will gather at the Harper Community Center Sunday afternoon to wish Otto a happy hundredth birthday.

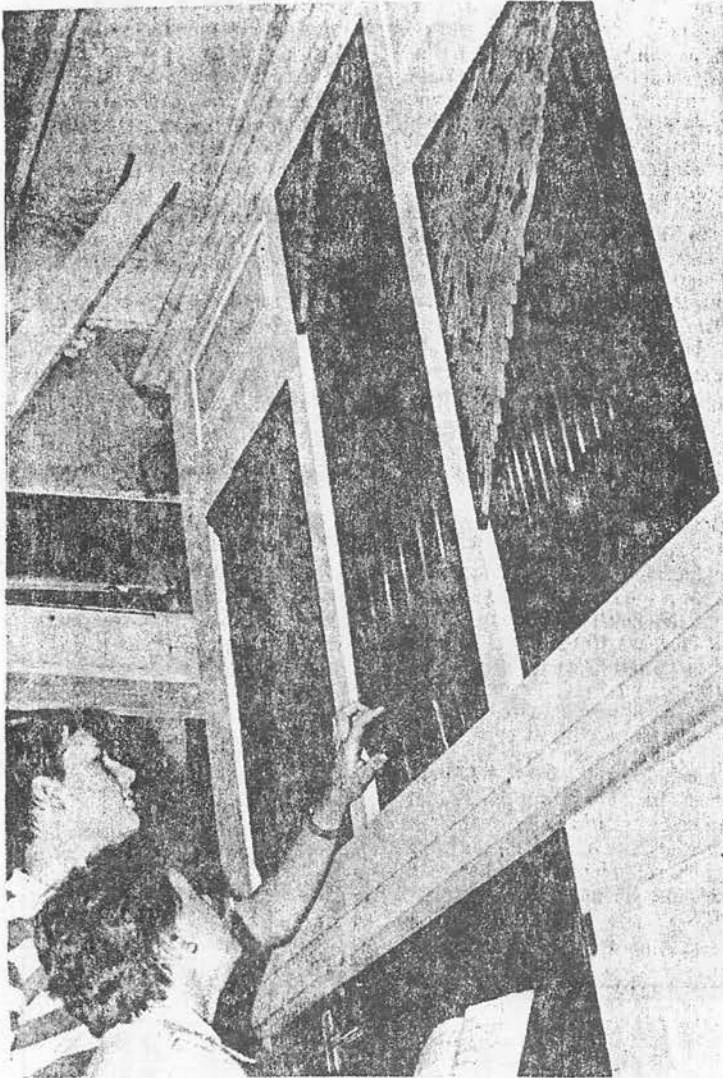
139

Student Finds Heritage

Sent by
Rosa Lee Hinze

LA GRANGE, TEXAS 78945

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1985



Hand-Made Organ

Pictured at the organ in the Bethlehem Lutheran Church at Round Top are Robert and Margaret Huenefeld, who are great-great-great-grandchildren of Johann Traugott Wantke, who built the organ for the church. He built seven organs for Lutheran churches in Texas.

Record Staff Photo

Robert Huenefeld made history come alive for his family as a result of a routine class project assignment. He is a member of Lee Ann Schilling's German class at La Grange High School and was given the task of finding out how much the German people have influenced the county.

Robert chose to photograph older Fayette County churches—both the inside and the grounds as well as the cemeteries. His completed project will be a slide presentation.

In visiting the Bethlehem Lutheran Church at Round Top—just another church on the list—he purchased a copy of the church history that had been published in 1966.

Reading about the organ that he had photographed, he discovered that it had been hand-made by Johann Traugott Wantke. Wantke was a great-great-great-grandfather to Robert.

Wantke was born in Germany in 1808. He served his apprenticeship as a cabinetmaker and organ builder there and then came to Texas in 1857. The small stone two-story house near the church was his home as well as his workshop.

The organ is completely hand-made—even the nails. The organ pipes were carved out of cedar. The pedal for operating the bellows manually can still be used, but generally they rely on electricity to produce the air going through the pipes to make the melodious tones.

Robert's family has a table that was made by Wantke, but until this report was done, they were unaware of his having built the organ.

Johann Wantke was the father of Karoline Wantke Pochmann. Karoline's daughter Clara married August Huenefeld. Clara's son was Edwin Huenefeld, father of Bobby Huenefeld and Bobby in turn is the father of our young researcher.

Bellville, Texas - April 11, 1984



GERMAN DESCENDENTS MEET -- Pictured above are five members of the "Kaffeekraenzchen," which met recently in Bellville. They are, left to right, Thecla Dallmeyer, Dr. Lisa Kahn, Elizabeth Lehmann, Hillia Donahue and Miriam York.

German Heritage Ladies Meet Here

Several ladies of German heritage met recently at the Tea Rose in Bellville for their periodical get-together. Present were Dr. Lisa Kahn, Elizabeth Lehmann, Leona Lehmann and Thecla Dallmeyer, all of Brenham; Miriam York of Giddings; and Hillia Donahue and Evelyn Zieske of Bellville.

Dr. Kahn, special consultant to the German Texan Heritage Society, is a published author in Germany, Switzerland and the United States. She teaches German at Texas Southern University in Houston.

Dr. Kahn spoke of plans for the future, which include preparing a brochure of memories of the experiences of early German immigrants to this area, written by these and other members of the group, which calls itself the "Kaffeekraenzchen."

The brochure is scheduled to be ready for the Texas Sesquicentennial celebration next year, to call attention to the contributions made by these settlers to this area.

Miriam York is on the board of directors of the German Texan Heritage Society. Thecla Dallmeyer is one of the associate editors and Hillia Donahue and Mrs. Lehmann are members.

At their lunch, they met in the home of Hillia Donahue to sing German songs, examine old documents written in German script and plan the next meetings. The first will be in the home of Thecla Dallmeyer in Brenham on Saturday, April 13. On the 27th they will meet at the farm home of Dr. Kahn near Round Top for lunch, after which all will attend the final concert at Festival Hill. May meetings will be in Weimar and Sealy.

mission, the State Library, and the Sesquicentennial Commission.

For those of you who were unable to attend these workshops, we recommend these books: *Oral History for Texans* by Thomas L. Charlton, Texas Historical Commission, Box 12276, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711 (\$5.00 plus .75 postage), and *Oral History: A Guide for Teachers (and Others)* by Thad Sitton, George L. Mehaffy, and O.L. Davis, Jr., The University of Texas Press, Austin, Texas (\$18.95 hardback or \$8.95 paper).

For additional help on Sesquicentennial oral history projects, call or write Jaclyn Jeffrey or Thad Sitton at the Sesquicentennial Commission, Box 1986, Austin, Texas 78767, 512/475-1986.

Metalworking Exhibit At Institute

When young Theo Voss applied for his first job as a metalworker, his prospective employer wasn't interested. Though born in the United States, Voss had recently returned to San Antonio from Germany and he spoke neither English nor Spanish.

Not to be outdone, Voss took a five-gallon can, a little wire and using a few cents worth of tools, created a fanciful light fixture. Despite the language barrier, he got the job and went on to open Voss Metal Works four years later.

"Theo Voss: Metalworker," showcasing the work of this San Antonio craftsman, will be on display through July 21 at The University of Texas Institute of Texan Cultures.

His name might not be well known, but his work is. The stairways at Joske's and the McNay Art Museum were fashioned by Voss, as were restorations of ironwork done at the Alamo and Mission San Jose. The intricate wrought iron grilles at the Church of the Little Flower and the one-ton, three-tiered chandelier at the Aztec Theatre are two more examples of his work in San Antonio.

Many a Texan has seen the famous gateways at Texas A&M University in College Station, which Voss created. He received widespread acclaim for his ornate grilles installed in 1957 at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. The iron gates resemble grape vines, with branches, leaves and clusters of grapes skillfully intertwined in an intricate design of silver and gray metal. The grapes, which were made with groupings of ball bearings, artfully outshine many other impressions of the fruit.

Among the many examples of Voss' work on display at the Institute will be the famous lantern that earned the metalworker his first job.

The Institute of Texan Cultures is located at Durango Boulevard and Bowie Street on HemisFair Plaza in downtown San Antonio. Exhibit floor hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday and admission is free.

HELP FOR ORAL HISTORY PROJECTS

The last of Texas Sesquicentennial Oral History Workshops was held in Austin on May 11. Over the last two years more than 1200 persons have attended the fourteen workshops sponsored by the Texas Oral History Association, the Historical Com-

142
**Dear Students of the
 German Language,
 or rather:
 Dear Readers,**

It is time again, for all those who will spend this summer in Germany, to acquaint yourselves again with a certain amount of German words, that you will NOT find in any dictionary or the 'Duden'. But it is helpful to know that somebody who asks you: Haste 'nen Bock auf 'ne Mafia-Torte?' is actually inviting you to go out and have a pizza.

The graduate students of the BAD HERSFELDER OBERSCHULE collected the following 'in -Brenner' (idioms used at the moment):

- echt tu matsch
 zu viel, es reicht
 Abtörner
 Lehrer
 fix und foxi
 lull und lall
 müde sein
 der Dröhnenschuppen
 die Disco
 Dummsülzer
 jemand, der Unsinn redet
 Kalkleiste
 Erwachsener
 Klingelkiste
 Telefon
 Laffi
 blöder Typ
 Knete, Asche
 Taschengeld
 reinziehen
 essen
 Riese
 1000 DM
 schrill
 unglaublich
 irre Schnecke
 tolles Mädchen
 Null Bock auf gar nichts
 keine Lust haben
 eine Mafiatorte hinter die Klemen
 schieben
- eine Pizza essen
 'ne Biege machen
 weggehen

The misunderstandings between parents and kids abound, when these and other expressions are used. Take, for example a conversation at the breakfast table:

Teenager: *Mom, laß mir doch mal den Kaffee rüberwachsen, damit ich mein Frühstück reinziehen kann.*

Vater: *"Beiß dich gefälligst, sonst kommst du zu spät zur Schule."*

Teenager: *"Nun laß mal nicht gleich den Mufti raushängen, du bist doch gar nicht im Film. So ein Trouble, bloß weil ich null Bock auf den Streßbunker habe. Außerdem haben die Abtörner meinen Vertrag verlängert."*

Im Klartext:
Spiel dich nicht gleich als Chef auf. Du weißt gar nicht, worum es geht. So ein Ärger, nur weil ich auf die Schule keine Lust habe. Außerdem haben mich die Lehrer sitzenlassen.



SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
 Wed., Jan. 23, 1985

OBITUARIES

Hulda Timmermann known for works

GERONIMO. — Hulda Timmermann, 89, one of the seven Timmermann sisters of Geronimo, was buried Tuesday in Lone Oak Cemetery. She died Sunday night. Services in Frieden's United Church of Christ were conducted by Leroy Zillmann.

Timmermann was the second of the sisters to die. Estella Timmermann died in 1983 at the age of 86.

Only the youngest of the sisters, Willie Mae, was born in a hospital. The rest were born in the family farmhouse.

The Timmermanns were known for their Christmas decorations, which have been a family tradition since 1849. They also were known for their conversational cookbook, *Seven Silver Spoons*, as told by their dishpan, Dian.

"Hulda apparently died of a heart attack," said Wanda Timmermann. "A blood clot left my sister's left leg and arm in a weakened condition and she had to use a walker to get about."

"She was the second oldest sister," said Wanda. "Her hands were those of a genius along mechanical lines. She fixed all the locks and clocks at the farmhouse along with a long list of other things."

"My sister was also gifted in the tying of garlands and round wreaths which were used at Christmas and for graves at funerals," Wanda said. "The round wreaths depict eternity. We were in the floral business at our farmhouse."

"My sister was compassionate and had great warmth and understanding with children," Wanda said. "She realized how much this had meant when a young man came back to tell her that, as an unwanted child, she had helped in his adoption."

"When the couple and the little boy got together at our home," said Wanda, "my sister sat by him on the porch and put her arm around him. Eventually, he warmed up to her and moved closer."

"When he returned as an adult, he told her her touch was the first time he had felt that someone really cared for him."

"Only last Christmas my sister was on the porch in the cold with some children as they decorated our kitchen tree," Wanda said. "One

asked how they could keep warm, and she told them the tree would keep them warm."

"She even showed them how to use their hands to milk a cow," she said. "She had such a way with children — she could quiet any crying child. The inside of her hands was like satin."

"Our parents moved into this house in 1892 or '93," she added. "In those days it was three rooms. They added the rest as we were born, so now it's a rambling farmhouse."

The sisters are best known for the decorations under their Christmas trees and have been featured in *Life*, *Better Homes and Gardens*, the *Express-News* and other publications. The Christmas tree scene has been displayed lifesize at the Heritage Exhibit in New Braunfels.

The scene shows the family home with the father, mother and 24 children. A real waterfall depicts the Guadalupe River which flows below their home.

On the other side is a complete Nativity scene with the shepherds building a glowing fire and a camel driver taking care of the animal.

"Our mother was a granddaughter of the L.C. Ervendbergs, who took in 19 children who survived from Indianola to New Braunfels in 1846," said Wanda. "They were in a group of settlers from Germany."

"Professor Ervendberg offered to shelter them in a tent he owned," she said. "He was appointed by Prince Solms as Protestant spiritual leader. The community helped build the children a home."

"Our mother lived in the home until she was 11, when she had to go out and make her own living," she said. "She went to Austin to work for a wealthy family. Among her duties was ironing all the petticoats the couple's daughter wore."

"After our mother and father were married, they moved into the home we share," Wanda said. "The seven of us never married. This wasn't planned; it just happened. We missed some things by not marrying, but we also gained some things."

The surviving sisters are Tekla, Melitta, Meta, Wanda and Willie Mae Timmermann.

The German-Americana Collection:

The German-Americana Collection was established in 1974, and is one of the nation's largest collections of German-Americana. It consists of books, pamphlets, documents, journals, and manuscripts pertaining to German-American history, literature, and culture.

Grants have been awarded by the Literary Society Foundation, Inc. of New York (1975) for acquisitions and by the National Endowment for the Humanities for a Symposium on Immigrant Literature and German-Americana (1976).



Cincinnati's German Heritage:

Cincinnati's German heritage dates back to 1788 with the arrival of Major Benjamin Steitz (Stites) and Matthias Denmann. German immigration has continued into the twentieth century, most recently the Danube Swabian immigration of the 1950s. The 1980 U.S. Census indicates that one-third of Hamilton County residents claim German ancestry.

The continued interest in the German heritage in the community is reflected by the Fairview German Bilingual School, the more than a dozen German-American societies, a German-language newspaper, as well as numerous social and cultural events and festivities - from the May Festival to the Downtown Oktoberfest.

At the University of Cincinnati the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures is a center for research and study in the field, and is also the international headquarters of the Lessing Society which publishes the Lessing Yearbook. Also located at the University is the office of the Goethe House New York which coordinated a year-long program of events for the celebration of the German-American Tricentennial in 1983. A strong collection of materials in the German Studies area can be found at the University's Central Library.

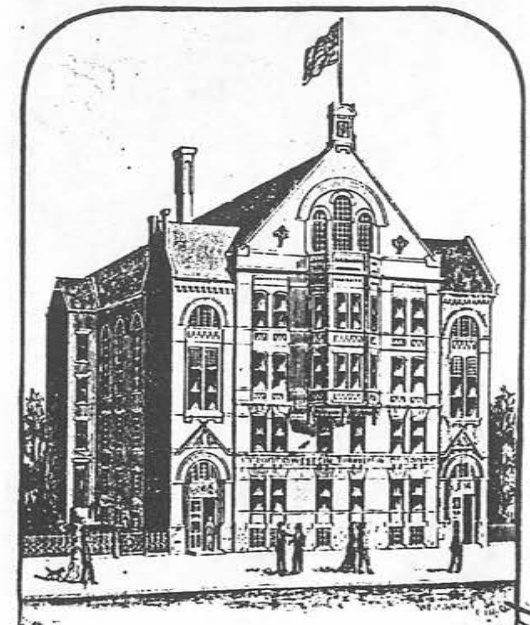
Use of the Collection:

The German-Americana Collection is especially of value to students, scholars, and the general public interested in the history, literature, and culture of the German element. It contains a wealth of information on Cincinnati's German heritage.

Mail and telephone inquiries and questions regarding the Collection are welcome before one comes to the Central Library to use the Collection. Please contact:

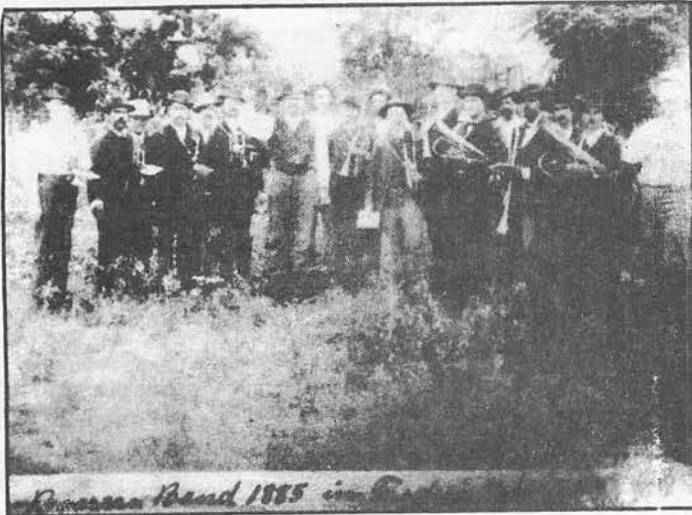
Don Heinrich Tolzmann
Reference Department
Central Library M.L. 33
University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati, Ohio 45221

Phone: (513) 475-2411



Die West Cincinnati Turnhalle.

144



Boerne Band 1885 in Boerne

This reproduction of an old photo shows the Boerne Band visiting Fredericksburg in 1885, 100 years ago! Many of the melodies this old pioneer band played at that time are still a part of the Boerne Village Band today. Regrettably, the names of the individual musicians in the photo are not known

anyone. The Band was founded by Karl Dienger, a German pioneer settler in Boerne in 1860. Now, with 125 years of continual performance, the Boerne Village Band can rightfully claim to be the oldest German-American band in Texas, perhaps in all the U.S. The Britsch Family

Village Band marking 100th anniversary in Fredericksburg

Hill Country Recorder-Wednesday, April 17, 1985-15

Steak House in Fredericksburg extended an invitation to the band to return for a 100th Anniversary Concert. This will take place on Sunday, April 21, at 4 p.m.

in their shady Beer Garden. There will be no admission charge. The 15-member Boerne Village Band is under the direction of Dr. Kenneth Herbst, the

band's third generation bandleader. Dr. Herbst, as well as all the musicians, appreciate this invitation. Everyone hopes to be able to entertain the fine folks in

Fredericksburg just as well as the band's ancestors did 100 years ago.

For more information regarding this memorable concert, call: 997-8013.

Sent by Joyce Behr, Box 591, Boerne TX 78006. She would like to know who has the picture of the Village Band since her husband's father was the director for a few years.

Klein Area Cookbook
~ recipes of old German families of N.W. Harris Co., collected by Hildebrandt Intermediate School History Club.
Send \$2.50 (includes postage) to: Dr. Diana L. Walzel, 12006 Elm Dr., Cypress, Tx. 77429

Alvin Zoch, 87, was active in senior citizens' program

The last survivor of eight children, Alvin G. Zoch remembered going to school by oxcart and later by riding a donkey.

He died Tuesday of a heart attack at 87.

"My father-in-law still drove his car," said Jane Zoch. "On Christmas Day he drove over here to have dinner with us. We had him over every Sunday and enjoyed him."

"After he retired as maintenance director at San Antonio College 10 years ago," said Zoch, "he went to the senior citizens' program at the Presa Community Center. He went every weekday and participated in the exercises, played dominoes and had lunch."

"My father-in-law was a charter member of the center," Zoch added. "Some days he took out-of-town field trips with the group. This gave him a social life - a reason to get up out of bed and keep going."

"In earlier years he had a beautiful garden," Zoch said. "He gave vegetables to his family, neighbors and friends. He was a good-natured, family-oriented man."

Zoch was born Aug. 18, 1897, in Warda, which his father and brother helped settle when they came to this country from Germany. "They made their homes there in what became a large German community," said his daughter-in-law.

"A great deal about the family is in the Institute of Texan Cultures."

Survivors include a daughter, Evelyn Register of Houston; son, Clarence Zoch of San Antonio; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday in St. Paul's Lutheran Church with the Rev. Carlos Boerger officiating. Burial will be in Mission Burial Park South under the direction of Roy Akers Mortuary.

San Antonio Express-News, Jan 4, 1985

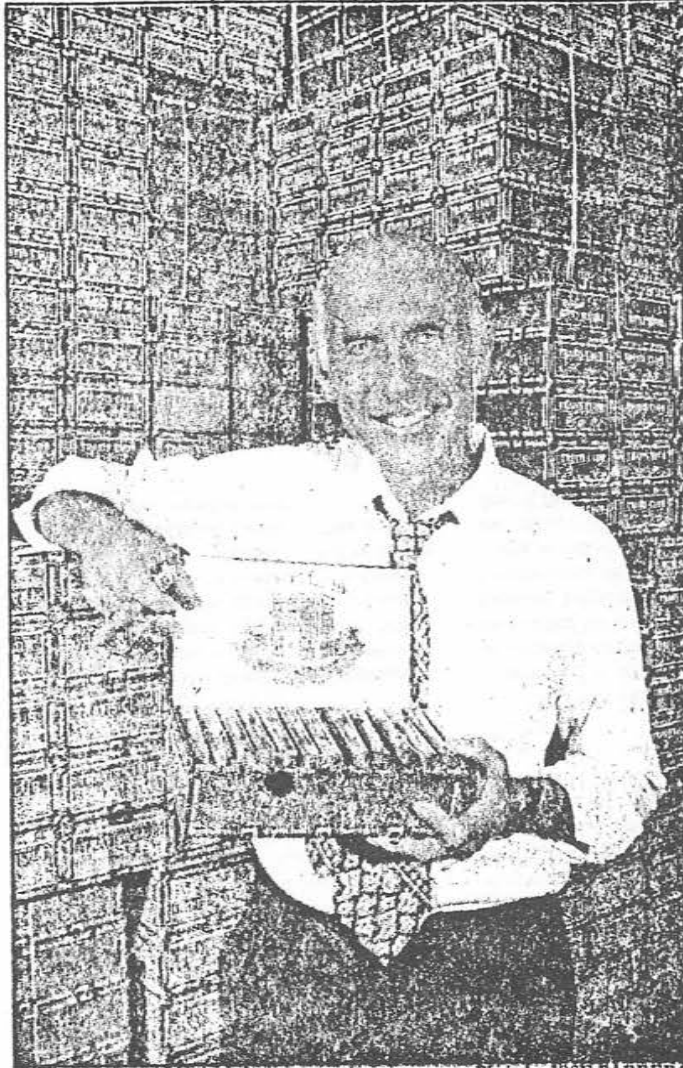


Photo by JOSE BARRERA
CIGAR MAKER AND UNUSUAL POLITICIAN BILL FINCK AT HIS FIRM
... he ran for county treasurer on the pledge to abolish office

Bill Finck: Going from smoke to ire

Cigar maker ran for political office to abolish it

By **BILL CUNNINGHAM**
Express-News Farm & Ranch Editor

Bill Finck has to be one of the first political candidates to run on a platform of abolishing the office he was seeking.

He won the race for Bexar County treasurer on that platform, burned his first paycheck and has not cashed any of the subsequent salary checks. The Texas Legislature has approved abolishing the office, and an election in November should be the final step in the abolition process.

Finck's platform and actions must have shocked many professional politicians, but he has been surprising people for many years. At the age of 8, he surprised his mother by smoking a San Jose Corona Clear Havana cigar in her presence.

Not the first

"That wasn't the first cigar I had smoked," he said, "but it was the first one I had smoked before her."

That cigar was the top line of several labels manufactured by the Finck Cigar Co., started by his grandfather, Henry William Finck, in San Antonio in 1893. That also is the formal name of Bill Finck.

Names of some of the other early Finck cigars were Finck Commerce, Smokers, Little Fincks and Selinas.

The grandfather started the cigar business on the first floor of a house on Government Hill. The family lived upstairs. At that time almost every major city had its own cigar factory, and there

were at least eight operating in San Antonio.

Now the Finck Cigar Co. is the only cigar factory in the state.

The cigar factory was moved to Alamo Street from Government Hill, then to Salinas and Pecos streets, to the old Toudouze building, to Buena Vista and Frio streets and finally to its present location at 414 Vera Cruz St. in 1963.

Specialty numbers

In addition to its own lines of cigars, the Finck plant has made some specialty numbers. Before World War II, it made Schlumberger cigars for the huge firm of that name.

But the most famous of its specialties started in 1909 with the manufacture of cigars for the old Travis Club, which occupied the site later used by the Elks Club.

The Travis Club closed down, but the Travis Club cigars live on. Finck said the Travis Clubs now are the firm's main line, with 12 different sizes and shapes of that name, with the Lamb's Club being the top line.

In addition to the Travis Club line, the company makes HWF, Sam Houston, Alamo and Charles the Great cigars.

Bill Finck's father, Edward Reinhold Finck, introduced Ben Milam cigars, and Bill brought out the Sam Houstons and the Alamos.

Quite a bit of time elapsed between the smoking of the cigar in front of his mother and Bill Finck's entry into the cigar manufacturing business.

First he attended Central

Catholic High School, the University of Notre Dame, the University of Texas and St. Mary's University Law School. He still practices law in a small way.

One of his unusual enterprises was a partnership deal running a hog farm in Venezuela in 1956 and 1957. "We made our living expenses, but we didn't get rich," Finck said. "We did all the work ourselves."

While he was in Venezuela, he met his wife, Hilda.

Returning to the United States, he spent two years in the practice of law before "drifting" into the cigar manufacturing business in 1959.

'Some fun'

He has been in the business ever since. "There have been a few bellyaches, but there has been some fun," he said.

The cigar business was brisk all over the country in those first few years. The peak came in 1964, when 9 billion cigars were smoked. But the popularity of cigars declined from then on, along with society's opposition to smoking in general.

By 1984, the number of cigars smoked had dropped to about 3.4 billion, a decline of 2.5 percent from 1983.

Finck said cigar smoking in Texas has declined also but at a slower pace than the national average. "Finck cigars are holding their own," he said.

Before Castro took over Cuba, the Finck factory used a large amount of Cuban tobacco. Now it

Express-News

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Sunday, June 9, 1985

buys tobacco from Brazil, Puerto Rico, Santo Domingo, Honduras and Connecticut. The Connecticut tobacco is the most expensive and is used mostly for binders and wrappers, Finck said.

The first Finck cigars were made by hand, but they now are made by machine. The company has about 100 employees, including salesmen, Finck reported.

"There has not been too much change in cigar making," Finck said. "Perhaps the biggest change has been in sales outlets." He pointed out there are fewer cigar stores now, with many eating places and restaurants selling them.

His current political office as county treasurer, however, is not his first public office. He was a state representative for three terms, from Jan. 1, 1967, through 1972.

While he did not get rich raising hogs in Venezuela, the venture did not end his interest in livestock. He bought a ranch near Floresville in Wilson County about 25 years ago and has been raising Brahman cross cattle.

"This year I tried using Beefmaster bulls, but I have had good luck with Brahman bulls," he said.

Last year's drought affected his ranch operations, as it did most others in South Texas. "I have an irrigation well, and I had to move all the irrigation pipes myself," he commented.

Two of the Fincks six children, Caroline, who does not smoke cigars, and H.W. (Billy) Jr. work with the cigar factory. A daughter, Kathleen, is in the real estate business.

The other three children are attending college. Julia is a senior at Trinity University, Laura a sophomore at Incarnate Word College and David a freshman at Texas A&M University.

145

New Brochure: See address at end. **WHO ARE THE WENDS?** (Štó su Serbja?)

by Ron Lammert

In December of 1854 an English sailing vessel, the *Ben Nevis*, docked in Galveston harbor loaded with some 500 immigrants from Lusatia, an area comprising parts of Saxony and Prussia. These immigrants were not the typical lot of Germans, Swedes, Czechs, and Poles who flocked to Texas in the 1850's seeking cheap land and economic opportunity. This group was different.

It brought a strange new language to the frontier state — the Wendish language. And even more striking, these Slavic pioneers who were to settle in Lee County made the journey from their homeland, not in search of prosperity, but rather in search of religious liberty and the right to speak their Wendish tongue.

The Wends were descended from a group of Slavic tribes which had developed a common language, and, in the tenth century, occupied much of central Europe. By the 19th century the Wends had been decimated by conquest and assimilation with other cultures until only a small area along the River Spree was inhabited by true Wends.

The Wendish migration to Texas, was impelled, in part, by the Prussian insistence that the Wends (or Sorbs, as they called themselves) speak and use the German language, even to the extent of Germanizing their names. The opposition to the Wendish minority extended even to the matter of work, with Wends being denied the right to do the skilled labor for

which they were trained. If they were hired at all, they received less pay than their German counterparts. Prussian agrarian reform laws of 1832 had dispossessed the Wends of their property so they were, in effect, vassals to their Prussian lords.

But most intolerable was the requirement that the Lutheran Wends join the Evangelical Reform churches in one state-regulated Protestant body. The Wends believed this action would dilute their pure Lutheran faith and, rather than accept this decree, they made plans to emigrate to the New World.

The Wends organized the journey under the leadership of their Pastor, The Rev. Jan Kilian. Rev. Kilian was a scholar and prolific writer who translated from German into Wendish many books such as Luther's Large Catechism and the Augsburg Confession. He also wrote Wendish prayer books, sermons, tracts, as well as hymns and poems. Years later, Rev. Kilian was known to preach the same sermon in Wendish, German and English on a Sunday morning. Kilian, a graduate of Leipzig University, was a strong leader and a logical choice to be the Moses of this 19th century Exodus.

On March 25, 1854, a new Lutheran congregation was organized at Daubin, Prussia, to become the cornerstone of a large Wendish emigration. Rev. Kilian was called as Pastor.

Most likely the group chose Texas as its destination because of glowing reports returned by several families of Wends who had previously settled in central Texas. Other smaller groups of Wends also departed during this period to find new homes in Australia.

Knowing that the odds favored many losing their lives on the journey, 588 Wends left their homes and many loved ones in the first week of September, 1854, bound for Texas. The group traveled to Liverpool, England, where they boarded the three-masted *Ben Nevis*.

They soon encountered their first tragedy as the dread cholera epidemic struck. Fifteen died before the ship reached



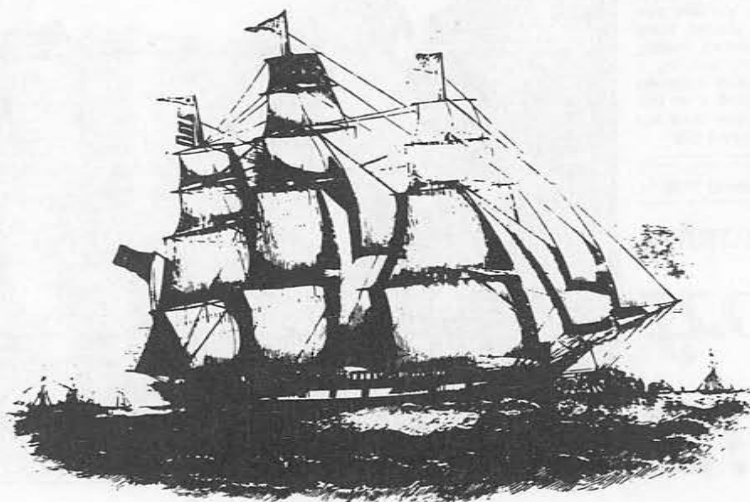
Rev. Jan Kilian was the spiritual leader of the Wends who immigrated to Texas. Kilian was known to preach the same sermon in Wendish, German and English on a given Sunday morning.

Ireland. At Queenstown, Ireland, the ship was quarantined for three weeks and thoroughly fumigated. Twenty-three more succumbed to cholera during this time.

At last, on October 22, 1854, the Wends again boarded the *Ben Nevis* bound for Galveston. Although the cholera had somewhat abated, another eighteen died at sea during the Atlantic crossing.

The decimated congregation arrived at Galveston in early December, only to be faced with another scourge, yellow fever. Many contracted the disease, but only one died before the Wends could flee inland to Houston.

From Houston the Wends journeyed further inland by oxcart in early January. Two men had been sent ahead to find a place where they could settle. The epic migration to a new homeland ended on the banks of Rabbs Creek in what is today Lee County, near Giddings. Here the Wends purchased a league of land for \$1.00 an acre. The first winter was hard and food was scarce. Many Wends lived in dug-outs and log cabins until proper homes could be built.



The *Ben Nevis* was chartered by the Wends for their voyage to Texas.

146

The newcomers set aside 95 acres of the land for the Lutheran church and school. About a mile northwest of the church property, the colonists began work on their town, which they named Serbin. This was to be the capital of their "Wendenland" in Texas, where they could continue forever their Wendish language and cultural traditions.

One of the first acts accomplished by Rev. Kilian was to apply for membership into the fledgling Missouri Synod Lutheran Church. St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Serbin became the first of many Missouri Synod churches in Texas and it had the only Wendish school in America.

The current St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Serbin was completed in 1871. It is a beautiful, yet simple structure, the obvious product of pioneer craftsmanship. The unique interior includes a balcony extending all around the church with a pulpit nearly 20 feet above the lower floor. Originally the men sat in the balcony, while the women occupied the floor level pews. St Paul's is one of the oldest churches in America in continual use since its construction.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Serbin is one of the oldest churches in America in continual use since its construction.

Many groups of Wendish colonists struck out for other parts of Texas in the latter 1800's. Wends formed sub-colonies in such Places as Austin, Houston, Warda, Fedor, Swiss Alp, Giddings, Port Arthur, Manheim, Copperas Cove, Vernon, Walburg, The Grove, Bishop, and the Rio Grande Valley. In each case the Wends built a new church and affiliated with the Missouri Synod, thus helping spread Missouri Synod congregations throughout Texas.

In the new congregations the Wendish language and culture soon died out. Only in Serbin did it survive, where Wendish services continued to be held until 1921. Today, only a few elderly Wends still know the language.

The great irony of the Wendish emigration was that in the effort to establish a pure Wendish colony where the language and culture could be preserved, these very things were lost due to the economic and social realities of the

frontier.

Throughout Texas, particularly on the church rolls of Missouri Synod Lutheran Churches, can be found Wendish names from the passenger list of the *Ben Nevis* ---names like Lehman, Moerbe, Schatte, Fritsche, Becker, Schubert, Dube, Teinert, Wukash, Kiesling, Prellop, Kasper, Zoch, Miertschin, Urban, Wenke, Knippa, Noack, Groeschel, Wuensche, Melde, and many more. Strong emphasis on biblical religious faith and basic education is evident today in families descendant from the Wendish pioneers.

Today thousands of Texans and other Americans, many unaware of their background, can lay claim to the courageous and fascinating heritage of the Wends.



The Texas Wendish Heritage Museum in Serbin is operated by the Texas Wendish Heritage Society to preserve the story of the Wends.

The TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC., is a non-profit organization formed to study and preserve the story of the Wends who came to Texas.

Members receive regular mailings of current articles and information concerning the Wends. Meetings are held quarterly.

The Texas Wendish Heritage Museum in Serbin is operated by the Society to preserve documents and artifacts of the Wendish culture. It is supported through tax-deductible contributions. Donations may be sent to the address below.

**TEXAS WENDISH
HERITAGE SOCIETY**
P.O. BOX 311 • GIDDINGS, TEXAS 78942

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

- \$10— Regular Membership
- \$20 — *Museum Patron Member
- \$50 — *Museum Sponsor Member
- \$100 — *Museum Century Member
- \$1,000 — *Museum Life Member

*Includes membership dues in T.W.H.S.

147

148

Gründung der Amerikanischen Tucholsky Gesellschaft

Die Gründung einer Tucholsky Society of America war das Resultat der zweiten Tucholsky-Symposiums, das die American Association of Teachers of German, Texas Chapter, mit Unterstützung des Goethe-Instituts Houston am 3. und 4. Mai in den Räumen des Goethe-Instituts und im Viscount Hotel veranstaltete.

Schon vor nahezu zwei Jahren hatte die Präsidentin der American Association of Teachers of German, Texas Chapter, Mary El-Beheri aus San Antonio, deren Aktivitäten ebenso zahl- wie erfolgreich sind, die grossartige Idee gehabt, anlässlich des 50. Todestags von Kurt Tucholsky im Dezember 1985 ein Symposium zu seinen Ehren zu organisieren.

Frau El-Beheri, die seit Jahren mit ihren Schülern Tucholsky in den Klassen liest, war immer von seinem Witz und Humor, aber auch seinen scharfen kritischen Fähigkeiten, mit denen er die politische Situation der Weimarer Republik kritisierte, eingenommen und ihr Enthusiasmus hatte ihre Schüler angesteckt. So lag es nahe, dass sie Tucholsky nicht nur ihren eigenen Schülern sondern möglichst vielen Lehrern und Lehrenden an Schulen und Universitäten, Schülern und Studenten nahe bringen wollte. Dies ist ihr mit dem Tucholsky Symposium glänzend gelungen.

Der Abend des 3. Mai war mit diversen "Meetings" (wie es jetzt so nett im Deutschen heisst) ausgefüllt. Den einführenden Vortrag am Morgen des 4. Mai hielt Professor Carvel de Bussy von der University of the District of Columbia in Washington, D.C., zum Thema: Political and Public Life of Kurt Tucholsky. Das Referat gab besonders denen detaillierte Informationen über den Dichter, Schriftsteller, Journalisten und politischen Kritiker, die noch nicht allzu viel von Tucholsky wussten.

Ihm folgte Frau Marie-Luise Gaettens, die z.Zt. an ihrer Dissertation an der Universität von Texas in Austin arbeitet, mit einem Vortrag über Kurt Tucholsky: The Role of the Writer in Society. Welche Rolle ein Journalist und Schriftsteller in seiner Zeit spielt, ist ja auch für uns Heutige von grosser Wichtigkeit und wird für jede Generation von Bedeutung sein. Im Rückblick auf Tucholsky stellt sich, was in der folgenden Diskussion lebhaft erörtert wurde, die Frage: Warum hatte er bei all seiner Kritik, bei seinen Warnungen vor der braunen Gefahr nicht genügend Einfluss auf die Leserschaft? Wie war es möglich, dass ein Hitler an die Macht kam? Tucholskys Bücher wurden mit denen Einsteins, Freuds, Thomas und Heinrich

Manns, um nur einige der Grossen zu nennen, verbrannt. Er wurde ausgebürgert und musste nach Schweden immigrieren, wo er 1935 in tiefer Depression seinem Leben selbst ein Ende setzte.

Professor David Kuroski von der University of Illinois, Chicago, sprach über das Thema: The Tucholsky Complaint: A Case of Misrepresentation. Für den eingeweihten Tucholsky-Leser war dies eine der interessantesten Darbietungen, die aufzeigte, wie einige moderne Kritiker versucht haben, Tucholsky durch Manipulation seiner Texte (Auslassungen, etc.) umzudeuten.

Am Nachmittag übermittelte Lisa Kahn Symposionteilnehmern Grösse und beste Wünsche zum Erfolg der Tagung von Frau Mary Tucholsky aus Rottach-Egern, wo die Witwe des Dichters und Schriftstellers heute in einem Altersheim lebt. Gern wäre sie selbst zu der Veranstaltung nach Houston gekommen, aber sie ist 85, und ihr Gesundheitszustand erlaubt es ihr nicht mehr, was sie sehr bedauerte.

Dann hörten die Teilnehmer Professor Christiane Seilers, Indiana University-Purdue University, deutschsprachigen Vortrag: Kurt Tucholsky and Heinrich Zille: Zwei lachende unaufdringliche Advokaten der Menschheit. Trotz einer Panne mit dem Vorführungsapparat konnten sich die Zuhörer nach Frau Seilers Ausführungen doch noch anhand ihrer Dias von den Parallelen zwischen dem Dichter und Maler überzeugen, von denen Frau Seiler zuvor gesprochen hatte. Das grenzenlose Elend in den Armutsvierteln Berlins in den Nachkriegsjahren (des 1. Weltkriegs) ist für uns heute kaum nachempfindbar. Während die Adjektive lächelnd und unaufdringlich durchaus für Zilles Arbeiten passend erscheinen, kommt es mir jedoch vor, dass Tucholsky selten beim Anblick dieser unvorstellbaren Zustände lächelte und sich auch nicht mit seiner Kritik unaufdringlich im Hintergrund hielt.

Erfreulicherweise wurden viele der Referate von Frauen gehalten. So folgte Frau Ingeborg O'Sickey, die jetzt auch an der Universität von Texas ist, mit dem Thema: Kurt Tucholsky ... The significance of his work to the reader in the 80's. Frau O'Sickey berichtete über eine interessante Studie, die sie momentan durchführt, nämlich die Untersuchung, ob und inwieweit Tucholsky auf die Generation der politisch engagierten Gegenwartsschriftsteller in Deutschland Einwirkung hat, z.B. auf Ingeborg Drewitz, Christine Brückner und andere.

Frau Dr. Probst, Direktorin des Goethe-Instituts Houston, selbst Historikerin und begeisterte Tucholsky-Leserin, nahm dann als Gastgeberin das Wort und erläuterte auch kurz die Verfilmung von Tucholskys Roman Rheinsberg. Sie warnte uns vor Tendenzen der Popularisierung und Verniedlichung im Film - zu recht. Allerdings waren die Landschaftsaufnahmen bezaubernd, und vielleicht gab dieser Film vielen Amerikanern, die sich von der Gegend um Berlin wie auch der Atmosphäre der Zwanziger Jahre nur schlecht eine Vorstellung machen können, einen guten

150

Spiegel jener Gegend und jener Zeit. Ich besinne mich noch lebhaft, wie ich als schon Erwachsene den recht kitschigen Film Der Kongress tanzt sah und später von einem Historiker darauf hingewiesen wurde, dass so, aber genauso, wie im Film gezeigt, die Gesellschaftsstruktur damals in Wien gewesen sei. (Allerdings hatte er selbst auch nicht z.Zt. des Wiener Kongresses gelebt!)

Die Hauptattraktionen - und beide so völlig verschieden in ihrer Art - waren für den Abend im Viscount Hotel reserviert. Zuerst der glänzende Dias-Vortrag von Professor Herbert Knust, University of Illinois: The Limits of Satire: Tucholsky and Grosz. Hier betonte Professor Knusts nicht nur die Parallelen zwischen den beiden befreundeten Künstlern sondern diskutierte auch, inwieweit Satire erfolgreich sein kann und an welchem Punkt sie vielleicht das Gegenteil von dem erreicht, was sie bezweckt, denn es liegt in der Natur des Menschen, dass er lieber Streicheleien annimmt als sich beissender Kritik ausgesetzt sieht.

Um die Wirkung Tucholskys auf Schüler und Studenten zu demonstrieren, lasen dann Schüler der Conroe High School, Crocket High School in Austin, Taylor High School in Katy und der Plano Senior High School, Gedichte und Prosatexte Tucholskys vor, während das Publikum sich an Wein und Käsesorten gütlich tat. Besondere Erwähnung verdient hier die Lesung von Herrn Dietrich Tost vom Goethe-Institut, die an schauspielerischer Bravura keinem Profi nachstand.

Zum Abschluss hörten wir den aus Massachusetts angereisten Kabarett-Sänger Louis Golden, der als Brecht- und Tucholsky-Spezialist international bekannt ist. Unsere Erwartungen wurden nicht enttäuscht. Hier wurde uns Tucholsky hautnah gebracht - so müssen ihn die Berliner in den Zwanziger Jahren in den verschiedenen literarischen Kabaretts gehört haben. Louis Golden wurde einfühlsam von Don Studebaker aus Lockhart auf der Gitarre begleitet, der selbst einen Song mit feinem stimmlichen Einsatz zum Besten gab. Der Applaus wollte nicht aufhören, als das Programm endete.

Wenn bei diesem gelungenen Abend eins zu bedauern ist, so die Tatsache, dass Teilnehmer zwar von weit angereist kamen, nicht nur aus Washington, Illinois, Indiana, sondern auch aus Lubbock, San Antonio, Kerrville, San Marcos, Galveston, Huntsville, Conroe, Lockhart, und ein ganz starkes Kontingent aus Austin, aber dass die Schulen und Universitäten in Houston, abgesehen von einer rühmlichen Ausnahme (University of Houston) anscheinend kein Interesse an Tucholsky hatten und der Veranstaltung fern blieben. Leider galt das auch von den offiziellen deutschen Stellen in Houston. Die Ferngebliebenen wissen nicht, was sie verpassten. Erfreulicherweise hatte sich aber dank der Publikationen durch das Goethe-Institut eine Reihe von "Houstonions" eingefunden, die sich für Tucholsky interessierten.

Es ist geplant, dass die nun neu gegründete Tucholsky Society of America weitere Tucholsky Symposia veranstalten wird. Material ist reichlich vorhanden. David Kuroski, University of Illinois, Chicago, wurde zum Präsidenten gewählt. Ich hoffe, dass er 1987 das zweite Tucholsky Symposium in Chicago organisieren wird. Alle Anwesenden haben Interessantes und Neues mit heimnehmen können, sei es für Schüler und Studenten, sei es für sich selbst. Wir danken Mary El-Beheri dafür.

Lisa Kahn

HOW AMERICA AVERTED A GERMAN-LANGUAGE STATE

by W.H. Earle

The recent congressional hearings on making English the official language of the U.S. sprang from apprehension about a rising tide of bilingual sentiment among Hispanic Americans. If the constitutional amendment fails, however, its English-language partisans might take comfort from America's first brush with bilingualism—when English won hands down against persistent attempts to establish German and German-language states within the union.

During the 1830s and 1840s, these efforts actually took political form. Colonies of German-speaking settlers were established in several Western territories with a view toward creating a region that, according to one immigrant leader, would be "German from the foundations up." If one of these efforts had succeeded, we might today have—in place of either Texas, Missouri or Wisconsin—a state called "New Germany."

Of course, it didn't work. The American frontier may have looked uninhabited from crowded Europe, but the German-language ideologies invariably found themselves outvoted by other immigrant groups uninterested in German and by Americans interested in only English. By the 1850s, the idea of a German-language American state had been abandoned.

Even as the idea of "New Germany" was dying, however, "German-America" was arising to replace it. Built on the same enclaves intended to support New Germany, German America would be a cultural rather than political entity, but one in which the German language and its cultures would be defended as a perfectly acceptable feature of American life.

Theorists of German America explained it this way: Americanism implied participation in the American political system, but had nothing to do with language. English was a necessity for those who wished to be Englishmen; Americans could speak any language.

Thus German Americans felt entirely justified in resisting assimilation (which they denounced as "anglicization") into an "inferior culture" incapable of matching glorious German music, poetry, philosophy, science or education. They would go on being good Americans in German.

Every immigrant group attempts to cling to its old-country culture, but German America's ideology distinguished the Germans from other immigrant groups and yielded surprising cohesiveness within German settlements. As one scholar has put it, "Germans during the 1840s and 1850s were surprised as late as the early years of this century to find young third- and fourth-generation Americans speaking German at play.

German America is not universally successful: The children of many Schmidt families grew up without German, and a substantial number of Herr Zimmermanns became Mr. Carpenters.

Nevertheless, the cultural hegemony of German within German America was sufficiently complete to draw critical comment even from Germans. Friedrich Engels was one who complained: German socialist agitators were hampered in America because "they learn no English on principle." Assimilated American Germans warned their brethren repeatedly that German America was fueling nativist hostility by its smug refusal of the assimilation regarded as "Americanism" by virtually every American outside German America.

Nor were these warnings ill-founded. An English-speaking American as broadminded as Benjamin Franklin had complained as

early as the 1750s of the German's reluctance to learn English, and German America's smug air of cultural superiority 150 years later hardly endeared its residents to their English-speaking countrymen.

Indeed, the fact that that air of superiority was largely justified—and that German-America's theory of Americanism was at least arguable—only made the situation worse in the eyes of English-speaking Americans whose response then, as now, was likely to be "So what?"

German America began to decline late in the 19th century as assimilation fought ideology for the loyalties of both the native-born and the declining number of German immigrants.

It survived long enough, however, to engage in an anti-British propaganda campaign that lasted until the U.S. entered World War I on the British side—and German America was swept into oblivion virtually overnight. Pent-up nativist hostility erupted, and the German-language press, German-language schools, even German music and German classes in English schools—were hounded, harassed, or completely suppressed in a cataclysm of war-fueled hysteria.

German America never recovered. The German language in America never revived except as one more academic subject in which most Americans do not excel.

It is ironic that an issue like unilingualism, decided by history, should require confirmation by constitutional amendment. It is necessary, however. The amendment doubtless will be easier on Hispanic America than history was on German America.

From *Der Deutsch Amerikaner*
November, 1984.

152 Rms Pimentel

San José State University
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA 95192

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND THE ARTS
Department of Foreign Languages

While reading in a book I have a few weeks ago, I found the enclosed item that may be of interest to you and your newsletter. Who would have thought that old "Deutschlandlied" Hoffmann von Fallersleben had a connection with Texas? Anyway, I hope it serves as an addition to your German-Texas connection.

I.I.32 Humboldtsburg
USA
Texas

August Heinrich Hoffmann von Fallersleben schrieb am 22. 9. 1847 in Potsdam in sein Tagebuch: »Frühmorgens zu Karl von Meusebach. Wir frühstücken zusammen und plaudern bis 12 Uhr. Er erzählt mir von seines Bruders Otfried Thätigkeit in Neubraunfels für den Texasverein, von dessen Ausflug ins Sabathal, und wie er seine Feinde glorreich besiegt habe. Ich bekomme auch einen Bericht zu sehen, den Otfried von Galveston aus den 20. Januar 1846 an den Texasverein gesendet hat, darin meldet er, daß jetzt Friedrichsburg gegründet sei, das nächste Settlement, schon auf dem Grant, werde »Fallersleben« sein. Als Prinz Waldemar von Preußen Näheres über den Verein wissen wollte, wagte Karl nicht, den Bericht mit diesem Stadtnamen mitzuteilen, strich »Fallersleben« dick aus und setzte »Humboldtsburg« darüber. Er zeigt mir selbst seinen Censorstrich, und wir müssen beide lachen über diese unnötige Vorsicht«. – Der Texasverein, auch Verein zum Schutze deutscher Einwanderer in Texas (Mainzer Adelsverein), war 1843 gegründet worden und hatte zum Ziel, armen Leuten die Auswanderung nach Texas zu ermöglichen.

Hoffmann von Fallersleben, August Heinrich: *Mein Leben. Aufzeichnungen und Erinnerungen.* Hannover 1868 Bd. 4 S. 370

Über Otfried Meusebach: *Nassauische Heimatblätter.* Wiesbaden 30 (1929) H. 4 S. 144-148

Über den Texasverein: *Kapp, Friedrich: Aus und über Amerika.* Berlin 1876 Bd. I S. 243-290, bes. 263 ff.

Smolka, Georg: *Auswanderung und Kolonisationsprojekte im Vormärz. Kalifornienplan und Texasverein.* In: *Staat und Gesellschaft.* Festgabe für Günther Küchenhoff. Göttingen 1967 S. 229-246, bes. 240-245



Super stein

The world's biggest stein is selling for \$570 for Christmas at the Nuremberg beer fair in West Germany. Made from an 1820 design, it's 79 inches high, holds over eight gallons.

From Joyce Behr,
Boerne, Texas

Ed. Note: You can order this, and smaller, tankards from: Bavaria Ltd, Inc, P O Box 36, Reamstown PA 17567. Send for a catalog. Don't be surprised if the price is twice the \$570 cited in the article.

I am currently working on some research involving German men who were prisoners of war here in Texas during WW II. A part of my work was published in the Chronicles of Smith County (22,2 Winter, 1983). I have made several trips to Germany to locate and interview men.

I am not of German descent but my husband is a third generation German. I am extremely interested in several fields of study related to Germans and Texas and wish to have any information as to possible grants, projects, etc., that might fit my work.

Any help would be greatly appreciated.

GAYLA H. LAWSON
1101 CLYDE
TYLER, TEXAS 75701

German-born founder intrigued by Texas fight for independence

By WINIFRED SCHUETZE CADE
Special to the Express News

Abolition of slavery, secession were hot topics

August Siemering, founder of the *San Antonio Express*, showed the heart of a patriotic Texan even as a young child leading a privileged life in Germany.

Born in Brandenburg-on-the-Havel, Germany, on Feb. 8, 1836, Siemering was the son of a wealthy family prominent in intellectual, scientific and artistic circles of Europe.

A precocious child, he was carefully educated, but the years of his youth were ones of political strife and economic unrest. Friends of his family, involved in the German uprising of 1837, left the country and some settled in Texas. There was an insatiable interest in Texas throughout Germany at that time; any letter from emigrants was immediately published.

The struggle for independence and freedom in Texas struck a responsive chord in young Siemering.

Back in Germany in 1848, Siemering was deep into German jurisprudence, science and classical philology as a student at the University of Berlin. Besides his native tongue, he studied English, French and Latin.

In his native land, the economic situation with rising unemployment combined with crop failures had become critical. The Revolu-

tion of 1848 was in full swing. Siemering took no part in the fighting, but his writings of sympathy with the "cause" for a new democracy were published in Berlin papers.

He finished his university work in 1849 and at age 19 accepted a teaching position in the Berlin municipal schools. He continued to write, becoming more deeply involved in the reaction following the revolution's collapse. In 1850, he sailed for America.

Landing in New York, he stayed just long enough to make contact with German publications. Disliking northern winters, he went on to New Orleans and his ultimate goal — Texas, arriving here in 1851.

He tarried awhile in New Braunfels where he met Dr. Friedrich Lindheimer, later founder of the *NeuBraunfels Zeitung*.

In San Antonio, Siemering's stay was short. There were few lodging places, more dance halls than eating places and no organized schools in need of a teacher. He did meet Jim Newcomb who, left an orphan by the town's cholera plague of 1848, had entered the newspaper business at age 11 as "printer's devil." Newcomb and

Siemering were to cross paths again.

Leaving San Antonio, Siemering settled in Sisterdale. There he taught school and was a correspondent for New York and St. Louis publications.

When Dr. Carl Adolf Douai, a radical abolitionist, established the *San Antonio Zeitung* in 1853, Siemering became a contributor. He loved to sing and was a member of the *Sisterdale Saengerbund*. He also became a leader in the *Freie Verein*, a social-political club.

In the spring of 1854, these two statewide German societies met in San Antonio. Abolition of slavery and secession from the Union were hot topics of the day. Siemering and Louis Schuetze were among those serving as secretaries at the convention.

Douai, the most radical abolitionist in Texas, persuaded the convention of 1854 to partially endorse the "Louisville platform," an extreme anti-slavery instrument. The endorsement produced an uproar from all directions.

Dr. Lindheimer, strong on the side of secession and states' rights, picked up his forces and went

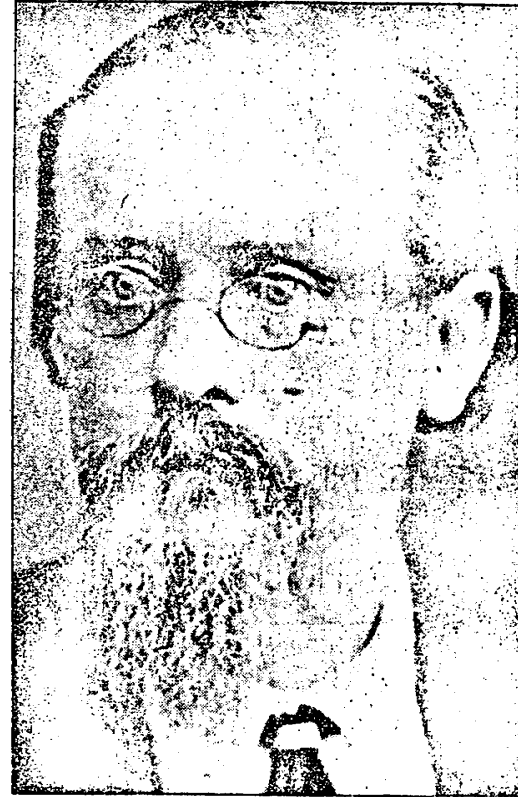
home. So began a battle of pens, sword-rattling, fire and slaughter between factions.

In 1857, the *San Antonio Zeitung* was vandalized by the pro-slavery group and Douai forced to leave town. Young Newcomb, now publishing his own paper, was drawn into the violence. When his office was set afire, Newcomb fled for his life, staying in Mexico until the Civil War ended. Lindheimer was attacked by a mob, threatened with death and saw his press dumped into the Comal River. (He fished it out and continued to publish the paper.)

Siemering, believing in reasoning rather than fighting, accepted a teaching job in the first public school in Fredericksburg in 1856. Three years later he married Clara Schuetze, 15-year-old daughter of Louis Schuetze.

Both Siemering and Schuetze were targets of marauding "bushwhackers" because they took positive stands against slavery and secession.

Siemering was forced into the Confederate army by the conscription law of 1861 and served as a lieutenant in Company E, 1st Mounted Riflemen of the Texas Cavalry. With his company in the Louisiana swamps during the winter of 1863, he developed rheumatism, an ailment that troubled him



AUGUST SIEMERING BORN, EDUCATED IN GERMANY
... Texas' fight for independence captured his heart

Please see FOUNDER, Page 2-R

Continued from 1-R

the rest of his life. His eyesight, always weak, deteriorated. Worst of all, his conscience would not reconcile the demands of a shooting war.

In March 1864 he resigned. On his way home, he learned his father-in-law had been murdered by the "bushwhackers." With his wife and her bereaved family, he settled in San Antonio and opened a private school. The Civil War ended the next spring. By June 1865, he had established the company of "A. Siemering, Publishers," and distributed the first issue of *Freie Presse fur Texas*. By Aug. 3, 1865, the Siemering company had established the English language newspaper, the *San Antonio Express*, which published its first issue Sept. 27, with Siemering as editor of both papers.

The two papers were printed on the same press and had offices in the same building. Each prospered un-

der Siemering's leadership. The German paper seemed more popular at first, creating a feeling of rivalry on the part of the *Express*. Before long, the two papers were running neck and neck in demand.

Jim Newcomb, newly returned from Mexico, and W.B. Moore were partners.

In the early 1870s, Siemering's book, *A Wasted Life*, was chosen as the best novel of the Civil War. Around the same time, the *Freie Presse* was also honored as the outstanding German Republican newspaper in the South. The *Express*, too, was acclaimed as a leading Texas newspaper.

Feeling that the *Express* was firmly established and no longer needed his guidance, Siemering sold the paper in order to devote more time to writing. He retained interest in his German newspaper, though.

In 1876, Siemering accepted a job

as editor of a paper in St. Louis. He moved there with his wife, their three small daughters and his wife's young brother Emil. All went well until Siemering's rheumatism flared up and it became necessary for them to return to the sunshine of Texas.

He threw himself wholeheartedly into his work, serving as editor of the *Freie Presse* and writing for publications abroad. He also helped form many business, educational, social and cultural organizations in San Antonio.

In 1886, he agreed to run with ex-Republican Gov. Edmond Davis for lieutenant governor. They were defeated.

Siemering's work, *Texas — 1882 — The Goal of German Immigration*, was published in London, translated into four languages and distributed widely throughout Europe. He received inquiries about immigration (all of which he personally an-

swered), sending to many passage money to the promised land.

Often he told his wife, "Never turn away one who wants something to eat. I would rather feed 20 worthless men than risk refusing a single, good, worthy one." He also aided his widowed mother-in-law in her struggle to bring up and educate seven small children.

Siemering's aim for his children was to provide them with the better things of life, a good education, and first of all — an unbiased mind. But it was left to his wife to carry out his aims. Siemering died Sept. 19, 1883, at the age of 53. His youngest child was 6 months old.

Upon news of Siemering's death, newspapers throughout America published tributes.

(Winifred Schuetze Cade, a local artist and writer, is the niece of August Siemering.)

153

154

BOOK REVIEW

Lisa Kahn (and Jerry Glenn). In Her Mother's Tongue Bilingual Updated Edition of Reisgepäck Sprache: Women authors who live in the U.S. and Write in German, 1938-1983. (Denver: Emerson Press, Inc., 1983).

This is a wonderful anthology of German-American women authors writing in their mother tongue with translations of the verse by themselves and others. Most of these were writers, with whom I was not familiar (Lisa Kahn being a notable exception), and I was delighted to find so many new and exciting poets (most of the anthology is verse; a few selections are prose). Some of the women write in both German and English, but generally, the poet selects one voice, German because she feels more facile and comfortable with it. Since the writers range widely in age, the subjects vary. For many of the older writers, the coming to terms with their own exile and their ambivalent feelings toward a native country, that was both their homeland and permitted the Holocaust, is an important theme. Vera Lachmann's Rückkehr nach Berlin is such a poem:

Rückkehr nach Berlin

Früher: das Land,
Jeder See, jede Kiefer
Blutsverwandt.

Dann: der Betrug.
Das Gas. Kristallnacht-Flamme,
Die aus Torahlade schlug.

Nun: nicht mehr Ort.
Tote Augen von Strassenschildern.
Doch - vorhanden
In jungen Bildern
Langend, empfangend.
Verstehend verstanden
Das Wort.

Revisiting Berlin

Once: the land. Each lake, each fir tree a
blood relative.

Then: the betrayal. The gas. The flame in the
Crystal Night that belched from the ark of the Torah.

Now: no longer a place. The dead blink from
street signs. Yet--there--in young voices reaching
out, taking in, understanding, being understood: The
word.

Translated by Spencer Holst

She also explains beautifully, why she writes in German is a poem, which could explain the language of the anthology for everyone:

Unsere Sprache

Sie drangen mich, die Sprache zu vergessen,
die meinem ersten Denken Formung gab.
Ist denn ihr Hass an Ton und Klang gemessen?
Nicht an dem uferlosen Massengrab?

Vergessen sie, dass Brüder unter Qualen,
im Sterben diese Sprache noch gebraucht?
Dass sie geheiligt zu vieltausend Malen
die Worte, die ihr Atem ausgehaucht?

Die Sprache nicht--der Sinn zeigt die Verräter.
Feige verkriechen sich im neuen Kleid.
Dumme wechseln Tatort und den Täter
und leugnen Erbe und Natürlichkeit.

Man kann in jeder Sprache lügen, morden--
und Grund bauen, der das Haus der Zukunft hält.
Wir, die aus Kerkerlingen [sic] frei geworden,
wir sprechen alle Sprachen einer Welt.

Our Language

They're pressing me to cast away the language
which first gave form and fabric to my thoughts.
Is their hatred based on tones and sounds
and not on infinitely countless graves?

Do they forget that brothers under torture
while dying even used this native tongue
and that they hallowed many thousands of times
the final words their ebbing breath could form?

The traitors are revealed by thought, not tongue.
And cowards sneak away in different dress.
Fools confuse the country with the culprits
and heritage and naturalness deny.

One can lie and kill in any tongue
and lay the basis of our future home.
And, we now freed from our imprisonment,
speak all the tongues of one united world.

Translated by Edward Dvoretzky

156

The younger generation writes about the problems of modern civilization and society. Most of these writers have emigrated because of choice, not under duress and their subjects are those of American writers of their age. One of my favorites is Christiane Seiler's "Land der Griechen."

Land der Griechen

du hast heimweh
ich versteh
du weinst
ich versteh
bedenke aber
dass

iphigenie
am wochenende
nicht mal
ein auto nehmen konnte
nur mit
der seele suchen durfte
denk fest an sie
an ihre seelensucherei
so bringt sie dich
eventuell
wenn auch spät
in dein

land der griechen

auch mal
zurück.

Land of the Greeks

you are homesick
I understand
you cry
I understand
but remember
that

Iphigenia
couldn't even
take a weekend trip
in her VW Rabbit
she could only search
with the soul

And Hilde Marx transfers the horror of the German Holocaust to a world horror.

Ein Trost

Hab' keine Angst,
Die neuen Bomben sind rein.
Sie töten nur Menschen,
nicht Gebäude aus Stein.
Vielleicht auch Tiere, das könnte geschehn--
aber die Häuser bleiben stehn.

Worum du bangst,
das wird nicht sein.
Hab' keine Angst.
Diese Bomben sind rein.
Und wenn sie wirklich die Hauser verschonen,
wer wird drin wohnen?
Gewisse Insekten, das könnte sein,
die Überleben, ganz winzig klein.

Darum Sorge dich nicht,
schlafe nachts gut ein.
Die neuen Bomben
sind stubenrein.

Consolation

Have no fear.
The new bombs are clean.
They only kill people
not buildings of stone.
Perhaps also animals-that might happen-
but the houses are left standing.

The reason you're afraid -
that won't happen.
Have no fear.
These bombs are clean.
And if they really spare the houses
who will live in them?
Certain insects - that might be -
which survive - those real tiny.

So don't be worried.
Go to sleep peacefully.
The new bombs
are very clean.

Translated by Edward Dvoretzky

it is her soul-searching
remember
that brings you eventually
though late
to your

land of the Greeks

eventually
home

Translated by the author.

The biographies of the writers are an additional bonus, giving a multi-faceted picture of these German-American women writers and their rationale for writing in German. All in all, this is a book well worth owning and reading again and again.

Hanna Lewis

Sam Houston State University

BOOK REVIEW

Carolyn Lindermann Overstreet, On the Flach Family Trail. (Austin: Eakin, 1984).

Carolyn Overstreet's book is the history and genealogy of her family, the descendants of Johann Christoph Flach, who immigrated from Darmstadt to the short-lived Bettina colony in Texas in 1847 under the auspices of the Adelsverein. From there he moved to Tusculum, Sisterdale and finally, Comfort. Overstreet's documentation should prove fascinating to the many Flach, Flacks and their relations, who her little volume. The history is not unusual, but very well-researched and goes back to the beginning of the 18th century. A number of photographs and maps help the reader to locate events and people. Although I am not a Flach, the "it's a small world" law struck again, when I realized that a few young dentist in my town (Cleveland, Texas) is a member of the family and listed in the book. This made the book much more interesting. I wish someone would document my family as thoroughly, and recommend the book to all Flach family members.

Hanna Lewis

Sam Houston State University

Herman Lehmann, not quite 11 years old, and his younger brother were scaring off crows in a field that day in 1870 when Herman's incredible nine-year adventure began. He and his brother were . . .

Express-News STAR

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS Saturday, May 18, 1985 1-L

Kidnapped by Indians!

It has been 115 years since that May in 1870 when two little Texas boys, Willie and Herman Lehmann, were kidnapped by Indians.

Willie was 8 years old and Herman was soon to be 11.

For Willie it was a rugged experience, but it was to last only 18 days. A group of ranchers on horseback came across the raiding Apaches. To lighten the load on his tiring horse, the Indian carrying Willie threw him off.

Unseen by the pursuers, Willie wandered in rugged, unfamiliar country until a freight wagon picked him up.

Nine years

For Herman it was another story. He spent nine years with the Indians — first with the Apaches. But after several years he killed a medicine man in a shootout and had to flee for his life. Later he joined the Comanches.

His life was totally that of an Indian, with all the raiding and fighting taking place in the most troubled days on the Texas frontier. He took part in Indian raids in Texas and Mexico and in battles between Indian tribes.

It's all in the book — the raids, the killings, the horse stealing and even the fights with Texas Rangers and U.S. soldiers. There is much about the life of the squaws — their fights among themselves and such things as cutting and slashing themselves in mourning for the death of their braves in battle.

Herman had spoken German but forgot it. He considered himself an Indian and was so viewed by the Apaches and the Comanches. He was even given an Indian headright (a grant of land) in Oklahoma and for three years was the adopted son of the greatest Comanche chief, Quanah Parker.

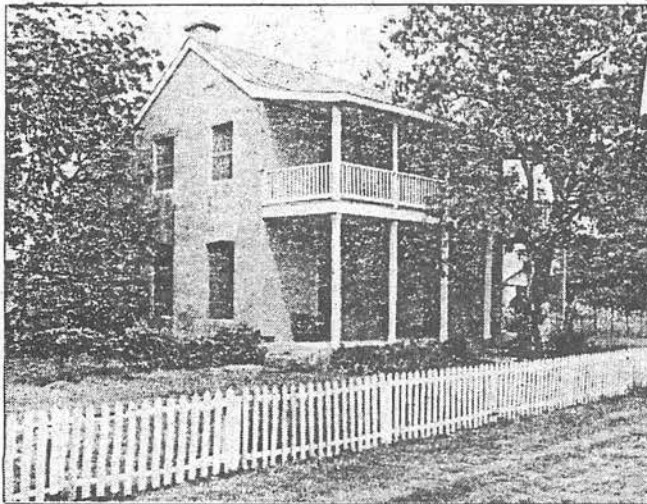
His mother never lost faith in his return; how she brought it about is a moving story. Herman had a rugged time adjusting to the life of the white man when he was brought back home. But with the help of his family he adjusted and led a long and respected life.

Bonnie and I spent a recent Saturday in the country between Fredericksburg and Mason where this marvelous Texas story unfolded.

Visited areas

We visited the Squaw Creek area, where the two boys were kidnapped, and the Loyal Valley area, where we talked with a daughter of Willie. She also knew Herman in his later days.

We went there on invitation of a longtime friend, Garland Perry of Boerne, a leading Texas historian.



Herman Lehmann (above) was called 'Montechema' by the Indians. He is shown in his later, more peaceful years. At left is the 1871 inn in which Herman Lehmann and his mother were reunited after nine years.

He is unmatched in knowledge of the history and tradition of that area. He also does projects, such as a historical calendar with statewide acceptance. He is now at work on his 1986 calendar with outstanding photographs and stories about 12 of Texas' most colorful frontier forts.

Garland guided our visit to the country that was the scene of the Lehmann boys' kidnapping and return. Also with us was Kittl Focke, a well-known Boerne writer. Garland and Kittl are producing added material for a new edition of a book I believe will be one of the top publishing accomplishments of the Sesquicentennial Year.

Remarkable book

Back in 1927 a remarkable book was published.

"Nine Years With the Indians" was the first-person story of Herman Lehmann, told to and written by a great storyteller, the late Marvin Hunter of Bandera.

Hunter gave credit to a book written 30 years earlier by Judge J.H. Jones of Mason, saying however in his own introduction.

"But most of the facts were related to me by the ex-captive (Herman Lehmann) who at this date, May 28, 1927, is with me and telling me of his harrowing and hair-raising experiences."

I have read the book and I think it has no rival, even nationally, in recounting Indian life and the Indians' battle with the white man.

The 1927 edition of "Nine Years With the Indians" was copyrighted by Maurice J. Lehmann, who was a widely known lawyer and county

judge of Kendall County. Willie Lehmann was his father.

Now Maurice's son, M.J. Lehmann, a leading Boerne insurance man, is sponsor of the new edition. Garland and Kittl's research and writing fills out the lives of the principals and tells of Herman's brainwashing by the Indians and how family love restored him to a long, respected life. All adds to the drama.

Also being added is the inspiring story of the boys' mother.

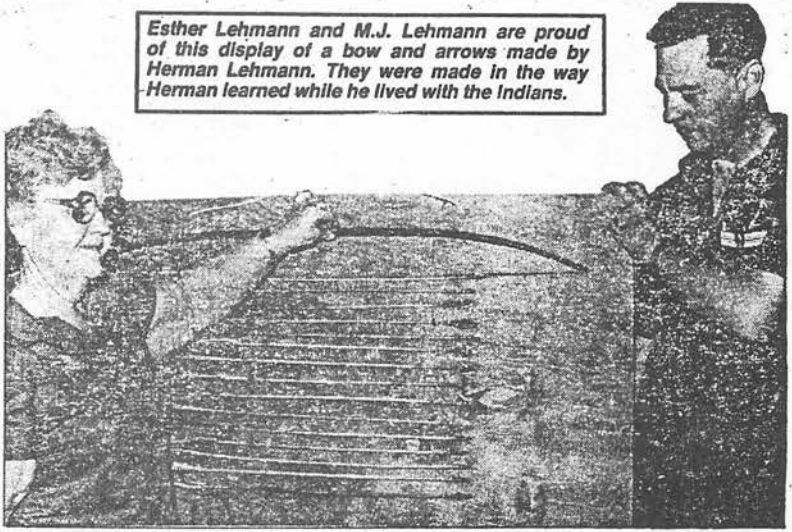
She came to Texas from Germany at 12 and showed much fortitude on the Texas frontier. Her first husband, Mortz Lehmann, died and she had been married for several years to Philip Buchmeyer, an outstanding stonemason, when the two boys were kidnapped.

Near the end of our memorable day, Garland and Kittl took us to Squaw Creek, where the kidnap-

See MOTHER, Page 14-L

George Carmack
Weekend Visit
Photos by Bonnie Carmack

Esther Lehmann and M.J. Lehmann are proud of this display of a bow and arrows made by Herman Lehmann. They were made in the way Herman learned while he lived with the Indians.



160

Mother defended family

Continued from 1-L

ping occurred. To set the stage we will tell of that visit first.

Squaw Creek rises in the far western part of Gillespie County and runs north into Mason County. We went there by back roads. A coyote hide is tied on almost every cattle guard. Frank Dobie used to say that a coyote would look at those hides "and just laugh."

Even today this area feels remote. What it must have felt like in 1870! Bonnie asked how far away the Buchmeyer-Lehmann family's closest neighbor was.

"About five miles," was Garland's reply.

Two springs

We stood on the low-water crossing under which the shallow, clear waters of Squaw Creek ran. Garland pointed upstream.

"Back around that bend, water comes into the creek from two little springs," he said. "Buchmeyer made a small stone retaining wall and had a garden there. That day he and Adolph Lehmann, the oldest brother, and maybe a daughter were there. It may have saved their lives. They missed the raid."



Garland Perry photographs the 1870 homestead area on Squaw Creek, which was the scene of the kidnapping.

Then we looked downstream to a high, rocky bluff. There was a second bluff and across the creek from it was the house and about 20 acres

of land they farmed — wheat, corn, peas, pumpkins.

"That day Herman and Willie, a sister, Caroline, and a baby, Gusta, were in the field to scare off crows," Garland continued. "One Indian grabbed Herman and though only 11, Herman really 'went to Fist City.' He scratched, clawed, bit and so diverted the Indians that Caroline could run.

"An Indian shot at her and she fell and fainted. The Indians thought they had killed her and let her alone. They did not bother the baby."

Tied on horses

"They threw Willie and then Herman over the fence, tied them on horseback and fled."

The Indians attacked the house two months later and were stood off when Mrs. Buchmeyer, using Mina, another daughter, as a gun rest, shot an Indian in the chest with a shotgun and continued firing. Mina, 13, grabbed an old sword.

Later we were shown the actual shotgun Mrs. Buchmeyer used.

Another Indian scare finally caused the Buchmeyers to leave and come to Loyal Valley. Then the Indians burned the Squaw Creek home, brought Herman by and convinced him all were killed and he had no family to come back to.

Now back to the start of our remarkable day. Garland and Kitti joined us early in Fredericksburg and Garland rode with us up Highway 87 to Loyal Valley, telling us the story of this historic country.

At the Loyal Valley cemetery we were joined by grandson M.J. Lehmann, the new book's sponsor, and his wife, Dee.

We saw the grave of Herman and Willie's mother, Mrs. Buchmeyer. Just one grave away was Herman's grave — 1859-1932.

In the next row was Willie's grave. He lived to be almost 90 (born 1861, died 1951). Later we talked about how much in the way of human events Willie's life spanned and how close we are to frontier days in Texas. Willie was captured by the Indians, but he lived to drive a Model T Ford.

They tell of his once driving his

"An Indian shot at her and she fell and fainted. The Indians thought they had killed her and let her alone. They did not bother the baby."

— Garland Perry

Model T in low gear all the way to Loyal Valley from a place he had up near Llano.

Many members of the Lehmann and Buchmeyer families, descendants and kin are buried here, all

near appropriate relatives. There are a few other graves.

There is one very moving old grave with a waist-high wall of

See NEW, Page 15-L



STANDING IN DOORWAY OF STAGECOACH INN ... are restorers, Dr. and Mrs. R.A. Mitchell

Lange's Mill has place in history

Lange's Mill is not only one of the most beautiful buildings in the German country of Texas, it is one of the most historic.

It is in the general area where Indians kidnapped Herman and Willie Lehmann and had been operating about 15 years when the kidnapping took place.

Historian Garland Perry tells the Lange's Mill story in a series of Texas Heritage pieces he wrote for the First National Bank of Boerne. The mill is no longer operated and is closed to visitors, but it still stands in all its beauty.

Perry took George and Bonnie Carmack along the road near the building while they were working on the story of Herman Lehmann's nine years as an Indian captive. Lange's Mill is near the appealing little town of Doss, northwest of Fredericksburg.

Doss was founded by brothers John E. and Thomas C. Doss in 1849. They built the mill in 1856. It was operated as both a sawmill and grist mill, and there was a distillery beside it. Later it was a

post office receiving mail once a week from the little town of Cherry Spring.

"Late in the Civil War, the Doss brothers sold the mill to August Steiness for \$10,000 in Confederate money," Perry reports. "After Steiness' death in 1866, his widow sold the mill to William F. Lange for \$530 in U.S. currency.

"The Lange family had just arrived in San Antonio from Germany."

Perry reports that the Langes made many improvements. They built a new dam between 1872 and 1875.

The skilled stonemason on the dam was Philip Buchmeyer, stepfather of Willie and Herman Lehmann. At this time Herman Lehmann was with the Indians and his family did not know whether he was alive or dead.

Perry reports that the mill is still owned by descendants of William Lange. While it cannot be entered, it can still be seen from the highway and the beauty of its exterior is memorable.

New edition set for book in '86

Continued from 14-L

weathered native stones around it. Garland once got its story from an old-timer.

Family passing through

"In the 1870s a family was going through in two wagons," Garland said. "Here a son, 15 or 16, died. The mournful family decided to bury him here. They knew they probably would never be back and they stayed long enough to mill the rocks and build this beautiful wall around his grave."

Our next stop was at the home of Esther Lehmann, daughter of Willie Lehmann and a personal link with this era of Texas frontier history. Esther, who was born in 1923, knew Herman, who spent his last days in this home with his brother.

Esther has a bow and quiver of arrows Herman made while here. The bow and arrows were brought here so we might see them. They and anything else of historical or other value are not kept at home but elsewhere under security.

Bonnie and I knew we were in the presence of history when we looked at the bow and the arrows — now mounted on a board — and heard Esther tell how Herman made them the same way he did with the Indians.

Wild mulberry

"The bow, a light one for use while riding, was made of wild mulberry," Esther said. "The bowstring is made from a sinew out of the back of a steer. The arrows are dogwood."

"The arrowheads were fastened on with steer sinew. When the sinew shrank as it dried, the arrowheads were on there to stay."

"Uncle Herman filed out the few metal arrowheads you see. But someone else chipped the flint arrowheads. He didn't know how — 'Squaw work,' he said."

“Uncle Herman filed out the few metal arrowheads you see. But someone else chipped the flint arrowheads. He didn't know how — 'Squaw work,' he said.”

— Esther Lehmann

Herman and Willie's parents lived at the site of Esther's home after the Indians drove them from Squaw Creek. Joining our group at Esther's home was Nancy Lehmann Reitz, M.J.'s sister and granddaughter of Willie.

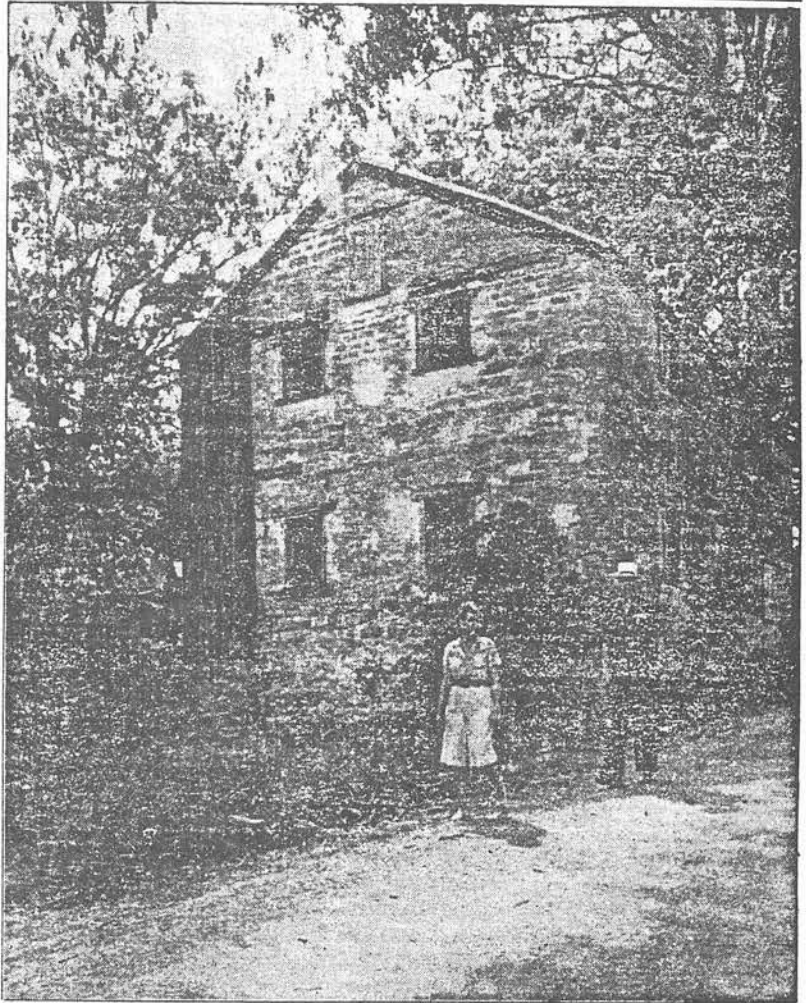
No place we visited is more appealing than a two-story home built in 1871 in Loyal Valley and run by Mrs. Buchmeyer as a stagecoach inn. It is midway between Fredericksburg and Mason and in the old days was on the route to frontier forts.

It was purchased six years ago by Dr. Russel A. Mitchell and his wife, Phyllis, of San Antonio. They describe it as "almost a pile of rubble when we bought it."

Lovingly restored

They have lovingly restored it, doing much of the work themselves.

The Buchmeyers were living here and it was to this home and inn that Herman returned after his years with the Indians — "brought in one rainy night and by candlelight was identified by his family," Garland reports.



LANGE'S MILL IS BEAUTIFUL, STURDY EXAMPLE OF GERMAN STONEMWORK

In a Texas Heritage piece, Garland describes Mrs. Buchmeyer's role:

"It was a mother's love, divine faith and her persistent search that caused Mrs. Buchmeyer to jump in her buggy and overtake Gen. R.S. Mackenzie when she heard the famous Indian fighter had just passed through her village."

"Gen. Mackenzie remembered seeing a young blue-eyed Indian at Fort Sill and ordered him brought from Fort Sill (under an escort of five soldiers) to Mrs. Buchmeyer's home to see if, indeed, he was her missing boy."

His identification — partially by a boyhood hatchet scar on his arm — was filled with drama. Even more dramatic was the love of his mother, brother Willie and other family members that brought him back to a long and respected life after his years with the Indians.

'Shouting meeting'

In his book, Herman tells of many of the things he did when he returned. He tells of going to an "old fashion Methodist shouting meeting. I thought it must be some sort of a new kind of war dance, rain dance or some kind of religious ceremony, so I rushed in, gave the Comanche yell, cleared several benches and landed in the midst of the revival."

Ours was a day of memorable experiences. From the inn we went on

ranch roads to an old-time ranch owned by M.J.'s father and now by M.J.

The house is unforgettable — Bonnie and I have never seen a pump like the one that brings water out of the old, old cistern. Little buckets on a chain are cranked down into and then out of the water on the same principle used in drawing water from the Nile.

The house looks out on Turkey Mountain, once owned by Willie and now by today's Lehmanns. Willie amassed much property in his lifetime.

Wonderful picnic

And what a wonderful picnic M.J. and Dee had at the fine old ranch house.

From there Garland, Kitti, Bonnie and I went to Squaw Creek and then homeward by Lange's Mill, now closed and posted but located beside the road. Built of stone, it is as beautiful as any old German building you will ever see.

It has a Lehmann connection. Buchmeyer, the kidnapped boys' stepfather, built its dam. It still stands in all its staunchness.

The whole day was one to long remember. But one thing surpasses it: the story that Herman tells in his book, "Nine Years With the Indians."

How wonderful that there will be a new edition!



M.J. LEHMANN, GREAT-GRANDMOTHER'S SHOTGUN
brave mother shot raider while defending family.



Mrs. Buchmeyer, the mother of the kidnapped boys, lived a rugged and dangerous frontier life.

162



The American-Statesman welcomes recipes and requests from readers. Letters should contain your name, address and telephone number in case we have questions. Addresses and phone numbers will not be published, however. Send recipes and requests to Recipe Swap, American-Statesman, P.O. Box 670, Austin 78767.

Bea Dorf of Austin sends this Pickled Tongue recipe for Mrs. John Patton of Lockhart.

Pickled tongue

- 4 quarts cold water
- 1½ pounds coarse salt
- ½ ounce saltpeter (get it at the drug store)
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon mixed whole spice
- 12 bay leaves

Combine ingredients and boil for 5 minutes. This amount is sufficient to cover 5 pounds of meat or tongue. Place the meat to be pickled in a stoneware crock fitted with a tight cover. Add 4 or 5 cloves of garlic and pour in the pickling solution as soon as it is cold. Weight the meat with a heavy plate or flat rock. Cover with a double layer of muslin tied securely around the crock. Store covered crock in a cool place for 10 to 14 days. The crock cover may be adjusted, providing it is propped up so that air circulates between it and the muslin cover.

Also for Mrs. Patton comes a little bit different recipe for pickled tongue from Sue Kehret of Austin.

Wash meat well. Place in large pan and over with hot salted water. Add 1 tablespoon pickling spices and 1 large onion, chopped. Simmer until done, about 1 hour per pound of meat. Skim off foam and let cool until meat can be handled. Remove skin and fat. Meat can be served warm or cold at this point.

Slice all meat and put in crock or glass jar in layers mixed with sliced onions. Mix half vinegar and half water to form a brine to cover the layers in the jar. Refrigerate for a week or more. (Saved sweet pickle juice can be added to brine mixture.)

Why don't you share your favorite Christmas recipes with us? Send them to the editor by September 20 and they will appear in the Fall issue.

Sharon Hehmsoth of Austin shares her mother-in-law's recipe for Koch Kase for Edith Ridlon of Round Rock.

Koch Kase

- 1 pound small curd cottage cheese
 - 1 rounded tablespoon flour
 - 1 teaspoon baking soda
 - ¼ teaspoon salt
 - ¾ stick melted margarine or butter
 - Caraway seed, optional
- Pour margarine over all ingredients. Stir well. Let sit one hour in pot. Then place over hot water in top of double boiler and stir until dissolved. Refrigerate.

Mrs. Charles Harris of Austin lets her Koch Kase ripen for a week or more before serving. Here's her recipe:

Koch Kase

- 1 quart cottage cheese
 - 1 teaspoon salt
 - 1 teaspoon caraway seeds
 - 1 tablespoon butter
 - 1½ cups water
 - 1 egg yolk, beaten
- Press cottage cheese until dry, add salt and caraway seeds to taste. Put in earthenware dish, cover well and set in a warm place. Stir with fork every day for a week or until ripe and clear. Place butter and water in skillet. When warm, add cheese and boil slowly for 20 minutes, stirring constantly. Remove from heat, add egg yolk and beat until glossy. Pour into bowl or cups rinsed with cold water. Refrigerate. Serve when cold.

While on the subject of German foods, can anyone come up with a good recipe for Pfeffernuse for Anita Searles of Austin? She wants to make them soon, as these cookies need to age before Christmas.

Lila Hyslop of Austin is seeking a recipe for a soft, chewy oatmeal cookie.

Mrs. John Sonntag of Rockdale has lost her copy of Chinese Rice Cookies, published in the Baptist Girls Auxillary magazine about 15 years ago. It was a no-bake cookie with toasted puffed rice in a base similar to peanut brittle.



Ellie Rucker

Q. I'm hunting for someone around Austin who knows how to do boucle knitting. I'm not sure how to spell it but I think it's French!

My mother's in a rest home and I was cleaning out her house and I came across a skirt but the top still needs work.

She doesn't know how to do it anymore and her eyes aren't too good either. I've got the pattern and gobs of yarn. Do you know anyone who can finish it for me? —Charlotte Riney

A. Well, we called Suzanne Thompson at the Knitters and Crocheters Guild and found out you got there before us! They've got you fixed up with a machine knitter who will finish your mother's skirt.

But we decided to go ahead and print your question anyway - for the benefit of all those half-finished sweaters, scarves, afghans, mittens, languishing on closet shelves somewhere.

Suzanne can be reached at 441-8769.

She'll either:

1) answer your questions so you can maybe go ahead and finish it yourself,

2) find someone else to answer questions if she can't,

3) find somebody to take over the project and finish it (oh, the person of our dreams)!

...

Suzann is a GTHS member and will exhibit some of her prize-winning projects at the Convention. Bring your knitting problems and questions to her table in New Braunfels!

From the American-Statesman in Austin

DEUTSCH - TEXANISCHES SAENGERFEST

Mehrere deutsche Gesangsvereine hier im Staate Texas sind in dem Deutsch-Texanischen Saengerbund zusammengefasst und feiern dieses Jahr ihr 39stes Saengerfest.

Der HOUSTON LIEDERKRANZ, ein Mitglied dieses Bundes, kann in 1985 mit Stolz auf sein 60 jahriges Bestehen zurueckschauen. Um beide Jubilaeen zusammen zu feiern - denn das ist, wenn moeglich, die Tradition -, wurde der HOUSTON LIEDERKRANZ als gastgebender Verein von dem Vorstand des Deutsch-Texanischen Saengerbundes vorgeschlagen.

Nachdem die ersten deutschen Einwanderer sich in Texas niederliessen, dachten auch sie damals schon an Saengerfeste, denn Sprache, Gesang, Sitten und Gebraeuche brachten sie aus der alten Heimat mit. Natuerlich war es frueher nicht so einfach wie heute, Vereine aus anderen Staedten aus dem grossen Staate Texas fuer ein Fest zusammenzubringen. Um das Saengerfest aufrecht zu erhalten, wurde dieses damals fuer naheliegende Doerfer und Staedte aufgezogen.

Das heutige Deutsch-Texanische Saengerfest ist ein Ereignis, das fast das ganze Jahr mit Vorbereitungen in Anspruch nimmt. Nachdem von dem Vorstand des Deutsch-Texanischen Saengerbundes der neue gastgebende Verein ernannt wurde, faengt dieser an mit frischem Mut und grossen Vorstellungen das Fest der Saengerinnen und Saenger fuer das naechste Jahr vorzubereiten. Massenchorlieder werden vom gastgebenden Verein ausge-

schickt. Diese Lieder werden von jedem Gesangsverein eingeuebt und dann am Saengerfest gemeinsam im grossen Massenchor gesungen. Ein jeder Verein muss sich auch mit seinem eigenen Sololied - beschaeftigen, welches er dann beim Saengerfest-Konzert vorbringt. Natuerlich, da viele Vereine von weit herkommen wie Austin, Dallas und San Antonio, bringen diese einen guten Appetit mit, und so wird fuer eine herzhaft Mahlzeit gesorgt. Neue Kleider und Anzuege werden von dem Schneidermeister auf das Muster gelegt, und das schoene Dirndl kommt wie so oft zum Vorschein.

Schnell vergeht die Zeit der Vorbereitung, und das langersehnte Saengerfest steht vor der Tuer. Man sagt nicht umsonst: "Saure Wochen, frohe Feste, sei ein kuenftig Zauberwort". Die Gaeste kommen nach einer langen Busfahrt mit heiterem Sinn, laechelnd und singend beim gastgebenden Verein an. Am Samstag-Abend wird bei guter Stimmung und froehlichem Beisammensein mal so richtig das Tanzbein geschwungen. Alte Bekanntschaften werden wieder eneuert, und mit grosser Spannung freut sich ein jeder auf Sonntag, den SAENGERTAG.

Frueh morgens, wenn die Haehne kraehn, setzt sich der Vorstand des Deutsch-Texanischen Saengerbundes schon zusammen, um neue Plaene fuer das naechste Jahr zu schmieden. Der Vorstand besteht aus Delegaten aller anwesenden Vereine, welche jaehrlich zu ihrem Posten gewaehlt werden. Eine Generalprobe der Damen und Herren Massenchore wird fuer Sonn-

tagmorgen angesetzt, und der geehrte Fest-Dirigent des gastgebenden Vereines prueft nun die Stimmen aller Saengerinnen und Saenger in den gemeinsamen Liedern. Nachdem sich der Dirigent mit dem musikalischen Talent aller Beteiligten zufriedengibt, freut sich ein jeder auf das geschmackvolle Mittagessen, welches gewoehnlich von der Frauenabteilung des gastgebenden Vereines serviert wird. Mit etwas Unterhaltungsmusik und Plaudern mit Freunden, die man schon

ein Jahr nicht mehr gesehen hat, vergeht die Zeit, und alle Gaeste koennen kaum warten, bis das offizielle Konzertprogramm des Saengerfestes beginnt.

Nach einigen Ansprachen der Praesidenten des Deutsch-Texanischen Saengerbundes und des gastgebenden Vereines, sowie eines Vertreters des Generalkonsulats der Bundesrepublik Deutschland und Staedtischer Abgeordneter, ist der lang erwartete Hoehepunkt des Festtages an alle Anwesenden herangetreten.

Die Fahnen der beteiligten Gesangsvereine, und mit Stolz zu berichten, auch ein Kinderchor, werden nun von ihren Traegern nach dem Podium gebracht und mit einem neuen Banner fuer das betreffende Saengerfest geschmueckt. Der Festdirigent schlaegt die Stimmgabel an, und aus allen Gegenden treffen sich die Saengerinnen und Saenger wieder, um im Massenchor dem deutschen Lied Ehre zu bringen.

Laut und voll klingen die Lieder, und nachdem sich der jubelnde Applaus gelegt hat, kann der Dirigent kaum sein Schmeicheln verbergen. Er moechte ja so gerne sagen: "Ach, das war ja so wunderbar, warum kann es nicht immer so sein?"

Nun ist es so weit, dass ein jeder Verein sein Sololied vortragen kann. Alle betreffenden Saengerinnen und Saenger sehen noch einmal durch ihre Noten, und mit Stolz in ihrer festlichen Tracht, singen sie ihr gewaehltes Lied. Auch wieder ist der Applaus der Kundgeber eines grossen Gelingens und mit tiefer Ruehrung und Freude neigt sich der Tag des Saengers zu Ende.

Viele deutsche Saengerfeste sind mit ihrer Pracht und ihrem Stolz in diesem Lande fern von der alten Heimat gefeiert worden. Wir hoffen und wuenschen, dass der deutsche Gesang, die deutschen Sitten und Gebraeuche noch weit in die Zukunft reichen werden. Jedoch unser hoechstes Gut ist die Freiheit, die uns hier geboten wird, indem wir die kulturellen Erinnerungen aus der alten Heimat weiter foerdern koennen.

PETER KNAUT

Deutsche Welt - USA

March, 1985

Sent by
Lorene Froehner Windle,
Houston, Texas.

163

PROGRAM, 39th Annual Saengerfest of the
 Deutsch-Texanischer Saengerbund, Houston,
 May 19, 1985. Hosted by Houston Lieder-
 kranz. courtesy Lorene Froehner Windle
 Houston, Texas

Fest Programm

Amerikanische National Hymne..... Gast Saenger, Kenneth Ehle
 und Orchester
 Deutsche National Hymne Gast Saenger, Kenneth Ehle und Orchester
 Begruessungs Ansprache..... Erich Schoennagel
 Ansprache..... Horst Britsche, Praesident Houston Liederkranz
 Begruessungsrede Vertreter, Deutsches Generalkonsulat
 Begruessung..... Christen Hartung
 Member Houston City Counsel
 Ansprache..... Teddy Trept, Praesident
 Deutsch-Texanischer Saengerbund
 Fahنشmuckung..... Vorstand des Bundes

Konzert

Kroent Den Tag..... Paul Kurz
 Maenner Massenchor mit Orchester Dirigent: Walter Fritsche
 Frisch Gesungen..... Friedrich Silcher
 Maenner Massenchor A Capella Dirigent: Walter Fritsche
 Ungarischer Tanz #6..... Johannes Brahms
 Hermann Soehne Gemischter Chor Dirigent: Janet Meimar
 Pianistin: Marion Moore
 Wohlaufl In Gottes Schoene Welt Arrang.: Carolyn Gregory-
 Landau
 Austin Saengerrunde Damenchor Dirigent: Carolyn Gregory-
 Landau

164

Am Brunnen Vor Dem Tore..... Franz Schubert
 Houston Saengerbund Dirigent: Richard McGinty
 Maerchennacht Ernst Buder
 Beethoven Damenchor Dirigent: Shirley Donohue
 Pianistin: Paulette Conaway
 Hymne An Die Musik..... Vinzenz Lachner
 Dallas Frohsinn Dirigent: Adron Ming
 Horch Was Kommt Von Draussen Rein.... Volkswaise
 Damen Massenchor A Capella Dirigent: Lorene Windle
 Sanctus Franz Schubert
 Damen Massenchor A Capella Dirigent: Lorene Windle
 Der Froehliche Wanderer..... Friedrich W. Moeller
 Damen Massenchor mit Orchester Dirigent: Lorene Windle
 Valentina..... Rolf Hartmann
 Beethoven Maennerchor Dirigent: John Donohue
 Pianistin: Carol Koehl
 Lieder Nach Eigener Wahl Dirigent: Dorle Wilson
 Beethoven Kinderchor Begleitung: Lee Gastinger
 Pferde Zu Vieren Traben..... Tessiner Volkslied
 Austin Saengerrunde Maennerchor Dirigent: Ted Zoch
 Barcarolle..... Jacques Offenbach
 Houston Saengerbund Damenchor Dirigent: Sylphia Busse
 Pianistin: Kae Velmeden
 Freude, Schoener Goetterfunken Ludwig v. Beethoven
 San Antonio Liederkranz Dirigent: Wayne Marty
 Pianistin: Janine Parker
 Auswahl..... Dirigent: John Donohue
 Chorgemeinschaft Texas Pianistin: Shirley Donohue
 Freiweg..... C. Latann
 Maenner Massenchor mit Orchester Dirigent: Walter Fritsche
 Die Abendglocken Rufen..... Franz Abt
 Maenner Massenchor A Capella Dirigent: Walter Fritsche
 Ich Schreit Auf Gruenen Wegen Rudolf Desch
 Houston Liederkranz Dirigent: Walter Fritsche

History of the Houston Liederkrantz 1925-1985

Toward the end of 1924 a small group of Germans under the guidance of Constantin Janke decided to form a new male chorus in Houston. At this time, German social clubs, such as the Houston Saengerbund, Sons of Hermann, and the Turnverein, were flourishing, and there was room for a new male chorus in the growing German community in Houston. During the next few months, Mr. Janke and his group worked diligently to recruit male singers from the older German population of Houston as well as from the recent immigrants. The hard times in Germany during World War I and the years following, including the disastrous inflation of 1923, had now passed, and German immigrants were once again coming to Houston.

The first membership meeting of the new singing group took place on January 22, 1925. The twelve members present were designated as the founders. A. Jensen was elected the first president and C. Janke the first choir director. The founding date was set at January 15, 1925. The name chosen was "Houston Liederkrantz" in memory of a former club of that name. Both the Houston Saengerbund and the older Liederkrantz were formed in 1883 upon the dissolution of a still older singing society called the Houston Maennerchor.

With its love of German song and fellowship, the new group thrived and in its first year put on two concert evenings, four family nights, one riverboat ride, four birthday parties, one picnic, and a Christmas party. These activities became a precedent for Liederkrantz functions for many years to come.

Two years later, on March 16, 1927, the ambitious new club acquired a clubhouse at Abbott and Barnes Streets in the Heights district, a neighborhood with many German-speaking residents. The building, which occupied two city lots, was bought from the First Church of the Nazarene, who built it in 1922.

A charter from the State of Texas was obtained on October 17, 1934. The club, which was officially named "The Houston Liederkrantz," was incorporated as a voluntary association not engaged in profit. The charter was renewed in 1978 and now has an unlimited duration. According to the renewed charter of 1978, the purpose for which The Houston Liederkrantz is formed is exclusively for social and recreational activities through involvement and participation in German language, music, art, and culture.

Despite the lean economic times of the 1930's, singing and social life in the Houston Liederkrantz continued at a strong pace. The choir performed primarily as a male chorus, but a mixed choir also existed. The women singers worked enthusiastically for the progress of the club. Later, in order to encourage the active participation of the non-singing women in the club, twelve of these ladies, under the leadership of Gertrud Koetter, held the first meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary on November 4, 1938.

The Ladies Auxiliary has performed an invaluable service throughout the years in a supportive role to promote the goals of the Houston Liederkrantz. They have served innumerable delicious meals at club functions, which contributed to the "Gemuetlichkiet," and at the same time raised funds that were used by them to help maintain and beautify the club's facilities. They have continued to provide a menu in keeping with traditional German culture and taste.

Membership in the Houston Liederkrantz declined during World War II but increased again after the war ended. Post-war immigration from Germany reached a peak in the early 1950's and brought with it new members and new singers. These were stable and pleasant times in the club during which a theater group was started by Paul Danjus and Oskar Sauerbrey and was directed for many years by Hermann Strichweh.

Economic conditions in Germany improved considerably during the 1960's with the result that immigration to Houston from overseas declined sharply. This and normal attrition resulted in a marked loss in the number of singing members during that time. The Houston Liederkrantz had been singing as a male choir. Because singers were needed desperately and the ladies of the Houston Liederkrantz expressed an interest in singing, it was decided in 1971 to officially change the choir from a male choir to a mixed choir. This change attracted new members. Also, Houston's exceptional population growth in the 1970's, created by the oil boom, brought singers to the club who had been active in clubs in other parts of the United States.

The American-born member who shows an interest in the German heritage through active participation in the choir and by other work for the club has always been a welcome member in the Houston Liederkrantz. Walter Fritsche, the present choir director, is a good example of the Texas-born German descendent. A fourth-generation German-American, he has been choir director since 1962.

During the mid-1970's, attendance at club functions grew, and it became clear that the hall was becoming too small. An adjacent lot was bought in 1974, and plans were made to expand. After the 29th Saengertag of the Deutsch-Texanischer Saengerbund in May 1975, which the Houston Liederkrantz hosted on the cleared grounds of the newly-purchased lot, the clubhouse was moved to the center of the three lots in order to make room for additions. Construction on the additions began in 1976 and was done almost entirely by Liederkrantz members until the last item of the program was completed in October 1982.

In 1981, as the construction on the enlarged hall was nearing completion, a new auxiliary of the Houston Liederkrantz, the Houston Karneval Verein (HKV '81) had its beginning. The first Prunksitzung, which is a variety show of the type found in the German Rhineland, took place in January 1982 under the direction of Hans Boentgen. Hidden acting and performing abilities of many members were brought into the open by this exuberant new auxiliary.

In February 1981, President Peter Knaut was approached by a commercial real estate firm that was interested in acquiring the club property. Although the property was not for sale, it eventually became clear that a sale could be made that was beneficial to both sides and that made possible the purchase of a suitable new lot and new building. The work that the members had put into remodeling the old hall now had value in negotiating for a new one. The members ratified the sale in the Annual General Meeting of January 9, 1983. Construction was contracted under close and time-consuming supervision by Building Chairman Raymond Orsak, as well as by the club's president, Peter Knaut. Grand opening of the new hall at 5100 Ella Blvd. took place on September 17, 1983.

May the new hall of the Houston Liederkrantz continue for a long time to re-sound with German choir singing, German music, and German culture, and may it long remain a home for those who seek these German activities. In the words of the late honorary member Otto Kuntscher, whose poems have become treasures of the club:

*Liederkrantz: Dein woll'n wir gerne
uns' res bestes Streben weih'n
Sollst, der lieben Heimat ferne
eine Burg des Deutschtum sein.
Du wirst kraeftig Dich entfalten,
schnell erbluehn zu Macht und Glanz.
Bleib uns lange noch erhalten
Houston's schoener Liederkrantz.*

Franz Schoennagel

REMARKS
at the
90th Anniversary

→ 1982

of the
San Antonio Liederkranz
Presented by Wm. V. Dielmann, Jr.

The San Antonio Liederkranz was organized in the rectory of St. Joseph's Church -- the church built by pioneers of German extraction -- on July 11th 1892. Its organizer and prime-mover was the artist-priest Father Henry Pefferkorn -- then pastor of St. Joseph's.

Father Pefferkorn asked a group of parishioners of St. Joseph's -- all of whom were members of St. Joseph's Society -- a group which was founded some seven years earlier -- to meet with him for the purpose of establishing a choir for his church. This group consisted of: John C. Dielmann, Alois Tarrillion, Wm. Herring, John P. Ripps, Henry Umscheid, Melchior Hahn, A. Barlemann, George Mandy, H. Lamm, Herman Jaeckle and John Eichmann -- all names identified with the early history of St. Joseph's.

Father Pefferkorn, knowing the restlessness of the young men with whom he met, and their desire not to be confined to a single assignment, suggested that the group give itself a name and to join groups of similar constituted signing societies, and to give public concerts when the opportunity presented. Thus the San Antonio Liederkranz was born.

The first officers were John C. Dielmann, President; Alois Tarrillion, Vice-President; Henry Umscheid, Secretary; and Wm. Herring, Treasurer.

There are still today in Texas two groups of German oriented singing societies -- the Staats Saengerbund composed of societies established in Texas' larger cities; and the GebirgsSaengerbund to which societies originating in the smaller towns located in the hill country to the north of San Antonio belong. The San Antonio Liederkranz appeared at a Staats Saengerfest for the first time in 1896 at the Saengerfest held in San Antonio that year. Not until the late twenties or early thirties did the Liederkranz become a member of the Gebirgs Saengerbund. The Liederkranz has never failed to participate in any Saengerfest.

In 1931 the Liederkranz and the Beethoven Maennerchor transported their singers to the State Saengerfest at Galveston by chartered train. The most popular section of that train was the baggage car in which were lined up several rows of kegs begging to be tapped. Prohibition was the law of the land at that time -- but somehow a number of good Samaritans appeared on the scene to supply the wherewithal to make the contents of the kegs most palatable and soul-satisfying. This Saengerfest was an enthusiastic and a successful one.

Accommodations for singers of visiting groups at Saengerfests were not always the choicest. I recall a Gebirgs Saengerfest at Fredericksburg where the Liederkranz was housed on the second floor of a two-story hotel. Can you imagine the chaos, the pandemonium -- nay, even abject frustration, that prevailed when 25 or 30 men tried to find surcease at the single, solitary rest-room.

World Wars ONE and TWO with their attendant mostly uncalled for connotations and innuendos proved to be temporary deterrents to the growth and enhancement of German oriented singing societies. Because of our German background the authorities -- during the wars -- may or may not have noted our

general behavior and activities. The San Antonio Liederkranz did not deviate from its rehearsal routine. We continued to sing our German songs together with our English songs and our church music throughout both world-wide conflicts. I give you an incident worthy of speculation. On a certain Monday evening -- I believe it was in early 1944, a Mr. Truemper took part in our rehearsal, and asked to become a member of the Liederkranz. He was accepted, and sang with us until about two weeks after World War Two ended. He spoke with an accent -- but otherwise appeared to be a gentleman even though his singing ability left much to be desired. He offered various members conflicting stories concerning his background and occupation, so that we ceased questioning him to save him embarrassment. What this man was doing in the ranks of the Liederkranz I leave to your good judgment. What nefarious deeds or plans was he to uncover? He joined unsolicited and left abruptly without the usual farewells. In my opinion, this is the one and only time the Liederkranz has ever been spied upon.

The first time I came to realize forcefully that there was such an entity as the San Antonio Liederkranz was in January 1917 when I was in the audience at the presentation of the St. Cecilia Oratorio (Prior to that time I used to hum the solo parts of either Witt's or Gruber's masses that I heard the Liederkranz sing in church. It was a "catchy" tune.)

The opening page of that program reads:

"Oratorio St. Cecilia" given by the San Antonio Liederkranz & Ladies Chorus accompanied by orchestra -- St. Joseph's Hall Saturday and Sunday January 27 and 28, 1917. Musical Director O. W. Hilgers; Stage Setting by E. Raba. Soloists Mrs. Wm. V. Dielmann, Miss Hilda Wagner, Mrs. O. W. Hilgers, Mr. Ed. Jud, Mr. Chas. W. Meyer, Mr. Leo M. J. Dielmann.

The living tableau were enacted on the stage, the chorus was perched on bleachers at the other end of the hall, and in between sat the audience. As the story of the Oratorio unfolded, the scenes on the stage changed to conform with the music sung by the soloists and chorus. This performance -- like other similar ones -- could not have been presented without the support and cooperation of the ladies -- God bless them. This performance by its very nature and with a wholly amateur cast required time and effort and cooperation and patient attention to detail. It was one of those happenings which made the old St. Joseph's Hall on the second floor of the building located at the corner of St. Joseph's and East Commerce streets -- a hallowed and historic place. The near professional arrangement of the tableau was the creation of Ernst Raba. He arranged the stage settings, his spouse Maria Raba gathered the live models and saw to their costuming. Ernst and Maria Raba are the grandparents of Robert Burke, a past president and member of the Liederkranz. It is heartening to record that all the participants in this extraordinary production either were or had been members of St. Joseph's Parish or its affiliated societies.

Together with its splendid ladies chorus and soloists, the Liederkranz staged the light operas "Pinafore", "Bohemian Girl" and "Belshazzar."

If the old St. Joseph's Hall could be reconstructed what an amazing array of musical gems and entertainment tidbits could it record that happened within its walls. During the times when Minstrel shows were in vogue, the Liederkranz also staged its own which were on a par with any offered in this part of the

State. One man who participated and who stands out in my mind as superb -- he was Joe Jaeckle -- a premier "end-man" without compare. It is just too bad that the public is denied this clean, interesting but most hilarious bit of entertainment.

The Liederkrantz gave the traditional complement of concerts at the new St. Joseph's Hall (the Groos Homestead), and presented -- as a rule -- young local talent who were desirous of spreading their wings. The big problem with the new hall was its lack of space -- but at any rate -- in the absence of requests for outside engagements -- which were few and far between -- we continued the public concert tradition.

The Liederkrantz has lent its voices to the enhancement of many occasions and at many places. It furnished the musical segment of the Field Masses commemorating the 200th anniversary of the founding of San Antonio, the 100th anniversary of the Fall of the Alamo, the 100th anniversary of the Declaration of Texas Independence, at the High Masses officially opening the conventions of the Catholic Central Verein held in San Antonio, and of the Catholic State League, participated in all Saengerfests, at dedications and other anniversaries, at civic affairs, for civic clubs, at military installations, and even for other denominational commemorative events.

The Liederkrantz has never had a large active membership -- its maximum complement being between 30 and 35 active singers. There are, however, names on the active list that have been there since the Liederkrantz was founded.

Father Henry Pefferkorn was the first director of the Liederkrantz. Since he was a fisher for souls, and not necessarily for singers, we understand why he relinquished the directorship.

He was succeeded by Otto W. Hilgers who directed the Liederkrantz for 40 years, and deserves much credit for guiding it through its fledgeling years and molding it into a solid organization. For more than 40 years Bernhard Kalthoff wielded the baton, and attempted valiantly to form the Liederkrantz into a competent singing group. Our present director is Wayne Marty, a member of the musical Marty family, and whose father, Claude Marty, for years sang in the first tenor section with the Liederkrantz. Suffice it to say that Wayne Marty has the respect and confidence of the members of the Liederkrantz. Grant him support and cooperation, there is no limit to what heights we may climb.

What can I say about our assistant director, associate director, substitute director, or just plain director at large -- I just don't know what to call him. I'll just say "thank you" for all of us, L. J. "Buzz" Gittinger, Jr. for stepping into the breach. Sometimes you remind me of the little boy in Holland who kept the dike from collapsing.

We cannot overlook the young lady who has been our accompanist for many years. Thank you, Janine Gittinger Parker for your loyalty to a group of people who I hope appreciate what you do for them and for the Liederkrantz.

The President of the Liederkrantz, Wm. V. Dielmann, III, is a 4th Generation member of a family that has been identified with the Liederkrantz since its founding. May I ask for the support and cooperation of the members so that his administration will be successful and will redound to the continued well-being of the Liederkrantz. Each of the four generations has been represented by a President of the Liederkrantz -- and each of the representatives sang or sings out of the second bass section of the Liederkrantz.

The Liederkrantz has had its trials and tribulations -- and its triumphs also -- and it has survived. For 90 years it has remained true to its founding commitment -- the Liederkrantz still participates in Divine Services in San Antonio's St. Joseph's Church on important feast days especially those held on Christmas, Easter Sunday, St. Joseph's Day, etc., and on the fourth Sunday of the month at the 11 o'clock Mass.

The loyalty to that commitment, plus the fact that the Liederkrantz colors of blue and white are the colors most often associated with the Immaculate Mother of God -- are undoubtedly good reasons for the fact that the Liederkrantz continued -- during all these years -- to raise its voices for the glory of God, and for the pleasure and enjoyment of our fellowman.

SAN ANTONIO LIEDERKRANTZ
Gegrundet: 11 Juli 1892

Wm. V. Dielmann, III	Praesident
Tom Jaeckle	Vize-Praesident
Julius Grossenbacher	Sekretaer
Ed Huth	Schatzmeister
Wayne Marty	Dirigent
Janine Parker	Pianistin

I. TENOR

Jack Juen	Julius Grossenbacher
Martin Boyle	Mike Marty
Blake Stansell	Jerry Brown
Herman J. Jaeckle	Don Novian
Bill Lewis	

II. TENOR

Tom Austin	Paul Gottschalk
Bob Burke	Joe Libby
John Donohue	Frank J. Pape
Wayne Ehrisman	Carl Schiele
Gerhard Buech	Fred Prassel
Steve Jonas	Gerhard Strauch
Jerry Lusk	Mark Tholen
	Ralph Crevoisier

I. BASS

Dick Carruth	John Milligan
Gary Covington	Joe Peters
Ed Tschoepe	Hans Micklitz
Gene Gittinger	Hank Schlattner
Tom Jaeckle	Mike Schoppe
Joe Joseph	Floyd Schulz
George Jowers	Jerry Staffel
Paul Kissling	Frank Weinholt
Delbert Sprouse	Jim Foyle

II. BASS

Jeff Toussant	John Chapin
Leonard Sims	Ken Haase
Wm. V. Dielmann, III	Ed Huth
Herb Broemer	John Libby
Wm. K. Fitzpatrick	Bob Kiolbassa
Jim Ford	James M. Parker, Jr.
L.J. Gittinger, Jr.	David Rawlinson
Al Hannasch	Walter Rudeloff
Dave Gloeckler	Jim Mini
	Vince Knodell

167

125th Anniversary Celebration Program - April 28, 1985

**A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ORIGIN, ACTIVITIES AND
DEVELOPMENT OF CONCORDIA GESANG-VEREIN
DURING THE FIRST 125 YEARS OF ITS EXISTENCE.
(Formerly Piney Concordia)**

One of the most outstanding characteristics of the German people is their love for music, and the early German settlers of this section were true to their nobler ideals. Hence, it is not surprising that in the founding of their homes in the land of their adoption, they sought to surround themselves with many of their old customs. Among these was music, both vocal and instrumental. The old German slogan: "Wo man singt da lass dich ruhig nieder, boese Menschen kennen keine Lieder," which in the English language would read substantially as follows: "Where people sing, there you may abide in peace, for bad people have no songs," is too true to evoke any argument.

So it was but natural, that on occasions of gatherings, small or large, a considerable part of the time was spent in singing. At one of such occasions, which took place at the home of Mr. Fritz Schlecht, about two miles east of Bellville, sometime in the latter 50's, it was suggested that a Singing Society be organized. The proposition met with enthusiastic approval and on May 26, 1860, the Piney Concordia Gesang-Verein was organized. Mr. Emil Koch, teacher of the Piney School was selected to direct the singing. The first active members were: Messrs. Gustav Koch, Heinrich Koch, Herman Mueller, Fritz Brandes, Fritz Schultz, Fritz Schlecht, Joseph Menke, Theodor Menke, and the director, Emil Koch.

New members were admitted from time to time and the organization grew and prospered in spite of many obstacles and hardships, tests of loyalty and devotion. It is told that members were, on occasion, compelled to swim the Brazos River, during cold and stormy weather, in order not to miss a practice night. How they suffered during the period directly following the "Reconstruction" and how discouragements, adversities and hardships were met with renewed determination and strengthened unity of purpose, reveals the sturdy character of these early pioneers.

Their faithful director, Mr. Emil Koch, died in 1872, and was succeeded by Mr. Fritz Raube, who continued to direct the destinies of the little band. The Piney school house served as a meeting place for the Society, but, as the majority of the members lived at considerable distances, it became more and more apparent that another location, more convenient to the members, would soon be necessary. Mr. Wm. Graf offered to donate a plot of land in the Piney community for a new site and Mr. Otto Sander offered to lend the necessary money, interest free. The members volunteered their services in hauling the lumber from the mills and in helping Mr. W. Harigel in the carpenter work. The new hall was formally dedicated in May, 1877, and served as a gathering place on many subsequent merry occasions.

168

Regular social gatherings, attended by the families and friends of the members, were held every two weeks, and annual festivities to which the general public was invited, spread the fame of this happy little band.

In the storm of 1900, the hall was demolished, and almost a year elapsed before arrangements were made and a new location decided upon. The present site was finally chosen and hall built of lumber from the old building. Here, in close proximity to the homes of most of the members, under cool and shady trees, many happy occasions have been celebrated, among them the "Golden Jubilee" of the Society, which took place in May, 1910.

On this 50th birthday celebration of the Piney Concordia, the hall was packed to overflowing with singers and guests, who had been welcomed at the railroad station by the Bellville Band under the direction of Mr. Wm. Westermann. Prof. C.F.W. Reinecke spoke eloquently of the history of the Society, which was then under the able direction of Mr. Fritz Schumann, Sr. The following Societies joined in a well prepared and pleasing program: Houston Saengerbund, Bellville Liederkrantz, Schulenburg Liederkrantz, Welcome Maennerchor, Lone Star Maennerchor, Schoenau Helvetia, Brenham Vorwaerts and Spring Branch Liedertafel.

The Houston Saengerbund presented to Mr. Robert Schulz, president of the Piney Concordia, a beautiful silver loving cup bearing the inscription: "Der Piney Concordia, zum 50. Jubilaem gewidmet vom Houston Saengerbund am Mai, 1910.

On May 26, 1935, the Concordia celebrated its 75th anniversary, with an active membership larger than at any previous time in its history. On a beautiful spring day, members of the Piney Concordia and other South Texas Singing Societies, their families and thousands of friends, gathered for the occasion. To open the festivities, in the morning, the Brenham Concert Band, under the direction of Prof. F. Navratil, played several selections on the Courthouse plaza, also taking part in the program in the afternoon. At noon an old-fashioned barbecue was served to the visitors, after which Mr. O.A. Severin presided as master of ceremonies and District Clerk J.L. Stierling gave a scholarly and interesting synopsis of the origin of the Piney Concordia and other Singing Societies of South Texas.

On May 29, 1960, Concordia celebrated its 100th anniversary, at the City Park in Bellville, Texas. It was a joyous occasion. Members of the Bellville Concordia Singing Societies from Austin, San Antonio, and Houston took part in the days' activities. At noon a delicious barbecue meal was served to the guest and to the public. The afternoon program followed at 2:00 p.m., the master of ceremonies was O.A. Severin. The music was under the direction of R.R. Lorenz. After a joyous concert and singing program a dance followed at 6:30. The Bellville Concordia Singing Society had a beautiful day for their 100th anniversary and for all activities. Hundreds of people left at the end of the day with the feeling of good will in their hearts toward their fellow man.

This short history of the Piney Concordia, which in 1938 changed its name to "Bellville Concordia," gives only a few of the high-lights of its existence. A full account of the rich experiences of these early pioneers and their successors, their dedication to the German singing tradition, and their faith and good will in the face of many hardships, would require far more space than is here available.

A heartfelt welcome is extended on this 125th anniversary Celebration of the Bellville Concordia, by all its members to every singer and guest, in the hope that the efforts of the Society, together with the unselfish devotion and assistance of all others in this community who are making this Anniversary possible, will add further laurels to the already glory-crowned history of the Bellville Concordia Singing Society.

**ROSTER OF PRESENT MEMBERS
CONCORDIA**

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| George Muery | Harold Strauss | Lee Plagens |
| Alfred Severin | Elroy Kiecke | J.Lee Dittert |
| M.I. Hall | Paul Engeling | LeRoy H. Grebe |
| Harry Wittneben | Edmund Marcinkiewicz | Bob Charpiot |
| Benton Luedecke | C.F. Oakley | Larry W. Remmert |
| Edgar Steinbeck | Daniel Surovik | Jessie Mewis |
| Erich Witte | James O'Jibway | C.M. Sander |
| Monroe Wienecke | Keith Kidwell | Louis Vacek |
| James Grawunder | Carlton Kinnison | DrDr. R.A. Neely |
| C.F. Kollman | Leo Michlitz | Henry Grawunder |
| Ernest Vincik | Robert Engelholm | J.D. Crutchfield |
| Roland Remmert | | Pete Etlinger |
| Robert Lange | | W.R. Crick |
| Thomas Chance | | Perry Marek |
| Ralph Heisch | | Vit Janda |
| Newton Boriack | | G.E. Huebner |
| Walter Leedy Koehn | | Ed. I. Vogel |
| Miles Wilson | | John Mumme |
| Ernie Koy, Sr. | | Charles Crawford |
| Nelson Davis | | Harvey Prause |
| Calvin Mikeska | | E.J. Janecek |
| William Bogar | | Victor Woodrick |

**DIALECT IN BERLIN:
FROWNED AT AND
SMILED UPON**

"Berlinisch," the dialect of Berlin, enjoys a better reputation in the Eastern part of the city than it does in the Western half, German Professor Peter Schlobinski told language experts at a recent international conference of linguists in West Berlin. This is the conclusion reached by Schlobinski and colleague Norbert Dittmar after directing a two-year survey of adjacent neighborhoods separated by the Berlin Wall: Prenzlauer Berg in the East, and Wedding in the West.

The demographics of both neighborhoods were very similar during the 1920s, say the professors, but evolved independently after the construction of the Wall in 1961. In Wedding, an influx of foreign "guest workers" and an alternative youth scene have weakened the dialect's hold, according to the researchers, while in Prenzlauer Berg dialect has remained intact and even gained a certain prestige value.

While in the Western sectors "Berlinisch" has come to be associated with the lower classes, its use in the East crosses class and occupational lines, Schlobinski and Dittmar concluded. Although otherwise few divergences were noted by the research team, Schlobinski says they recorded more anglicisms in the slang of Wedding residents than Russian borrowings in the speech of people in Prenzlauer Berg. In both neighborhoods, as in all major industrial cities, the professors contend, women tend more than men to avoid dialect and favor the standard language.

June
Deutsche Welt-USA 1985



German Archives

Volume 3, No.1, 1984 of the *Newsletter* of the Kemper and Leila Williams Foundation's Historic New Orleans Collection details the rich manuscript and records collection it has acquired (or microfilmed if items were not offered on a permanent basis). All pertain to Germans who settled in Louisiana.

In summary, the collection contains Deutsches Haus Archives 1833-1977. Records on the German Society of New Orleans 1847-1929, German Music Societies' Records 1837-1872, Miscellaneous German Institutions 1865-1977, German-language Periodicals 1898-1916, the Mathiesen Papers 1850-1895, J. Hanno Deiler Papers 1849-1909, German Protestant Orphan Asylum Association Records 1870-1976, German Newspapers of New Orleans 1849-1909, Records of the First Evangelical Church of New Orleans 1845-1960, Records of the German Protestant Home for the Aged 1885-1949, Records of the German Protestant Bethany Home 1889-1943, a Survey of Historic New Orleans Cemeteries 1789-1943, and a German Study File 1704-1981.

For a copy of the newsletter called *Manuscripts Division Update*, Vol.3, No. 1 (1984), contact: Historic New Orleans Collection, 533 Royal Street, New Orleans, LA 70130

*Society for German-American Studies
Newsletter
Vol.6, No.2, 1985*

169

170 From —

LaVern J. Rippley, Editor
St. Olaf College
Northfield, MN 55057



ANNOUNCEMENT

Winston Crausaz seeks interested co-workers to produce a translation of Baron von Muller's volume *Reisen*, the record of his visit to Mexico in 1856. To date his chapter on Orizaba has been translated into French. His work includes wood cuts, paintings and sketches. Interested parties can contact Crausaz at the Department of Geosciences, Southwest Missouri State University, Springfield, MO 65804-0089.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

David Luthy, *Amish Settlements Across America* (Aylmer, Ontario: Pathway Publishers, 1985) is a 12 page booklet with maps on the settlements of the Amish in the United States with listing of the year founded and the number of congregations in each. \$1.25 US postpaid from David Luthy, Rt. 4, Aylmer, Ontario N5H 2R3.

Alexander Ritter, ed., *Kolloquium zur literarischen Kultur der deutschsprachigen Bevölkerungsgruppen im Ausland* (Flensburg, BRD: Institut für Regionale Forschung und Information, Waitzstr. 3, D-2390 Flensburg, 1985) 19.80 DM. Includes articles about German-American literature as well as about the status of German-language publication and language development in many other parts of the world. Bibliography for 1945-85.

Klaus Wust, *Guardian on the Hudson: The German Society of the City of New York 1784-1984* (New York, The German Society of New York, 150 Fifth Avenue, 10011). Illustrated, appendix, index.

Steven M. Benjamin, ed., *Papers from the Second Conference on German-Americana in the Eastern United States* (Radford, VA: Intercultural Communications Center, 1984). Topics include Kurt Tucholsky's view of America, German immigration to Canada, the folk art of the Pennsylvania Germans, their language, their letters from the West, the Old Order Amish in Delaware, Americans from the German Palatinate.

Robert E. Cazden, *A Social History of the German Book Trade in America to the Civil War* (Baltimore: Camden House, 1984).

Michael M. Miller, *Researching the Germans From Russia* (Fargo: Institute for Regional Studies, 1984), an indexed bibliography of published and unpublished sources for the history of this ethnic group.

Karl Bodmer's *America* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1984), a lavish portrayal of the 1833-1834 Maximilian expedition along the Missouri River, includes color reproductions of the famous watercolors and oils depicting native peoples.

Ann Marie Koller, (SGAS member) *The Theater Duke: Georg II of Saxe-Meiningen and the German Stage* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1983), about innovations in theater stagings and how Georg shaped them. Letters and illustrations.

Ann Marie Koller, forthcoming book on Agnes Sorma, the foremost German actress of her day, who came to the U.S. after WWI and settled in a mining camp in Arizona.

Edna M. Bentz, *If I Can You Can Decipher Germanic Records*, a 78-page privately printed manual including glossaries. \$11.50 postpaid from the author, 13139 Old West Avenue, San Diego, CA 92129.

Harry Filwiler, Jr. *Gateway to the Southwest*, history and genealogy of Virginia mountain region. 900 pages with 175 pages of photographs \$41.80 postpaid. Contact Harry Filwiler, Jr., 806 Norwood Lane, Woodbridge, VA 22191.

Werner Enninger and Joachim Raith, eds., *An Ethnography of Communication Approach to Ceremonial Situations. A Study on Communication in Institutionalized Social Contexts: The Older Order Amish Church Service*. (Wiesbaden: Franz Steiner Verlag, 1983), 104 pp. Data base for the study, structure of the speech situation among the Amish at their church service, description and analysis of speech events; the Old Order Amish church service as ideal-type and anti-type of communicative contexts.

Werner Enninger and Lilith M. Haynes, eds., *Studies in Language Ecology*. (Wiesbaden: Franz Steiner Verlag, 1984), 246 pp. Concepts, postulates, methods of the paradigm, the embedding of verbal signs in the nonverbal context. Ecology of language variation, language in the areal and institutional settings. Language ecology, a revived paradigm?

Steven M. Benjamin, ed., *Papers from the Third Conference on German-Americana in the Eastern United States* (Radford, VA: Intercultural Communications Center, 1985). Papers included treat Ephrata hymnology, the allure of Goethe in 19th century America, the Weinkoetz puppeteer family from Wisconsin, the Ganser library collection, letters from a Pomeranian family to Watertown, Wisconsin relatives, the German language in the United States, German folk arts in Canada, German material culture in the melting pot and more. For copies of these send \$10 each to Steven M. Benjamin, Department of Foreign Languages, Radford University, Radford, VA 24142.

Volume X of *Essays and Reports* Concordia Historical Institute, 801 DeMun Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63105. One set of essays compares Lutheran immigrant experiences in America with that of Roman Catholics. Mel Piehl deals with this issue in particular. Then comes an essay in which James Albers treats Lutheran and Roman Catholic fraternal insurance societies.

David W. Detjen, *The Germans in Missouri, 1900-1918: Prohibition, Neutrality, and Assimilation* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1984).

Earl C. Haag, "Fer Mei Mudder" *Research/Penn State*, 5 No. 4 (Dec., 1984) 6-12 is an illustrated article which updates the status of Pennsylvania German with not only historical background but interspersed examples of "Dutch". Contact Harlan S. Berger, editor, 312 Old Main, University Park, PA 16802.

David A. Haury, *Prairie People: A History of the Western District Conference* (Newton: Faith and Life Press, 1981) tells the story of the Mennonites in Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Colorado, and Texas. This 500-page history details the development of the Kansas and Western District Conferences of the General Conference Mennonite Church from 1877 to the present.

Robert Perry, *Schimmer's Land Krog: Resort on the Platte* (Grand Island Prairie Pioneer Press, 1984). The story of Martin Schimmer and the other German immigrants in Hall County, Nebraska who made this resort a reality. Well-illustrated with magnificent old photographs and newspaper clippings. Contact the Stuhr Museum, 3133 West Highway 34, Grand Island, NE 68801.

Bernard J. Weiss, ed., *American Education and the European Immigrant, 1840-1940* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1984).

Mark Wyman, *Immigrants in the Valley: Irish, Germans, and Americans in the Upper Mississippi Country, 1830-1860* (Chicago: Nelson-Hall, 1984).

The 1990 Census and the German Element

The 1980 U.S. Census provided statistical information for the first time on ethnic ancestry based on self-identification. As a result of this information it has become clear that the German element is the largest ethnic group in the United States. Now under consideration by the Bureau of the Census are plans for the 1990 Census, and they are of interest to those involved in the field of German-American Studies.

The following inquiry is being considered: "Should the ancestry question be replaced by questions on the place of birth of parents and number of foreign-born grandparents? Or should the ancestry be retained along with questions on place of birth of persons and their parents?" These and other issues are contained in a paper issued by the Bureau of the Census entitled, "Alternatives and Issues Concerning the 1990 Census Subject Content, Data Products, and Geographic Areas."

The elimination of the ethnic ancestry question would adversely affect the statistical enumeration of ethnic elements. For example, a German from Russia would be listed according to place of birth, i.e. as a Russian, rather than as a German. In short, the elimination of the ethnic ancestry question would have two results. First, ethnic Germans would be listed according to place of birth; their ethnicity would not be recorded. Second, it would obviously make the German element appear to be smaller by excluding those born outside of Germany, the *Auslanddeutschen*.

One critique of the 1980 Census commented that the statistics on the German element were inflated. However, as was pointed out in my article *The 1980 Census and the German Element* (Newsletter, vol. 5:2, 1984, 12) the statistics were not only inflated, but in fact were diminished since the following four categories also have to be considered: Alsatian, Austrian, Luxembourger, and Swiss. It would, therefore, be preferable to retain the ethnic ancestry question on the 1990 Census and, if desired, to include the question on place of birth. However, it would not be advisable to replace the ethnic ancestry question with one on place of birth.

In response to my suggestion that "In the U.S. Census for 1990 the various German heritage groups should be grouped together so that the statistical enumeration of the German element is more accurately portrayed," the Bureau of the Census replied, "Some persons, as pointed out in your article, answering 'Alsatian,' etc., may be from original German stock and should be included in the German-origin counts. However, the types of detailed questions needed to derive such information were not asked in the 1980 Census." To solve this, it would seem advisable to list the more than 100 ancestry groups that were reported in 1980 so that those filling out the Census could simply check off the appropriate box. To identify the persons of German origin

the four categories indicated above could be tagged as follows: Alsatian/German, Austrian/German, Luxembourger/German, and Swiss/German. Since the German element is the largest ethnic group in the U.S., such a request does not appear to be without justification.

Comments regarding the retention of the ethnic ancestry question, a German statistic that includes the sub-categories indicated above, or other suggestions should be directed to: Mrs. Nampeo R. McKenney, Assistant Division Chief, Ethnic and Racial Statistics Program, Population Division, Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington D.C. 20233.

Don Heinrich Toitzmann

Hermann, Missouri GERMAN MUSEUM NOW OPEN

Deutschheim State Historic Site is dedicated to the German immigrant experience from about 1830 to about 1870. The site is located in Hermann, a purpose-built town on the Missouri River which had cultural nationalism as its original *raison d'être* when it was founded in 1837-38. That original focus became blurred rather shortly as later settlers arrived who were more interested in survival than in cultural superiority, and Hermannites became as Americanized as any other group of Germans. A similar focus at Westphalia also failed, but the Westphalians had the added bonus of being Westphalian middle-class culturally superior, while neighboring enclaves of Bavarians and Hessians were suspicious and rejecting: peasant vs. burgher as well as regional differences.

Deutschheim opened in April, 1984. At this time there are two houses (one middle class, one artisan class), both constructed 1840-42; one gallery with changing exhibits having to do with German experience; and the beginnings of a historic German kitchen garden behind the houses. All plantings are varieties pre-1865; some of the vegetables are rare these days.

Contact: Erwin McCawley Renn, Ph.D.,
Deutschheim State Historic Site
109 West 2nd Street, Hermann, MO 65041.

Michael Tepper, ed. *New World Immigrants: A Consolidation of Ship Passenger Lists and Associated Data from Periodical Literature*. 2 vols. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1979.

Michael Tepper, managing editor of the Genealogical Publishing Company, apparently has made his personal goal to make more readily available as many passenger lists (or the like) as possible. To this end, he gathers both the generally available and well-known and the hard-to-find article on immigrants to North America, secures permission to reprint, and publishes them, to the eternal gratitude of the genealogist. Many - indeed, most - are "inferential lists" such as naturalizations. The quality of the lists necessarily is uneven, due to their varied sources. The time periods covered are primarily the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, with some lists from the nineteenth century.

In Volume I of this series, only a few of the republished articles pertain to broadly defined German-American genealogy, e.g. Huguenot settlers, Dutch settlers, Germantown naturalizations of 1691-92 (the Pastorius group), Newburgh (New York) "Palatines" of 1708-09, and Nassau-Dillenburg emigrants of 1709.

Volume II, with many more Germanic immigrants, is a case study of the many ways of finding passengers in lists other than the conventional passenger arrival list, such as Strassburger & Hinke. There are substitutes for "ship lists" as compiled from family sources (Roberts), German state archives (Krebs), the emigrant files of the *Heimatstelle Pfalz* (Braun), Purrysburgh (South Carolina, 1731) oaths of allegiance and land grants (Smith), Lutheran church records in Germany (Froehlich), a South Carolina historical article on Saxe-Gotha or Congaree settlers, Moravian family registers from Swatara and Heidelberg township in Pennsylvania (Hinke), a Pennsylvania newspaper's missing persons advertisement (Yoder), naturalizations (Yoder, etc.), and newspaper listings of immigrants unable to pay passage and subject to prosecution (Gillingham). In addition, there are a few actual passenger lists with Germans. This lists of Jews naturalized in the colonies and New York after 1740 contain mostly Sephardic (Spanish-sounding) names, only a few with Ashkenazic (German- or Slavic-sounding) surnames.

May Michael Tepper continue his practice of making immigrant lists such as these generally available for the family historian.

Ernest Thode
Marietta, Ohio

DAY TRIPS/BY BARBARA RODRIGUEZ

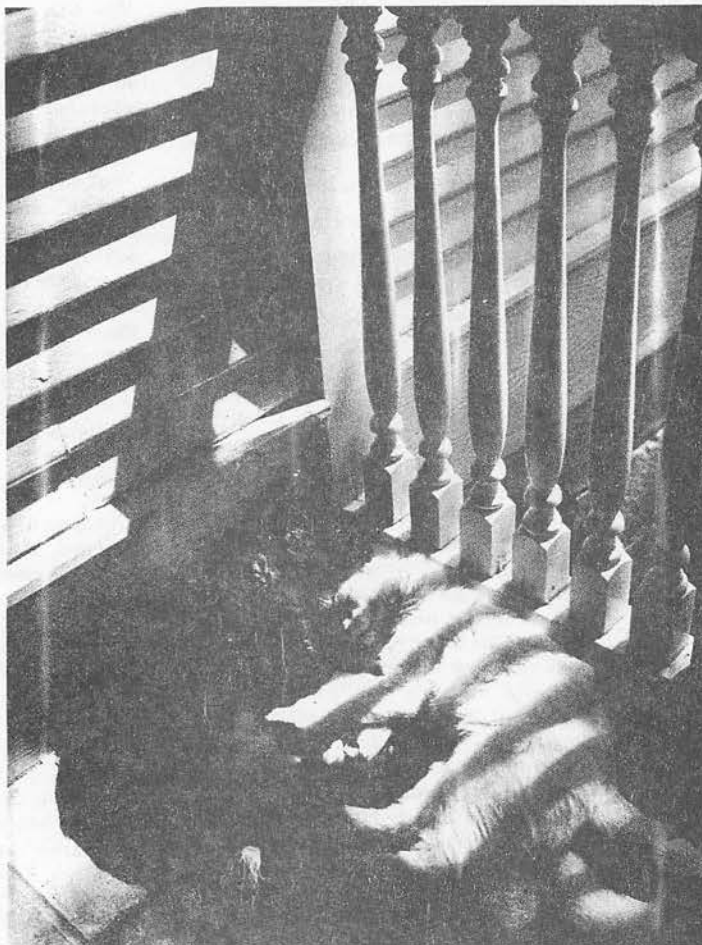
FAYETTE COUNTY

In the same issue of Texas Homes (July, 1985) read the article on Houstonian David Stone's Biedermeier collection.

Antidote for urban blues

Fayette County is a checkerboard of town squares and tilled prairie, gentle green hills and chocolate brown earth, tidy parcels of land interlaced by creek and river. When civilization first tamed this fertile farmland nearly 150 years ago, a local newspaper editor, his prose swollen with community pride, wrote: "Only some four or five brief years have rolled away since Ross' large, beautiful and verdant prairie was the abode of nimble deer, the prowling wolf, the growling bear, the quacking goose and the screeching owl. But what cannot the civilized hand of the Anglo-Saxon effect?"

Dr. William P. Smith, writing in 1851, could not imagine a time when the heirs to his burgeoning colony would look more warily upon creeping progress than the prowling wolf, even to the creation of a resource watch to jealously guard the natural resources settlers considered a birthright. But while Austin and Houston—some 100 miles to the east and west, respectively—suffer from 20th-century growing pains, Fayette County remains an oasis of simple country towns striving to maintain a delicate balance between the conveniences of civilization and the blessings of rural isolation. For the world-weary, a week-end holed up in a Fayetteville country inn and some quiet discovery in and around La Grange, Warrenton, Round Top and Winedale can provide a mar-



When in Fayetteville, do as the local cats do: doze, eat, wander about town, and doze some more.

velous antidote for the urban blues.

COUNTRY INNS

Although Fayetteville is not the county seat of Fayette County—that honor belongs to La Grange—it is the country inn capital of the county, offering visitors a dozen turn-of-the-century rooms (some beds more authentically lumpy than others) in two distinctly different inns.

Located on Fayette Street, a hop, skip and a jump from the town square, the Lickskillet Inn may be the oldest residence in town. Taken from the town's

former name (because local cooks used to tell guests to lick the skillet clean before they left, folks named the place Lickskillet), the inn was originally a dogtrot house built in 1854 by Dr. Isaiah Evans. The land and house changed hands several times before J.D. Meyer purchased it in 1875 and began extensive remodeling of the house to render it suitable for his daughter, recently wed to town postmaster Henry Steves.

Meyer enclosed the dog run, thereby adding two rooms, and embellished the honeymooners' cottage with Victorian details: a triple-front dormer with Palladian fanlight, fish-scale shingles, fiddle-slat balustrade and beaded front-porch ceiling. When the alterations were completed, Mr. and Mrs. Steves purchased the house from Meyer with the dowry he had given his daughter for

that purpose. As his signature on the property, Henry Steves wore a path between the house and his post office-cum-furniture store at the west end of the block, a route still favored by the Lickskillet cats on their way to town.

The next recorded change in the structure of the house was the addition in 1914 of two rooms and the enclosure of an open back porch, one end of which was converted into the tin-paneled bathroom Lickskillet guests share today.

Sharing a bath is just a small part of the familial experience that has become

DAY TRIPS

173

ing on the square, offers a wondrous amalgam of wares—imported beers, wine, a storekeeper's desk, beaded purses and commercial tins. Owners Bill and Jeanne Barrett buy, sell, trade and refinish all manner and periods of antiques with a specialty in early Texana; if you're looking for something truly special, give them a call at (409) 378-2722. They are open Friday through Monday; hours are not set, and on a slow day, the Barretts have been known to sneak off to go fishing.

On the east side of the square, don't miss the classic Schramm's Confectionary Bar (a popular combination hereabouts is ice cream and beer). Pool is the going thing here, when things are going at all, but you're most likely to find a chattering clutch of grandmas planning the church bazaar over a round of cold ones.

Last stop before lunch is Chovanec's grocery and dry goods store, the perfect place to buy picnic supplies: rat cheese carved right off the wheel, crackers and apples (pick up wine back at the Red and White). But before you go, duck into the dry goods annex where much of the store's 40-year-old (or older) inventory can still be had for Depression-era prices. If you don't mind a little dust, you can easily spend an hour sorting through boxes full of lingerie and socks (all colors, in cotton: 89 cents). Look long and hard enough, and you're sure to find a treasure.

Before breaking for lunch, consider walking a couple of blocks to the Fayetteville Cemetery, just south of the railroad tracks where Highway 159 enters town. Brimming with bluebonnets and wild asparagus in the spring, the final resting place of many early settlers is a fine example of an early Texas cemetery. Etched with predominantly German and Czechoslovakian surnames, the delicately carved limestone markers often are inlaid with oval portraits of the deceased or embossed with Teutonic hearts and medieval hex signs such as the five- and six-pointed stars known as *Drudenfuss* (witch's foot). Believed in ancient times to ward off evil, such signs were incorporated into traditional folk arts and crafts long after pagan beliefs were abandoned. Glass boxes propped against many graves hold metal

or ceramic wreaths, another vanishing Germanic folk tradition. On November 2, All Souls' Day, a candlelight vigil is held in the cemetery in memory of the village forefathers and their descendants.

The only spot around more peaceful than the cemetery—and somewhat better suited to a picnic lunch—is the Monument Hill and Kreische Brewery State Historic Site, three miles southwest of La Grange. To reach the 35-acre park perched on a bluff high above the Colorado River, drive two miles south of La

*If your kolache
stash has been
depleted, breakfast
on some local
color...*

Grange on Highway 77, then turn west on Loop 92 for another mile. It was here that H.L. Kreische, an Austrian immigrant and stonemason, built his family home in 1836 and, in 1850, Texas' first brewery. In addition to the Kreische complex, the park is a memorial to Texans killed in both the 1842 Salado Creek massacre and the black bean execution at Mier, Mexico, in 1843. In 1848, the remains of both groups of Texas heroes were interred in a single tomb among the oaks.

Whether you spend the rest of Saturday exploring La Grange—founded in 1831 at the point where La Bahia, the old buffalo trail, crossed the Colorado—or return to Fayetteville for a siesta, be sure to make dinner reservations at Bill & Jeanne's Country Place restaurant. Operated by the owners of the Red and White Store, Bill and Jeanne Barrett, the restaurant features traditional country dinners in the spare but lovely hotel dining room. Specialties include Mexican food on Friday night and country fare on Saturday night. The restaurant is open Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday nights, 8-12. Call (409) 378-2712 for reservations.

SUNDAY IN ROUND TOP AND WINEDALE

If your kolache stash has been depleted, breakfast on some local color

and country cooking at Orsak's Cafe, a couple of doors down from the Country Place in what used to be a movie house. Orsak's interior design is undistinguished, but on Sunday mornings half the town turns up after church to feast on barbecue, fresh vegetables and dessert (\$2.50).

After breakfast, whichever way is home, grant yourself a few more hours of leisure and leave town via the scenic route through Oldenburg and Warrenton with a lunch or dinner stop in Round Top and an after-dinner nature hike in Winedale.

Leave Fayetteville on Highway 159, traveling northwest. Before you intersect Highway 237, you will see a sign indicating the Old Park Community road, a wriggling climb up a hillside to a gaggle of rickety buildings. A hundred yards beyond the fragments of the village, County Road 196 dives into the Cedar Creek Reservoir, where it is reborn as a boat dock. If you're interested in trophy bass fishing, this 2,400-acre cooling pond is known for its mossy backs.

Continuing along 159 until it merges with Highway 237, follow the road to the right and Oldenburg. Not quite a wide spot in the road these days, Oldenburg—founded in 1836—was once the bustling center of a German community known as High Hill. With a current population of 56, give or take a few, Oldenburg supports only a general store (which sells terrific homemade noodles) and a used car lot.

Some three and a half miles down the road, past a designers' showcase of live oaks, is Warrenton, or Neeseville, as it was known in 1854 when Wilhelm Neese constructed the original general store and post office. Some years later, when Warren Ligon purchased 500 acres around the Neese property, Wilhelm insisted the settlement be officially named for his friend's hometown of Warrenton, Virginia.

Perhaps the most famous resident of Warrenton was Joel W. Robison, who settled here in 1833. In 1836, following the battle of San Jacinto, Robison was among a group of men who intercepted the battle-fatigued and footsore Santa Anna a day and a half after the famous battle. Force-marched two or three miles,

DAY TRIPS

the Licksillet trademark. Whether you choose to curl up with a book from owner Jeanette Donaldson's Texana library or join in some synchronized rocking on the front porch, being a guest at the Licksillet is as relaxing as spending the night at Grandma's. Indeed, all four guest rooms (\$40) are reminiscent of Grandmother's best, furnished with family antiques that include carved or iron bedsteads, washstands, wardrobes, rockers, settees and pot-bellied stoves.

In the morning, guests gather in the family dining room for a continental breakfast of homemade bread, preserves, fruit, coffee and tea (milk and orange juice extra). The first one up plugs in the coffeepot, and robes and curlers are perfectly acceptable. Sleeping late is encouraged, but you may want to get up early to reserve your spot in the hammock (sloth is also encouraged). In fact, about the only self-indulgence not allowed at the Licksillet is smoking—strictly *verboten*. The Licksillet is open seven days a week with advance notice, and meals other than breakfast are available on request, but there are no accommodations for children or pets. Call (409) 378-2846.

Just up the street from the Licksillet, diagonally across from the courthouse, the Country Place Hotel and Restaurant is housed in the Zapp Building, a two-story Romanesque Revival structure built by merchant Hugo Zapp in 1900.

Ornamented with checkerboard detailing, the brick building was originally built with only a partial second floor, so that the central space rose two stories to an interior balcony of galleries, accessible via a grand staircase in the middle of the first floor. Sometime after Zapp sold the building to F.C. Knippel in 1915, the upper level of the building was floored and divided into rooms used at various times by boarding students, traveling salesmen and hospital patients (the hand-operated elevator dates from the building's hospital period). Those rooms, with some modifications, evolved into the nine guestrooms of the Country Place Hotel, owned and casually run by architect Clovis Heimsath and his wife, Maryann.

Thanks to the Heimsaths' easygoing philosophy of country inn management,

the Country Place remains essentially a turn-of-the-century drummer's hostelry wherein only three things are considered absolutely essential to a guest's comfort: a bed, a chair (wooden and wicker) and a place to put your suitcase (varies from room to room—there are pegs for hanging clothes). In addition to the functional hodgepodge of furnishings, there are a smattering of antiques and a few eccentricities: Some of the furnishings are for sale, and an antiques shop is located in the building. The Country Place is an extremely popular

...you will find Fayetteville little changed in the century since the tidy courthouse was constructed...

hotel most frequented by a steady stream of Houstonians who understand that a quiet evening spent on one of the inn's two verandas (only the hourly tolling of the town clock stirs the Fayetteville stillness after 6 p.m.) goes a long way toward making up for well-worn towels (bring your own) and ancient plumbing (the men's community bath has a shower often frequented by female guests, since the women's bathroom features a trough of a footed tub that would deplete the Edwards' Aquifer to fill).

Overlooking the town square—and on Sunday mornings the barbecue ritual of Orsak's Cafe—in the front, with a brick courtyard and glorious neighborhood garden in the back, the verandas also flank the best rooms in the hotel: No. 4, with its huge arched windows and spinning wheel, and No. 8, where the gentle gurgle of the courtyard fountain lulls you to sleep.

If you're interested in a no-frills encounter with the past—no phones, no televisions, no room service, no air conditioning (there are space heaters), no keys—check yourself in at the Country Place. A list posted in the entryway will tell you which room is yours, and when you're ready to re-enter the 20th century, leave your check (\$26.25 double occupancy) clipped to your door. Reservations should be made in advance for

a weekend's stay; call (409) 378-2712.

A FAYETTEVILLE WEEKEND: SATURDAY

When in Fayetteville, do as the local cats do: doze, eat, wander about town, doze some more. Whatever you decide to do, there's no hurry to get to it in this sleepy burg where the town grocer still delivers and the high school senior class averages 20 graduates each spring. Even when the inns are full, the town population swells to only slightly more than 400; on a lazy Saturday morning it's easy to imagine you're the only person in town.

In your stroll around the town square, you will find Fayetteville little changed in the century since the tidy courthouse was constructed, and yet the character of the village today has few ties to the Licksillet of the early settlers. It is the heritage of a Bohemian heartland, born of the third and most influential wave of settlers, that has caused Fayetteville to be christened the cradle of Czech civilization in Texas. Today, the cradle rocks on in the family businesses of the Chovanecs, Orsaks and Michalskys.

Begin your walking tour of downtown at the four-square wooden courthouse, the smallest in the state. Built in 1880, the structure continues to function as a center for community activities and voting. The four-sided Seth Thomas clock tolling the time from the tower was installed in 1934, 10 years after the tireless Do Your Duty Ladies Club began its fund-raising efforts.

Leaving the courthouse, cross Washington to the west side of the square to Michalsky's Cafe, sometimes a good place to buy fishing bait from Sophie Michalsky, and always a good bet for her generous hot lunch plate. As is the case at other places in Fayetteville, Michalsky's doesn't have any set hours. Call (409) 378-9255 for information.

Next door is the circa-1890 Fayetteville Emporium, currently a gift and what-have-you store; on the next lot is a German vernacular cottage built by Otto and Laura Forres in the late 19th century and currently owned by a local artisan, who designed the porch lamps.

Just around the corner, the 1853 Red and White Store (now blue), housed in what is thought to be the oldest build-

DAY TRIPS

the general (posing as a mere cavalry soldier) told Robison that they could kill him if they chose, for he could walk no longer. Robison pulled Santa Ana up behind him on his horse, and together they rode the nine miles into town, where at last the Mexican soldiers' *saludos* revealed the identity of their leader. Ever grateful for the lift, Santa Ana later gave Robison a gold brocaded vest, worn by generations of local boys at their weddings until it was at last lost.

Just north of Warrenton, the world's smallest Catholic church is always open to visitors. The dollhouse-sized structure holds services once a year, on All Souls' Day, when the 12 pews are quickly filled. A portrait of the doleful but saintly Martin presides over the tiny space, and the century-old cemetery out back is still used today.

Another four miles down the road is Round Top and lunch at the Round Top Cafe, on the town square. Formerly Birkelbach's Cafe, the Round Top changed owners when Sherry and Dick Peck purchased the 32-year-old cafe, with its modified Art Deco facade. Inside, the cafe is pure country, and the food is plain good: homemade chili and stew in season, weekend barbecue, mammoth burgers and, of course, Shiner beer and ice cream for dessert. On weekends, Dick Peck sometimes shoes a few horses outside, across from the beer garden, but otherwise a player piano and the colorful clientele suffice for entertainment.

After lunch, mosey across the street to inspect both the community and—slightly scaled down—bird courthouses; various historical markers; and the infamous Round Top cannon, favored for Fourth of July celebrations (celebrants beware). When you've seen and read it all (you might wish to place a call from the wooden phone booth), cross the street to Henkel Square, east of the courthouse.

Open from noon to 5 p.m., seven days a week (enter through the old Apothecary Shop), Henkel Square is home to a painstakingly restored and furnished collection of pioneer structures, including the Muckleroy double-log house; the two-for-one Haw Creek School House and Church (an inscription inside translates, "I call the living to

church and the dead to the grave"); and town planner Edward Henkel's 1852 native cedar home, still standing on its original site. Administered by the Pioneer Arts Foundation established by Mrs. Charles L. Bybee, the Henkel Square assemblage of handcrafted 19th-century decorative arts, furnishings and architecture is considered one of the nation's finest restorations of Anglo-American and German culture of the period.

A scant half mile north of town, James Dick's International Festival Institute spills over its hill. Once housed in a remodeled elementary school, the world-famous pianist's dream crop of music students now live, study and perform in a hamlet of grandly restored Victorian farmhouses.

Best known for its summer concert series (held weekends in June and July each year), the institute has expanded its program to include an August to April calendar of chamber music concerts, performed at 3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday afternoons in the William Lockhart Clayton house. Visitors to the summer concerts are encouraged to bring picnic lunches and folding chairs to Festival Hill; patrons of the fall and winter series may reserve overnight accommodations in either a studio residence or the C.A. Menke mansion.

Overnight guests receive a complimentary ticket to one of the weekend concerts (\$7.50 if purchased separately), passes to the Saturday evening film (one of a series of classics from the '30s or '40s) and a continental breakfast (the package is \$50-\$60 per person). Gourmet dinners are served by reservation at 6:30 Saturday nights during the season (\$22.50 per person, including wine and dessert). For reservations and information, call the institute at (409) 249-3129. *

To reach Winedale, the final stop of your weekend in 19th-century Texas, continue along Farm-to-Market Road 1457 one and a half miles to FM 2714 and turn left; Winedale is two miles ahead.

Named Truebsal (Trouble) when it was initially settled by German farmers in the late 1800s, the locale was re-deemed in the eyes of its inhabitants when soil and climate proved ideal for

growing grapes worthy of making into wine. By the time the village moved two miles north to cluster around the Sam Lewis Stopping Place, *Truebsals* were forgotten and Winedale was born. Although little remains of the original settlement, reborn from the community's ashes is a branch of The University of Texas system: The Winedale Historical Center for the study of the ethnic cultures of Central Texas. The focal point of the complex, the Lewis-Wagner house and its 190-acre farmstead, was given to the university in 1966 by Miss Ima Hogg, who purchased and restored the 19th-century house and outbuildings.

*Consider the many
pioneer paths you
have crossed during
the weekend....*

Other historical structures in the Winedale complex include an 1894 hay barn (used today as an auditorium) and the Greek Revival McGregor-Grimm farmhouse. Tours of the Winedale properties are conducted on weekends year-round: 10-6 Saturdays and 12-6 Sundays, May through October; and 9-5 Saturdays and 12-5 Sundays, November through April. A program of Shakespearean plays is presented by UT drama students on weekends (Thursday through Sunday) in August. Evening performances begin at 7:30; Saturday and Sunday afternoon performances are at 2:00. Call (409) 278-3530 for reservations and tour information.

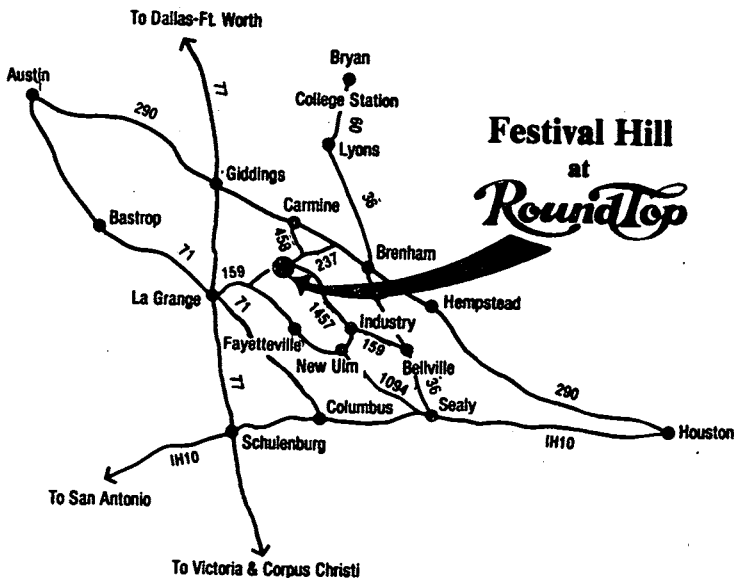
Before you head home to 20th-century responsibilities, enjoy a one-and-a-half mile stroll around the Winedale Nature Trail, with frequent stops at identified native Texas trees and shrubs. Consider the many pioneer paths you have crossed during the weekend as well as their villages, most of them reduced in less than a century to random clusters of cockeyed general stores and abandoned post offices. The lives of many settlers are lost to memory, while the land that attracted them remains verdantly fertile. The Colorado rolls on to the sea and the Fayette County Resource Watch keeps its vigil. □

** See next page*

176

THE RoundTop FESTIVAL

POST OFFICE DRAWER 89 • ROUND TOP, TEXAS 78954



1985 - 1986 "August to April" Concerts

CONCERTS - "August-to-April" concerts are held throughout the season in the parlours of the William Lockhart Clayton House and the Festival Concert Hall. Please take careful note of the day, time and location of the concerts as some will be presented twice and others only once. All concerts will be presented on Saturday afternoons and some will also be presented on Sunday.

PARLOUR PATRON WEEKENDS - Concert goers have discovered that a weekend on Festival Hill is a delightful and unique experience. The attractive studio residences as well as rooms in the historic Menke House are available for overnight accommodations. Each room has a private bath and entrance, and over-

night guests receive a complimentary ticket to one of the weekend concerts, an evening film, and a special Festival Hill "continental breakfast".

GOURMET MEALS - Gourmet meals have become a tradition on Festival Hill and are an ideal complement to fine music. Varied and delightful entrees are presented throughout the season. Dinners are served on Saturday at 6:30 p.m. and include fine varietal wine, coffee, tea, and dessert.

FILM SERIES - For overnight and dinner guests, a series of classic American films will be shown on Saturday evenings. The series this season includes memorable screen performances from the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s.

AUGUST

Saturday, August 31, 3:00 p.m. - Festival Concert Hall.
Chamber Music: "Music America" - Paula Baker, cello; Ann Fairbanks, flute; Kevin Kelly, violin; Virgilia Lootens, piano; Richard Nussemer, clarinet; Diane Tobols, soprano.
Dinner: 6:30 p.m. Saturday
Film: "Random Harvest" (1942) Ronald Colman, Greer Garson

JANUARY

Saturday, January 25 and Sunday, January 26, 3:00 p.m. - William Lockhart Clayton House.
Piano Recital: James Dick, piano
Dinner: 6:30 p.m. Saturday
Film: "Sea Hawk" (1940) Errol Flynn, Flora Robson

SEPTEMBER

Saturday, September 21 and Sunday, September 22, 3:00 p.m. - William Lockhart Clayton House.
Chamber Music: James VanDemark, double bass; James Dick, piano.
Dinner: 6:30 p.m. Saturday
Film: "How Green Was My Valley" (1941) Walter Pidgeon, Maureen O'Hara.

FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 15 and Sunday, February 16, 3:00 p.m. - William Lockhart Clayton House.
Piano Recital: Eugene Rowley, piano.
Dinner: 6:30 p.m. Saturday
Film: "Mr. Skeffington" (1941) Bette Davis, Claude Rains

OCTOBER

Saturday, October 12 and Sunday, October 13, 3:00 p.m. - William Lockhart Clayton House.
Guitar Recital: Javier Calderon, guitar
Dinner: 6:30 p.m. Saturday
Film: "The Awful Truth" (1937) Irene Dunne, Cary Grant

MARCH

Saturday, March 22 and Sunday, March 23, 3:00 p.m. - William Lockhart Clayton House.
Piano Recital: Jeannette Halea, piano; James Dick, piano
Dinner: 6:30 p.m. Saturday
Film: "Witness for the Prosecution" (1957) Charles Laughton, Marlene Dietrich

NOVEMBER

Saturday, November 23 and Sunday, November 24, 3:00 p.m. - William Lockhart Clayton House.
Chamber Music: Roger Wilkie, violin; Peter Rejto, cello; Eugene Rowley, piano.
Dinner: 6:30 p.m. Saturday
Film: "Strangers on a Train" (1941) Farley Granger, Robert Walker

APRIL

Saturday, April 19, 3:00 p.m. - Festival Concert Hall.
Voice Recital: Jo Ann Pickens, soprano; Eugene Rowley, piano.
Dinner: 6:30 p.m. Saturday
Film: "Gilda" (1946) Rita Hayworth, Glenn Ford

BOOK EARLY!

RESERVATIONS ARE NECESSARY FOR "AUGUST-TO-APRIL" EVENTS.

RESERVATION INFORMATION

The annual series of "August-to-April" Benefit Concerts presented at Festival Hill was established five years ago. It has developed into a notable success. The series of concerts, along with the overnight accommodations and gourmet meals prepared and served by volunteers are a main source of scholarship assistance for those studying at the summer institute.

Concert Tickets: \$7.50 per person.

Gourmet Dinners: \$22.50 per person (Saturday at 6:30 p.m.).

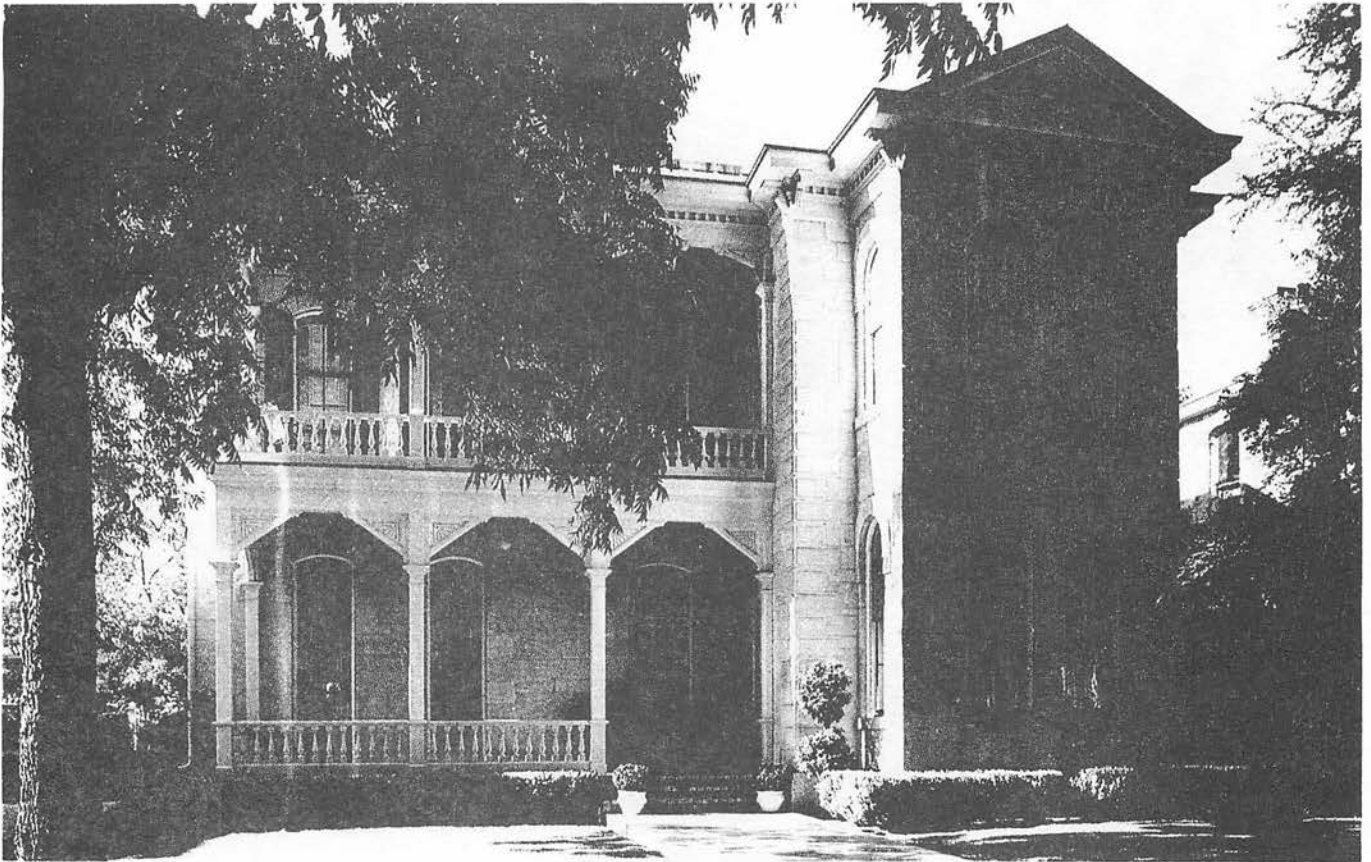
Overnight Accommodations: \$50.00 (studio rooms) and \$60.00 (historic Menke House) per person per evening includes room, a complimentary concert ticket, evening film and continental breakfast.

It is recommended that you make overnight and dinner reservations at least several months in advance. Reservations for all concert weekends are being accepted now. As overnight accommodations and concert and dinner seating are limited, reservations can only be accepted as long as places are available.

CONCERT TICKETS: Payment must be sent at the time the reservation is made. Tickets are not sent by mail; they are held at the door. Concert tickets are non-refundable. Cancelled reservations are considered a donation to the Festival-Institute.

GOURMET MEALS and OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS: Payment must be sent at the time the reservation is made. Reservations must be made no later than two (2) weeks prior to the concert weekend date. Rooms are available with two to four twin beds, as well as a few rooms with one or two double beds. If you have a preference, please specify when payment is sent. If you must cancel a reservation, you will receive a refund, less a 20% administrative fee, if your cancelled reservation can be filled. **Please Note:** Smoking is not permitted in the buildings on Festival Hill but is allowed on the porches.

RESERVATIONS may be made by calling (409) 249-3129 or writing, Festival Institute, P.O. Box 89, Round Top, Texas 78954. All reservations should include a phone number. Tickets and reservations are all held at the door. **Please Note:** From time to time, cancellation occurs and reservations may be obtained after the two-week cut-off date prior to each concert weekend.

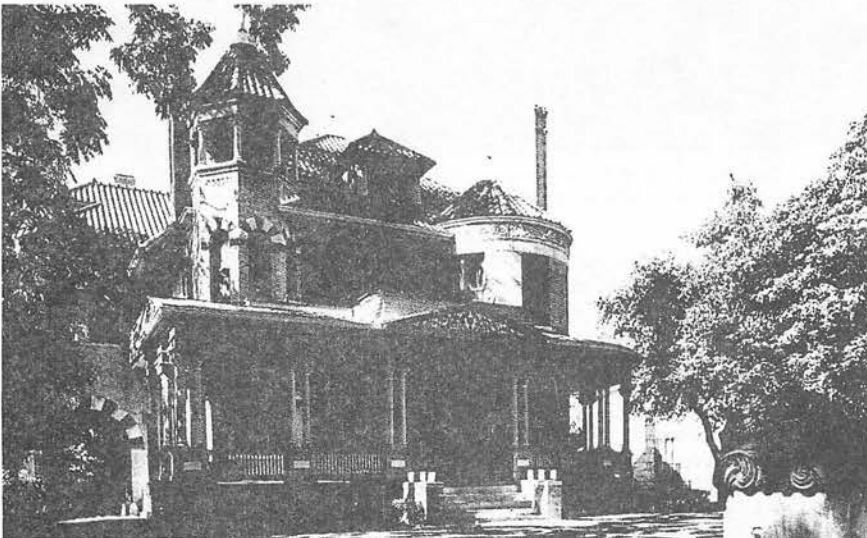


Local limestone is the material used for this home, built in 1884 by gunsmith Charles Hummel for \$6,000.

San Antonio's German Legacy

Some hundred years ago, a group of prosperous German families built this riverside neighborhood. Now a historic district, the area blends local materials and a variety of architectural styles that reveal yet another side of a many-cultured city.

by ERNEST WOOD



Constructed in 1892 for George Kalteyer, president of the San Antonio Drug Company and the Alamo Cement Company, this large home on King William Street contains a third-floor ballroom.

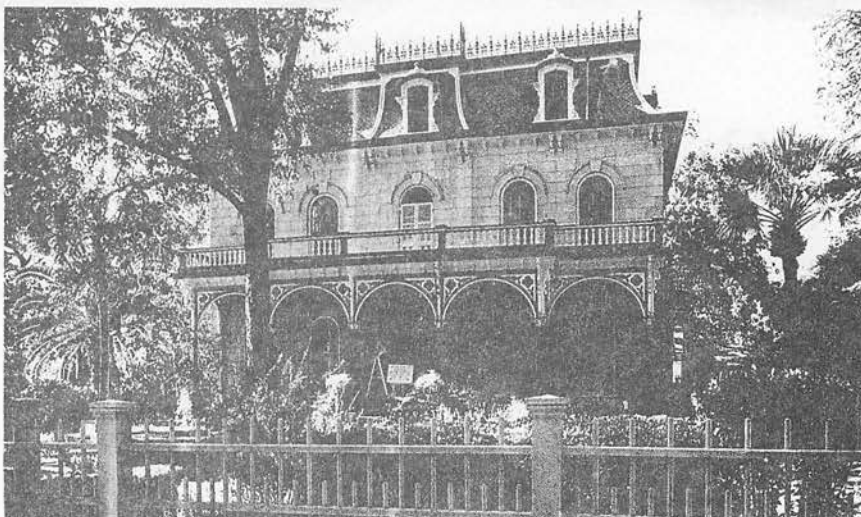
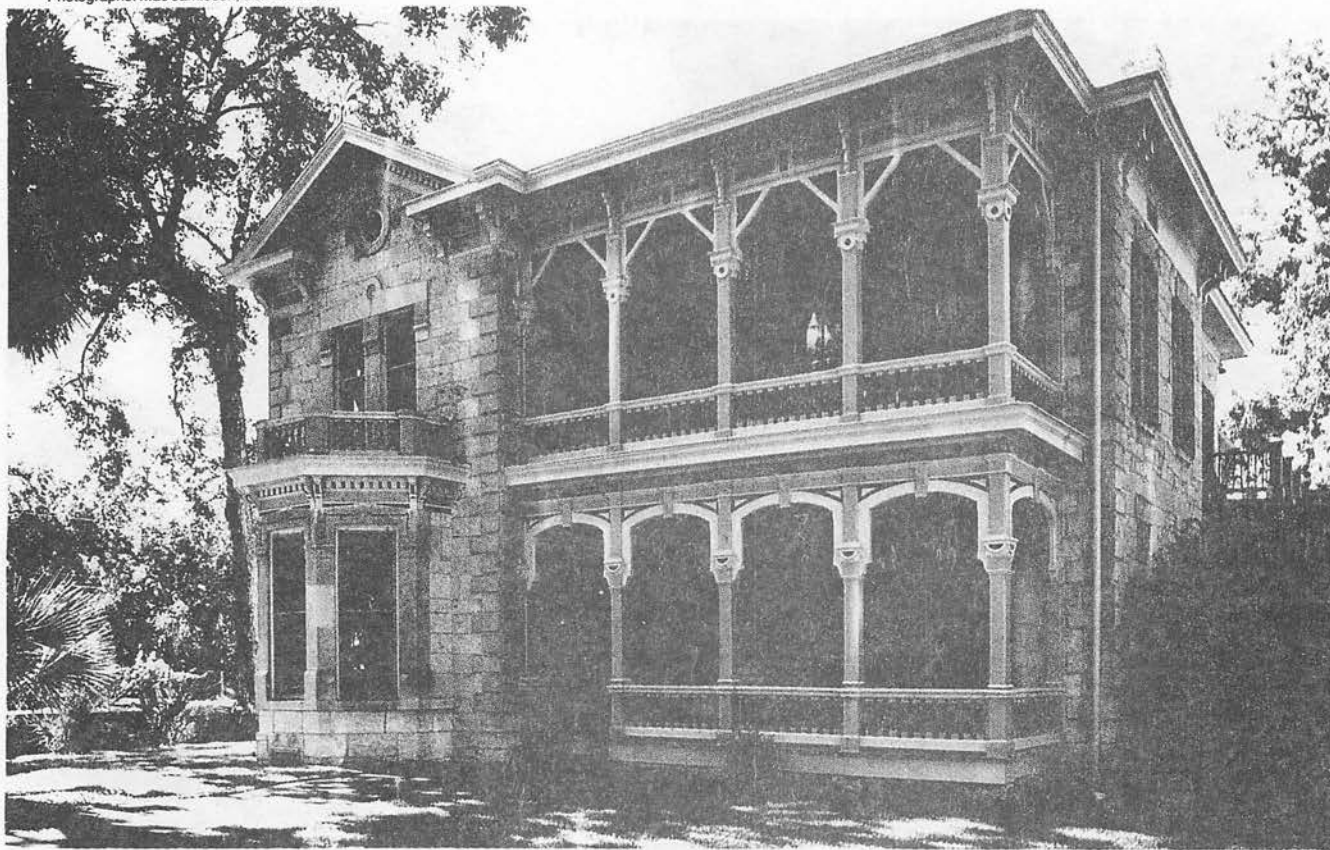
Like the city itself, San Antonio's King William Historic District is filled with variety and richness. Here, just a few blocks from the River Walk and the restored Spanish settlement of La Villita, century-old mansions and cottages of stone, wood, stucco, and brick show off the architectural styles of an eclectic era.

Yet, like the city, the parts blend, creating a place with a character all its own. Old trees, grown massive with age, make it easy to forget that King William is nearly downtown. Stone walls and iron or wood fences tie its houses together. But the neighborhood's true common thread is the people who built it. It was here, in a sharp curve of the San Antonio River, that the city's successful German businessmen settled and made their homes.

One hundred and fifty years before it became a fashionable neighborhood, King William was among the landholdings cultivated by the mission known today as the

178

Photographs: Mac Jamieson, Bob Lancaster



This house (top) was occupied by the Steves family until the late 1970's. Edward Steves, Sr., built and lived in this house (above), a combination of Italianate and Second Empire styles.

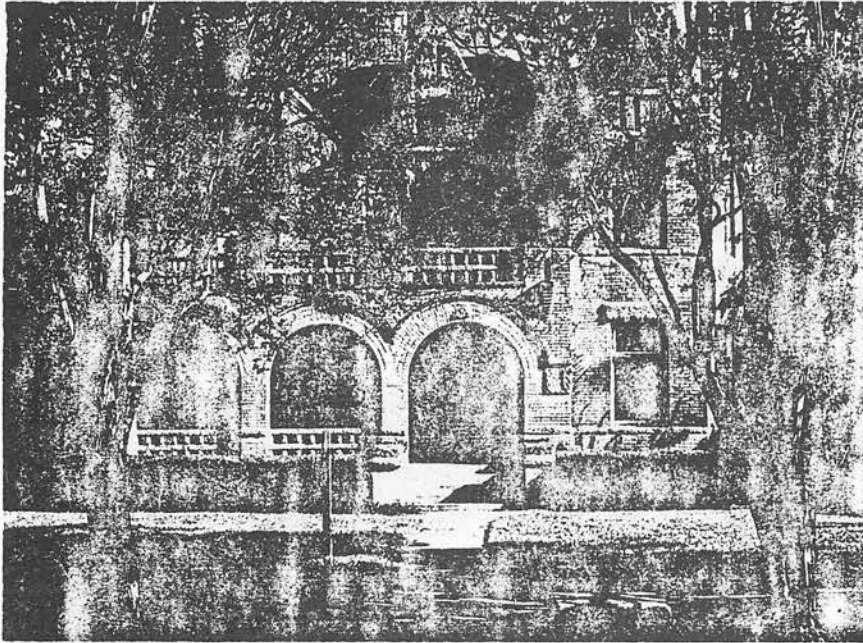
Alamo. The land passed to private owners after the missions were secularized in the 1790's, and in the 1860's it was subdivided to create one of San Antonio's first planned neighborhoods.

A miller named Carl Guenther was the first German immigrant to move into the area; he built a mill and a home here on the San Antonio River in 1859. He was followed by other prosperous Germans, many of whom had first come to Texas in the wave of immigration during the 1840's. It was one of these early residents, Ernst

Altgelt, who named the neighborhood's principal street King William in honor of Kaiser Wilhelm I of Prussia. Altgelt also named two streets—Washington and Madison—for American Presidents. (During World War I, to show their loyalty to their new country, the neighborhood's German residents briefly renamed King William Street Pershing Avenue in honor of the American general.)

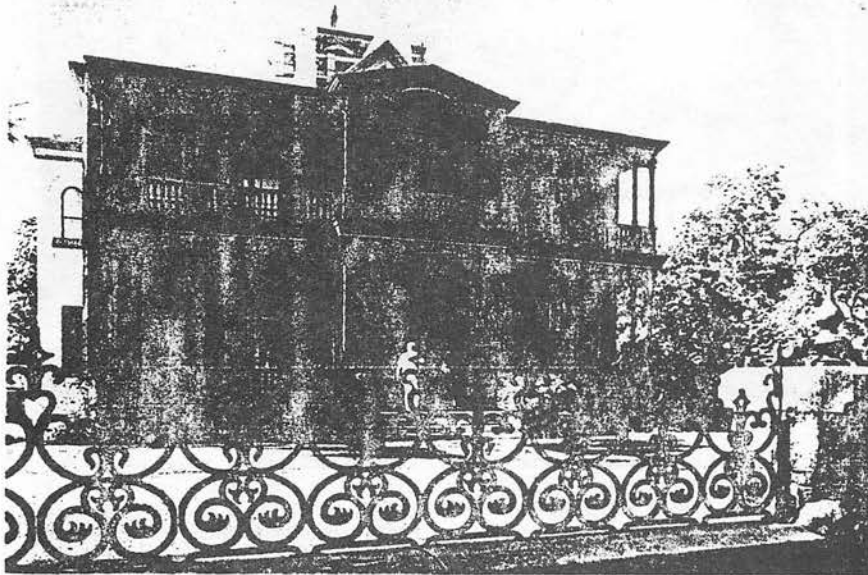
The early houses were mostly small cottages. A notable exception is the Steves Homestead, built in 1876 by a successful

lumberman, Edward Steves. Now owned by the San Antonio Conservation Society, it is the only house in the neighborhood open to the public. The large limestone mansion features the rounded windows of the Italian Villa style, yet it is topped by a Second Empire-style mansard roof. Out back, the home has what was one of the city's earliest indoor swimming pools. In the side yard stands a fountain from the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition of 1876. (The Steves family eventually was to build homes on two other corners



Both brick and stone were used in the M. L. Oppenheimer house (left), an early 20th-century example of the Romanesque Revival style.

Recently returned to single-family use after serving for years as the local Girl Scout headquarters, this home (center) was built in 1880 for banker Carl Groos. A belvedere on top provides a spectacular view of downtown San Antonio.



opposite the homestead, and their descendants would occupy the neighborhood for three generations.)

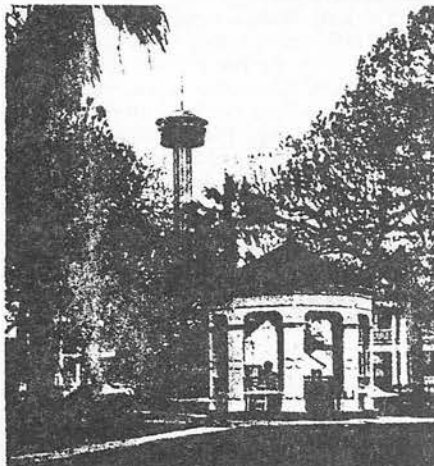
Most of the mansions that characterize the district today were built in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Though large, these were not the homes of the idle rich. Rather, they were occupied by the families of merchants actively engaged in building their businesses in San Antonio: Carl Wilhelm Groos, merchant and banker; August Biesenbach, hardware merchant; Carl Harnisch, confectioner; Charles Hummel, firearms dealer. Yet with streets unpaved until the 1920's, spreading trees to provide shade, and the river nearby for fishing, swimming, and boating, the neighborhood had a leisurely quality. A streetcar on nearby Alamo Street connected it with downtown. German beer gardens, also nearby, provided relaxation.

Most of the homes along King William Street itself date from the 1800's. But on Madison and other streets of the neighborhood, development continued into the first decades of this century. Styles reflected the Colonial Revival, with columns and other classical elements. And the neighborhood continued to be one of San Antonio's most elegant, attracting such families as the Joskes, founders of the department store chain. In 1901 they built a large home on King William Street with soaring Ionic columns, lofty chimneys, and bay windows.

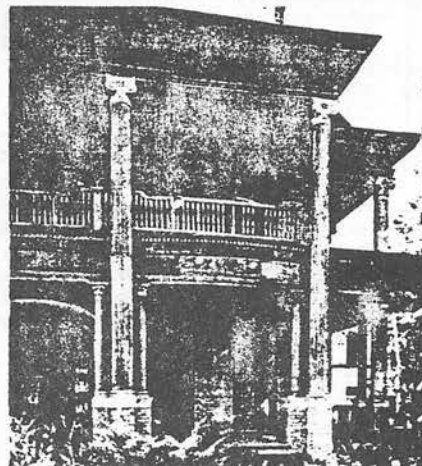
The development of newer suburbs in the 1920's, the Depression of the 1930's, the increased military population of the 1940's, and the death of the generations who had built the neighborhood conspired here as they did in other cities to begin the area's demise. Large homes were no longer affordable or practical, so they were divided into apartments, often for servicemen and their families.

But the district began to see signs of revival earlier than historic neighborhoods in most cities. In 1947, the King William Area Conservation Society—forerunner of the present group—was founded. The San Antonio Conservation Society acquired the Steves Homestead in 1952. And in 1958, the late O'Neil Ford moved his architectural practice to a house in the neighborhood, in part to attract attention to the area's potential.

By the late 1960's, HemisFair was attracting attention and residents to the area,



An 1890's gazebo in King William Park contrasts with the HemisFair tower a few blocks away.

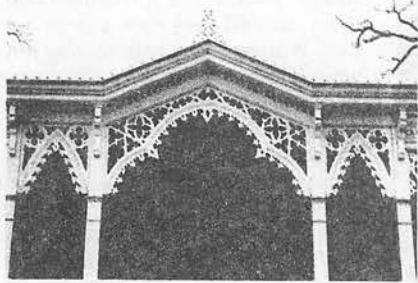
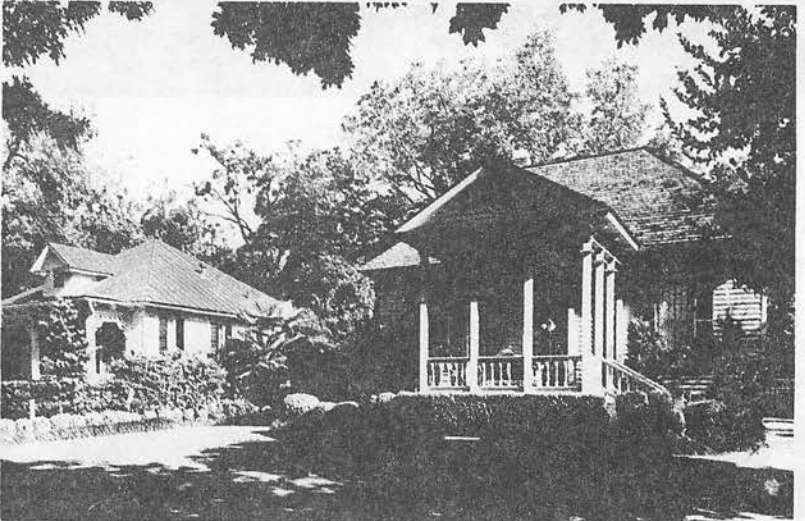
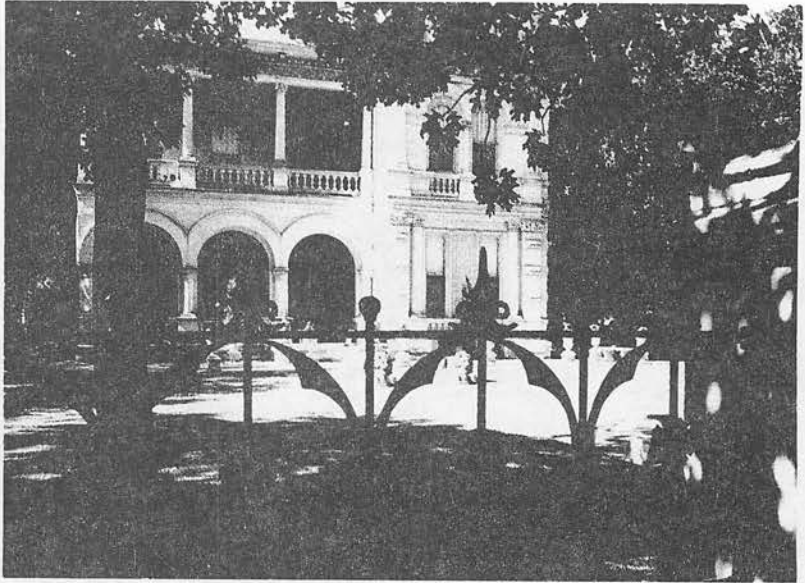


Some homes are still awaiting restoration. This one was built for a member of the Joske family, founders of a department store chain.

180

Built in the 1870's for hardware merchant Russell C. Norton, this house (right) was once owned by cattleman Ike T. Pryor. Walter Nold Mathis restored it in the 1960's.

(Right, center) Cottages, such as these on King William Street, offer an interesting counterpoint to the larger, grander houses in the district. (Below) Double porches wrap one corner of this late-Victorian house on Madison Street.



Gingerbread trim embellishes the porch of the Gustav Groos house.

and a new King William Association had been founded to serve them. In 1967, local investment banker Walter Nold Mathis bought an 1870's mansion on King William Street and restored it as his own residence. (Since then he has bought and restored 13 others.) In 1968, the city designated King William as the state's first historic district and established controls over renovation, new construction, and demolition.

Today, King William is recognized as a nearly intact late 19th- and early 20th-century neighborhood and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Nearly all the homes on King William Street itself have been restored, along with about 35% of those on the adjoining streets. There is a neighborhood fair every year, with house tours, music in King William Park, an art show, and other events. The City of San

Antonio and the San Antonio River Authority have completed a new pedestrian bridge over the river and paths along its banks within the neighborhood. Plans call for eventual connection of these paths to the River Walk.

Yet King William remains a peaceful island in the center of the city. Bounded on two sides by the river, it has not been disrupted by commercial development or traffic. Even so, it touches both the 19th and 20th centuries. The HemisFair tower peeks over rooftops and trees at one end of King William Street. At the other end, across the river, stands the Pioneer Flour Mill, descendant of that first mill built by Carl Guenther—and a reminder of the German entrepreneurs who helped build San Antonio and who once called this neighborhood home.

GERMAN TEXANS' GENEALOGY SECTION

Compiled by Genealogy Editor Theresa Gold, 106 Ranchland, San Antonio TX 78213

BITS AND PIECES AND NEWS

Genealogy Workshop at GTHS Meeting You won't want to miss our meeting in September--the program will have several sessions of interest to those working on family history and genealogy. In addition to our Genealogy Workshop, those with Fisher-Miller ancestors will be able to find out more about land grants in the program by Michael Hooks of the Texas General Land Office. Our GTHS special consultant Robert Robinson-Zwahr will report on genealogy from the German Democratic Republic, and Robert Charlton's talk on oral history also has much to offer the family historian. Your Genealogy Editor's workshop will focus on all the things she is going to learn at the National Genealogical Society's Conference in Salt Lake City in August. In 23 sessions spread over four full days, the Conference will cover a wide range of topics. Of course, we plan to attend those that will be helpful personally and/or of interest to our members. Some of the sessions deal with library resources, genealogical computing, use of gazetteers to locate places in eastern Europe, evaluating genealogical evidence, German nobility, passenger lists and indexes, the International Genealogical Index, German emigration and the Revolution of 1848, family history and public history, effective German research by correspondence, family association management and publishing, German cultural and historical background, and dealing with sensitive or controversial issues in family history (this one is called "Warts and All?"). Among the speakers are P. William Filby, Friedrich R. Wollmershauser, Larry Jensen, and Trudy Schenk. From all this, we are certain to bring back something that will interest you at our fall meeting. Better yet, there still might be time for you to decide to attend. If interested, write to: NGS Conference, P O Box 1053, Salt Lake City UT 84110.

New acquisitions by Your Genealogy Editor We like to acquire books, pamphlets, and maps that will aid in our genealogical research. And so we have discovered a good source in Genealogy Unlimited, 789 So. Buffalo Grove Rd., Buffalo Grove IL 60090. There is a \$2.00 postage and handling fee per order. Ask for their catalog (free) that includes modern and historical maps, books on general topics as well as on USA, German and other European areas, plus archival supplies, including poly sheet protectors for photos and documents, mylar protectors, and acid-free storage boxes. Among our recent personal acquisitions are these:

Genealogical Guide to German Ancestors from East Germany and Eastern Europe, 158 pages, softcover, indexed, \$17.50. Mentioned in the previous issue as available from Pathfinders Genealogy Books, Pueblo CO, for \$27.50, it is available from Genealogy Unlimited for \$10 less. This is an English translation of the work known as "AGoFF--Wegweiser" and published in Germany. It contains information about and location of organizations, reference books, archives, libraries, and other sources, many of them in West Germany and therefore more readily available. (AGoFF stands for Arbeitsgemeinschaft ostdeutscher Familienforscher e.V. or The Working Group of East German Family Researchers, a union of over 800 non-professional family researchers who search for ancestors in East Germany and eastern Europe.)

Polish Parish Records of the Roman Catholic Church, Their Use and Understanding in Genealogical Research, 88 pages, softcover, \$10.00. Includes origin and organization of records, method of research, language, names, glossary and more.

A Handbook of Czechslovak Genealogical Research, 131 pages, softcover, \$15.00.

182

The best source we've seen covering the area formerly a part of the Austro-Hungarian empire that produced a great number of our German-speaking immigrants. Good narrative on the political, social, and religious history of the area and much helpful information on locating places and deciphering the names and languages. (A friend who translates Czech documents looked over the book and agrees!) Contrary to popular thought, vital records can be obtained from Czechslovakia, although you would not write directly to the archives, nor engage the services of a private citizen. Nor has the L.D.S. Genealogical Library been able to microfilm records in the Czechslovak Socialist Republic. But, there is a way. This book tells you precisely how to obtain the services of the Embassy for genealogical research--one of the few countries in the world that does this. The exact forms needed are printed in the book.

Deutsches Namenlexikon, by Hans Bahlow, 598+ pages, softcover, \$8.00. In German, a dictionary-like book giving alternate spellings and origins of thousands of German surnames.

Postleitzahlen-verzeichnis, 384 pages, softcover, \$3.00. This is the zip code directory for both West and East Germany. It may prove helpful for locating current towns with a post office and for writing for records. Genealogy Unlimited also has the Postleitzahlen--Ubersichtskarte der Postleiteinheiten, a map showing the exact location of each German zip code. Carol Schiffman, president of Genealogy Unlimited, reports that nearly everyone buying the zip code book also purchases the map since the location of a town can be determined quickly. This item is so new that it may not be in the catalog yet. She sent your genealogy editor a complimentary copy of the map.

Other maps. Ms. Schiffman reports that she visited map publishers in Germany and Austria and added several excellent map series to their comprehensive collection. They import a wide range of historical, topographical, and modern section maps of middle and eastern Europe. Although most modern maps are in stock, nearly all others have to be special ordered with delivery time running nearly three months, with prices from \$10 to \$15. Send a long SASE for list of available maps, cost, and ordering information. Do order their free catalog and inquire about availability of items of special interest not in the catalog.

We will have all of these, plus the usual, on display for you to look at, study, and use at the September meeting. AND, we might have a few more--a surprise or two--for you also.

Yet another source for maps Your Genealogy Editor has also ordered maps of Germany and other parts of northeastern Europe from: Johnathan Sheppard Books, Box 2020, ESP Station, Albany NY 12220. See their ad in the Genealogical Helper or write for a list.

German Texan Genealogical Resource Packet There are still a limited number of copies of the 86-page resource packet. If interested, send \$4.00 to your Genealogy Editor.

The Germanic Genealogist Serious researchers should consider subscribing to this quarter publication for \$15.00 a year (4 issues). Write to The Augustan Society, Inc., P O Box P, Torrance CA 90507-0210. In this issue, we are running the contents of the first 27 issues with an order blank for back issues.

Family Organizations Does your family have an organization? Does it have a charter or by-laws? Is it incorporated? Is it a non-profit [501(c)(3)] organization? If so, your Genealogy Editor wants to hear from you to compare how families are organized and how this organization is stated on paper.

FROM OUR MEMBERS

The following section was compiled by your Genealogy Editor from letters received from our members. If you have an interest in any of the families mentioned, write directly to the member. To have your story appear in a future issue, write to your Genealogy Editor, Theresa Gold, 106 Ranchland, San Antonio TX 78213. Items are published free of charge for members. For non-members, there is a \$3.00 query fee. Please submit a concise paragraph or two, or simply a list of the surnames you are researching along with the Texas counties the families settled and the religion they practiced.

Linda Nelson 2340 Ross Dr., Auburn CA 95603 is looking for more information on the Daniel Letsch family from Hertzberg, Han. He and his wife Caroline (Bischoff) left Bremen Sept. 23, 1844, and landed at Galveston Dec. 5, 1844. Their destination was New Braunfels, but they settled in De Witt County. Linda has found death certificates for their children Catherine, Emma Erben, and Frieda. Since Letsch is not a common name, she is wondering if Daniel was related to the Johann Letsch who settled in New Braunfels. Linda is presently treasurer of the Placer County Genealogical Society in Auburn. Although many of their members are doing German research, Linda is the only one researching German Texans. Their members have a surname index and a locality index. If any of our members would like a copy of these indexes, just write to Linda. She will also publicize the GTHS through their local newsletter.

Lillian Schulze Schneider 238 Sharmain Pl., San Antonio TX 78221 is researching the families Schulze, Kohleleffel, Ortmann, and Boeer. Johann Schulze (born about 1823, Saxony) is thought to have come to Texas before 1853. Joachim Ortmann and wife Fredericke (Kohleleffel) and four children came from Brandenburg. In Feb., 1853, Fredericke bought land on Cummins Creek in Colorado County, and in June Joachim died of a snake bite. In Dec., 1853, Fredericke remarried to Johann Schulze. They had one son Carl Henry Schulze who married Louise Boeer in 1880 in Colorado County. The 1870 Census of Colorado County shows John Schulze, age 10, in Johann an Fredericke's household. This would place his birth about 1860. Lillian's grandfather always said that was his only cousin in Texas. Where did this John Shulze go? Please help Lillian with any of these names.

Mr. & Mrs. Ellis Vance General Delivery, Carlin NV 89822 are interested in a group of Germans arriving in Denton County in the 1880s. Among these were two families of interest: Kluck and Faerber (later, Faber). Apparently both families came with parents and children. They seem to have come from Alsace Lorraine, but nothing further is known about their arrival. Mollie Faerber (Faber) married Samuel Leslie Critz about 1890. She was a teacher. Her brother Gus married Helen Kluck and her sister Helen married Gus Kluck. The Vances would appreciate hearing from anyone familiar with these names.

Jeanne H. Jacques 1300 Brazos, Rosenberg TX 77471 is president of the Czech Heritage Society of Texas. She has also done considerable research on families from the Bavarian frontier of the old Austrian empire, including these names: Bretl, Seidl, Simmert/Simmeth, Bohmann, Baumann, Meyer, Mittmann, Kusel, Brey/Brea, and others.

Patsy Dearman Hand 13 Tonto Circle, Victoria TX 77904 applauds the GTHS for our group's Sesquicentennial plans. Her own special project for the Sesquicentennial is to do the research necessary for a state historical marker in De Witt County commemorating a group of immigrants from Ost Prussia (Lithuania) who settled near Yorktown before 1860. She is including at least 4/5 families. Patsy's own genealogical research includes these names; Rabenaldt, Lundschen/Lundziens, Mertien, Kluge, Schünemann, Schmidt,

184

Goldmann, Vogt, Gebhard, and Ecknaat.

Edward R. Wachholz Immanuel Lutheran Church, 2405 Progress Dr., Brenham TX 77833 is considering a Sesquicentennial project along with another pastor. They hope to put on a computer all the genealogical and historical information on their church records between 1850 and 18???. They also hope to get all the churches in Washington County to cooperate and thus effectively chronicle the German migration into that area.

Barbara Kelsey Boese 207 E. Market, Dodge City KS 67801 will be glad to exchange Kansas research for some Texas research. Her Texas families of interest are all in the Austin County area: Korff, Witte, Brandt, Moeckel, Giesecke, Uhlig, and Woehler.

Willie Ann McCullough 608 Union St., Richmond TX 77469 contracted with a researcher in Germany and had excellent results at a reasonable charge. The archives in Oldenburg referred her to Anna-Margaret Taube, Alexanderfeld 27b, 2900 Oldenburg. Although Anna-Margaret does not read English, Mrs. McCullough recommends her as a thorough researcher. With her help, Mrs. McCullough added one more generation and four additional surnames (Battel, Lampeh, Gebken, and Rickels) to her Frels line.

Katharine Powell 5366 Fieldwood Dr., Houston TX 77056 wishes to share a lead on researching records in Hanover. She met Hans Ahrendt who is president of a genealogical association there. He is also interested in corresponding with other Ahrendts in Texas. You may write to him at Heddersdorfer Str. 14, 6473 Kirchheim. Katharine also sent an interesting account of the Willrich family reunion.

Wyonda D. Kruemmer Garrett Rt 1, Box 108-B, Red Rock TX 78662 would like to exchange information on these families: Volk, Hybacher, Kruemmer/Krümmer, and Litzinger. She also does research occasionally in Austin and sometimes in Houston and is willing to exchange information.

Roberta Kruse 6618 Addicks Satsuma, Houston TX 77084 is interested in learning more about the families of her kin, including these: Weiman, Prunier, Kruse, Sauer, Rummel, and Froelich.

Marilyn B. Karr 1 SE 78 Circle, Oklahoma City OK 73149 would like more information on the Schmiedekamp, Seidel, Bates, and Heyrend families. According to the 1880 Census of Milam County, Benjamin Schmiedekamp was born in Prussia, his wife Sarah (nee Seidel, but also found as Seidle, Siedle, Tzietle, etc.) was born in Austria. She was previously married to a King. It appears that Benjamin was also married before his marriage to Sarah. Benjamin died in 1882 and Sarah in 1890. At the time of her death, Sarah's name was Mrs. Fritz Staldy. On the same day that Benjamin died (Nov. 22, 1882), Marilyn's great-grandmother was born, Maria (Mary) Augusta Margaretha Schmiedekamp. According to the 1900 Census of Milam County, Mary lived with the John Aschenbeck family. She married Dock Gracy Bates in 1901. Marilyn would deeply appreciate any additional information on any of these families.

Ralph & Shirley Palmer P O Box 2632, Wickenburg AZ 85358 are interested in contacting anyone regarding three families. The Aschenbeck family lived in Colorado County about 1845-1880. The Beckhusen family lived in Milam County from about 1880 to the present. The Dampke family fought in the War of Independence and lived in Colorado County until about 1852. The Palmers are also interested in surnames allied with these three.

An interesting query from Germany: Patsy Hand of Victoria received a query

from Hellmut Mirus that she has passed on to us in hopes that some of our members can help him. He is interested to find in the USA families named: Mirus, Miris, Mirous, Mierous, or Mirius, etc. If you know of a Mirus family, any spelling, please write to Hellmut Mirus, Haus Rosemarie, 8602 Gleiszenberg--or you may address him at the Mirusbund, Glaszenberg, 8602 Burghaslach.

GTHS MEMBERS' GENEALOGICAL EXCHANGE

Members are encouraged to use this column format in sending information for the Newsletter. It gives readers the names, areas, and other facts "at a glance." Also, it is quicker for you to submit--and easier for your Genealogy Editor to compile! Let's have more for this section.

MEMBER	RESEARCHING FAMILIES	TEX. COUNTY SETTLED	RELIGION
Linda Nelson 2340 Ross Dr. Auburn CA 95603	Mueller/ Letsch Gerhardt	Goliad, DeWitt DeWitt DeWitt	Luth & ? Luth & Cath. Lutheran
Mary Anne Weishuhn 109 Bluebonnet Dr.S. Uvalde TX 78801	Potter/Patter Schoellmann Hoffmann Schneider Zerdik Hunt Parks Burttschell Maertz/Martz/Marz Theumann Palm Aschenbeck/Aschenbach Huls/Huels Fishbeck/Fishbach Weishuhn	Colorado Colorado Colorado Colorado Colo, Burleson Matagorda Colorado Colorado Colorado Austin Colorado Colorado	Catholic Catholic Catholic Catholic Bapt, Presby Catholic Catholic Catholic Lutheran
Rev. Jerome Burnet 7711 Madonna Dr. San Antonio TX 78216	Sartor Reinhart Brotze Carle Schmidt	Comal, Bexar Comal, Medina Comal, Medina Median Medina	Lutheran Catholic Lutheran Catholic Catholic

FISCHER-ZSCHIESCHE DUAL ANNIVERSARIES

Adolph Gus Fischer and Ottilia Meta (Zschiesche) Fischer of New Braunfels were honored there June 15 by about 100 descendants, relatives and friends.

The dual occasion was their 65th wedding anniversary and his 90th birthday. The reception, devotional and noon dinner were arranged by their children: Beatrice Irene (Fischer) Spinn of El Campo, Tex.; Milton Ray Fischer of Corpus Christi, and Sandra Meta (Fischer) Prince of West Point, N. Y. The affair was held at St. Paul Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall. Pastor James Henkhouse took as text 1. Corinthians 13.13: "But now abide faith, hope, love, these three, and the greatest of these is love." The Reverend Mr. Henkhouse recalled the activities of the couple. First they made their home on the old Fischer place in the Goodeville Community, seven miles northwest of Bartlett, Bell County. Before this he had served in World War I, first in the infantry at Fort Sam Houston, Tex., and then in the artillery at Camp Bouie, Fort Worth.

At the beginning of World War II, 1941, they sold their Goodeville place and moved to Corpus Christi, where he became a guard at a naval base throughout the war. Then they lived briefly in Austin and in Kerrville. From 1948 to June, 1962, he worked at Fort Hood, Texas, where he made an outstanding record in the paint department. He retired in 1962, and they moved to New Braunfels. Mrs. Fischer, talented in the arrangement of flowers, worked for the Timmer Sisters---the famous Seven Timmermann Sisters of Geronimo, Tex., near New Braunfels.

Incidentally, some of the Timmermann Sisters helped in arranging the anniversaries celebration, and they attended.

A nephew of the Fischers, Ernest Gus Fischer, 33, New Orleans author, traced 150 years of history of the Fischers and the Zschiesches in Germany, Pennsylvania and Texas. He presented his findings.

According to that survey, based on travel and research, Hein Fischer, 19, woodworker, in 1850 migrated from the Oldenburg province of Prussia, to Galveston, Tex., thence to Pisek, Colorado County. He married IIsabe Marie Obelgoenner, of another migrant family from the Holstein area. In 1862 Fischer was taken into company F, 17th Regiment, First Texas Volunteer Infantry. He drew his last pay Feb. 28, 1863, somewhere near the Texas-Louisiana boundary. He was listed as deceased. We don't know what happened. He left four children, and a fifth yet to be born.

The oldest, and only boy, of these five children, was Heinrich Dietrich Fischer. He married Emma Wilhelmine Friedrich, native of the New Ulm area of Austin County. She was the daughter of an immigrant family, Andrew J. Friedrich and Johanna Hollwitz, of the Dessau area of southeastern Germany. In the early 1880's the Heinrich Dietrich Fischers moved to Goodeville, Bell County. (Some of the Fischer descendants were still working some of this land in the 1980's.) Heinrich Dietrich Fischer, in Chicago for medical attention, died in 1896 at age 44. He left seven children, including three minors, and the youngest of these, Adolph Gus Fischer, as has been related, was honored at his 90th birthday.

The Zschiesche family came from the Dresden area of Saxony, southeastern Germany. Johann Gottlieb Zschiesche, at age 48, left his family, landed in New York City in 1867, and went to work in a pittsburgh steel mill to earn ship fare for the remainder of the family to join him. He and his wife, Johanna Juliana Ressler, native of Dresden, had five children, all born in Saxony. After two years the family was reunited, the sailing ship having taken 38 days for the passage to New York City. The family spent another six years in the Pittsburgh area.

The eldest of these five children was Friedrich August Wilhelm Zschiesche; he signed himself as "F. A. W. Zschiesche," and under that name became a widely-known farmer in Central Texas. He married Meta Heinsohn, daughter of Anton Heinsohn, another immigrant. The F. A. W. Zschiesches lived north of Bartlett. They had eight children, including Ottilia Meta Zschiesche, who, along with her husband of 65 years, Adolph Gus Fischer, was the honoree at the 65-90 anniversaries celebration.

Ernest G. Fischer 5666 Rosemary Place New Orleans, La., 70124

Descendants of THOMAS SCHWAB b 1818, Michelsrombach, Hesse, Germany are celebrating his 140th year of arrival in New Braunfels, Texas; also, their 26th family reunion.

THOMAS SCHWAB, being single, age 26, signed an "Einwanderung Vertrag" (Immigration Contract) to receive 160-acres of land in Texas through the "Adelsverein" at Bremenhafen, Germany before he boarded the "Brig Wesser" 10 May 1844. THOMAS SCHWAB, along with 80 other immigrants, arrived at the Port of Galveston, Texas 8 July 1844. There he was detained until Prince Carl zu Solms had selected a suitable harbor for disembarkation. Carlshafen, now known as Indianola, was selected; it was more near (152-miles) to the land selected for the immigrants of the "Adelsverein" settlement. Due to shallow waters, THOMAS SCHWAB got to Indianola on a schooner. There he again was detained waiting for transportation inland, by wagon-train. On the morning of 21 March 1845 THOMAS SCHWAB was riding on the first wagon to cross the Guadalupe River, at New Braunfels, Texas; more than 10-months after leaving Bremenhafen, Germany.

Schwabs



Annual Reunion

The 26th SCHWABS' Annual Family Reunion will be held 25 August 1985 at Seguin's "Sons of Herman Lodge Hall", located on Alt US 90 East & FM 725 insection. Registration and Gesellschaft will begin at 11:00 a.m. Following dinner, Bruno Schwab Jr. will call the gathering to order for a meeting and program; recognizing the eldest, youngest, longest married, newly married and the fartherest traveler. An afternoon snack of kaffeekuchen, etc., es sich gut schmecken lassen.

Aufwiedersehen!



Hoelscher-Buxkemper Family

17th BIENNIAL REUNION IN 1986
in WESTPHALIA, TEXAS

A hearty invitation is extended to all the Hoelscher and Buxkemper families to be with us on Saturday, June 21, and Sunday, June 22, 1986 at Westphalia.

Registration begins at 2:00 PM on Saturday, with visiting, jukebox music, and hayrides planned for the afternoon. To enable more time to visit, we will offer hamburgers, sausage sandwiches, Westphalia noodles, chips, nachos, and french fries, and plenty of cold drinks in air-conditioned comfort in the spacious parish hall. Saturday's festivities conclude with a dance, music provided by the "Gentries."

Sunday's registration will begin at 8:30 AM. Mass will be at 10:00 AM at the Church of the Visitation. The local choir will sing the mass parts in Latin and will conclude the service with German singing.

Lunch on Sunday will be catered. The meeting will follow at 2:00 PM. Hopefully, each person will go home afterward with new and renewed friendships.

Co-chairpersons are: Rosamond Bedrich, 413 Apache Drive, Temple TX 76501 and Doris Voltin, Rt 2, Box 188, Rosebud TX 76570. Contact either for additional information. The invitations to be sent to each family on the mailing list will include suggestions for hotel accommodations.

188

GENEALOGY OF THE ZUEHL FAMILY

(By Joyce A. Zaiontz Rt. 1 Box 293 LaVernia, Tx. 78121)
 note: This is the continuation of the Zuehl saga told by
 Erwin Reininger from newsletter Vol.VI, pg. 210.

The Carl Christian Zuehl family arrived in America at the port of Indianola in 1846 after a three month journey at sea. Like all the new German immigrants, the promises and hopes soon became tests of strength. Simple shelter was scarce, and a Texas "norther" whipped their cloth tent to shreds. Their pioneer spirit persevered and got them through these meager times.

After a short stay in Indianola, Carl, his wife Marie(Wrede), and their daughter Wilhelmina moved on to New Braunfels. Their two sons, Friedrich (Fritz) and Wilhelm secured work surveying the Texas coastline. Fritz made \$100 and Wilhelm received \$72 for their labors.

After about six weeks Wilhelm joined his family in New Braunfels, but Fritz got a job in Victoria as a butcher and promised to join the family after he had saved a little money.

Carl and his family had rented a small block house in New Braunfels and practiced his trade of tailoring. (note: The 1850 New Braunfels census lists Carl Zuehl's occupation as that of "turner" or woodworker)

Wilhelm found work in New Braunfels with the firm of Thome & Henckel, which operated a store and lodging house. Fritz rejoined his family in 1847.

In that year of 1847, the daughter Wilhelmina married a personable fellow by the name of Julius Rennert (see vol.VII, No.1,pg. 23). They were married on July 11, 1847. He was an outstanding community leader and founding colonist. In addition to being Mayor of New Braunfels from June 1857 to 1858, he also owned the local brewery.

Not long after Wilhelmina's marriage to Julius Rennert, the young bride contracted cholera, which was a wide-spread epidemic throughout the New Braunfels colony. She was sure she would die, but her loving mother's care and assurance pulled her through. However, her mother did contract the dreaded disease and die. Marie Wrede Zuehl's death was the 15th death from cholera in the month of May in New Braunfels. Her death was listed by Pastor August Schuchard thusly: FRAU ZUEHL, TODESTAG MAI 25, 1849. KRANKHEIT, CHOLERA.

Following their beloved mother's death, Carl and his two sons lived on the Rennert farm for two years. Fritz Zuehl married Wilhelmina Karbach in 1849 and some time later moved to the Santa Clara community. Father Carl and Wilhelm went with them to the newly purchased farm.

The marriage of Fritz and Wilhelmina (Hermine) Karbach was a happy one. Her family was well respected and stood very high in church circles. Their marriage was blessed with six fine children: Louise, Bertha, Albert, Ottilie, Emil and Otto.

In October of 1857, younger brother Wilhelm married Katrina Gembler. He took his spouse to his farm on the Santa Clara. Later, they resided on the Salado near San Antonio.

Wilhelm's father, Carl, must have resided with them here, too, for it was here that Carl Christian Zuehl died in the summer of 1857 at the age of sixty years. His body was buried there, but later exhumed because he lay directly in the path of a highway being built. His remains were moved to the Zuehl family cemetery in Zuehl, Texas for his final resting place.

MURPHY'S LAW???

1. You finally get a day off from work to go to a courthouse, and when you get there, they are closed for emergency plumbing repairs.
2. You finally find the obituary of your ancestor in old newspaper, but all it says is "...died last week..."
3. You spend eternity looking for great-grandmother's maiden name, and when you find it, your mother tells you she already knew that but you had never asked her.

ZUEHL

FAMILY REUNION

BEXAR COMMUNITY HALL
SUN. OCT. 13 11am-?

A Day for Remembering



FRITZ ZUEHL

WILHELMINE ZUEHL RENNERT

WILHELM ZUEHL

PLEASE BRING FAMILY HISTORY MEMENTOS, PHOTOS, ETC... FOR DISPLAY TABLE

BRING DINNER AND UTENSILS
FREE COFFEE & TEA... BEER & SODA ON SALE

SPECIAL AUCTION...VOLUNTARY DONATIONS WELCOMED. BRING ANYTHING "SELLABLE"
(CRAFTS, BAKED GOODIES, TOYS, LINENS, etc.) OR JUST BRING A FEW EXTRA DOLLARS
FOR THE BIDDING! ALL PROCEEDS GO TO ZUEHL FAMILY TREASURY.

TELL YOUR KIDS AND LONG-LOST KIN-FOLKS TO COME...WE'RE MISSING SOME
ADDRESSES, BUT ALL ZUEHL DECENDANTS
AND THEIR FAMILY AND GUESTS ARE WELCOME !

190



WILLRICH REUNION

Willrich Family Reunion Attract 257

La Grange was host to 257 descendants of Georg Karl Willrich and their guests who attended the second U.S. Willrich Family Reunion on April 12, 13, and 14. Cousins came from all over Texas as well as California, Illinois, Kansas and Louisiana.

Saturday morning Marguerite Willmann of La Grange, a member of the Vogt line of the Willrich family, led a contingent of the family on a tour of La Grange. Included was a visit to the Old City Library, 153 E. Fannin, where they were graciously met by Carolyn Hofmann of the La Grange Fine Arts League.

A picnic lunch was enjoyed at the old Georg Karl Willrich Home on County Road 337. The fachwerk home, which was erected in 1847, is in the process of being restored after being moved by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Schenck from its original location on Highway 77. The Schencks are being extremely careful in their restoration, as the home was one of the finest in the area in its time. The most recent part to be completed is the massive stone chimney, 12 feet wide and 25 feet high, with fireplaces in both the kitchen and the dining room. The stonework was done by Gail Long and his son Tim of Weimar, who used photos and numbered stones to lay the stones exactly as they were originally laid by H. L. Krische in 1847. Krische, a stonemason, received as for his services a tract of land on the Colorado River which later became known as Monument Hill.

A large picture of the Willrich Home now hangs in the Museum at Monument Hill. The chimney is visible in the family group picture. Taking the picture was no small feat. Deborah Fitzpatrick arranged to borrow risers from the La Grange High School Music Dept. and to borrow lumber from Bryan Burton from the La Grange Lumber Co. to put on Paul Schenck's scaffolding to arrange the group for the picture. The original

site of the house is visible across a valley from the new location behind the Schencks' home, which was the old Knigge home. The Knigges are also a part of the Vogt line of the Willrich family.

After lunch and the picture, the family traveled to Cedar Cemetery, where Georg Karl Willrich, his wife Elise, and many of his descendants are buried. A special treat followed, as the owners of the old Vogt home on County Road 362, Lloyd and Gayle McCrary, invited the family to visit their home and enjoy homemade chocolate chip cookies and lemonade. The McCrarys have restored the home, which was built in 1858 by Johann Vogt and his wife Franziska Willrich Vogt, a daughter of Georg Karl. Originally a one-room fachwerk house, it grew as their family grew. The McCrarys have obtained a historic plaque for the house, which is behind the home of Raymond "Bush" Vogy, a descendant.

King Ranch chicken was the entire for dinner at the VFW Hall, prepared by Junell Boening and the La Grange Evening Extension Homemakers Club, who also prepared the sandwiches for lunch. Music for dancing was provided by the Red Ravens of Schulenburg. During the evening, a plaque was presented to the Schencks to express the gratitude of the Willrich family for saving an important part of the Willrich Family heritage.

According to Sue Atkinson Lawson of Houston, reunion chairman, "The people of La Grange were wonderful, to them and all had a good time. Most of the older generation had fond memories of La Grange from visits as children but her generation and the younger had lost contact with their origins. This was an excellent opportunity to renew ties with each other and to revive family history. Everyone pitched in and helped move equipment from place to place and set out food for the picnic. The work itself was fun!"

Throughout the afternoon, the children were conducting

Heritage Hunt, looking for family information on charts or in letters of Elise Willrich, and asking questions from the older family members. Children's activities were conducted by Diane O'Roark Yates of the Pauline Willrich Huebner line of the family.

Family members brought old pictures and memorabilia to share with the rest of the family, including the citizenship papers of Georg Karl Willrich, some jewelry and a silver spoon owned by Katharine Gebhardt Powell of Houston, a native of La Grange and a descendant of Louise Willrich Koehler. Louise was the youngest daughter of Georg Karl and the only one born in this country.

On Friday night and again on Sunday morning, the family held organizational meetings to discuss the structuring of the newly incorporated Willrich Family Foundation, a non-profit tax-exempt corporation. Purposes of the Foundation are chiefly educational, using the resources of the Willrich Family for historical research into German-Texan culture. Other purposes include promotion of international understanding, cemetery improvement and maintenance and preservation of antiquities. The Foundation hopes to acquire articles that were at one time in the Willrich and Vogt houses and return them to the houses. In particular, the Vogt family furnishings which were sold by the previous owners are on the search list, as is the cast-iron stove that was in the Willrich Home as late as the 1970's.

The next Willrich Family Reunion will be a project of the Foundation. It will be held the first or second weekend on April, 1987. (Bluebonnet Time), and Katharine Gebhardt Powell will be in charge. The family views the Reunion as a way of keeping family history alive and a way of keeping the interest of the children in their heritage.

GERMANIC GENEALOGIST
Contents of Issues 1 through 27

Issue Number 1

Research Contacts, by Hans D. Birk, FAS Germanic Names in North America, by Hans D. Birk, FAS German Nobility Names, by Hans D. Birk, FAS The German Eagle Books for Germanic Research Glances at German History and Heraldry, by Hans D. Birk, FAS Queries Kirkenbücher The Hamburg Passenger Lists Transylvanian Saxons

Issue Number 2

Queries Notes on Genealogical Literature: Immigrants from Baden, by Samuel Andrusko Glances at German Heraldry & History, by Hans D. Birk, FAS Lancaster Co., PA, Wills 1753-77, Part 1, by Jenne Renkin

Issue Number 3

Queries Glances at German History & Heraldry, By Hans D. Birk, FAS Lancaster Co., PA, Wills 1753-77 continued, by Jenne Renkin Problems in German Genealogy, by Benjamin R. Williams The Germans of Central Europe (includes map) Books for Germanic Research Index to the *Wappenführende Geschlechter der Bundesrepublik Deutschland* (A-Gaenslen) German Research Material Printed in English, by Robert E. Stiens A Report from Glandorf, by Charles Recker How to Approach Ancestor-Hunting in Germany, by Hans D. Birk

Issue Number 4

Queries The Search for Augustus Riese, By Lt. Gen. William Knowlton Research on the Wirtemberg and von Karpfen Families, by Hans D. Birk, FAS An Immigration List from Köbele, by Samuel M. Andrusko Index to the *Wappenführende Geschlechter der Bundesrepublik Deutschland* (Gall-Muller) continued Books for Germanic Research

Issue Number 5

Queries Index to *Germanic Genealogical Helper* Numbers 1-4, by Robert E. Stiens Refugee Card Files/Boundary Changes Books for Germanic Research The Mennonites: an Introduction, by Delbert Grätz Bern Church Cemetery Inscriptions, Part 1, by Oscar H. Stroh Palatines to America

Issue Number 6

Queries Ancestral Line 01: Stroh Karl Friedrich von Frank 1894-1975 Eder Family Bible, by Linda F. Eder Germany? by Rodney Hartwell The Handbooks Bern Church Cemetery Inscriptions, continued, by Oscar H. Stroh Index to the *Wappenführende Geschlechter der Bundesrepublik Deutschland* (Muller-Schranz) continued Reviews

Issue Number 7

Queries Research Problems: Bortner/Bordner, Weller More Handbooks The Mennonites, Part 2, by Delbert Grätz "Austria" & Austria, by Rodney Hartwell, Part 1 (includes maps) Little Tupehocken Cemetery Inscriptions, by Oscar H. Stroh StammOrten of Some Germanic Immigrants to Ohio, by Charles Recker Index to the *Wappenführende Geschlechter der Bundesrepublik Deutschland* (Schrenk-Wüste) continued

192

Issue Number 8

Queries Ancestral Line 07: Bordner/Burtner, Balt, Koppenhofer
 Ancestral Line 02: Mücke/Muecke/Mickey, Münzer, Blickenstörfer, Rudy, Barger,
 Ramer, Astin, Reed Ancestral Line 03: Koppenhöffer/Koppenheffer, Bordner,
 Weise/Wise, Heller, Hoffman, Michael, Shaffer, Shirey Ancestral Line 04:
 Wänger/Wenger/Wingard, Louck, Mountz, Weise/Wise, Bordner, Heller, Hoffman, Mi-
 chael, Shaffer, Shirey Three Sons of Clamer von Dem Bussche Marry into
 the Von Münchhausen Family, By Charles Recker Ancestral Line 05: Gabriel,
 Scheurer/Shira/Scheuren/Shiry/Scheiry/Shirey, Freivogel/Frifugle, Schaffer, Haas,
 Mohny Ancestral Line 06: Bordner/Burtner, Schneider/Snyder, Schaffer,
 Mohny, Miller, Balt, Michael, Shirey Ancestral Line 08: Bordner/Burtner,
 Schneider/Snyder, Shaffer, Shira/Shiry, Balt, Haas Ancestral Line 09:
 Haman/Hammon, Russell, Richter, Bybee, Christensen, Waters, Youngstrom
 Ancestral Line 10: Hoar/Heer, Ladd, Moul, Theobald, Sauders, Holbrook The
 Mennonites, Part 3, by Delbert Grätz Index to the *Wappenführende Gesch-
 lechter der Bundesrepublik Deutschland* (Wunderlich-Zwing) *Genealogisches
 Handbuch des Adels* at the Library of Congress, by Leroy Mickey Lancaster
 Co., Pennsylvania, Wills, by Jenne Renkin

Issue Numbers 9-12

Emigrant Files Germanic Families Being Researched Queries
 Ancestral Line 11: Waschbüsch/Waschbisch, Baasch, Lettner, Desreumaux An-
 cestral Line 12: Bricker, Godlieb, Scherer/Shirey, Smith, Guy, Ramsey, Blansett,
 Lentchner, Vedder, Shrader Ancestral Line 13: Blansett, Penrod, Shaffer,
 Wingard, Bricker, Lentchner, Vedder Ancestral Line 14: Wingard, Chalfant,
 Graham, Blansett, Bricker, Lentchner, Vedder Ancestral Line 15: Ruckel/
 Röckel, Wiley, Stone, Bond, Plew, Meaut, Doyle St. Peter's Church Grave-
 yard Tombstone Inscriptions (Middletown, Pennsylvania), by Oscar H. Stroh
 Gerke Bible Records Will Book C, Volume I, Lancaster County Courthouse,
 Lancaster, PA, by Jenne Renkin Jacob Stover's Patent, by Charles Recker
 Reviews - News - Notes

Issue Number 13

Queries Ancestral Line 15A: Landgrave, Schrambling, Burns, Morrell
 Ancestral Line 16: Lobeke, Greve, Sommer, McDougall, Burns Ancestral
 Line 17: Limbacher, Schlemmer, Boesel, Wieser, Norton, Lambourne Ance-
 stral Line 18: Plein, Phillipson, Balzer, Feit/Feith, Ervine, Flinn Ance-
 stral Line 19: Lange/Long, Leibold, Gibbs Ancestral Line 20: Leibold, Sod-
 ler, Lang, Gibbs Ancestral Line 21: Bortner, Koppenhofer, Heller, Hoffman,
 Weise/Wise Letter to the Editor Reviews - News -Notes Can
 a Feldman be a Proeppermann, by Robert E. Stiens Some Burials in the Nord
 Friedhof (North Cemetery) Wiesbaden, Germany, by Mrs. John A. Gerbel Maps
 -- Some Comments from the Production Editor Some Burials in the Ohlendorf
 Cemetery near Hamburg, Germany, by Mrs. John A. Gerbel Some Burials at
 St. Sebastian Church, Salzburg, Austria, by Mrs. John A. Gerbel Some Bur-
 ials in the Crypt of St. Michael's Church, Hamburg, by Mrs. John A. Gerbel
 Some Burials at Felsen-Kapelle, Rigi-Kaltbad, Switzerland, by Mrs. John A. Gerbel
 Some Burials at St. Leodeger Cathedral, Lucerne, By Mrs. John A. Gerbel

Issue Number 14:

The Basis of Emigration to North America, by Volker Petri Eduard Fried-
 rich Moerike, by Ron Halbritter Old Reformed Graveyard at Hanover, Penn-
 sylvania, by Oscar H. Stroh Hessian Emigrants to America in the Year 1832,
 Part I, Dr. Kurt Günther German Prisoners of War, by Mrs. Victor Henderson

..... Ships Arriving at the Port of New York City, by Judith A. Walters
 Germanic Families Being Researched by members of the Committee Ancestral
 Line 22: Siewart/Siebert, Marten/Martin, Jung, Forney/Furney/Farney/Farni, Roblin/
 Roblen/Roblin/Robley Ancestral Line 23: Appel, Noel, Klaus, von Becker
 Three Passport Entries, by Mrs. John A. Gerbels Queries Reviews
 News & Notes Heraldry as an Aid to Genealogical Research, by Hans
 D. Birk, FAS Passengers from Germania to the United States 1821-1823,
 Part One

Issue Number 15

Survey of Germanic Emigration in the 19th Century, compiled by members of the Ger-
 manic Committee Emigrants to America 1843-1877, by Gretchen Leisen
 From the Lutheran Bible of Johannes Rish (John Rush), by Dr. Dorothy Boyd Rush
 Hessian Emigrants to America in the Year 1833, Parts II and III, Dr. Kurt
 Günther Pomerania in 1880, compiled by members of the Germanic Committee
 Census Records in Mecklenburg and Schleswig-Holstein Transcription
 and Translation of Actuary Book of the Bethel Cemetery, Cairo Township, Renville
 County, Minnesota 1862-1934, by Doris B. Purdue Some Germanic Organiza-
 tions in the United States Tombstone Inscriptions, Bernville, Pennsylvan-
 ia, by Oscar H. Stroh Queries News & Notes

Issue Number 16:

German, Swiss and French Settlements in North America During the Colonial Era
 Old Dunkard Graveyard near Derry Station, Dauphin Co., PA, by Oscar H. Stroh
 Old Family Graveyards in Pennsylvania: Old Ebersole Farm Graveyard, and Huber
 Family Graveyard, by Oscar H. Stroh From the Bible of Jacob Rush of Vir-
 ginia, by Dr. Dorothy Boyd Rush Bear-Lithia Cemetery Inscriptions, Bear-
 Lithia Spring, Virginia, by Dr. Dorothy Boyd Rush Heraldry in Germany,
 Austria and Switzerland, by L. G. Pine, FAS Baptismal Records St. Paul's
 Evangelical United Church of Christ, Oak Harbor, Ohio, by Grace Luebke
 Germanic Families Being Researched A Survey of the German States: The
 Kingdom of Prussia News & Notes Queries Surname Interest
 Listings

Issue Number 17

List of articles appearing in Issues 1-16 of the *Germanic Genealogist* Sur-
 name Index to the *Germanic Genealogist*, issues 1-16, compiled by Grace Luebke

Issue Number 18a

Queries Surname Interest Listings

Issue Number 18b

Review: Finding Aids to the Microfilmed Manuscript Collection of the Genealogical
 Society of Utah: Preliminary Survey of the German Collection Queries
 Surname Interest Listings

Issue Number 19

Making a Preliminary Germanic Survey: A Source to Consider: The CFI, by Robert E.
 Stiens, FAS Hessian Emigrants to America in the Year 1835, Part IV, Dr.
 Kurt Günther Hessian Emigrants to America in the Year 1836, Part V, Dr.
 Kurt Günther Documents Relating to Pennsylvania in the State Archives of
 Rheinland Pfalz and the Saarland, in review of *Inventar der Quellen zur Geschichte
 der Auswanderung 1500-1914* Strohs Cemetery: Fishing Creek Village, Dauphin
 Co., Pennsylvania, by Oscar H. Stroh Passenger Lists of the Steamship

194

Trave, of the Steamship *Steinhof*, 1893; of the Steamship *Stuttgart*, 1893,
by Robert E. Stiens, FAS Queries Surname Interest Listings
Reviews and Publications Received News & Notes

Issue Number 20

The Kingdom of Bavaria in 1872 The House of Wittelsbach (includes maps,
genealogy charts), by Rodney Hartwell Bavarian Archives and Research
Deserters Roll of the "Hochfuerstlich Hessischen Hochloeblichen Leib Regiment In-
fanterie modo Erbprinz" 1776-1783, by Dr. Kurt Günther Passenger List of
the *Sorrento* 1892, by Robert E. Stiens, FAS News & Notes Notes
from Osnabrück/Land, with map plate, by Charles Recker Hessian Emigrants
to America in the Year 1837, Part VI, Dr. Kurt Günther Schwenk of Altlein-
ingen, Palatinate, Part I, by Norman Edward Schwenk The Christmas Plate,
by Shirley Crow Warren Three Letters from Joseph Bernhard to Wilhelmina
Rosa (Bernhard) Schwenk, 1893, 1894, 1897 Queries Surname Inter-
est Listings

Issue Number 21

A Partial Listing of the Palatine Families of New York, by Henry Z. Jones, Jr.
..... Württemberg in 1887 Research & Archive Sources: Wuerttemberg
Arms of the *de jure* King of Wuerttemberg Duke Eberhard I, called with the
beard, von Wirtemberg, by Hans D. Birk, FAS Germanic Interest Guide
Queries Surname Interest Listings

Issue Number 22

Hessian Emigrants to America 1838-1839, Dr. Kurt Günther *Mennonite Family
History* notice Families Being Researched Some North German Sur-
names, Charles Recker, FSO Plote Family Letter Passenger List 1893,
Robert E. Stiens, FAS The Schroepfer Story, by Cleo Van Lerberg
Reviews Queries Surname Interests Passengers from Germania
to the United States 1821-1823 (continued) Ancestral Line: Hamscher/Hamp-
sher Ancestral Line: Kreuter/Greuter

Issue Numbers 23/24

Reintroduction to the Ancestral Blood Lines of the Brechts of Baden, by Mrs. J. D.
Hitchings Bennett The Allegiance of Colonel Haussegger, by Charles Recker,
FSO The Webers of Hannover and other Family Connections (Part 2 of
"Schwenk of Alteleinigen, Palatinate") by Norman E. Schwenk Ahnentafel
of Robert M. Kurtz Some American Descendants of Jürgen Cordes, by Charles
Recker, FSO Maps of Germany & Adjacent Areas, commercial listing from
Thode Translations Where Have All the Barnims Gone? or, Once Over Pomer-
ania, Lightly, by Rodney C. Walker Reviews and Publications Received
Three Passenger Lists 1893: the *Amalfi*, the *Italia*, and the *Weimar*, by Robert E.
Stiens, FAS Queries Surname Interest Listings Ancestral
Line: Köhler Ancestral Line: Horschler, Small, Talmon, Krebs

Issue Number 25

Query-Fest Queries Notes to Queries Surname Interest List-
ings Notes to Surname Interest Listings Ancestral Line: Hansen of
Schleswig Ancestral Line: Trollinger/Drollinger of Baden

Issue Number 26

A Different Map? by Leonard John Jacobs Deserters of the Prussian Army in
1870, by Friedrich R. Wollmershäuser Pioneer German and Swiss Immigrant

Preachers: German Methodists on the Central Plains 1878-1906, by Karen P. Neuforth Lists of Emigrants from the Church Parish of Venne (Hannover) to the U.S.A. after 1830, by Ernest Thode Master File of South-west Germany: a notice Book Reviews Queries Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society: a notice Surname Interest Listings

Issue Number 27

German Emigrants from the Area of Wuppertal, by Henning Schroeder Hessian Emigrants to America 1840 (Part 9), Dr. Kurt Günther..... American Godfathers in Bueren, Westphalia 1834-1899, by Henning Schroeder Bremen to New York in Steerage (1837), by Frederick Gerstaeker Queries Surname Interest Listings Comments and Notices of Publications Hamburg Passenger Lists Reviews

ORDER LIST for back issues of the *Germanic Genealogist*. Note that all are photocopies except issues 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27. Occasionally we receive original copies from estates; in all instances we will send an original printing in place of a photocopy if that issue is available in original printed edition. Photocopies are made on good quality white paper, on Mita DC-232 or copier of comparable quality.

	<u>Cost</u>		<u>Cost</u>
_____ Issue Number 1	\$ 1.80	_____ Issue Number 16	\$ 9.00
_____ Issue Number 2	\$ 1.80	_____ Issue Number 17	\$20.10
_____ Issue Number 3	\$ 2.40	_____ Issue Number 18A	\$ 5.40
_____ Issue Number 4	\$ 2.40	_____ Issue Number 18B	\$ 3.60
_____ Issue Number 5	\$ 2.40	_____ Issue Number 19	\$ 7.50
_____ Issue Number 6	\$ 2.40	_____ Issue Number 20	\$10.65
_____ Issue Number 7	\$ 2.40	_____ Issue Number 21	\$ 4.80
_____ Issue Number 8	\$ 2.40	_____ Issue Number 22	\$ 4.80
_____ Issues Number 9-12	\$11.10	_____ Issues Number 23/24	\$ 7.50
_____ Issue Number 13	\$ 5.70	_____ Issue Number 25	\$ 3.75
_____ Issue Number 14	\$ 9.60	_____ Issue Number 26	\$ 3.75
_____ Issue Number 15	\$ 9.00	_____ Issue Number 27	\$ 3.75

When ordering back issues from this sheet, carefully circle or check off those issue numbers you want. Make checks payable to The Augustan Society, Inc., and send to the address given below.

Minimum order this list \$5.00

Name _____ (Please type or print)

Address _____

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

The Augustan Society, Inc., P.O. Box P, Torrance, California 90507-0210.

196

the
German-Texan Heritage Society
announces publication
of
ROEMER's TEXAS
1845-1847



Dr. Ferdinand Roemer

The 1983 Edition:

A reprint of the translation of
TEXAS, F. Roemer, Bonn, 1849.

With the addition of:
Preface to the 1983 Edition
Geological Preface, 1983
Index.

Accompanied by Roemer's map.

A Texas Sesquicentennial project of the German-Texan Heritage Society.

Books may also be purchased from the following members and Museums:

- Fredericksburg . . . Verein's Kirche; Ken Knopp
- New Braunfels . . . Sophienburg Museum
- Boerne . . . Boerne Area Historical Society; Alice Gerfers
- La Grange . . . Fayette Heritage Museum; Leola Tiedt
- Round Top . . . Henkel Square
- Winedale . . . Winedale Historical Center
- Houston . . . Daughters of the Republic of Texas; Garnett Noser, Ann Lindemann, Daphne Garrett, Betty Miles
- Giddings . . . Miriam York

These books make a very nice memorial gift to your local library or Museum.

Order Form

single copy		\$15.95
tax per copy		.80
postage and handling per copy	US	\$2.00
Europe and Canada		\$3.00

All orders must be prepaid, except from Institutions which may use a purchase order.

Non-profit institutions may apply for a bulk-order discount.

Please send me _____ copies of Roemer's Texas

Subtotal \$ _____

Postage & Handling \$ _____

Texas residents
5% sales tax \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Mail order to:

German-Texan Heritage Society
Department of Modern Languages
Southwest Texas State University
San Marcos, Texas, 78666

German-Texan



Heritage Society

FOUNDED 1978

MEMBERSHIP

Dona Reeves
Southwest Texas State Univ.
Dept. of Modern Languages
San Marcos, TX 78666

PUBLICITY

Daphne Garrett
12429 Pebblebrook
Houston, TX 77024

NEWSLETTER

Mary El-Beheri
MacArthur High School
2923 Bitters Road
San Antonio, TX 78217

Founded in 1978, the German-Texan Heritage Society is a non-profit organization devoted to building pride in the heritage of German Texans through historical research and cultural preservation. It is a united effort in Texas to disseminate information about archives, research projects, cultural events, folklore, publications, and meetings related to German-Texan topics.

The Society seeks members from the general public---descendents of all German-speaking peoples, researchers, genealogists, and Texas history enthusiasts. The present membership is around 900.

A NEWSLETTER is published three times a year (about 75 pages) and is included in all membership categories. The NEWSLETTER features a large genealogical section which gives hints on research in Germany, Texas, and the United States; brief family histories submitted by members, and a genealogy exchange column. Other sections of the NEWSLETTER include original essays on German-Texas topics, reprints of articles from other publications, a schedule of events, and a book review column.

An ANNUAL MEETING is held the second weekend in September in various German heritage areas of the State. The program emphasizes German-Texan heritage and includes talks and slide shows by researchers, preservationists, authors, and other distinguished guests; informal social events; plays and music; and tours of the historical sites in the host town.

Membership categories are:	Student	\$ 3
	Regular	\$ 5
	Contributing	\$10
	Patron	\$25
	Institutional	\$10

The Society is currently actively participating in plans for the 1986 Texas Sesquicentennial through the Texas Germany Sesquicentennial Committee, and also has four Sesquicentennial projects of its own. The first project, a reprint of ROEMER'S TEXAS, has been completed and the book may be purchased through the Society. A Heritage Kalender will be printed for 1986, a German-Texan Heritage Registry has been created, and a research writing project on the history of Germans in early Texas (before and during 1836) is underway.

For more information, contact: German-Texan Heritage Society
Southwest Texas State University
San Marcos, Texas 78666

THE GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY CALENDAR YEAR IS FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER. MEMBERSHIP AND RENEWALS SHOULD BE MADE ACCORDINGLY.

198

German-Texan



Heritage Society

FOUNDED 1978

Membership Categories

- \$3 Student (verified by teacher)
- \$5 Regular
- \$10 Contributing
- \$25 Patron
- \$10 Institutional

(Mr. & Mrs. may have a joint membership if only one NEWSLETTER is desired.)

MEMBERSHIP
 Dona Reeves
 Southwest Texas State Univ.
 Dept. of Modern Languages
 San Marcos, TX 78666

PUBLICITY
 Daphne Garrett
 12429 Pebblebrook
 Houston, TX 77024

NEWSLETTER
 Mary El-Beheri
 MacArthur High School
 2923 Bitters Road
 San Antonio, TX 78217

Membership application

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

County _____ Telephone _____

Occupation (if retired, former occupation) _____

Special Projects (relating to German-Texana)

Publications (relating to German-Texana)

Please check the following interest categories:

- I prefer to just read the NEWSLETTER and learn new things.
- I would like to help out with all of the following categories.
- I would like to help out with only the categories I have checked.
- Typing for the NEWSLETTER.
- Writing articles for the NEWSLETTER.
- Transcribing/translating old German hand-writing.
- Showing visitors historical site in my town/city/area.
- Doing research in archives, libraries, etc.
- Genealogical exchange. (What names?).
- Photographing historical sites; Annual Meeting.
- Speaking German.
- Other?

RETURN THIS PAGE TO:

GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY
 Southwest Texas State University
 Dept. of Modern Languages
 San Marcos, TX 78666

SPECIAL CONSULTANTS

Lisa Kahn
4106 Merrick
Houston, Tx. 77025
713-665-4325

Ingrid Kuehne-Kokinda
9202 Attleboro
San Antonio, Tx. 78217

Robert Robinson-Zwahr
3801 57th St.
Lubbock, Tx. 79413
806-797-2181

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1983-1985 TERM
Alice Gerfers
P. O. Box 807
Boerne, Tx. 78006

1984-1989 TERM
Miriam York
1409 East Austin
Giddings, Tx. 78942

1982-1985 TERM
Irma Goeth Guenther
4501 Spanish Oak Trail
Austin, Tx. 78731
512-454-3343

GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY
ANNUAL MEETINGS

1985...SEPT. 14 - 15
NEW BRAUNFELS
Helgard Suhr, Margaret Field,
Agnes Lehmann

1986..SEPT. 12-14
HOUSTON
Ann Lindemann

1987... SEPT. 11-13
GALVESTON
Frances Knape

1988... SEPT. 9-11
AUSTIN
10th Anniversary
Anna Thompson

1989...SEPT. 8-10
SAN ANTONIO
Mary El-Beheri

1990...SEPT. 7-9
LA GRANGE/BRENHAM/ROUND TOP

1991...SEPT. 6-8
CORPUS CHRISTI

GTHS NEWSLETTER

The German-Texan Heritage Society publishes this NEWSLETTER three times annually. It is solely the creation of volunteers. See inside front and back covers for names and addresses of editors. The publication schedule for each year is:

DEADLINES

SPRING.....FEBRUARY 20
SUMMER.....JUNE 20
FALL.....OCTOBER 20

The actual date of publication varies .

Back issues are available for \$2.50 each for members, or \$3.00 each for non-members. Order from Dona Reeves-Marquardt, Rt. 2 Box 239 A, Buda, Texas 78610.

Announcements, articles, genealogical inquiries, reunion dates, news of events, etc., are always welcome from members. Send to the appropriate editor or to the editor-in-chief on or before the deadlines listed above. All articles should be typed, SINGLE SPACED on 8 1/2" by 11 1/2" paper, with a 1/4" margin on all edges. For sharpness and clarity, try to use film or a new cloth ribbon. And do not forget to clean your typewriter keys!!

*Attend G.T.H.S. Meeting
Sept. 13-15
New Braunfels, Texas*

German-Texan Heritage Society

Dona Reeves
Southwest Texas State Univ.
Dept. of Modern Languages
San Marcos, TX 78666

FOUNDED 1978

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 29
San Marcos, Tx.
78666