

# German-Texan Heritage Society

## NEWSLETTER



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NEWSLETTER

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GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

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NUMBER 2

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EVENTS CALENDAR

JULY

- 4-5, 11-12, Round Top ..... CLASSICAL MUSIC at Festival Hill
- 18-19 Round Top ..... CLASSICAL MUSIC at Festival Hill
- 19 Fredericksburg ..... NIGHT IN OLD FEDERICKSBURG (512/997-6523)  
entertainment on 3 stages, singing, foods,  
souvenir booths
- 31-Aug 8 Schulenburg ..... SCHULENBURG FESTIVAL (409/743-3023)

AUGUST

- 2-3 Fredericksburg ..... 91st GILLESPIE COUNTY BUNDES SCHUETZENFEST  
(512/997-2158) treasured tradition of compe-  
tition among marksmen
- 2 ..... Parade and Presentation of Flags of the 6  
Participating Clubs
- 3 ..... Crowning of King (determined by the best  
shooting score)
- 23-24 Fredericksburg ..... 98th GILLESPIE COUNTY FAIR (512/997-4923)  
stock show, farm & ranch exhibits, carnival,  
arts, crafts, handiwork, horse races, dances
- 24 Castroville ..... 10th St. LOUIS DAY (512/538-3817)  
Parade, crafts, games, foods, entertainment,  
barbecue &  
Alsatian sausage dinners, marker dedication,  
afternoon dance
- 28-31 La Grange ..... FAYETTE COUNTY COUNTRY FAIR (409/968-3781)  
stock show, exhibits, foods, dances,  
entertainment
- 30 ..... PARADE
- 30-Sept 1 Boerne ..... KENDALL COUNTY FAIR (512/249-2839)

SEPTEMBER

- 12, 13, 14 Houston ..... CONVENTION - GERMAN TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY  
Registration Form is on Page 85

For Hotel Reservation see Page 6 of our Spring 1986 Issue or do the following: Call the STOFFER HOTEL at 713/629-1200 and ask for the Reservation Desk. You MUST inform the reservation desk that you are with the GERMAN TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY in order to receive the discount price. (\$50 Per room, which may be occupied by 1, 2, 3 or 4 guests.

OCTOBER

See Page 67 for events in Violet

**Lyndon B. Johnson**

National Historical Park  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

**SUMMER HOURS May 24 - September 1, 1986**





# JOHNSON CITY AREA

## Boyhood Home

9:00 to 5:00 daily, guided tours begin every half hour. Handicapped accessible.

## Visitor Center

9:00 to 5:00 daily. Information, exhibits, and audio-visual programs. All

profits from the bookstore go to help the park. Handicapped accessible.

## Johnson Settlement

9:00 - 5:00 daily. Self-guided walks. Living history demonstrations as

staffing permits. Check at Johnson City Visitor Center for information.

# LBJ RANCH AREA

## Ranch Bus Tours

10:00 to 5:00 daily. Visitors board National Park Service tour buses at the LBJ State Park visitor center on a first-come, first-serve basis. The 1 1/2 hour tour of the LBJ Ranch includes the old Junction School and LBJ Ranchlands with stops at the Birthplace and Johnson Family Cemetery. Handicapped accessible.

Tours may be shortened or cancelled on days when heat and humidity exceed predetermined comfort and safety levels.

For information on tours call 512/644-2241 or 512/868-7128.

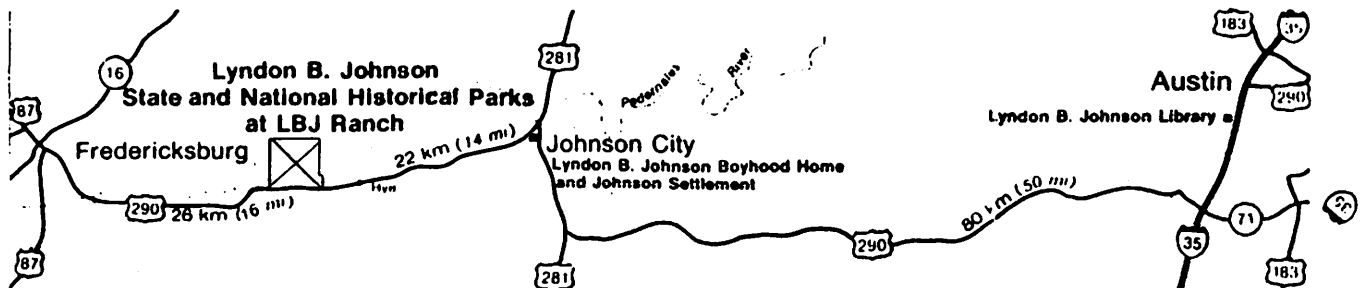
Note: 8:30 to 6:15 daily, Park Road 49 is closed to private vehicles.

## LBJ State Historical Park

9:00 to 6:00, Visitor Center open daily. Handicapped accessible. Exhibits, slide shows, wildlife displays, hiking and tennis.

12 Noon to 8:00 p.m., Swimming Pool open daily. Pool fees: Adults - \$1.00; Children 12 and under - \$.50.

9:00 to 5:30 daily, living history at the Sauer-Beckmann Farmstead.



## Administration

A Superintendent, whose address is 9th and Nugent Streets

P.O. Box 329, Johnson City, Texas 78636, is in immediate charge.

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NOTES FROM THE EDITOR.

WELCOME to our new publicity chairperson. Frances Jones joins our board as of May 1.

REGISTRY PROJECT

The collected information up to this date is in four giant boxes perfectly organized by Daphne Garrett. They are waiting for someone or a group to put the contents into book form for publication. The Board has voted to publish it in a form which allows new data to be added. Daphne has done a hero's job up to now, but she had to give it up. Who can finish this very important task? If you want more information or, if you want to volunteer to do it, please call or write to Mary El-Beheri at once. (512-828-7815)

SUMMER NOTICE.

Theresa, Mary, Anna, and Charles will all be in Germany this summer. If anything important arises, please contact Dona at her summer address:

Dona Reeves-Marquardt  
7357 So. Flowers St.  
Littleton, Colo. 80123  
303-972-2343

All of the travelers will have lots to tell about at the fall meeting.

DID YOU NOTICE....

that the newsletter no longer has the BIG staple? We have gone to a professional mailing service for labeling and fastening. Is everybody happy?

+++CORRECTION+++  
TOPIC INDEX 1985  
Grandmother's Apron  
(Margaret Edwards)  
3:237

GERMAN-TEXAN: "That Ney Woman" KLRN and KLRU Public Television will produce a special of Helen (nee Engelburg- German-American) Handley's "exquisite" script about Elisabeth Ney, the Westphalian artist, who is one of the really great German-Texans. Helen hopes it will recognize the importance of German culture in the history of Texas and be first rate theater. It will be on the order of Masterpiece Theater with a name actress like Vanessa Redgrave or Dame Edith Evans. Of course Public Television must raise the money for the production. Will you help? If you are interested in this project contact:  
Helen Handley, 2640 W. 45th St.  
Austin, Tx. 78731.

GERMAN DAY AT THE ALAMO

was celebrated on March 4. Ingrid Kokinda made all the arrangements for this four hour event, which featured German and German-Texan bands, choruses and speakers. Representatives from the Consulate General, the City Council, the city of Mainz, and Meredith McClain, chair of the Texas/Germany Sesquicentennial Committee. San Antonio was extolled as the center of the 19th century German culture in Texas.

There have been many celebrations this year throughout Texas honoring German pioneers. "Da waren Deutsche auch dabei."

THE TEXAS STAR TRAIL WALKING TOUR

There are 78 places to visit. A guide may be picked up at the San Antonio Conservation Society office in the Wulff house on King William Street. Thirty of those entries are either designed by, built by, lived in, or paid for by German pioneers of San Antonio. And there are about 15 more sub entries that are German-related. Honored at the opening of this tour on May 8 was Leo M. J. Dielmann, German-San Antonio architect. His grand-daughter Laura Dielmann-Davies and her husband, Scott, accepted an award from the Conservation Society in his memory.

**GTGS Patron Members**  
 Mar. 27 - May 7, 1986

- Becker, Mr. & Mrs. Charles D. Helotes TX
- Cope, Gail Farmers Branch TX
- El-Beheri, Mary M. San Antonio TX
- Freeman, Marion M. Houston TX
- Schmidt-Lange, Wolfgang & Angelika Houston TX
- Schultz, Mr. & Mrs. Vernon C. Corpus Christi TX
- Schumann, Mrs. Iris Timmermann New Braunfels TX
- Wegner, Verlie Burton TX

**GTGS Contributing Members**  
 Mar. 27 - May 7, 1986

- Afflerbach, Karl Heinz 5927 Womelsdorf
- Bassett, Hazel M. Dripping Springs TX
- Baylor University Library Waco TX
- Comfort Heritage Foundation Comfort TX
- Dielmann, Barbara Ann San Antonio TX
- Dube, Dr. Clarence O. Houston TX
- Elliott, Miss Fay Columbus TX
- Engelhardt, Dr. & Mrs. John H. Fischer TX
- Gandre, Mr. & Mrs. Leonard A. Gonzales TX
- Gersch, Mrs. Laverne Biddings TX
- Griggs, Joan Houston TX
- Herrmann, Eberhard Dallas TX
- Hierholzer, E. J. Floresville TX
- Kirst, Dr. Harald D3006 Burgwedel 1
- Kruse, Roberta A. Houston TX
- Laux, III, J. P. Houston TX
- Neal, Mrs. Joe W. Austin TX
- Noser, Mr. & Mrs. Walter P. Houston TX
- Pankratz, Merva & George Boerne TX
- Prosser, Mr. & Mrs. Frank J. San Antonio TX
- Reiffert, Jim San Antonio TX
- Salmons, Joseph C. West Lafayette IN
- Uecker, Jerald Germantown MD
- UTSA Library, Serials Dept. San Antonio TX
- Van der Dussen, Renate 7413 CL Deventer
- Heber, Pastor R. J. Brenham TX
- Weedin, Mrs. Eleanor F. San Antonio TX
- Heyand, Mr. & Mrs. Harley R. Houston TX
- Wilson, Pauline McAnelly San Antonio TX
- Wottrich, Mrs. Pat Houston TX

EMBARRASSING! Not only did we leave some Contributing and Patron members off the lists last year, the bugs are still with us this year. It seems a teacher can't teach her computer to enter information precisely the way it should come out. The computer and I are both learning to be compatible. Our special apologies to Merva and George Pankratz who have been overlooked far too often and who are among our longest and strongest supporters. We will try to do better by these valued members:

- El-Beheri, Mary M., San Antonio TX
- Engelhardt, Dr. & Mrs. John H. Fischer TX
- Kruse, Roberta A. Houston TX
- Pankratz, Merva & George Boerne TX
- Prosser, Mr. & Mrs. Frank J. San Antonio TX
- Uecker, Jerald Germantown, MD
- Weber, Rev. R. J. Brenham, TX

Please let me know if I have omitted any other Contributing or Patron members.

\*\*\*\*\*

THE FAYETTE COUNTY RECORD Friday, April 25, 1986  
**Nicolaus Treybig Family**  
**Reunion Held at Shelby**

A reunion of the Nicolaus Treybig family was held on Sunday, Apr. 13, at Harmonie Hall in Shelby.

Approximately 550 descendants, their families and friends met to celebrate 140 years of the family in Texas. The four families represented were those of Friedrich and Katherine Wunderlich Treybig, George and Bernhardt Treybig Wassermann, Bernhardt and Elise Heyne Treybig, and Henry and Frederica Treybig Wunderlich.

Since this was the first event of its kind for many of those present, each family had a designated color which was used for decorations, name tags and dress.

The group enjoyed meeting each other, renewing old acquaintances and friendships, looking at scrap-books, photos, family histories, and records from Germany, viewing the log cabins of Nicolaus and Friedrich, and visiting the cemetery.

The family members came from Iowa and cities throughout Texas and from other states, California, Kansas, Kentucky, Illinois, Louisiana and New Mexico. One individual came from Alberta, Canada.

The Nicolaus Treybig family consisting of Nicolaus, his wife Mary, and surviving children Friedrich, Caroline, Elise and Bernhardt left their home in Vetsdorf on the Werra River (now East Germany) in 1845. Their ship was wrecked off the coast of England; they were later picked up by another ship and finally arrived in

Galveston on August 8, 1846. According to family tradition, the family first settled in Spring later moving to the Shelby area in Austin County. Daughter Frederica was born in Texas, the older daughter Elise died. Three of the four married children are buried in the Shelby cemetery. Friedrich and Katherine Wunderlich Treybig are buried in the Florida Chapel cemetery near Round Top.

A family outline was printed in 1957; each of the four families is updating this information and will be printing individual family histories this year. Family reunions had been held since 1940 for the entire family, but the interest and enthusiasm gradually declined. The 140 year celebration and the Texas Sesquicentennial provided an opportunity to revive the event, at least for 1986.

**GOETHE INSTITUTE**  
 Dietrich Tost  
 One Corporate Square  
 2600 Southwest Freeway  
 Houston, Tx. 77098  
 713-528-ARTS



# HOUSTON<sup>80</sup> INFORMATION

Don't agonize about coming to Houston. Our hotel is in one of the very best locations. Natives have even referred to it as being a "ritzy" location. You will be quite safe and very comfortable in the cultural and entertainment environs of the Summit Arena. (The Summit is host to the Houston Rockets, musical concerts, and even religious revivals and conventions.) This Greenway Plaza location is also the site of an exclusive business Park complex.

Don't let Houston's size intimidate you. Early arrival will insure the mildest traffic. Once you arrive at the hotel you may leave your car in a secure covered free parking area and will not need to use the car again until departure time on Sunday. Sunday traffic in Houston is very light and poses no problem. Sunday is great for site seeing because there are very few cars on the streets.

Some tongue in cheek travel suggestions were made in the last newsletter. Ideas that might be considered are contacting travel agents in surrounding areas and leaving cars at central points (such as Brenham, La Grange, Columbus, Rosenberg, etc.) and chartering vans or even buses to the hotel in Houston. Cars are not essential once you arrive. The convention is self-contained in the hotel and all planned travel is pre-arranged and provided.

The Houston Committee is working hard to insure everyone a great time!

## DISPLAYS - EXHIBITS

The exhibit phase of the meeting is being expanded. Areas of German-Texan history, culture, traditions, arts-crafts, folklore or any cultural heritage material as foods, songs & music, games or celebrations of interest to the group is being sought. Please send your ideas and a brief description of your planned display.

If your information is too brief to display alone--we will provide Bulletin Board space for news articles or interesting clippings, pictures, etc. Regional happenings and area German-Texan activities are great items to share. Please send advanced information so we can make arrangements for display space. We will not be able to provide display space without pre-notice of your material & space requirements.

Contact Ann Lindemann (713-444-4446)  
17914 Nanes Drive  
Houston, Texas 77090

Some exhibits already scheduled include:

"German-Texan Iconography" (with emphasis on formal and informal portraiture of the mid-nineteenth century) by Lauren Kattner.

"Houston's Early German Settlers" by Dorothy Justman a fifth generation native Houstonian and the author of German Colonists in Houston. (Display includes map and listing of over 1,000 German sir-named families living in Houston near the turn of the century.)

"Industry, Texas, Cradle of German-Texans" by the Industry-West End Historical Society.

Please send your ideas and suggestions for inclusion NOW!

## S A L E S

Individuals, organizations or commercial establishments wishing to exhibit and sell items or wares at the Houston meeting are encouraged to contact the committee for details. Space specifications will be essential. Space cannot be made available unless pre-arranged. Notify: Ann Lindemann (713-444-4446) 17914 Nanes Drive, Houston, Texas 77090, as soon as possible so appropriate building space may be reserved.

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# GTHS HOUSTON MEETING

(Tentative Schedule)

Friday Sept. 12, 1986

- 2:30- 5:00 CLAYTON GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY (optional tour \$7.00 fee)
- 4:00- 7:00 REGISTRATION (exhibits & sales)
- 6:00- 8:00 RECEPTION (special music)\*
- 2 AM Stouffer Club "City Lights" (dancing etc.)

Saturday Sept. 13, 1986

- Breakfast at hotel or elsewhere
- 8:00- 9:00 (exhibits & sales)
- 9:00-10:00 CONSERVATION & PRESERVATION PROGRAM
  - "Protecting Fiber Objects" by Patricia Collins
  - "Preserved Materials at Barker Texas History Center" by Dr. D. Carleton (U.T.)
  - "Saving Antique Plants of Texas" by M. Shoup, Jr.
- 10:00-10:30 BREAK (coffee, exhibits & sales)
- 10:30-11:30 THE EARLIEST GERMAN SETTLEMENTS IN TEXAS
  - "155th Birthday of Industry, Texas Observed During Sesquicentennial" video by Joanne Crumb of Video Memoirs, Inc.
  - "Frost/German Town-the Early Germans in Houston" by Jeff Lindemann
- 12:00- 5:00 TOUR OF HOUSTON stops include:
  - 1. Bavarian Gardens (lunch & special music)\*
  - 2. Julia Ideson Building of Houston Public Library (tour of special exhibit "150 Years of Germans in Houston & Texas")
  - 3. Site of original Houston Turnverein special historical marker dedication by city of Houston
  - 4. Harris County Historical Society (tour, tea & special music)\*
- 6:00- 7:00 SOCIAL HOUR (Hotel Lobby Bar)
- 7:00-10:00 BANQUET (Awards & Special Music)\*
- 10:00- 2 AM Stouffer Club "City Lights" (dancing etc.)

Sunday 14, 1986

- Breakfast at hotel or elsewhere
- 8:00- 9:00 (exhibits & sales)
- 9:00-10:00 GERMAN INFLUENCE IN TEXAS
  - "German Language in Texas" by Dr. J. Wilson (Rice)
  - "High School German Competition Presentations"
  - "German Artists of Early Texas" by Marjorie von Rosenberg
- 10:00-10:30 BREAK (coffee, exhibits & sales)
- 10:30-11:00 RELIGIOUS MUSICAL PROGRAM\*(German Hymn Presentation by Hosanna Lutheran Church Choir directed by Gay Zimmerman & Chamber Music by "The Goode Company")
- 11:00-11:45 BUSINESS MEETING (Mary El-Beheri presiding)

\*SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT :

- HOUSTON LIEDERKRANZ and HOUSTON SAENGERBUND-Two long established Houston musical groups specializing in German vocal music.
- THE RATHKAMP DANCERS-A professional group of costumed German dancers.
- THE KATY TAYLOR DANCERS-An award winning area High School German dance group.
- THE GOOD TIMES BRASS BAND-A60+ member organization specializing in military and old fashioned brass band music.
- THE GOODE COMPANY OF HOUSTON-A superb instrumental (and vocal) chamber music group.
- GENE LICHOVSKY-A piano and instrumental soloist.
- HOSANNA LUTHERAN CHURCH CHOR-An LCA Congregation in Northwest Houst. (The Choir presented Cantata 140 "Wachet Auf Ruft Uns Die Stimme" Dec. '85.)

**TOURS OF**

**CLAYTON LIBRARY**



**CITY OF HOUSTON**

*The Julia Ideson Building  
of the Houston Public Library*



**THE HERITAGE SOCIETY**  
*Sam Houston Park*



**SPEAKERS FROM**

TEXTILE CONSULTATION AND CONSERVATION, INC.

**Eugene  
C.  
Barker  
Texas  
History  
Center**



**THE ANTIQUE ROSE EMPORIUM**

**PRESENTATIONS BY**



**VIDEO  
MEMOIRS,  
INC.**



**JOANNE CRUMB**

**German Artists  
Of Early Texas**

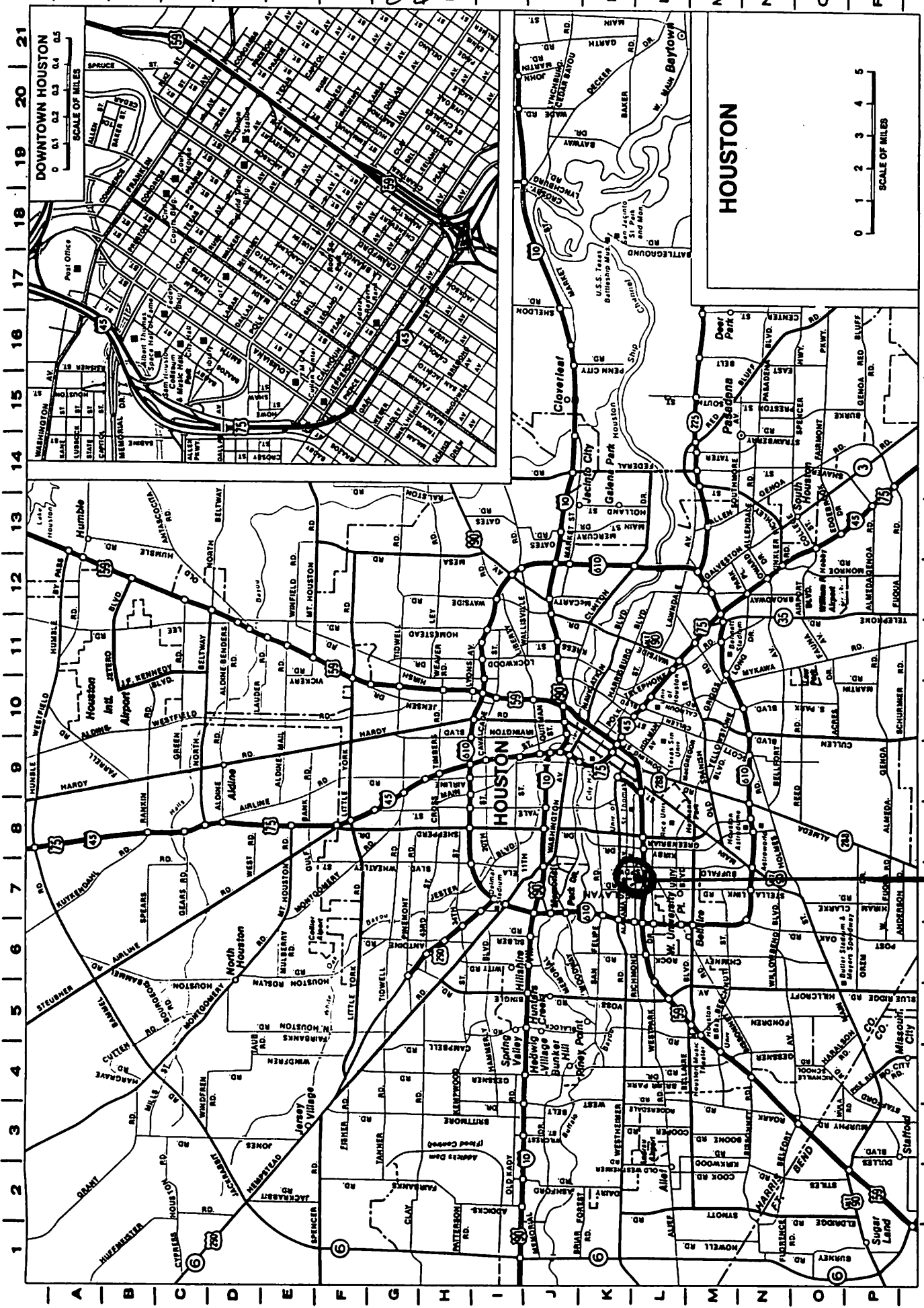
*Hermann Lungkwitz And Richard Petri*

**Hosanna Lutheran Church  
CH**

*by*  
**Marjorie von Rosenberg**



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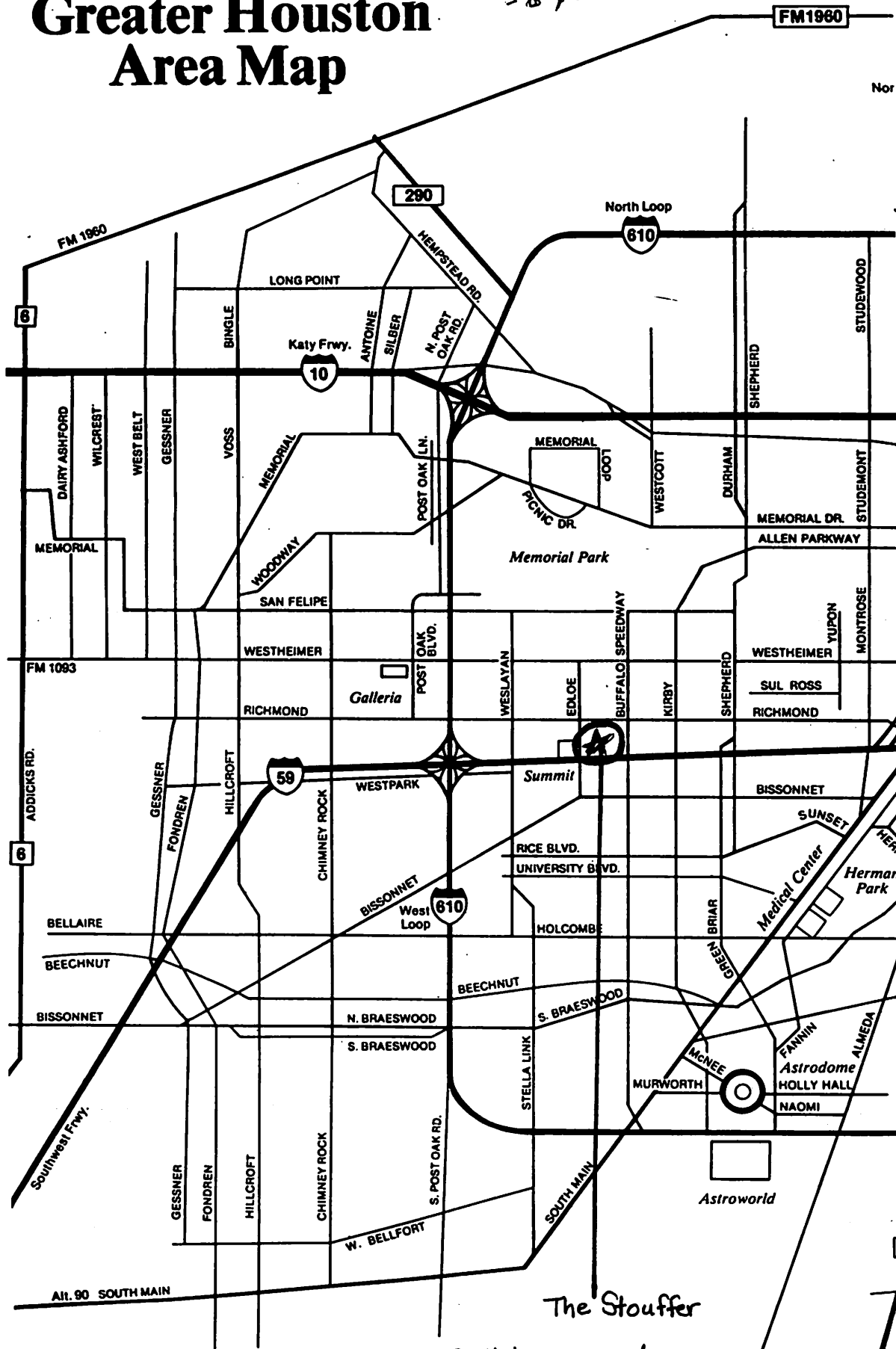


1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21

The Stouffer

# Greater Houston Area Map

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The Stouffer

For Hotel reservations, see page 6 of the Spring 1986 issue.

\*\*\*\*\*  
REGISTRATION FORM...GTHS MEETING...HOUSTON, TEXAS - 85 -  
\*\*\*\*\*

GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY  
September 12-13-14, 1986  
HOUSTON, TEXAS

*For Hotel reservations:  
See page 6 of the  
Spring 1986 Issue!*

TOTAL COST Before August 15 - \$45.00  
(Optional Friday tour) (7.00)  
(\$52.00)

After August 15 add \$ 5.00 late fee  
Fee includes: RECEPTION, LUNCH, CITY TOUR, MUSEUM ADMISSIONS, TEA, ENTERTAINMENT, BANQUET

Make Check payable to: GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY  
Mail Registration form to: Anna Thompson, 1986 GTHS Registrar  
2116 Lynnbrock Dr.  
Austin, Tx. 78748

\*\*\*\*\*

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Optional Bus Tour: \_\_\_\_\_ How many? \_\_\_\_\_ (\$7.00 Each)

Total Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ After Aug.15 add \$5.00)

CLIP AND MAIL THIS FORM TODAY....SEND TO: Anna Thompson....

\*\*\*\*\*

HISTORY OF WASHINGTON CEMETERY, HOUSTON, TEXAS  
(formerly Deutsche Gesellschaft Cemetery of Houston)

The old German Cemetery in Houston, founded in 1887, lies just west of Glenwood Cemetery, at 2911 Washington Ave. (east of Studemont). It is presently being maintained by a non-profit group, the Concerned Citizens for Washington Cemetery Care, Inc. (CCWCC), which is planning a 100th anniversary celebration for the cemetery next Spring.

The complete (though only semi-indexed) cemetery records (a large three-inch volume) will be made available at the CCWCC exhibit table at the GTHS Annual Meeting in Houston. A nominal fee may be charged for xerox copies of these records. Detailed histories of the Cemetery will be for sale at the meeting also.

The following statement appears on a State Historical Marker at the cemetery, obtained through the efforts of the CCWCC, and dedicated October 19, 1980.

In 1887, a group of local German businessmen formed an association called the "Deutsche Gesellschaft" for the purpose of establishing a cemetery for the German citizens of the Houston area. They purchased this tract, then located outside the city limits, from the heirs of John Lawrence and Thomas Hart. Until 1918, the burial site was known as the German Society Cemetery. The name was changed to Washington Cemetery because of anti-German sentiment during World War I.

The earliest burials after the founding of the cemetery occurred on March 20, 1887, when J. Turner and Annie Fraser were interred here. One section with 42 gravesites was set aside for the burial of Confederate veterans of the Civil War by members of the Dick Dowling Camp, No. 197, UCV.

Emma (Edmondson) Seelye (1841-1898), also a veteran of the Civil War, is buried here. Masquerading as a man, and using the name Frank Thompson, she enlisted in the Federal Army in 1861. For two years she served as a soldier, scout, brigade postmaster, and orderly on the staff of General O. M. Poe. She left the Union in 1863 after contracting malaria but later served in the war as a nurse. She died near LaPorte, Texas.

Gus & Bernice Mistrot  
12800-83 Briar Forest  
Houston, TX 77077



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Was ist ein Handwerkhhaus?

by Gilbert J. Jordan

When I was in Fredericksburg several times in recent years, I was surprised and impressed by a number of German-language signs on stores and shops. There was a candle shop sign, Die Abend Flamme (The Evening Flame), printed in German letters; a restaurant called Glockenspiel (Chimes in English), printed on a bell-shaped sign that proclaims in English "Fine Food;" and Opa's Haus (Grandpa's House). This use of Opa reminds us of the New Braunfels Wurstfest (Sausage Festival), where the waiters are called Opas (Grandpas).

Other shops were labeled Blumenhandler, without the Umlaut, (meaning Flower Shop); Kaffee Klatch (Klatsch) Korner, a little coffee shop; Oma Koocks Restaurant & Biergarten; and The Domino Parlor, Sandwich Shop, Biergarten. With that we come to das Handwerk Haus, again in German letters. More on the Handwerk Haus below.

These names show the town's interest in things German and the modern efforts to recapture the old German heritage. In a recent lecture on "The Texas Hill Country" I stated: "Fredericksburg remains the most interesting of the old German settlements. To be sure, it has lost some of its original flavor, but its houses, shops, customs, and language are still more or less unique. Some people might find the recent additions of German names for shops a bit anachronistic, nevertheless, the addition of German names is an attempt to latch on again to the city's German roots.

Now, back to the Handwerk Haus on 337 East Main Street, and the listing of its wares: "Arts, Crafts, Hobbies, Needle Work." This listing of the items for sale makes the meaning of Handwerkhaus entirely clear. It is a "handwork" shop. Some German-English bilingual people might have preferred the word Handarbeit for needlework, hand-worked embroidery, etc., and might have called the place a Handarbeit Haus. But that doesn't sound right either. So any way you may wish to slice it, the problem still remains that Handwerk, in addition to handiwork or hand-work, also means manual labor, a trade, or a calling, or even a guild in former days, and a Handwerker also means a manual laborer or an artisan (a Handarbeiter). You cannot win for losing in such matters; so we had better stick to Handwerk Haus, and buy our needlework there.

## Oral histories save Texas past

*Oral History for Texans, Second Edition*  
By Thomas L. Charlton  
Texas Historical Commission, \$7  
Reviewed by Judyth Rigler

Do you have a great-aunt Minnie who tells wonderful stories about growing up in Texas when it wasn't all gridlock and J.R.? Or maybe there's Uncle Charlie, who knows about all the skeletons in the family closet?

Did you ever stop to think that when they're gone, their stories will go with them? Too many Texans discover that sad fact only after they can't do anything about it.

Now you can stop the march of time from treading on precious memories, thanks to a growing awareness of the value of oral history as a preserver of our heritage.

Once considered a less-than-reliable means of recording the past, oral history is now accepted and respected, and the movement to make its pleasures available to more Texans has picked up speed during the Sesquicentennial, with oral history workshops available in many locations.

An updated and revised edition of a 1981 guidebook is a welcome addition to the oral history movement.

"Oral History for Texans" traces the growth and stresses the value of the genre, if it could be called that, that is defined as "the recording and preserving of planned interviews with selected persons able to narrate recollected memory and thereby aid the reconstruction of the past."

The book then teaches the reader how to do it, beginning with the interview's purpose and strategies and tactics to make it most effective. Next, the planning involved in organizing an oral history project is outlined. Pros and cons of transcribing material dictated into a machine are covered, as well as the means of obtaining a transcript as true as possible to the original words, inflection, accent and all manner of other spoken intricacies.

The appendixes list oral history centers in Texas, funding information, addresses of equipment manufacturers, samples of interview agreements and other interview forms, information about oral history associations, notes on the chapters and an impressive bibliography which should provide ample sources for further information.

The book may be ordered from the historical commission, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, Texas, 78711. Cost is \$7 plus tax, plus \$1 for handling.

Here's an example of one oral history recently brought to fruition:

*Every Sun That Rises: Wyatt Moore of Caddo Lake*  
Edited by Thad Sitton  
and James Conrad  
University of Texas Press, \$17.95

Thad Sitton is co-author of another oral history guidebook, "Oral History: A Guide for Teachers (and Others)," also published by UT Press. James Conrad is archivist and director of the Oral History Pro-

gram at the James G. Gee Library at East Texas State University.

This book is the first issue of the Caddo Lake Oral History Project of ETSU. It's also available in paperback for \$8.95.

Octogenarian Wyatt Moore is the subject of this oral biography, and a fine subject he made. In his time, Moore has been a boatbuilder and a moonshiner, as well as just about everything in between. The editors worked to capture his words, his wit and his working knowledge of the history of Caddo Lake, his private corner of the world.

Moore's stories, and the way he tells them, are priceless.

He begins: "Everything I have is wore out, broke down, falling over, or rotting off. I wouldn't have anything new. Even if I did, I wouldn't show it to you," and from there he really takes off, for 122 pages, ending with, "Some people never see a sunrise, or if they see it, never thought nothing about it. I think every sun that rises done it just for me."

Those are good words, and this is a good book. You may read it just for the pleasure of getting to know Wyatt Moore.

Or you may read it with an eye to creating something lasting of your own, from some "character" you know whose stories you've enjoyed for years.

Judyth Rigler, a San Antonio writer, reviews books on Texas and the Southwest.

### Corrections and Amplification

When I prepared the talk "The German Heritage in the Lone Star State" (published in the German-Texan Heritage Society Newsletter 8.1 (Spring 1986): 31-39), I was not able to reread Crossroads, the book most explicit about Leon Jaworski's German-Texan heritage. When I subsequently did so, I discovered that my memory had played tricks with me. Jaworski, though he considered the ministry as well as medicine as a career before deciding to become a lawyer, did not preach to German-Texas communities; he merely regularly accompanied his father, who was pastor of a church in Waco, to a church his father supplied (held Sunday afternoon services in) in Riedel. Jaworski entered Georgetown Law School after being accepted to the Texas bar at age nineteen, and, while there, once delivered a sermon at a rural church in Maryland that reminded him of the one in Riedel.

Mrs. Leon (Nelda) Kubala, writing to the Newsletter, points out that where I spoke of the Church of Christ as a successor to the earlier German evangelical reformed churches, I should have said the United Church of Christ, a completely different group (over the years I have had the distinction explained to me several times, but some things one never learns). Her letter contains the additional information that Leon Jaworski's father was pastor at Friedens United Church of Christ and also preached at Cross Church in Seguin (something none of Jaworski's books mention). She also suggests that the farm where Heffter worked as a youth was probably one bought by nine bachelors, sometimes referred to as "die Neuner," from Jacob de Cordova and subsequently sold to two of the bachelors, the Dietz brothers (Mrs. Kubala authored the text of a highway marker on Hwy. 46 telling about this farm). I do not know whether Heffter, writing some sixty years after the fact, had a lapse of memory in referring to the farm as the "Neuntöter" farm, or whether this name was also current for it when he worked there. The name "Neuntöter," literally "nine-killer," is commonly used in Central and Northern Germany to refer to a variety of butcher-bird (*lanius collurio*). I can well imagine that field hands, when referring to their bosses, "die Neuner," might have termed them "die Neuntöter," using ornithology to express their reaction to a typically German expectation of a full day's work for a full day's pay.

Hubert P. Heinen

### HELP!

I have been looking for the original translations by Rudolph Kleberg II of Rosa von Roeder Kleberg's "Some of My Early Experiences in Texas." Mrs. Kleberg's granddaughter, Carol Hoff, the author of Johnny Texas, et al, had those in her possession when she died five or so years ago. However, I've no idea what happened to them, and Glen seemed to think you had an idea of where they might be.

Also, the original diary kept by Robert Kleberg was in the possession of his youngest daughter, Louise Kleberg, until her death in 1942. The diary was examined by Mr. Arthur Schuette when he was researching his master's thesis on the history of the Cat Spring Agricultural Society in the early 40's. That thesis is in the Southwest Texas State Library. I have used it. However, it really contains less than various passages quoted from the diary by Brown, 1882, Tilings 1913, Biesele, 1930, etc.

I was fortunate enough to locate some copies of Mr. Schuette's translations of excerpts from the diary which were not used in his theses, but they do not add very much to what is already known. The original diary entries run, according to a notation in the Barker Archives at The University of Texas, from prior to the von Roeder-Kleberg party's departure from Prussia in 1834 up to the time of Mr. Kleberg's death in 1888. Interestingly, the Barker collection contains a few pencil written pages in English in a very shaky hand which basically say the same things as have been translated. This leads me to wonder if Mr. Kleberg had forgotten about the diary after he suffered his stroke, and again put on paper shortly before he died what he could recall. However, the diary itself is not in the Archives. That is a treasure that needs to be preserved at all costs if it still exists.

Flora von Roeder  
2515 Shakespeare #2  
Houston, TX 77030

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## SEEKING TEXAS GERMAN ROOTS IN POLAND

Terry G. Jordan

In 1945 a huge area of eastern Germany, including parts of the old Prussian provinces of Silesia, Pomerania, East Prussia, and Brandenburg, were annexed by Poland. The next half-decade witnessed the expulsion of the large majority of the German population of these provinces, and resettlement by Poles began. Visiting ancestral German villages in the Polish-annexed territory presents difficulties not encountered in the Federal Republic of Germany or the German Democratic Republic. In this article, I will recount such a visit.

My ancestral Willmann family has been one of the most prolific in the Texas German population. Many thousands of descendants, across Catholic-Methodist religious lines, now live in the state. The Willmanns held an annual family reunion as early as 1935, and already by 1937 the gathering at Landa Park in New Braunfels drew 650 participants. The family also published one of the earliest Texas German genealogies (Dan Fischer, The Willmanns in America 1853-1953, n.p., ca. 1953), and an updated table of descendants has also been printed. Willmanns are centered in Comal, Mason, and Guadalupe counties, but the family has become far-flung.

The immigration to Texas was accomplished by Anton Willmann (1809-1891), who fathered 18 children, and by his younger brothers and sisters Joseph Willmann, Johannes Willmann, Carolina Willmann Stein (1819-1887), Anna Willmann Soefje (born 1829), Johanna Willmann Bernhard (ca. 1836-1868), and Marie Willmann Wagner (ca. 1837-1913). All but Marie arrived at Galveston aboard the ship "Friedrich Grosse" from Bremen on November 18, 1853 (Ethel Hander Geue, New Homes in a New Land: German Immigration to Texas, 1847-1861, Waco: Texian Press, 1970, pp. 39, 147). Marie and her family disembarked at New Orleans in 1880.

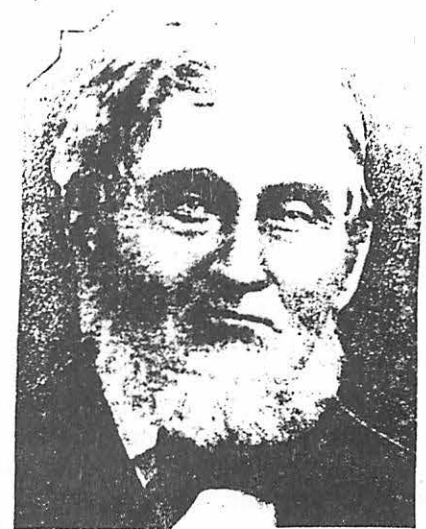
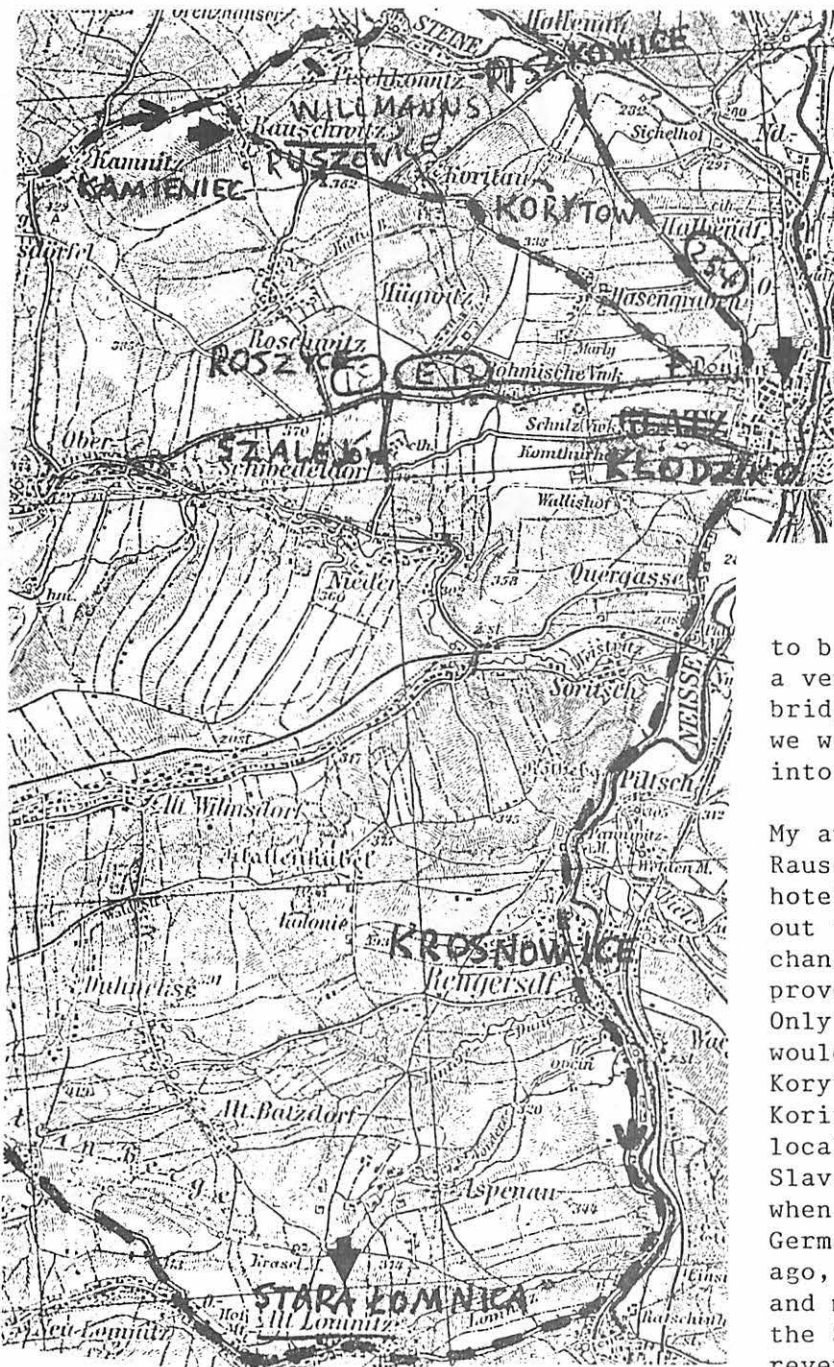
All of the Willmanns came from the vicinity of Glatz in the Prussian province of Nieder-Schlesien (Lower Silesia). Three villages and hamlets near Glatz--Rauschwitz, Alt-Lomnitz and Reichenau--were the birthplaces. The Willmanns seem to have moved around quite a bit. They were apparently not landowners, living instead as tenant farmers and itinerant craftsmen. Anton worked as both a wheelwright and a cabinetmaker.

In 1982 I set out, accompanied by my wife Marlis and children Tina, Sonya, and Eric, to visit the Silesian source villages of the Willmanns. Acquiring our Polish visa from a reluctant Washington embassy, military rule having recently been imposed, we wondered how it would feel to find an ancestral German homeland that was no longer German. Would we be welcome? Was Poland under emergency rule a hospitable place to snoop?

We were equipped only with a 1930-vintage, detailed map of the Glatz area that I had xeroxed at SMU's Foscue Map Library in Dallas. From an old Silesian gazetteer (J.G. Knie, Alphabetisch-statistisch-topographische Uebersicht der Dörfer, Flecken, Städte und andern Orte der königl. Preuss. Provinz Schlesien, 2nd ed., Breslau: Grass, Barth, und Comp., 1845), I had learned that the main source hamlet, Rauschwitz, was churchless and that our ancestors attended the Catholic church at nearby Pischkowitz, which in 1845 had 304 members.

On July 4th, in our rented West German car, we arrived in thousand-year-old Glatz, now named Kłodzko, a pretty if shabby market town set among the beautiful rolling hills and fertile fields of the Glatz Bergland (Kotlina Kłodzka). It would have been most convenient to approach Kłodzko through Prague and Lanškroun in Czechoslovakia, since we were coming from Bayreuth, but we knew the Czech-Polish border crossing between Lanškroun and Kłodzko was open only to "citizens of Socialist countries," so we had taken a detour and approached our destination from the plains of Upper Silesia to the east. Our reservations at the Snieznik Hotel, a communist collective, were unenthusiastically honored, and we were given rooms overlooking an old mill pond. Spared in the war, Kłodzko proved





Anton Willmann ↑

to be an interesting little town with a venerable church, town hall, and bridge. Climbing up to the fortress, we were rewarded by views far out into the surrounding countryside.

My ancestor, Anton, had been born at Rauschwitz, six kilometers from our hotel. Using our old map, we set out to find the place. Little had changed, and the 50-year-old map proved to be an excellent guide. Only the new Polish place names would be surprises. Soon we passed Korytów, easily identified as the Koritau on our map. Most of the local names, you see, were originally Slavic, derived from a millenium ago when no Germans lived here. The German settlers came to Silesia long ago, teutonized the names and culture and made the province theirs. Now the Slavs had returned and the names reverted to old forms. Indeed, Korytów had been an ethnic Czech village into modern times. The more things change, the more they stay

The 1930 map ↑

the same. A propagandized version of the local ethnic history was provided in a German-language pamphlet we bought (Krystyna Filcek, Kłodzko und Umgebung, Wrocław: Krajowa Agencja Wydawnicza, 1977).

A few kilometers further up the road we saw it--a slightly tilted placard bearing the name Ruszwice. We had arrived in ancestral Rauschwitz, the first American descendants of Anton Willmann ever to walk in his native place. The road we had followed, clearly very old, was surely the one he had used when going to market at Glatz. Then we had a real surprise. Near the placard was a roadside shrine, such as one encounters in Catholic lands, with an inscription in German. Commemorating a certain Johann Bittner, who had died at the spot in 1824, the shrine was well kept, and flowers had recently been placed



at the base. Catholicism has prevailed over the German/Polish feud.

Ruszowice consisted of about 20 farmsteads, lined up on the crest of a hill, just as our old map indicated. Seeing little evidence of the 20th century, we felt ourselves in a time warp, in a way that rarely happens in the modernized west. Surely the Ruszowice we saw was not greatly different from Anton's Rauschwitz. We lacked evidence concerning which farmstead might have been inhabited by the Willmanns. In any case, we had been warned that Polish villagers in the former German provinces were wary of visitors, fearing that the former inhabitants were returning to claim what was rightly theirs. Our car's West German "D" emblem amounted to a mark of Cain. Stares from 20 windows followed us down Ruszowice's street. But if we did not feel welcome, the fault was largely ours, for we did not know Polish and had thereby erected a barrier around ourselves.

Down the hill, over lush wheatlands, we spotted the Pischkowitz church spire, seat of our ancestral parish. Passing another perfectly preserved German shrine, we entered the church village --now called Piszkowice. Near the church we encountered the Polish priest taking his Sunday evening stroll. He spoke enough German to chat and joke with us. The priest was not interested in our German ancestors, had never heard the name Willmann, and said the parish had no records from the time of German rule. He was pleasant but firmly unhelpful. The Piszkowice graveyard contained some surviving German tombstones, even a few postdating 1951, when the last expulsions of Silesian Germans supposedly occurred. But Polish stones far outnumbered the German, and Willmanns were nowhere to be found. We knew ancestors lay buried in that ground, but here as elsewhere in Europe, old tombstones are very rare.



Back at our hotel in Kłodzko, we looked through the district telephone directory. We found a listing for Ursula Willman in a nearby town and for numerous Wilmanski families. We decided not to call. If these people were relatives, it would not be good to draw attention to German identity. Their position was surely insecure enough already, and they did not need American "cousins" stirring up the ethnic embers. Schlesien was now Śląsk. Instead, we turned our attention to the not inconsiderable task of getting dinner. It was necessary to resort to French, as interpreted by a friendly coat attendant, to order our meal of fish, chicken, bread, butter, pickles, tomatoes, and mineral water. No beer (pevo) was to be had.

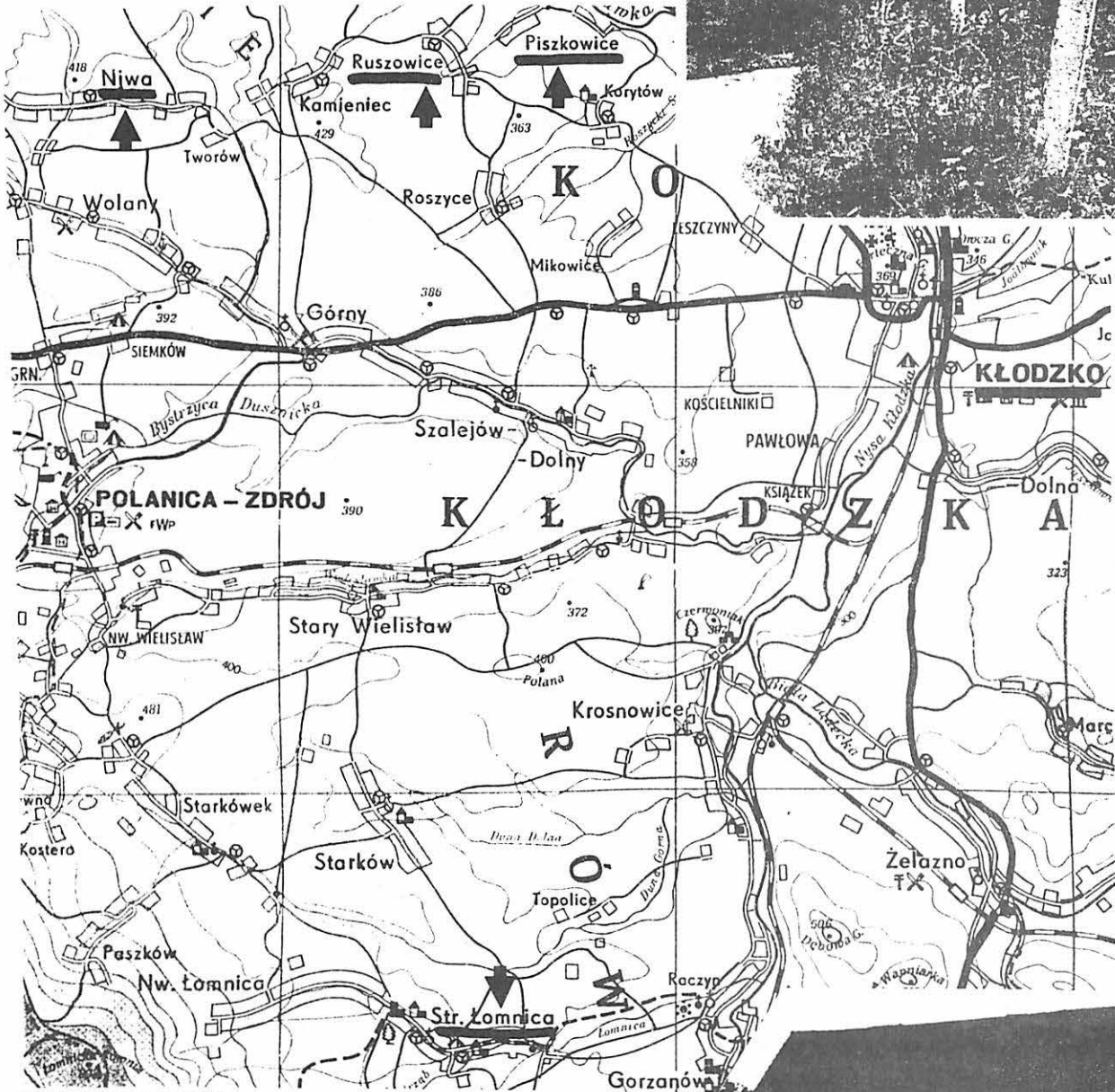


On the following day we sought the remaining ancestral villages. Our trusty map led us, without a single wrong turn, to Alt-Lomnitz, now Stara Łomnica, and Reichenau, the present Niwa. These proved to be sizeable, loose linear villages, stretching for kilometers along stream valleys. They, too, seemed timeless. Their streets clearly preferred horse-drawn wagons, and our blue German car seemed to become a time machine. We almost expected to see old Anton's stern visage staring at us from

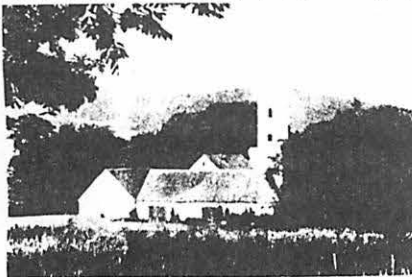


some window. Only the Polish road signs, casually tilted at Ruszowice, reminded us of the country and century we were in.

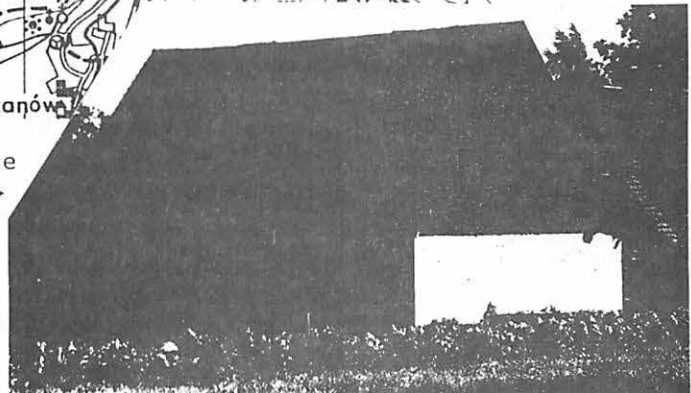
Before we left Kłodzko to return home, I found a modern Polish map of the district for sale at a bookstore. Such maps are generally unavailable and should not be expected in Poland. This cartographic treasure confirmed what we already knew--little, and everything, had changed.



The modern Polish map



Piskowice



Ruszowice



*Wenn dich die Menschen kränken durch Verrat und Trug, sollst du still gedenken, was der Herr ertrug, Kommen trübe Tage, schau allein auf ihn. Friedlich, ohne Klage ging er durch's Leben hin.*

**THE FACT THAT** there are three Goldbecks now making panoramic pictures makes the elder Goldbeck proud. E. L. Goldbeck, 63, and his son, E. L. Goldbeck Jr., 40, each say there is no professional rivalry among the Goldbecks.

## LEADING A LIFE AS EXPANSIVE AS HIS PHOTOS

**NAME:** Eugene O. Goldbeck

**AGE:** "I have two birth certificates so I can legally claim to be born in 1891 or 1892. I can prove it either way." (Goldbeck's original birth certificate couldn't be found when he was enlisting for service during World War I. His mother had another made, but the original finally turned up. One lists Goldbeck's birth year as 1891; the other lists 1892. However, Nov. 4, 1892, is considered his official birthday.)

**OCCUPATION:** photographer — The International Association of Panoramic Photographers calls Goldbeck "The Dean of Cirkut Photography" and he is known internationally as a pioneer in making panoramic pictures with the special Cirkut camera. But Goldbeck still sees himself as a working photographer merely trying to make a living.

**PHOTOGRAPHERS HE ADMIRES:** "The real photographers were the fellows a generation ahead of me. They used to have to make their own plates. For years, I mixed all my own chemicals. You couldn't buy ready-made chemicals, so I mixed all my own stuff." Among modern photographers, he admires his son and grandson. "My son is a better photographer than I am and my grandson is a better photographer than both of us."

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** "I've made 10 trips around the world and I've seen every d--- thing. Last spring, I was supposed to go to the South Pole. I had to cancel it, on the advice of my doctor. That's the only place I haven't photographed. I wanted to line up all the penguins down there."

**IN 1924, GOLDBECK** posed as "the official photographer" to get a close-up of Calvin Coolidge as the president reviewed the annual American Legion parade in Omaha. Secret Service men helped him move his equipment to the front of the crowd.

When he was ready to take the shot, he hollered, "Please remove your hats." Coolidge and the other dignitaries obeyed. Goldbeck snapped the shutter and quickly left.

Goldbeck smuggled film out of China in the bottom of a basket of apples, bribed a Paris policeman to let him take a picture off the Arc de Triomphe and leaned precariously out of a small plane over an erupting Hawaiian volcano to get exclusive news footage.

Goldbeck says he paid all his own expenses when he was on the road, sometimes spending \$5,000 or more to construct a tower or make other special arrangements. "I expect I spent a million dollars making pictures," he says.

His picture sales, however, more than made up for expenses. When he took one of his massive military photos, he could count on selling thousands of prints.

Though his pictures hang in museums and sell at art galleries, Goldbeck's real "art" lies in his amazing inventiveness and astute business sense. He dislikes the abstract style of photography that came in vogue about the time he was starting his news service. He puts it down as pretentious nonsense.

Goldbeck is a broad-scale person. His work and his life both fit into the enormous proportions of his panoramic prints.

A person who's spent most of his life traveling around the world has to acquire an unusual, broad-based perspective on life. Goldbeck says the experience caused him to question some of his early homespun values.

"I used to think I was a Christian. I don't know if I am anymore," he says. "Traveling around the world I've run into so many gods and every one of them claims that every one of the others is a fake. I don't know what the hell to believe. I think religion has set the world back 500 years. Ninety percent of the conflicts and wars in the world have been caused by religion. I have been around too much and seen too much and heard too much to believe in that stuff. Every god in the world was made by humans."

He was born in San Antonio, the son of German immigrants and the second of four children. His father, Benno Goldbeck, was an accountant and his mother gave piano lessons.

He was only 9 when he captured his first president, McKinley, on film. He did it with a box camera he borrowed from his brother. This accomplishment helped convince Goldbeck he had a future in photography. He soon had a camera of his own and started taking shots of his classmates and teachers for 10 cents each.

"I'VE BEEN making pictures since 1901," Goldbeck says. In that year, he photographed President William McKinley while the president was visiting San Antonio.

"I've photographed every president since then," he says. "I haven't missed one yet."

"Herbert Hoover — I thought he was one of the most maligned presidents and one of the best of them," he adds. "I also liked Calvin Coolidge. He believed in people paying their debts."

"I photographed 99 percent of the ships in our Navy by the time World War II broke out," he says. "In 1911 our government had three airplanes. I got all three in the air at one time."

"We have all learned from my grandfather," E. L. Goldbeck Jr. says. "So what we've done is taken what was taught to us and tried to add to that."

The youngest Goldbeck designed a special printer to produce color panoramas.

The E. L. Goldbeck Co. is one of few photo services in the world that does panoramic photography exclusively. The youngest Goldbeck says panoramic photography is far more complicated than simply pointing a special camera at the horizon.

"There are a lot of calculations, a whole lot of it is trial and error — and 70 years of experience," he says. "You get a real head start when somebody gives you formulas to begin with."

"I think that he's a real hero," he says of his grandfather. "He's accomplished so much and I think one of the things I admire the most in him is he's not a quitter. He just keeps on going when everybody else feels like sitting down."

The younger Goldbecks and their families travel extensively, too, but on vacations. E. L. Goldbeck Sr. decided that when he started his own firm in 1945, he would concentrate on school pictures.

He says he greatly admires his father and the two are very close, but he remembers the long stretches as a child when his father was on the other side of the world.

**HE ATTRIBUTES HIS** long life to heredity — his mother, Ida Goldbeck, lived to be 105 — and to his habit of eating only two meals a day.

"About 1914, I started eating two meals a day instead of three. I've been practicing that ever since," he says. "The government owes me one meal a day for 27 months (from his service in the photographic division of the Army Signal Corps). I think I'll send them a bill."

Marcella Goldbeck, who ran the household and raised the Goldbeck children while the photographer bounced around the world, is only a couple of years younger than her husband.



**E. O. GOLDBECK** opens the door of his southeast San Antonio home to begin a ritual he has performed many times before. Someone wants a piece of the famous photographer's rich life and the stories behind his eye-catching panoramic photographs.

In his 93 years, Goldbeck has seen more parts of the world and more social change than any 100 ordinary men. Millions have experienced vicariously faraway places and fleeting moments of history through his photographs.

He doesn't need any more notoriety, but he's gracious in the way of a gentleman from a more mannerly era. He is well-dressed in a sport coat and tie. He introduces his wife of 77 years, the former Marcella Fox, as "the boss." She gives a friendly greeting and retires to another room.

**GOLDBECK'S LIFE** story has been told many times. Trinity University Press published a book on Goldbeck by Marguerite Davenport called "The Unpretentious Pose." The book, currently out of print, contains the photographer's biography and photos from a large collection of his work in The University of Texas at Austin collection.



## Admiral Chester Nimitz

Few would have imagined that Chester W. Nimitz, born to German parents in Fredericksburg, Texas, on February 24, 1885, would become a Fleet Admiral and Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific. After an interesting childhood, during which he learned to speak German and gained an appreciation of German ideals, Chester Nimitz passed the preliminary state examinations for admission to the U.S. Naval Academy at the age of 15. On September 7, 1901, some forty years before the attack on Pearl Harbor, Chester William Nimitz was sworn in as a U.S. Naval Academy midshipman.

While attending the Academy, Nimitz became a close associate of Bill Halsey, John S. McCain, Raymond A. Spruance, and Kelly Turner, all of whom would serve well in the expanding Navy. Nimitz became a close friend of Bill "Bull" Halsey who, like Nimitz, also had an illustrious career. Beginning his career in the surface Navy, Nimitz was later assigned to submarine duty at a time when submarine service meant hardship duty without extra compensation.

His career progressed successfully and, on June 23, 1938, Nimitz was promoted to Rear Admiral and took command of Battleship Division One. He transferred to Washington in 1939 for duty as Chief of the Bureau of Navigation in the Navy Department. Ten days after the December 7, 1941 bombing of Pearl Harbor, then-President Roosevelt told Chester Nimitz to "get the hell out to Pearl Harbor and stay there until the war is won". With those orders, Nimitz accepted the appointment of Commander-in-Chief Pacific and went to war as a four-star admiral.

Described as a man with a refreshing sense of humor, Nimitz took moderate to high risks and made decisions with confidence. Born conservative and raised in the Southwest, Nimitz never outlived the German values he inherited during his childhood. He did not look for political attention but devoted his efforts to completing the job at hand to the best of his ability. A direct contrast to MacArthur, Nimitz was the man with quiet power who weathered Wake, Midway and the Philippines with style and dignity all the way to victory. Fleet Admiral Nimitz is a man whom all Texans, and especially those with German backgrounds, should be proud to have had as one of our military heroes.

Chester Nimitz was recognized for his achievements with his promotion to Fleet Admiral (Five Stars) on December 19, 1944. After the war, then-President Truman announced, on November 20, 1945, that Nimitz was to be the next Chief of Naval Operations.

After 46 illustrious years of devoted service to his country, Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz turned over the Chief of Naval Operations position to Admiral Denfeld in December 1947. On February 20, 1966 Fleet Admiral Nimitz, with his wife, Catherine, by his side, peacefully passed away and was buried in Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Francisco, California. He remains in history as a true Naval hero.

Rear Admiral J. Weldon Koenig, USN

Mary M. El-Beheri, teacher of German at MacArthur High School, has been awarded the Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship for Foreign Language Teachers in the High Schools. The award is a scholarship for \$4,500.

According to the Rockefeller Foundation, the award is viewed as a way to encourage bright and intellectually determined people to persist in language teaching at a time when American students are learning foreign languages.

This is the first time that Rockefeller Foundation Fellowships have been awarded to teachers at the high school level. Ninety-five fellows were named in the United States.

The project for which El-Beheri was awarded the fellowship includes a three-week seminar at the Karl-Marx-University in Leipzig; a week of research in East German archives to finish the biography of Julius Berends, founder of the German-English School in San Antonio; a week observing schools near Cologne, West Germany; and three weeks studying the customs and languages in Switzerland and Austria.

She will also attend the annual meetings of the American Association of Teachers of German in West Berlin and of the International Association of Teachers of German in Bern.

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

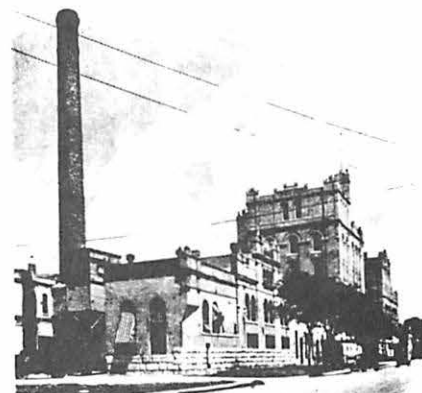
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*Early Times in Texas*  
SAN ANTONIO  
Sesquicentennial Theatre

**E**arly Times in Texas: Historic Entertainment at the Witte Museum. Relive the days of settlers turned rebels in this original production written by local playwright Burdette Parks and performed in the Witte's oak-shaded backyard. A special gala performance will be held Sunday, June 29, at 7 p.m., with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$15 a person and proceeds benefit the Museum Association. Call 226-5544, ext. 225, for reservations. (The play also will be performed Saturdays and Sundays from July 5 through August 17. Admission: \$4 for adults; \$2 for children ages 6-12; special group rates for parties of 10 or more.)

**Brewery to Museum.** A photo and 3-D montage tracing the renovation of the old Lone Star Brewery into the Museum of Art. June 1 through August 1.





## Carolina Pfeiffer Featured

(German article reprinted from *GEO Hamburg, West Germany*; English translation by Florence Pankratz.) From *Joyce Behr, Boerne*

Bei Carolina Pfeiffer scheint sie vollends stehengeblieben zu sein. Sie trägt Jeans und ein kariertes Mannsheemd und lebt in der Gegend von Comfort: in einem weissen, abgelegenen Haus, in dem es nur dann laut wird, wenn im backfischrosa Wohnzimmer der Kuckuck aus der Uhr springt. Seit ihr Mann gestorben ist, schläft sie im Gästezimmer. Das einstige Ehebett ist festlich abgedeckt. Unterhalb des Kopfkissens zieren Schleifen ein Foto des Ehepaares.

Das Gewehr steht in der Küche gleich neben der Eingangstür und sieht verdammst geladen aus. "Ich würde keinem raten, nachts auf dem Hof herumzustobern! Der würde gleich eine verpakt kriegen!" Carolina Pfeiffer spricht langsam und hat eine rauhe Stimme. Sie ist 80 und meint es bitterernst.

Was sie zum Leben braucht, holt sie sich mit dem Auto. Entweder aus Comfort oder aus der Millionstadt San Antonio. In einer Stunde sei sie dort. Das Auto, sagt sie, sei der Spazierstock der Amerikaner.

Irgendwie bringe ich es fertig, sie nach dem Später zu fragen. Ist tue es, nachdem ich gehört habe, das ihre Ehe kinderlos geblieben sei. Sie antwortet ruhig.

Hinter ihren Feldern, die sie verpachtet hat, liegt ein Teich. Dort versammeln sich Hirsche und wilde Truthähne, die Carolina Pfeiffer mit Futter anlockt. Die Tiere ahnen nicht, das ihre Wohltäterin eines Tages mit dem Gewehr auf sie wartet. "Dann macht es plopp! Und der Bock fällt um." Es amüsiert die passionierte Jägerin, das die Hirsche immer wieder auf den Trick hereinfallen.

Ein Lächeln dringt auf das Antlitz der alten Dame. Es bleibt auch noch dort, als sie von ihrer Reise nach Deutschland erzählt, vor einigen Jahren freilich schon, mit einem Luftshiff! "Oh boy", sagt sie, "ich war completely aufgemixt!"

Ich mag es, wenn die Deutschtexaner so herzhaft daherreden - texasdeutsch eben. Hast du die car gerentet? Wo moovst du überall rum? O Mann, uns ist gestern eine cow über die fenz

Seems that time has stood still at Carolina Pfeiffer. She wears jeans and a man's checkered shirt. She lives in the vicinity of Comfort, off the main road, in a white house where the silence is only broken when the Kuckuck jumps out of the clock in the "teenage pink" living room.

Since her husband died, she sleeps in the guest room. The couple's bed is beautifully covered. Their wedding picture adorned with a ribbon is placed below the pillows.

The gun stands right next to the entrance of the kitchen. "I won't have any rats running around the yard at night. They will be shot immediately." Carolina Pfeiffer speaks slowly in a hoarse voice. She is 80 and very sincere about it.

She drives to Comfort or the Millionaires city of San Antonio for her daily needs. San Antonio can be reached within an hour. She says the automobile is the American's walking cane.

Somehow I get these things done, she answers quietly to my questions when I learn they didn't have any children.

Behind her fields, which she has leased out, is a pond. There the deer and turkeys gather to eat the feed she puts out. The animals are unaware that one day their benefactor will be waiting for them with her gun. "Then with a plop the buck falls." It amuses the huntress that the deer always come back to be tricked again.

A smile crosses the elderly ladies face as she speaks of the plane trip she made to Germany several years ago. "Oh boy," she says, "I was completely mixed up."

I like when the German-Texans so lovingly speak their Texas-German. Did you rent the car? Where do you move about? Are you a newcomer? Oh man, yesterday our cow jumped over the fence! - And Skat brother with a sly look at the loser, "now we will crack you like a louse!"

gedschumpt...Und Skatbruder Emil, mit einem listigen Blick auf den noch siegessicheren Verlierer: "Jetzt knacken wir dich wie eine Laus."

\*\*\*

## Detective story had Milwaukee German version

A news story from London recently noted that 1986 will mark the 100th anniversary of the creation of the world-famous fictional detective, Sherlock Holmes. Arthur Conan Doyle wrote the first of his many Holmes tales, "A Study in Scarlet," in March and April, 1886, although the story did not actually appear in print until more than a year and a half later.

The Holmes anniversary brought to mind that among the Society's German language collections was a volume containing several Holmes stories including a version of this initial Conan Doyle tale, printed in Milwaukee by the local Herold Publishing Company in 1904. For publication in this "Herold Bibliothek" series, it was retitled, "Späte Rache" (Late Revenge) -- emphasizing the word "Rache" which was written in blood red letters on the wall above a murder victim's body as it is discovered early in the story.

Also published in this same volume was a second shorter Holmes adventure, "Der geheimnisvolle Mord im Thale von Boscombe," better known to Conan Doyle's English-reading audience as "The Boscombe Valley Mystery."

Cover advertisements on this volume indicate that the Herold Company published two other titles in what was referred to as their "Sherlock Holmes Serie." Volume 2 featured "Das Zeichen der Vier" (The Sign of the Four), another of Conan Doyle's lengthier Holmes stories, while the third in the series contained what is probably the most famous of all the Holmes adventures, "Der Hund von Baskerville" (The Hound of the Baskervilles).

The Society does not have Volumes 2 and 3 in its collections. We would like to obtain copies for a centennial exhibit on the role played by a Milwaukee publishing house in bringing Sherlock Holmes into the lives of a German-American audience.

DR. PETER C. MERRILL  
DEPT. OF LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS  
FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY  
BOCA RATON, FL 33431

FROM  
FRANK CRAIN SCHLEICHER  
1505 RIDGECREST DRIVE  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78746

DARMSTÄDTER ECHO

# „German Gemutlichkeit“ in Texas mit „Wurst Side Story“

Wie in New Braunfels an deutsche Vorfahren erinnert wird – Enkel eines Darmstädters lädt zum „Wurstfest“ ein

Von Eckhart G. Franz

Nicht nur die deutsch-texanischen Gastgeber bedauerten, daß der Besucher aus dem fernen hessischen „Fatherland“ drei Tage zu früh gekommen war. Und nur die letzten Vorbereitungen zum spektakulärsten Ereignis im sonst eher geruhsamen Jahreslauf von New Braunfels mitbekam. Um diese Jahreszeit, so Gouverneur Mark W. White bei einem Empfang, den er den Teilnehmern der Internationalen Table Ronde der Archivare im historischen Governor's Mansion der Staatshauptstadt Austin gab, besinnt sich jeder Texaner auf seine deutschen Vorfahren. New Braunfels feiert in der ersten Novemberwoche „Wurstfest“. Über 150 000 Besucher erwarten die New Braunfelser in diesem Jahr zu ihrem 25. Volksfest-Jubiläum, in der großen „Wursthalle“ mit der nachgebauten Ladenstraße der einstigen Kolonistenstadt, den benachbarten Festzelten, dem weiträumigen „Biergarten“ und dem umliegenden Parkgelände am Comal-River, das mit den Profiten früherer Wurstfeste ausgestaltet wurde.

### Regatta der „Wurst Navy“

Der Verzehr an Wurst und Bier, „Kartoffelpuffern“ und „Strudel“, aber auch an ortsüblichen Delikatessen wie Maiskolben und Truthahnbeinchen ist beträchtlich. Das Silber-



Programm des „25th Anniversary“ bietet nach der feierlichen Eröffnung mit den Süßwassermatrosen der „Wurst Navy“, die am zweiten Tag eine „Annual Wurstfest Regatta“ organisiert, ein Kegelturm und das „Walkfest“ der „New Braunfels Marsch- und Wandergruppe“, Musik der „Bavarian Village Band“, der „Schnappshaus Kappelle“, der „Deutsche Adler“ und anderer Musik- und Gesangsgruppen, Ausstellungen zur „German Heritage“, eine „Wurstfest Art Show“ und wiederholte Aufführungen des „Old Time Melodrama „Wurst Side Story“ im „Circle Arts Theatre“. New Braunfels, eine Stadt von rund 15 000 Einwohnern, halbwegs zwi-

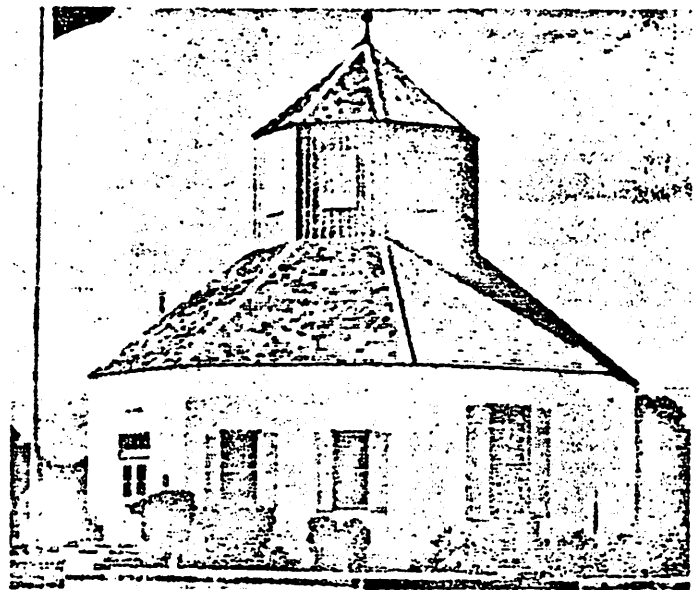
schen Austin und San Antonio, ist sehr viel älter als sein „Wurstfest“. 1945/46, als die ein Jahrzehnt zuvor von Mexiko abgetrennte „Lone Star Republic“ der Texas-Rebellen eben ordentlicher Staat der nordamerikanischen Union wurde und landhungrige Abenteurer aus vielen Ländern anlockte, gründeten deutsche Kolonisten das nach dem Fürsten Carl zu Solms-Braunfels genannte New Braunfels und eine ganze Serie weiterer Siedlungen – Fredericksburg (nach Prinz Friedrich von Preußen), New Berlin und New Ulm, Boerne (nach dem liberalen Schriftsteller Ludwig Boerne) oder Umland –, die ihre deutschen Namen, aber auch ihre deutsche Tradition größtenteils bis heute bewahrt haben.

### Siedler aus Hessen

Die im republikanischen Texas überraschenden adligen Namenspatrone sind kein Zufall: Wichtiger Anreger für die deutsche Auswanderung war der 1842 in Mainz begründete Adelsverein, der „Verein zum Schutz deutscher Einwanderer in Texas“, zu dessen Aktionären neben den Fürsten Solms und Ysenburg, den Castell und Leiningen auch Prinz Emil von Hessen-Darmstadt zählte.

Kein Wunder, daß ein Großteil der Siedler aus dem Hessischen kam. Unter der Ägide des Adels- oder Texasvereins gingen 1847 auch die sogenannten „Vierziger“ aus Darmstadt auf die Reise, eine Gruppe, die Aufsehen erregte, weil ihr Kern aus jungen Beamten und Studenten aus zumeist wohlbekannten Familien der Residenz und ihres Umlandes bestand, unter ihnen der Sohn des Landtagspräsidenten Hesse, der junge Arzt Dr. Ferdinand von Herr, Forstkandidat Hermann Spieß und der mit der Fertigstellung der Main-Neckar-Eisenbahn arbeitslos gewordene Ingenieur Gustav Schleicher.

Schleicher, der Sohn eines Darmstädter Hofschlagers, machte nach dem vorhersehbaren Scheitern der ideal-kommunistischen Kolonie „Bettina“ als staatlicher Landvermesser Karriere, baute auch in Texas Eisenbahnen, wurde Herausgeber der deutschsprachigen „Texas-Staatszeitung“, Staats-Senator, Hauptmann einer Pionierkompanie in der Südstaaten-Armee des Bürgerkrieges und schließlich Kongreß-Abgeordneter in Washington. Einer der deutsch-texanischen



DIE HISTORISCHE „VEREINS KIRCHE“ in Fredericksburg (Texas) wurde 1847 als erstes öffentliches Gebäude von deutschen Siedlern errichtet. Die Gemeinde ist stolz auf ihre Vorfahren – und erinnert Besucher mit Würsten (Sausages), Sauerbraten und Sauerkraut an ihre deutsche Herkunft.

Landkreise, Schleicher-Country, heißt nach dem 1879 verstorbenen Pionier, der ein Ehrengrab auf dem U.S. National Cemetery in San Antonio erhielt.

### Anders als „Dallas“

Sein Enkel Frank Crain Schleicher (75), der sich nach drei Jahrzehnten als Erdöl-Ingenieur im Dienst der texanischen Exxon in Austin zur Ruhe gesetzt hat, schrieb vor einigen Monaten ans Hessische Staatsarchiv Darmstadt, um Näheres über die Herkunft seiner Familie zu erfahren. Dank für die Auskunft war die Einladung an den Darmstädter Staatsarchivar, ihn anlässlich der geplanten internationalen Archivkonferenz in der Lyndon-B.-Johnson-Library zu besuchen.

Schon die Fahrten durch das grüne „Hill Country“, das an Spanien oder Südfrankreich erinnert, paßten nicht recht zu den von „Dallas“ geprägten Texas-Vorstellungen, machten verständlich, daß sich die deutschen Siedler in diesem Land mit Wäldern und Flüssen, an dessen Wiesenrändern zwischen den Rinderherden auch mal ein Rudel Hirsche weidet,

durchaus wohl fühlen konnten, auch wenn man mit den hier beheimateten Comanchen anfangs einigen Ärger hatte.

Der besondere Reiz für den Historiker, der in den Quellen des Darmstädter Archivs immer wieder nach der Herkunft hessischer Amerika-Auswanderer forschte, war jedoch die Begegnung mit deren Nachkommen, die, zumindest in der älteren Generation, noch gern und fließend Deutsch sprechen.

### „German Heritage“

Vor allem in New Braunfels und Fredericksburg wird das Ortsbild der Besiedlungszeit, die relativ große Zahl nach Fachwerkart errichteter Holzhäuser aus dem 19. Jahrhundert, das, was sich an „Heritage“, an Erinnerungsgut der historischen Anfänge erhalten hat, sorgfältig gepflegt. Doch zu Heimweh nach Deutschland gibt es trotz der von der German Texas Society nostalgisch gepflegten Tradition keinen Grund. Aber Frank C. Schleicher wird wohl demnächst einmal einen Gegenbesuch in Darmstadt machen, um sich das bisher unbekannte „Fatherland“ anzuschauen.

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| Member              | Researching Families | Tex. County Settled | Religion                    |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Ruth Ann Schultze   | Schultze             | Comal               | Lutheran                    |
| Star Rt. Box 74     | Weiters              | Comal or Guadalupe  | Lutheran (?)                |
| Poteet, Texas 78065 | Hoffmann             | Comal & Guadalupe   | Lutheran                    |
|                     | Weil                 | Comal               | (?)                         |
|                     | Wetz                 | Comal               | (?)                         |
|                     | Schulz               | Comal or Guadalupe  | Lutheran (?)                |
|                     | Rudeloff             | Guadalupe           | Lutheran                    |
|                     | Haeker               | Guadalupe           | Lutheran                    |
|                     | Schumacher           | Guadalupe           | Lutheran                    |
|                     | Schultz              | Guadalupe or Comal  | (?)                         |
|                     | Borgfeld             | Guadalupe or Comal  | (?)                         |
|                     | Schaefer             | Guadalupe           | (?) United Church of Christ |
|                     | Jung                 | Guadalupe           | United Church of Christ     |

#### IRON CROSSES IN TEXAS GRAVEYARDS?

Would any members be able to help us locate metal graveyard markers in, primarily, Catholic? cemeteries of Texas? Historically, these markers have been found in cemeteries in the Dakotas, Canada, and Kansas and are characterized by an individualized construction, being made entirely of iron, hand-wrought, and placed as markers on graves.

Generally there are two types of iron crosses, those cast commercially and found in many cemeteries such as the old St. Louis Cemetery in Castroville, and those hand-wrought, forged iron crosses as might be found in, say St. Mary's Cemetery in Plantersville. It is the latter type which concerns our research. Where are others located? Who were the persons who fashioned the crosses, what ethnic people used them? Are there other cemeteries containing examples of these hand-wrought iron crosses?

Please contact: Lewis R. or Dona Reeves Marquardt, Route 2, Box 239A, Buda, Texas 78610

All back issues of the Newsletter are still available to members at \$2.50 per copy. We also still have a splendid supply of Roemer's TEXAS, at \$15.95 plus tax and \$2.00 postage and handling. Your membership editor would like to work down the inventory of these publications to make room in her closets for things like clothes, linens, and other things that they were designed to hold.

\*\*\*\*\*

"Das goldene Horn"



Marjorie Von Rosenberg. Max and Martha: The Twins of Fredericksburg/  
Max und Martha: Die Zwillinge aus Fredericksburg. Trans. by Gerda Neel.  
Austin: Eakin, 1986. [56pp.]

This attractive bilingual novel will appeal to children, parents, and grandparents alike. Max and Martha follows two children of the Fredericksburg landscape artist Hermann Lungkwitz through a number of New World adventures. Learning to see the Texas frontier through the eyes of their father and their uncle, Richard Petri, the twins discover log cabins and farms and Indians. Their explorations reveal squirrels, fawns, and bears. They learn too that all is not what it seems. Along with adventure, they find danger in the wilderness. But in the end, the twins understand that hardships and dangers are softened by little pleasures if one can train the eye to find the nice things. And if one has a magic horn.

Facing German translations by Gerda Neel invite young readers to learn more and more German every time they enjoy the story and its pleasant drawings. Each pair of pages presents a miniature story, English on the left and German on the right. The pictures help reinforce new vocabulary. A little glossary at the end may assist somewhat with a few difficult pronunciations, but most young readers will look right past the glossary on the left to the delightful facing picture of a big, bad, brown bear trying to steal honey from a tree and about to get stung badly by a swarm of bees.

Marjorie von Rosenberg wrote the story and drew the illustrations. Gerda Neel is a professor of German at Southern Methodist University.

Glen E. Lich, Schreiner College





## ESSAY COMPETITION - 98 -

THE ELLIS COUNTY VOLGA GERMAN ASSOCIATION, IN COOPERATION WITH THE ETHNIC HERITAGE STUDIES PROJECT IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AT FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE AN ANNUAL ESSAY COMPETITION OPEN TO HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS, TO COLLEGE FACULTY, AND TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

THE PURPOSE OF THE ESSAY COMPETITION IS TO ENCOURAGE RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION ON ANY ASPECT OF THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA WHO SETTLED IN WESTERN KANSAS.

### CATEGORIES AND AWARDS

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| I. HIGH SCHOOL AND UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGE STUDENTS: | \$100 |
| II. GRADUATE STUDENTS:                             | \$100 |
| III. COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY FACULTY:               | \$200 |
| IV. GENERAL PUBLIC:                                | \$200 |

ONLY UNPUBLISHED MANUSCRIPTS WITH CURRENT RESEARCH WILL BE ACCEPTED. COPIES OF THE ESSAYS SUBMITTED WILL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE ELLIS COUNTY VOLGA GERMAN ASSOCIATION AND WILL BE DEPOSITED IN THE ARCHIVES OF THE ETHNIC STUDIES COLLECTION AT FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY. ESSAYS MUST REFLECT ACCEPTABLE STANDARDS OF SCHOLARSHIP AND SHOULD BE NO LONGER THAN TWENTY PAGES OF TEXT.

THE NAMES OF THE WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE OPENING CEREMONIES OF THE ANNUAL OKTOBERFEST. EACH WINNER WILL BE PRESENTED WITH A PLAQUE AT THE TIME IN ADDITION TO THE CASH AWARD. ALL PARTICIPANTS IN THE COMPETITION WILL RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION.

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE SUBMITTED IN TIME TO REACH THE AWARDS SELECTION COMMITTEE BY SEPTEMBER 1, 1986. PLEASE INDICATE ON YOUR ENTRY YOUR INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION (IF ANY) AND THE CATEGORY UNDER WHICH YOU ARE ENTERING.

DR. HELMUT J. SCHMELLER, DIRECTOR  
ETHNIC HERITAGE STUDIES  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY  
HAYS, KANSAS 67601-4099

DALLAS MORNING NEWS - SUNDAY, JUN. 12, 1986

# Comfort remembers cost of Union loyalty

By David McLemore  
Staff Writer of The News

COMFORT, Texas — At dusk, the monument seems to soak up the dying light. Its white limestone shines with a pale glow, the way ghosts should.

Even in daylight, the carved inscription is barely decipherable. "Treue der Union." The folks in Comfort know exactly what that means. True to the Union.

The monument, a memorial to 68 German immigrants massacred by Confederate militia in 1862 because of their Union loyalties, is the only pro-Union monument standing in the old Confederacy.

To the people of Comfort, it's more than a memorial to dark times in a long-ago war. The monument is also a reminder of the price of freedom and individuality.

"It's an oversimplification to say it's only a Union-Confederate thing," said Gregory Krauter, president of the Comfort Heritage Foundation. "Around here, we don't really like people telling us what to do. That's what it amounted to back then, too."

Comfort nestles pleasantly along the Guadalupe River in the Hill Country about 50 miles northwest of San Antonio. It was settled

## TEXAS 150

in 1854 during the rush of German immigration that swept Central Texas following statehood.

Today, you'll hear as much German as Texas drawl. Comfort residents never bothered to incorporate as a city. So there are no city limit signs or city government. Comfort's 1,200 residents like it that way.

"There's always been an attitude of helping ourselves," said Krauter, whose family goes back six generations in Comfort. "We don't like to depend on government. When something needs to get done in town, the people raise the money and do it themselves."

The Unionist monument is a case in point. Seven years ago, the residents formed a group to preserve the monument. They hired specialists to run tests on how best to halt the cracks and erosion that threaten to destroy the 18-foot monument.

"No one's been able to say exactly what should be done," Krauter said. "The limestone soaks up water and that's what

does the damage. We've been told that total restoration will cost between \$60,000 and \$80,000."

The foundation has raised about \$11,000 so far. "We've gotten some donations from German-American groups in New York, but most of it comes from right here. So we just work on it a bit at a time."

Like most Comfort residents, Krauter knows the story of the monument by heart. The German immigrants had fled their homelands for the freedoms offered by the United States. Most had been in the country only a few years when the Civil War erupted in 1861. The Germans largely chose to stay neutral. But many joined the Union Loyal League, forming into paramilitary units, vowing never to take up arms against the Union.

The Confederate government of Texas considered them traitors. In 1862, the government declared five counties in the Hill Country "in open rebellion" and declared martial law. Residents were ordered to sign a pledge of allegiance to the Confederacy or leave the state.

Capt. James Duff was assigned to enforce the order. He did so by burning out immigrants considered disloyal. Duff reportedly lynched 150 people.

In July 1862, about 68 men, mostly German and all under 35, fled the Hill Country for Mexico. On Aug. 10, 1862, as the Germans

camped near the Nueces River in Kinney County, they were attacked by Duff and a force of about 150 militiamen.

In an hours-long fire fight, the Germans were routed, losing 19 dead and nine wounded. The Confederates later shot the wounded Germans. Survivors of the massacre scattered, chased by the Confederates. In October, another 18 were killed as they attempted to cross the Rio Grande.

The Confederates left the bodies where they fell. When word of the massacre reached the Hill Country communities, families were fearful of retrieving the remains. In 1865, 17 men traveled to the battlefields along the Nueces and Rio Grande, collecting what bones they could find and returned them to Comfort for burial in a mass grave.

On Aug. 10, 1866, the monument was erected in memory of the 36 who died. Their names were inscribed on three sides. On the fourth was carved "Treue der Union."

Krauter said, "That monument means a lot to us. The descendants of the dead still live here. My great-great-grandfather was one of those who traveled to retrieve the bones.

"But it's not just about family. It's also a symbol of human freedom and the right to individuality. That's the story behind this whole country, isn't it?"

The Comfort Heritage Foundation has grown out of an organization which was originally founded to restore, maintain, and assure the preservation of the Nueces 'Treue der Union' Monument in Comfort, Texas. The monument commemorates a significant part of the history of Texas and German-Texans. In addition to this being the Texas Sesquicentennial, it will also be the 120th Anniversary of the monument's original dedication on August 10, 1986, at which time the Foundation will hold a rededication ceremony at its site in Comfort. This will be an officially sanctioned Comfort Sesquicentennial event.

I would like to solicit the assistance of your organization with respect to publicizing the history of the monument, in general, and our upcoming rededication ceremony, in particular. We would greatly appreciate any effort on your behalf in this matter, especially with respect to the GTHS Spring Newsletter or any other pertinent GTHS publications. Also, The Comfort Heritage Foundation is going to have to raise an estimated \$60,000 to \$80,000 to have the Nueces Monument properly restored. We already have approximately \$12,000 in our restoration fund; however, it is going to be very difficult raising the entire amount in our community alone. Comfort has a population of about 1,200 persons only. Therefore, publicity will also be required to achieve our necessary monetary goal.

Gregory J. Krauter - President  
The Comfort Heritage Foundation  
P.O. Box 433, Comfort, Texas 78013

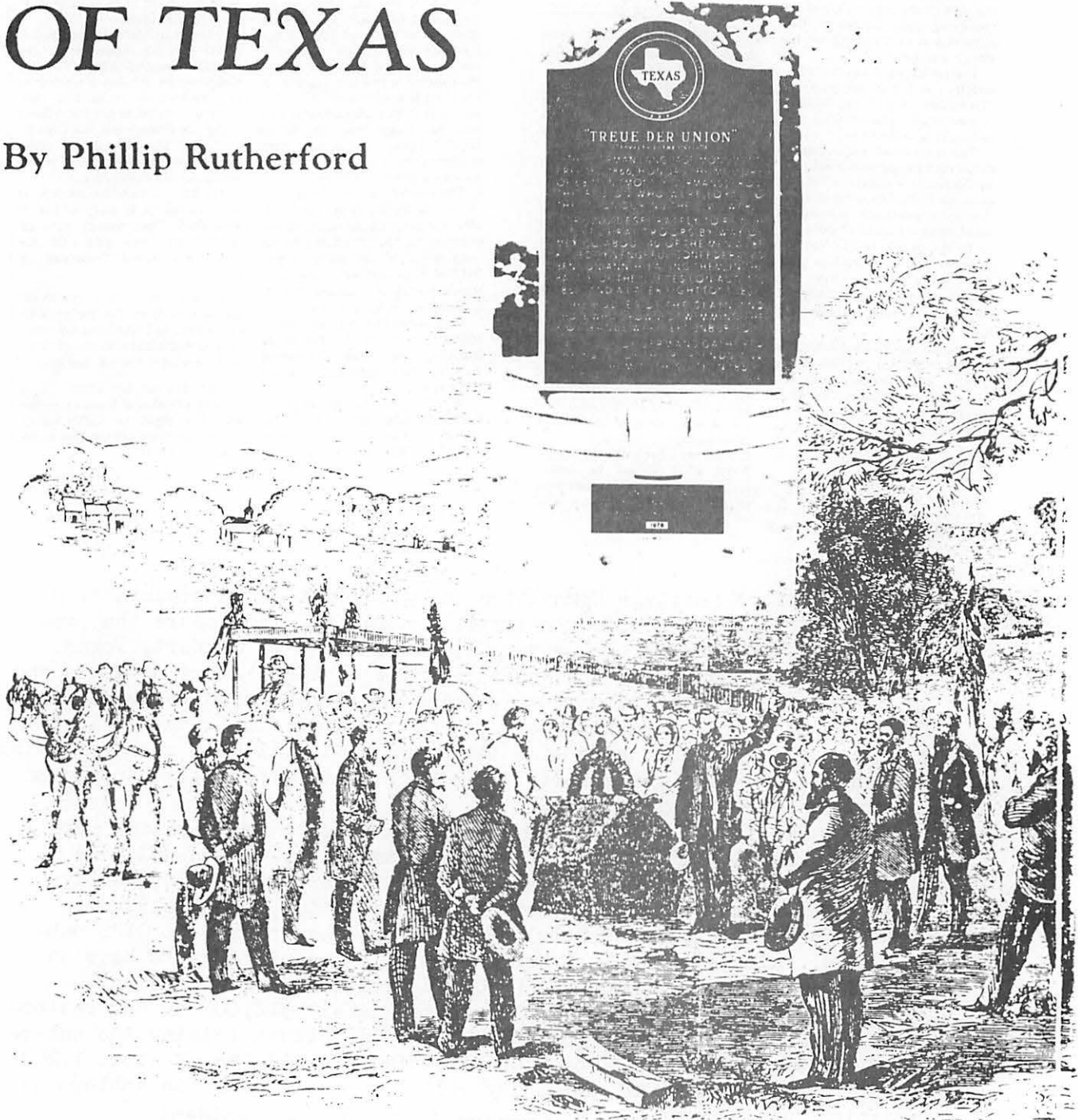
# German Immigrants Died At the Battle of The Nueces

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## DEFYING THE STATE OF TEXAS

By Phillip Rutherford

Harper's Weekly, January 20, 1866



Funeral of German patriots at Comfort, Texas, August 20, 1865. This was a re-burial of the men killed in the Battle of the Nueces



**B**y the summer of 1862 Confederate authorities considered Texas Germans a serious threat to the government. They had failed every test of Southern loyalty: They had opposed secession and tried to sabotage the war effort; they had openly refused to join the Confederate Army and left the state in wholesale lots to fight for the Union; they had opposed slavery and had no real concept of state loyalty, as they felt that the Federal Government, not Texas or the South, had furnished them with the peace and freedom they had sought when they left Germany. Just as important, they were foreigners and "different," a group of whites who should have been exactly like all the other Texas whites, but who, instead, persisted in speaking a different language, holding different beliefs, and retaining a different culture.

If it had been only a matter of disaffection among a minority population, the

problem would have been comparatively insignificant. But the Germans comprised the majority of the inhabitants in much of central Texas and were one of the largest foreign groups in the South. If they rebelled, it could spell disaster. They could take over central Texas, link up with the unionists of north Texas, and pave the way for a successful invasion by the Federal armies in Kansas and Missouri. Texas would be wrenched from the Confederacy, its men and material removed from the war, and the hard-pressed Rebels faced with a major front in the West. As these were nightmares too frightening to be dreamed, the authorities had to keep a mailed fist poised to strike at the first sign of serious trouble—and that trouble was not long in coming.

In June 1861 eighteen representatives from the German counties had met on Bear Creek near Fredericksburg, a hotbed of unionist activity, and formed the Union Loyal League, resolving never to bear arms against the Union, to protect the area against Indian and outlaw depredations, and to prevent strife between Union and Confederate partisans. Each man at the meeting was designated a committee of one to recruit new members for the league from among his friends.

Because of the rampant disaffection throughout the state, but especially among the Germans, and because he had been so urged by ranking military officers who feared the German time bomb, Brigadier General Paul O. Hébert, commander of the Department of Texas, declared the entire state under martial law on May 30, 1862. Having advance warning of the general order, commanders and their units had been sent into the most troublesome areas to read and enforce the decree, one of the most salient features of which was aimed directly at the Germans:

And such as claim to be aliens shall be sworn to the effect that they will abide by and maintain the laws of this State and the Confederate States so long as they are permitted to reside therein, and that they will not convey to our enemies any information whatever or do any act injurious to the Confederate States or beneficial to the United States.

Captain James Duff, commanding a company of Texas Partisan Rangers, departed San Antonio on May 28 and arrived in Fredericksburg on the 30th the day the order took effect. There he read the proclamation, which basically ordered all males over 16 to appear and take oaths of allegiance to the governments of Texas and the Confederacy or be treated as traitors to be dealt with at the discretion of the local commander. Many did come in to take the oaths, but others repaired to the hills rather than submit. A few days after their arrival, elements of the company were detailed throughout the German counties, where they enforced the

decree and arrested prominent unionists. On June 21 Duff returned to San Antonio and filed a report of his successful foray. (From all reports Duff, a Scotsman, was totally unsuited for officer duty. R. H. Williams, a ranger in his command and a native Englishman, had a rather low opinion of his commander, a sentiment shared by many of his contemporaries:

I . . . served under him and found him to be not only the scheming rascal . . . but as cowardly, cold blooded a murderer as I had ever met even in the roaring days of the Kansas "War" . . . he exercised powers to their fullest extent, committing atrocities that even his superiors in San Antonio would not have sanctioned

Prior to the war, Duff had joined the U.S. Army, been courtmartialled for some serious offense, and dishonorably discharged. Somehow he ended up in San Antonio as a merchant and, by raising a ranger unit, had received his commission.)

**M**artial law, instead of pacifying the Germans, only antagonized them. On July 4, 1862, the Union Loyal League held another meeting on Bear Creek, this time attended by over 500 men. They organized themselves into three military companies under the commands of Jacob Kuechler (a former commander of a unit of state forces who had been dismissed by the governor for disloyalty), E. Kramer, and Henry Hartman. Fritz Tegener was elected major and given overall command of the battalion. An advisory board was established, consisting of Tegener, the company officers, and notable civilians. At the end of the day the board met and dispersed the companies to await future developments. Very shortly thereafter a number of the officers and men left Texas for New Orleans, where they joined the Federal Army.

A little later the league discovered a spy in its midst, a man named Steward, and at one of its meetings lots were drawn to see who would eliminate the traitor. Not long afterwards he was found dead.

Because of the immediate resurgence of unionist activity so soon after the pacification, the killing of a Confederate informer, and the rumor of 1500 well-armed German "bushwackers" in the mountains terrorizing loyal citizens and intending to fight their way north to join the Federal forces in Kansas, Brigadier General Hamilton P. Bee, commander of the Military District of the Rio Grande, declared the German country of central Texas to be in open rebellion. He appointed Duff provost marshal of the area with orders to re-declare martial law, require the citizens to return to their homes and take an oath of allegiance, break up any military depots or encampments, and send the families of traitorous Germans into the settlements so that they could not





aid the Rebels. To enforce the proclamation, he placed under Duff's orders four companies of the 2d Texas Mounted Rifles under the command of Captain John Donelson.

Duff and his unit left San Antonio on May 19 and rode to an encampment on the Pedernales River, about fifteen miles west of Fredericksburg, where he read the new proclamation giving the Germans only three days to come in for the oath or be treated as traitors. Few appeared, as they probably had not even heard of the decree. Near the expiration of the deadline a rumor circulated in the camp that Duff wanted no prisoners taken when the soldiers began to go out on patrol. A number of the troops voiced objection to this and then noticed that they were never included in the raiding parties, which almost always came in empty-handed and very reticent to talk about their work. It was later learned that they destroyed crops, burned homes, and lynched over twenty Germans during this period.

Major Tegener, learning of Duff's second arrival and fearing real trouble this time, called an emergency meeting of the advisory board of the battalion. After debate they concluded the wisest course of action would be to disband the unit as a sign to the Confederates that they intended no hostile action. But further, they decided to spread the word among the membership that all unionists unwilling to submit to Confederate authority should meet Major Tegener on Turtle Creek, eighteen miles from Kerrville, on August 1. There they would organize to leave Texas for Mexico, where they would take passage for New Orleans and enlist in the Union Army.

About eighty men met at the designated spot, and sixty of them, all under 35 years of age and most well armed with pistols and German-made rifles, left that afternoon under the command of Major Tegener, with John W. Sansom, an Anglo and a unionist, as their guide. They planned to ride to the point where Devil's River joins the Rio Grande and cross into Mexico there.

Captain Duff, learning of the departure of the Germans from a traitor, Charles Bergmann, dispatched a force of ninety-four men after them—detachments from the Texas Partisan Rangers, the 2d Texas Mounted Rifles, Captain Davis' State Troops, and Taylor's Battalion, all under the command of Lieutenant C.D. McRae.

The Germans, not knowing that they were followed, rode easy, making only about 15 miles per day. They dallied, hunting the abundant game, robbing wild bee hives, and taking occasional target practice, oblivious to McRae's detachment, which relentlessly pursued them. On August 8, they were joined by four Anglos and a Mexican, Pablo Diaz, who

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R.H. Williams, author of one of the source books used in preparing this article, in Texas Partisan Ranger uniform (1863)

were also making their escape to Mexico. Their force now numbered sixty-five men.

McRae had been on their trail since August 3. On August 5, he ordered the men to draw provisions from the supply wagon, as he was sending it back because it slowed them. On August 6, they located a cold campsite, but the pursuit grew warmer. Although delayed by rough country on the seventh the Confederates drew ever closer to the Germans and found where they had been joined by another group. The Southerners now judged the German contingent to be about 150 men, much higher than the reality, but they were no doubt confused by the eighty packhorses the Germans had with them. On the eighth a warm campfire and the remnants of a meal were found. On August 9, yet another fresh campsite was discovered, and later in the afternoon the Germans were spotted.

Tegener's group had reached the waters of the Nueces River on the morning of the ninth, only a day's ride from the Rio Grande, and immediately made camp. They chose a strategically poor site in a cedarbrake, where there was no underbrush to obstruct the breeze, about 150 yards west of the river. Believing no one was after them, they chose the camp for comfort and protection from the sweltering Texas sun, not defense. Some of the men were strongly opposed to wasting the day with Mexico and safety so near, some so much so that they threatened to

abandon the group and strike out on their own but were dissuaded by Tegener. He insisted that their fears were groundless, as the authorities probably had not even heard that they had left, and even if they had, they certainly could not know the route that they had taken. Little did he realize that they had already been sighted, and at that moment the Confederate commander was laying plans for an attack.

Near sunset the men felt uneasy. A returning hunting party reported seeing a group of mounted strangers nearby who tried to conceal themselves when they realized that they had been discovered. But about the time of the report another hunting party returned and, when told the news, laughingly said that they were the mounted men the others had seen. (Later, it was discovered that a third group had also seen mounted men on whom they intended to report, but due to the kidding that the first party was taking, they kept the information to themselves). This allayed their fears, but unfortunately, no one tried to check out any discrepancies in the stories. As the evening wore on, they cooked the game that they had killed, and horseplay around the campfire began. Tiring of this, for the entertainment of their compatriots, some of them began to make speeches on such subjects as "Refugeeing in Mexico," "Fatherland," and "Civil War." Major Tegener gave a running translation for the benefit of the non-German-speaking Anglos.

Later that night, the Anglo guide Sansom became especially nervous and called Major Tegener aside, saying, as he later reported the conversation in his account of the battle, "Are you entirely satisfied, Major, that our boys saw no strangers around this evening?"

"Of course I am," he replied. "Why do you ask me?"

"Because I fear they did see strangers, and if they did, it means harm to us." Sansom further suggested that he be put on guard duty that night, but Tegener protested that he already had picked the guards, and there was no need of Sansom's help. Sansom still insisted, and Tegener finally agreed for him to be called at 2:00 a.m. Sansom then said, "Major, you can, if you will, get ready and leave here in thirty minutes. The moon is shining, and the night air will give us cool traveling. Suppose you pull right out from here and cross over into Mexico before halting again." His suggestions discomfited Tegener to the point that he said he would check with some of the men and get their opinion. He approached two of the other leaders, but they felt that all should remain in camp until morning. But they did agree that once they hit the trail on the morrow that they would not stop until they reached Mexico. Later that night the guards were posted, but more to look after the horses than for protection.

When the Germans had been discovered earlier in the day, Lieutenant McRae hid his men in a canyon about two and a half miles away, made a careful reconnaissance of the German encampment with three of his lieutenants, and planned to attack at daybreak. At 11:00 p.m. he had his men up for a final inspection. Their arms, mostly Sharps carbines, were checked, their hats were discarded and handkerchiefs tied around their heads for better identification in the dark; and they were told to observe strict silence and to try to capture the guards without shooting. At daybreak, McRae would fire a signal shot, and they would attack.

About 1:00 a.m. they marched off to within 300 yards of the German camp, where they divided into two equal groups, one under the command of Lieutenant Homsley, to attack on the right from the edge of a dense cedarbrake about 50 yards from the enemy, and the other under McRae, who would attack on the left from another cedarbrake about 40 yards away. After quietly crossing the knee-deep Nueces and reaching their objectives without detection, they waited impatiently for daylight.

The German camp, expecting no trouble, had settled down peacefully for the night. Sansom was not called at 2:00 a.m. as he had requested, but was aroused about an hour later by the guard, Leopold Bauer. They were walking into

a thick cedarbrake, Sansom about 25 feet behind Bauer, when Bauer nearly stepped on Confederate Lieutenant Harbour, who instantly shot him. Sansom fired back and ran for camp. The shots alerted the Germans, who scrambled for their guns and, taking advantage of what poor cover they could find, fired into the Confederate positions as the Southerners shot back. In the first moments Ernest Beseler, the other guard, was killed when he hailed the Confederates, no doubt thinking that they were his compatriots. One of the partisan rangers ran out and brought in the dead man's guns, a Colt pistol and a jaeger rifle. Immediately the Confederates charged the camp, but were repulsed by furious volleys. A countercharge made by the Germans also failed.

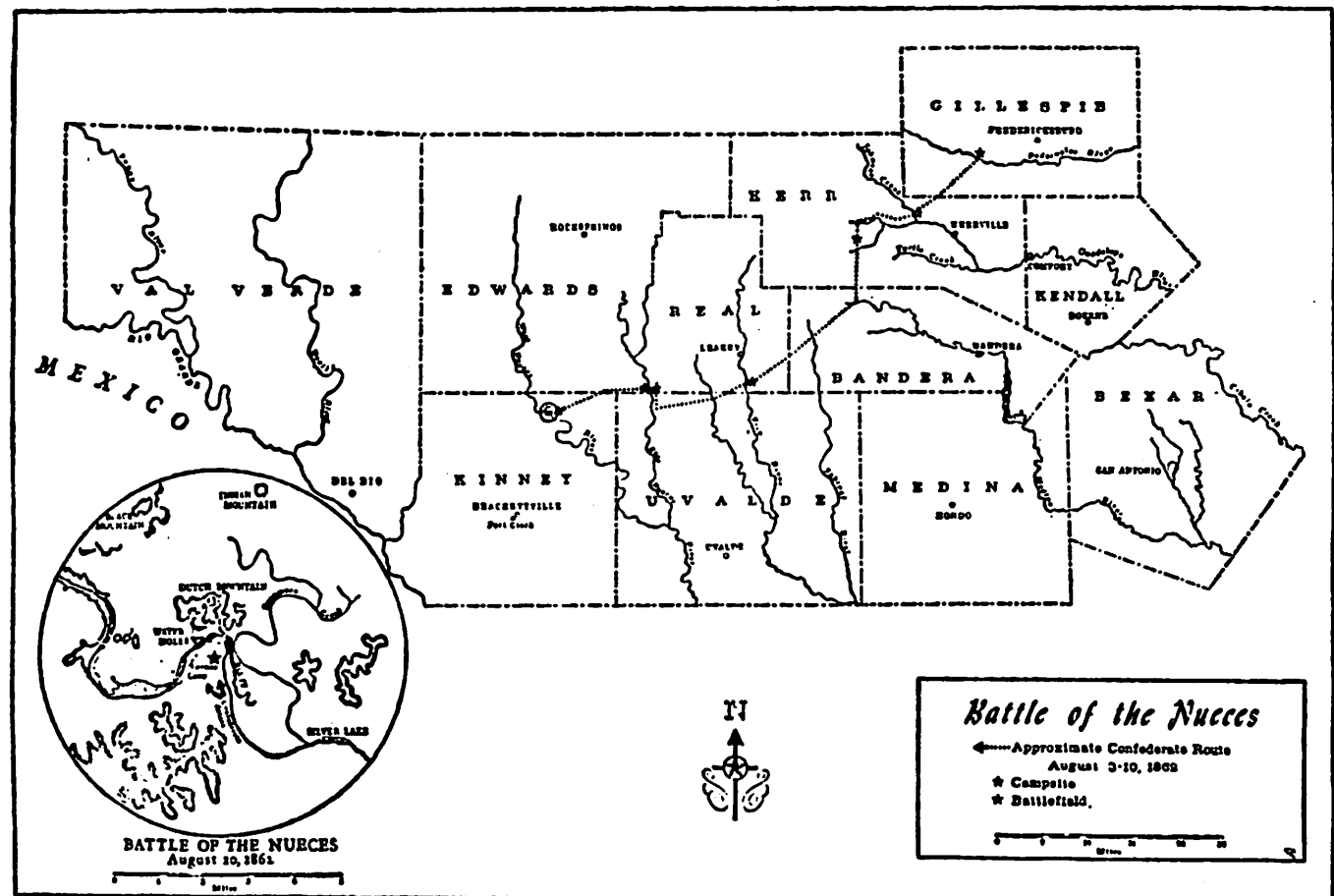
The firing from both sides had been effective in the first skirmish. Among the Germans, in addition to the two guards killed, Major Tegener and two others were seriously wounded. From Ranger Williams' party, the attackers lost one man with bullets in his arm and both thighs. Also, when seven of the Confederates tried to work themselves closer to the German line, the firing became so furious that four of the party were hit, one through the head. The three survivors quickly retired.

As Sansom tried to regain the German camp, he was mistaken for the enemy and fired upon, one of the shots grazing

A native of Paris, Texas, now living as an expatriate in Gorham, Maine, Phillip Rutherford wrote "The Great Gainesville Hanging," which appeared in our April issue. For further reading on the German troubles in Texas he suggests *With The Border Ruffians*, by R.H. Williams, *A Hundred Years of Comfort in Texas*, by Guido Ransleben, and the *Official Records*

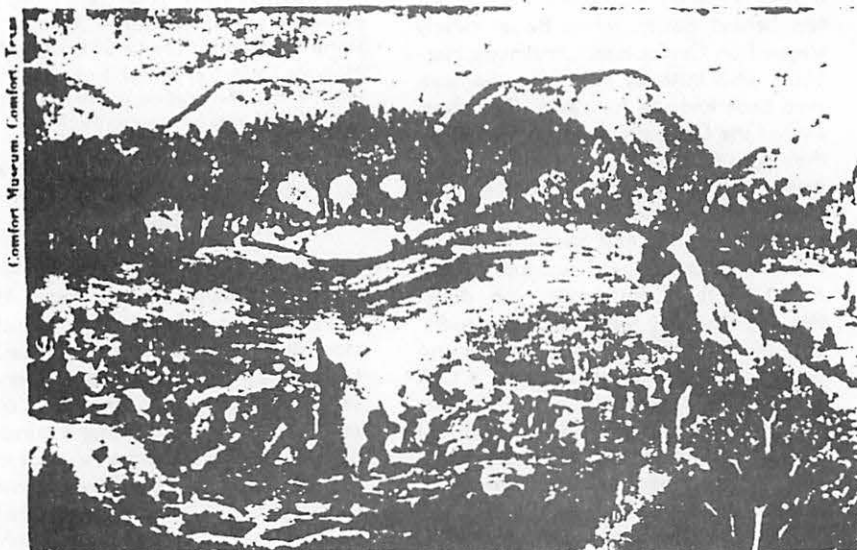
his stomach and another knocking a piece of flesh from his little finger. He hit the rocky, west Texas ground and decided that he would be of most value to his friends if he could make a reconnaissance of the enemy lines. He circled around to their rear, getting a good idea of their numbers and position. Thinking that he had made his circle great enough to carry him beyond the flank of the enemy, he headed back through the darkness to his own lines. He immediately walked into a squad of Confederates concealed in a thick cedar grove. Noticing quickly that they were not wearing hats and had on handkerchiefs instead, he removed his hat before they spotted him and walked calmly through them. Assuming he was one of their own, they offered no challenge, and he made it back to the German camp, but not without nearly being shot again by one of his comrades.

Sansom reported his findings to the wounded and profusely bleeding Tegener.



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Comfort Museum, Comfort, Texas

Battle at the Nueces, painted by C.H. Clauss in 1888

who was lying on the ground with his saddle as a flimsy and inadequate breastwork, and advised a withdrawal to more easily protected ground. Tegener seemed to indicate that he thought the idea a good one, and Sansom went back to his messmates, telling them that he thought that the officers had determined to withdraw. As Sansom later remembered a lieutenant exclaimed, "Withdraw? Never! Our two guards have been killed, Major Tegener and two other of our comrades have been wounded, and if we leave here, they will get our horses, our rations, and all our equipage! I would rather fight here until every man is killed than to go anywhere else!"

Sansom said that he replied, "they outnumber us greatly; they have a much better position than we. For these reasons we ought to withdraw. In the shuffle and excitement of going from one place to another, we may get their horses and equipment in exchange for those we may lose. I am in favor of retirement from our present position, so am going to carry my saddle with me and look out the safest route for our withdrawal." The Anglos agreed with Sansom, and the five of them withdrew to the place where Bauer now lay dead. There, they covered him with a Confederate blanket they found on the ground.

Sansom, looking back to the camp but seeing no movement indicating that the Germans were retreating, stated that he said to his comrades, "Well, boys, they have not yet made up their minds to withdraw, but may later, so let's tie up some of these horses back in the cedars where the boys can easily get them." By this time it was nearly daylight, and the firing started again. Sansom and his friends worked their way around behind the Confederates, planning to take them in the rear, when four of their five guns misfired in the first attempted volley. As they tried to clear their guns of the bad powder, the

Confederates made a charge on the camp, but were driven back in disorder. They were on the verge of breaking and running when Lieutenant Harbour, it is reported, rallied them with, "They are giving way boys! Come on! Charge!"

In the final fight the command of the Germans had developed on Emil Schreiner, who cried out at the last, as one of the survivors remembered, "Laszt uns unser Leben so teuer wie möglich verkaufen! (Let us sell our lives as dearly as we can!)" Another veteran recalled a voice from the Confederate lines answering, "Charge them, boys! Charge them! Give them hell!" And the Confederates finally began overrunning the Germans about daylight.

When it was evident that they could not hold back the Confederates, it was



Sansom, The Battle of Nueces

John W. Sansom

every man for himself. The camp defenders were quickly reduced to six able-bodied men who took the walking wounded with them to Sycamore Creek, about a half-mile away. A few Germans who had run out of ammunition retreated across an open area and up a hill. They hid in the brush near the river and went down in pairs to get water. There they found a man who they first thought was one of the enemy with only his nose above the surface, but he proved to be one of their own, shot through the arm and breast. They dragged him out, doctored him as best they could, and finally were forced to leave him to make their own escape.

Sansom and his companions, seeing Tegener and some of the others running for it, mounted the horses that they had tethered and rode off. Becoming separated from the rest, Sansom rode completely around the battlefield and ran into Confederate troops who fired on him. Crossing to the east bank of the river, he tried to hail some of the Germans he saw riding off, but mistaking him for the enemy, they eluded him. He rode up on a high bluff that overlooked the captured camp, watched the activities below until 10:00 a.m., and finally deciding that he could do no more, made his escape.

The battlefield that the Confederates had won was much like any other, with scattered equipment, dying horses, the dead and wounded lying about. In all, the Germans had lost nineteen killed, one being the Mexican Diaz, and nine wounded who were captured. The Confederate casualties were twelve killed and eight wounded, at least five of whom died shortly thereafter.

The victors initially performed some acts of kindness toward their wounded captives. Williams found a wounded German in the campfire where he had fallen upon being hit. He pulled him out and beat out his burning clothing, but the man soon died. Since there was plenty of help for the Confederate wounded, and more on the way, as Lieutenant McRae had sent to Fort Clark twenty miles away for surgeons, some of the Southerners began aiding the fallen Germans, binding their wounds, giving them water, and carrying them to the shade of the cedars. About four in the afternoon, Williams went to check on the wounded prisoners and was surprised to find them gone. When he inquired as to their whereabouts, he was told that they had been moved to better shade. A short time later, he heard firing and first assumed that the Confederates were burying their dead with military honors, but decided that the shots were too ragged for that. Thinking then that it must be a renewed attack by the Germans, he grabbed his rifle and ran toward the sound. He said in his account of the battle that he met a man who told him, "It's all done. You needn't be in a hurry. It's all done. They have shot the poor



devils and finished them off."

Williams stated that he cried incredulously. "It can't be possible they have murdered the prisoners in cold blood!"

"Oh, yes," he recalled the man replying. "they are all dead sure enough and a good job too!"

Still not believing what he had been told, he ran to the spot that the man indicated and found all nine prisoners dead, shot in the back of the head.

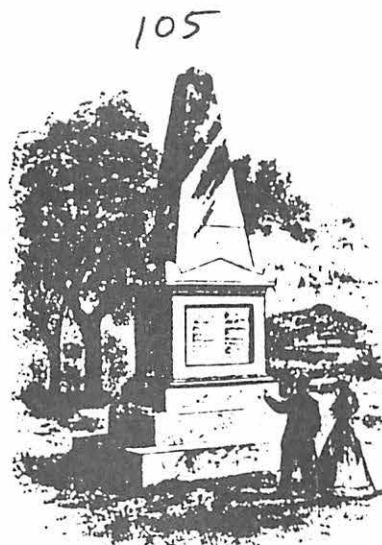
**W**illiams claimed that the responsibility for executing the prisoners lay with Lieutenant Edwin Lilly, an ex-horse trader and one time unionist turned secessionist, and that Lieutenant McRae had nothing to do with it, nor even knew about it, having been severely wounded in the battle. He further stated that when he protested the massacre to Lilly, he was assigned a day's extra duty. For such an incident to take place within a relatively small unit without its commander's knowledge, at least after the fact, is of course incredible. In his report McRae says:

They offered the most determined resistance and fought with desperation, asking no quarter whatever; hence I have no prisoners to report. . . . My officers and men all behaved with the greatest coolness and gallantry, seeming to vie with each other in deeds of daring chivalry. It would be invidious to attempt to draw any distinctions when all did their part most nobly and gloriously.

He further stated that he had captured 83 horses, 33 rifles, 13 pistols, much equipment, and provisions for 100 men for ten days.

Assistant Surgeons Downe and D.H. Brown arrived on the night of the 10th from Fort Clark and ministered to the Confederate wounded. (One source states that they arrived prior to the Germans being executed, and when they tried to help them were told, "Never mind. We will attend to them." Some later joked that so many men being shot precisely in the back of the head was "remarkable good marksmanship by Duff's men.")

Before the battlefield was evacuated on the 11th or 12th, the Confederate dead were buried in a long trench, the Germans, after their serviceable clothing had been looted, were left to rot where they lay, carrion for vultures and coyotes. Some of the men tried to persuade Lieutenant Lilly to make horse-litters for the wounded so that the traveling would be easier for them all, but he would not hear of it, and hand-litters were constructed, four men to a litter. The mounted men were to take all provisions and booty, except water for the wounded, five miles ahead where they would wait to relieve the litter-bearers. Immediately upon starting, a pack-horse carrying their weapons was spoked and took off, shedding rifle



Monument marking the re-burial grave site of the Texas Germans who died in the Battle of the Nueces

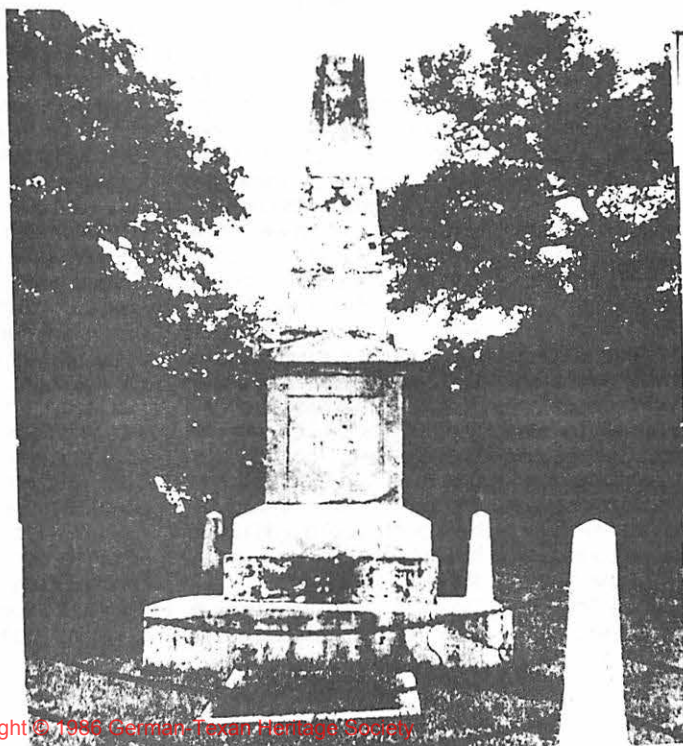
right and left. They never saw him or forty of their guns again. At the end of the 5 miles, Lilly and his men were not there. The litter-bearers were exhausted but carried on because the wounded suffered so terribly in the heat as the water had run out. They struggled to within 5 miles of the fort when they were met by four wagons detailed to pick them up. Lilly later claimed that his group became lost while searching for water, but few believed him.

**T**he German dead lay on the battlefield until August 1865, as their friends and relatives feared angering the Confederate authorities by removing them. On August 10 the bones were interred in a mass grave in Comfort, Texas. A year later on the anniversary of the battle a monument

inscribed with their names and "Treue der Union [True to the Union]" was erected over them.

The thirty-seven unionist survivors of the battle did not all fare well. On October 8, 1862, eight of them were killed by a Confederate patrol as they crossed the Rio Grande into Mexico. Nine others were hunted down soon after the battle and murdered. John Sansom, after later aiding three groups with a total of ninety-three men to escape, finally made his way to Mexico, along with ten other veterans of the battle. From there they embarked for New Orleans and served for three years in the 1st U.S. Texas Cavalry Regiment. The remaining twenty survivors spent the war in hiding near their homes, in Mexico, in far west Texas, and in California.

With the Battle of the Nueces and its disastrous outcome for the Germans, violent action against the Confederacy became rare. Duff's draconian measures in the German counties (some say over 150 men and boys were lynched during his tenure) added to the effect. But the Germans were no happier under the Southern Government and continued to resist the war in every way they could. They held protest meetings attended by hundreds; they attacked enlistment officers; they formed military units and drilled; they signed rebellious petitions; they continued to escape Texas for the United States; and many refused to serve in the Confederate Army. While it would be an exaggeration to assert that the recalcitrance and outright rebelliousness of the Germans greatly affected the prosecution of the war, they did tie down sizeable units of men for four years who could have been otherwise used profitably in the war effort.



TEXAS - EINE SATIRE

**BESSER  
NEUREICH  
ALS GAR  
KEIN GELD**

Ein echter Texaner möchte am liebsten den Petersdom und München auf einmal kaufen. Für Geld, so meinen neureiche Texaner, sei alles zu haben. Lesen Sie, was John W. Howard, der als Texaner in München lebt, dazu einfällt

Aus CARINA  
(BUNTE)

**E**s war an einem Tag wie jeder andere. Billy Bob hatte sein Herz an Laura Lou verloren, weil sie schön war wie der junge Morgen. Ihre typisch texanische Villa steht auf Bluebonnet. Sie hatten das Haus in England entdeckt und Stück für Stück mit Concordes herüberfliegen lassen. Ihr Örtchen liegt in North Forty: vierzig Morgen Ökquellen. Billy Bob besitzt noch vier Morgen Grund im Herzen von New York, sucht aber einen Käufer dafür. Er spielt mit dem Gedanken, seiner süßen kleinen Maus München zu kaufen, sieht aber Transportprobleme.

Laura Lou räkelte sich in ihrem Bett. Billy Bob war schon mit einem seiner Hubschrauber nach Houston geflogen. Er wollte von der Nasa ein Space Shuttle mieten und den Halleyschen Kometen einfangen, um ihn als Eis an die Kinder im großen State Texas zu verscherbeln. Laura Lou liebte ihren Billy Bob über alles. Sie läutete. Ein nubischer Sklave brachte das Frühstück. So langsam mußte Laura Lou entscheiden, was sie heute tragen wollte. Zum Glück hatte sie fürs Styling die liebe An-

nabelle, vormals Moderedakteurin bei Rouge, ihrer Lieblingszeitschrift.

Sie läutete wieder, und Ruth, ihre Privatsekretärin, schwebte herein. Es gab aber auch immer so viel zu tun! Sie hätte den Vorsitz des Festkomitees zur 150-Jahr-Feier des Staates Texas einfach nicht übernehmen dürfen. Texas feiert das ganze Jahr 1986 seinen 150. Geburtstag. Auch Charles und Di würden zur Party kommen, und all die anderen, die auf dieser Welt wirklich etwas bedeuten. Ruth las den Terminplan für den Tag vor. Als erstes mußte sie auf einen Sprung nach Austin zu einem Treffen mit dem Komitee für Westdeutschland. Sie hatten Schwierigkeiten, einen geschlossenen Wagen aus Berlin herüberzufliegen, weiß der Himmel, wo das war und warum es ging - sicher wie immer ums Geld. Und das hatte Billy Bob ja nun wirklich in rauen Mengen. Seine Vorfahren waren Rancher gewesen. Mit Cowboys und Pferden und so. Das Beste an den alten Zeiten war, daß sie diese reizenden Stiefel, Ralph Lauren und den Western-Look möglich gemacht hatten. Billy Bob hielt immer noch Cowboys auf seiner Ranch, aber nur als Kulisse für Fernsehreportagen und Interviews.

Deutschland. Das einzige, was an Deutschland zählt,

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sind Mercedes, BMW und die Hummel-Figürchen. Man braucht nur eine Platinkreditkarte, um dort einkaufen zu gehen. Und Skilaufen. Oder war das die Schweiz? Laura Lou wußte, daß man Westdeutschland in den östlichen Teil von Texas einpassen könnte und immer noch Platz genug für Frankreich behielte. Frankreich! Das hätte Laura Lou jetzt beinahe vergessen! Am Nachmittag kam doch Claire aus Paris, um sie zu markieren. Billy Bob hatte ihr gerade einen hübschen kleinen Lear-Jet geschenkt. Er hatte ihn günstig bei Nieman-Marcus bekommen. So konnte man wirklich Zeit sparen! Dann die Tennisstunden bei Martina. Und später das Treffen mit Bruce Springsteen wegen der Unterstützung armer Menschen, Farmer, wer auch immer. Dann ein paar dringende Einkäufe.

Ruth las weiter. Abends mußte Laura Lou auf einen Empfang in Houston. Der König von Jordanien war in der Stadt, und Carolyn gab eine Party für ihn. Auf Carolyns letzter Party hatte es einen metertiefen Trog voll Beluga-Kaviar gegeben, und die Kolumnisten giffeten immer noch darüber. Damals war allerdings keiner von ihnen eingeladen gewesen. Diese Medienmenschen gehören einfach nicht dazu. Punkt. Billy Bob würde sie beim Empfang dann treffen.

Bubba, Carolyns Mann, ist Billy Bobs bester Freund. Er hat bei dem Immobilienskandal in

Houston vor zwei Jahren ein erkleckliches Sümmchen verloren, was seinen Reichtum allerdings kaum geschmälert hat. Wie sagt doch Bunker in Washington so richtig? Eine Milliarde Dollar ist auch nicht mehr das, was sie einmal war. Und Bunker muß es wissen. Es ist bestimmt kein Zuckerschlecken, heutzutage in Texas reich zu sein. Andererseits ist Geld nur ein Mittel, um mit der Zeit Schritt zu halten. Ruth steckte den Terminkalender ein und ging leise hinaus. Ein Schatz diese Ruth! Perfekt durchorganisiert.

Laura Lou ließ sich in ihre goldene Badewanne gleiten und entspannte sich. Der Chauffeur hatte den Rolls-Royce vorgefahren. Dann fuhr er noch den Mercedes vor. Laura Lou entschied so gern auf die allerletzte Sekunde, mit welchem Wagen sie zum Lear-Jet fahren wollte. Billy Bob hatte vor ein paar Jahren einen Flugplatz auf der Ranch anlegen lassen. Er war immer so lieb zu ihr. Nun aber zur Sache: Welches Make-up nehmen wir denn heute? Laura Lou beschloß, mit Billy Bob in ihr Haus auf dieser Karibik-Insel - hieß sie nicht St. James? - zu gehen. Sie mußte endlich etwas für ihre Haut tun. Das Festkomitee mußte eben einen Tag ohne sie auskommen. Texas entwickelt sich so rasant schnell von Cowboys zum Space Shuttle und Gott weiß wohin noch. Man muß schon etwas tun, um mit dieser rasanten Entwicklung Schritt halten zu können. Die Arbeit einer Frau hört eben niemals auf, schon gar nicht in Texas. Weiß Gott!



GERMAN TEXANS' GENEALOGY SECTION

Compiled by Genealogy Editor Theresa Gold, 106 Ranchland, San Antonio TX 78213

BITS AND PIECES AND NEWS

Dallas Genealogical Society announces a new event for the 1986 State Fair of Texas, a family history and genealogy exhibit and competition. For the adult (individuals only) category, materials (both published and unpublished) must be applicable to: "Life in Texas before statehood: line(s) traced through a person who was in the area now a part of Texas prior to 19 Feb 1846." Students in grades 6 through 12 may enter an essay contest on "My Family's Heritage" with emphasis on Texas heritage from any point in history (not limited to pre-statehood). For rules, judging criteria, and deadlines, send a SASE to: State Fair of Texas, Genealogy Exhibit, P. O. Box 26010, Dallas TX 75226.

Institute of Texan Cultures Among the ethnic newspapers in the ITC's microfilm holdings are: Neu-Braunfelser Zeitung, 12 Nov 1852-22 Feb 1923, 16 reels; and San Antonio Zeitung, 5 July 1853-20 Dec 1856, 1 reel. For information: P. O. Box 1226, San Antonio TX 78294.

The English Texans, 187 pages, illustrated, is now available from the Institute of Texan Cultures, Dept. AA, P. O. Box 1226, San Antonio TX 78294. Price is \$11.95 hardbound, or \$7.95 softbound, plus 5.625% tax for Texas residents, and \$1.50 shipping and handling.

History of Tom Green County (San Angelo) will be published as a project of the Tom Green Historical Commission. For information on purchase price, guidelines for submitting photos and stories, or purchasing tribute or advertising pages, send your name and address to: Tom Green Historical Publications, P. O. Box 1625, San Angelo TX 76902.

The Texas Families of Spiegelhauer and Fischer, written by descendants of German-Bohemian immigrants, was published July 1 by Gateway Press, Inc., Baltimore MD. On a framework of genealogy, the book, 288 pages, including 80 illustrations, reflects (spiegels) the lifestyles of the settlers in Southeast and Central Texas in the last half of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century. The book may be ordered for \$27.00 postpaid from Albrecht Farms, Inc., Rt 3, Box 47, Robstown TX 78380, or from GTHS member Ernest G. Fischer, 5666 Rosemary Place, New Orleans LA 70124.

Elizabeth Lehmann of Brenham recommends these books, all by Maralyn A. Wellauer:

German Immigrants to America in the Nineteenth Century: A Genealogist's Guide, \$12.00. Tracing Your Czech and Slovak Roots, \$8.50. Tracing Your Swiss Roots, \$8.50. Tracing Your Polish Roots, \$8.50. These five are available from Maralyn A. Wellauer at Roots International, 3239 North 58th St., Milwaukee WI 53216.

Elizabeth also recommends: A List of Evangelical Communities in the Province of Posen Germany as They Existed in the Decade Before World War I, compiled by Maralyn A. Wellauer (1979); and A List of Evangelical Communities in the Province of Pommern (Pomerania) Germany as They Existed Before World War I with the Postal Numbers for the Places Now Located in the DDR, also compiled by Maralyn A. Wellauer (1979).

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Genealogy, continued

From a member: "I need to locate ship and passenger lists from the Port of Galveston, 1872-1876. The lists were destroyed by flood waters in Galveston." Although we should never "give up" looking for records, there comes a time when we must be willing to admit that perhaps the records simply no longer exist. Such is the case with most of the immigration records for Galveston as well as the emigration records for Bremen. From time to time, we have written about passenger records, both U.S. and German. Look in past issues for some of these articles. The latest issue (Vol II, No 1, 1st Quarter, 1986) of German Genealogical Digest has an excellent article on the Hamburg Passenger Lists. (Did you know these are available through the LDS Genealogical Library and that you can therefore search them yourself on their microfilm?) For information on ordering the Digest, see the last issue of our GTHS Newsletter.

FROM OUR MEMBERS

The following section was compiled by your Genealogy Editor from information 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.

Another note: If you plan to submit an article for publication, please note the manuscript specifications published inside the back cover of each issue. Here they are again: We will consider only materials typed, single spaced, on 8 1/2" by 11" white paper, with only 1/4" margin on all sides. Although you see a nice margin in the final Newsletter, our printer does this for us. Remember, your typing must be almost edge-to-edge. Your Genealogy Editor and the Editor-in-Chief evaluate all materials for the readership value of both the content and the typed format.

Ernest C. Swanson 439 U.S. Court House, El Paso TX 79901 has compiled a brief history of his German ancestors, including these families: Reulecke, Hellenberg, Hagemann, Brandes, Hansen, Heinemann, Reupke, Jager, Meinecke, Botenagel, and others. The area of interest is the old Duchy of Braunschweig, primarily the area just to the west of the city of Braunschweig. He would be glad to share family group sheets and other information.

Annette M. Parker P O Box 332, Tuscola IL 61953 has traced her family back to approximately 1780 in Prussia. She is a descendant of Johann Joachim Frederick and Sophie Schulz who landed at Galveston on Dec. 16, 1867. They settled in the area originally known as Letitia. This name was later changed to Bear Creek, then to Bear Hill, and finally to Addicks. The Schulz's first daughter married William Addick, and later she married Samuel Quade. Annette is a descendant of this second marriage. She is interested in corresponding with anyone knowing of these Schulz, Quade, or Addicks families. Her family is also intermarried with the Marks family, including August Texas Marks and Emil Henry Marks of the LH-7 Ranch.

Stephen J. Flood Rt 2, Box 11, Luling TX 78648 writes that his wife's grandfather Anselm Eiband bought the Hagg School in 1868 and sold it in 1874. He became editor of the Neu-Braunfelser Zeitung in 1872, But the family has nothing positive about him before 1868.

Jacques F. Du Vinage, Jr., 3316 N. Vernon St., Arlington VA 22207 hopes a



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Genealogy, continued

member can help him trace his grandfather Jacques Pierre Du Vinage. He was born in Berlin, as was his father. Jacques believes he settled in Victoria in the early 1870s where his own father (by the same name) was born in July, 1878. From there, they went to Austin where the elder De Vinage was owner and editor of Das Wachenblatt and the city editor of Austin Dispatch for a short time. His name does not appear in the Austin city directory after 1890. He does not know where he went from there but thinks it might have been to Eagle Pass. The grandmother's name was Lucia Augusta Robson. She was from Georgia and had been married previously to a Stapp. A relative was Judge W. S. Robson of La Grange, who died in 1905. Jacques had always been told that the ancestors were Huguenot, but he has not found the name on any certified list. Also according to family legend, the elder Du Vinage spoke 14 languages.

J. P. Laux 2419 Gramercy Blvd, Houston TX 77030 is interested in the Laux and Lieberman(n) families.

Jim Reiffert 3110 Wroxton Rd., San Antonio TX 78217 wants to exchange information on the Reiffert, Tips, and Runge families.

Elinor Steinhagen Burrus 1470 Thomas Road, Beaumont TX 77706 is looking for more on John and Anna Froelich of Harris County and also the names: Schatz, Sobbe, and Steinhagen.

Walter C. Moser 8803 Valley View Lane, Houston TX 77074 submits the names Erben, Seidemann, and Moser for genealogical exchange.

Jack Wiederhold 976 E. Industry, Giddings TX 78942 is doing research on these families: Wiederhold, Grundmann, Doeckel, Weber, and Klagmann.

Annabel Traugott Offer 3253 Hillcrest #137, San Antonio TX 78201 is working on the Offer, Wenzel, and Traugott families.

Mildred B. Nelson 621 Dorothy Jo Circle, Uvalde TX 78801 is looking for more on the Zedlitz family and says she has an old document printed in "old German" and would like to get in touch with a GTHS member who could translate it for her.

Margie W. Siebold 319 Metz, San Antonio TX 78223 is researching the Siebold, Weder, and Corrolus families, while Marie A. Dover (same address) is also interested in the Siebold family plus the Stehling group.

Willie Mae Stoebner Route 1, Burlington TX 76519 has publications on family and local history. Her interest is in researching the family name and history, particularly the Stoebner and Hohertz families.

Melinda Peters 209 Bluffview, Lake Conroe Hills, Willis TX 77378 is researching her family's history, including the names Fritzler, Peters, Ehrlich, and Moelich.

Jim Ramsey P. O. Box 540, Carrollton TX 75006 is another member interested in the Von Roeder family. Would other members involved with the Von Roeders please write to him?

Katheirne Yantz Black 6214 Glencoe St., Houston TX 77087 is researching these names: Jantz/Yantz, Burkhardt, Ullrich, Spies, and others.

Charles S. Hoster 1600 S. Eads St., #134 South, Arlington VA 22202 is the

Genealogy, continued

archivist for the Hoster Family Association and he has extensive data on the family in Pennsylvania, New York, and Ohio. All are the descendants of Johann Wilhelm Hoster who arrived in the U.S. in 1741. The name is also found as Haster and Hoester. Other names of interest to him are: Bose, Breneman/Breneman, Cain, Doster, Fetrow/Fedro/ Fittro/Fitro, Fink/ Finck/ Finke, Fishel, Goldman/Goltman, Gruber, Fross, Haintz, Holte, Hummell, Keiser/Kayser/Kaiser/Kyser, Koch, Livengood/Livergood/ Livegood/Livingood, Maisenholder, Minnich/ Minniq, Nelson, Ort, Reigart/ Reighard/ Reighart, Remick, Ressler, Schneider, Schwartz, Stewart, Strohm, and Youse/Youtz/Yous/Yuntz/Utes.

Edgar L. Nolte 375 E. Camp St., New Braunfels TX 78130 is interested in exchanging information on the Nolte, Boerner, Kloepper, Dierks, Klinggemann, Ludwig, and Bartels families.

Lou Alice Chancellor Rt 3, Box 3250, Nacogdoches TX 75961 is working on the Kihholz family.

Joyce E. Cannon 1024 Huntingdon Dr., San Jose CA 95129 wishes to exchange information on the Kloth, Schellberg, Bunte, Muench, and Egel families.

Azaea Zuehl Mays 112 FM 466, Seguin TX 78155 wants more information on the Zuehl and Seidemann families.

Dianna Zimmerman 205 Ranger Drive, Buda TX 78610 says she does not have a lot of information on her families, but is interested in learning more about families named: Wittich, Bolling/Boling, Zimmerman/Zimmermann, Pilszer/ Pilsner, Brod, and Yeager.

Charles F. Grabs 3819 Southway #109, Austin TX 78704 would like to exchange information on the Grabs, Weise, Tesmer, and Burn family groups.

Florence B. Stoebner 5902 Carleen Dr., Austin TX 78731 is working on these families: Stoebner, Böcker/Boecker, Bockelman, Sitz, and Hillje.

Harvey E. Gabler 1 Parade Ct., Sacramento CA 95817 wants more information on the Gabler family as well as on these: Hermann, Klein, Ritter, and Haak.

Rev. David F. Ebert P.O. Box 815, Sealy TX 77474 is translating the early history of Trinity Lutheran Church of Sealy and is working on the genealogy of his German Texan lines: Ebert, Scholl, and Wunderlich.

Gay Inglet Langerhans 12106 Dakar, Houston TX 77065 is interested in 11 family lines: Langerhans, Jalufka, Inglet, Sivley, Dieckert, Winkler, Pauler, Roitsch, Engelmann, Opitz, and Kern.

Roy De Witz 1130 Rhine Lane, Houston TX 77090 wishes more information on the De Witz, Mergenschroer, Berg, and Behrmann families.

George H. Zeiss 109 Seton Way, Santa Cruz CA 95060 says all his ancestors were German, including these families: Zeiss, Krohne, Kling, Wangemann, Miller, and Holzman.

A FINAL WORD FOR THIS ISSUE

Your Genealogy Editor and about 15 relatives from the Hoelscher-Buxkemper and Matthiesen Families (some of them GTHS members) are making a family heritage tour of Germany in June-July. We will visit our ancestral hometowns, including churches and archives, etc., in addition to general sightseeing. By the time our GTHS meeting rolls around in September, we should be able to give you some firsthand advice on how-to-do-it.



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# Winedale group sings at San Jacinto

*Submitted by Paula Dallmeyer*

MEMMINGER ZEITUNG

Seite 27 / Samstag, 5. April 1986

## „Texasband Unterallgäu“ erhält Gegenbesuch aus den Staaten

Nach USA-Visite kommt Vertreter der „kleinsten Stadt“ Amerikas

MEMMINGEN (jk). Post aus San Antonio und Round Top/USA bekam dieser Tage Edi Mikusch, Vorsitzender der Musikkapelle Erkheim, der mit einer gemischten Gruppe Blasmusikern aus dem Unterallgäu zu Besuch in den USA wollte und bei mehreren Anlässen zu den Feierlichkeiten zum 150jährigen Geburtstag des Staates Texas aufspielte. Der Erfolg der „Bavarians“, wie die Musiker in Lederhose und Seppel-Hut genannt wurden, war umwerfend. Schon meldete sich Gegenbesuch an!

Dwight M. Nittsche aus der „winzigen“ Stadt „Round Top“ in Texas, der die Unterallgäuer während ihres Aufenthaltes in den Vereinigten Staaten betreute, schrieb nach Erkheim einen Brief, in dem er sein Kommen für den 4. September dieses Jahres ansagte. Bleiben will der amerikanische Stadtrat bis zum 24. September. Den Besuch wollen die Erkheimer natürlich gut vorbereiten, soll doch dem amerikanischen Gast der „Bavarian Way of Life“ gezeigt werden. Edi Mikusch und Erkheims Dirigent, Georg Jöchle, werden Dwight M. Nittsche in Frankfurt vom Flughafen abholen.

Zu der Stadt „Round Top“ haben die Musiker freilich eine besondere Verbindung. „Round Top“ besitzt mit seinen 87 Einwohnern nämlich als kleinster Ort der Vereinigten Staaten das Stadtrecht! Und aufgrund ihres Erfolges wurden die Musiker aus dem Unterallgäu in „Round Top“ zu Ehrenbürgern ernannt (Siehe Urkunde!). Mit den Unterallgäuern zusammen zählt „Round Top“ damit über 100 Einwohner... Überreicht wurden die Urkunden von Bürgermeister Major Robert Sterk.

Daß die Stippvisite der Musiker „Mehr als eine Tour“ war, schreibt die amerikanische Zeitung „The Slatonite“. Die Redaktion schickte den betreffenden Artikel an Vorsitzenden Edi Mikusch. Groß im Bild ist die Unterallgäuer „Musikvereinigung“ in Tracht in der Zeitung abgebildet. Am meisten freut sich Dwight M. Nittsche auf ein „gutes deutsches Bier“, wie er schreibt... Da seine Vorfahren – worauf sein Name schließen läßt – aus Deutschland stammen, kommt „Dwight“ natürlich besonders gerne über den „großen Teich“ geflogen.

## Inflation Below One Per Cent, The Lowest Since 1967

Wiesbaden (DaD) – Inflation has reached a virtually all-time low in the Federal Republic of Germany. In February the cost of living was only 0.7 per cent higher than 12 months previously, which was the lowest figure since 1967. The figure for January and February was 0.2 per cent down on January and February last year, says the Federal Statistics Office, Wiesbaden.

In 1982 inflation averaged 5.3 per cent. The Bonn government's stability policy reduced this figure to 2.2 per cent last year. In January prices were 1.3 per cent higher than last year and last month's figure was the lowest for nearly 20 years.

Stable purchasing power of the deutschemark has been boosted in recent months by plummeting oil prices and the lower exchange rate of the dollar against the mark. In January German imports were on average 9.6 per cent cheaper than the year before.

This trend is all the more encouraging for the Federal Republic in view of forecasts of three- to four-per-cent economic growth this year. So fairly sturdy economic growth seems bound to be combined with a virtual price standstill. Many people can expect their earnings after tax to be worth more this year than last, and more so than for many years. The only bad news is that unemployment is still running at well over two million.

Karl Zawadzky

By CATHY GANSKE  
Correspondent

Der Froeliche Gesang Verein, a group of German singers from the Winedale area, gave a fine performance on Stage Three at San Jacinto Park during the mammoth Texas Sesquicentennial celebration Sunday.

The group received a special invitation to perform from San Jacinto Sesquicentennial Celebration planners.

Almost 30 Winedale singers, plus several friends and family members, boarded a chartered bus Sunday morning in Round Top.

After arriving at the park, group members received special badges allowing them certain privileges throughout the day, including a free tour of the Battleship Texas.

Eddie and Rick Wegner, members of the Winedale group, served as tour guides on the battleship, pointing out items of interest not included in tour folders.

Many of the group also boarded the clipper ship Elissa for a tour prior to their performance at the DeZavala Plaza.

At 2 p.m. at the plaza, a special "Historical Remembrances Ceremony" attracted a large crowd.

Ray Miller gave the introduction and official welcome. Mrs. George P. Red, well-known by a number of

Washington County citizens, gave the invocation.

Music was provided by the South Houston High School Band.

A "black-powder" salute by members of the Texas Army, in authentic pioneer dress, fired

muskets to end the ceremony.

For their performance on stage, the Winedale singers wore their trademark costumes: vests on the men and decorative white bib aprons for the women. Dwight Nittsche, who played the accordion ac-

companiement for the group, wore "lederhosen."

Der Froeliche Gesang Verein (The Happy Singers) included 10 of their most popular German songs in their performance.

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# Monthalia Methodists Celebrate 100th

On Sunday, March 2, 1986, members of the Monthalia United Methodist Church, celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the church with a day of fellowship and worship.

The church site is located approximately 12 miles from Gonzales in the Cost area. This is the same area which received the first electric service when the Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative energized the first lines in 1940.

Former pastors, members, former members and friends of the congregation were present for the various observances on the church grounds and in the sanctuary and parish hall. Approximately 500 signed the registration lists.

The morning worship service included "A Time of Remembrance" as those present participated in "a moment to remember those who have brought us to this anniversary." This was followed by a "Celebration of Our Heritage Song." The hymn, entitled "Immer Fröhlich," was sung in German, reflecting the ancestry of the majority of the members of the congregation.

The morning message was delivered by Bishop Ernest T. Dixon, Jr., Presiding Bishop, San Antonio Area. Bishop Dixon, assisted by the Pastor, Rob McGill, also presided at the dedication of a special plaque marking the Monthalia United Methodist Church as a Methodist Historical Site. The dedication ceremony was held at the conclusion of the afternoon service.

Following the serving of a roast beef dinner at noon those attending the celebration enjoyed a time of fellowship and visiting.

Another highlight of the afternoon was the Monthalia Men's Chorus Reunion which started at 2:00 p.m.

The chorus has been an active and popular part of the congregation for approximately 75 years. During this time the men have sung at numerous area gatherings as well as in the worship services in their home church. They have also sung on several area radio stations and a record has been made by a Houston recording company.

For this special service the chorus included present and former members singing a number of hymns and gospel songs. Under the direction of Gilbert Philippus, the men were accompanied by Mrs. Estelle Froehner.

The chorus presently is made up of twelve members. The membership has reached as high as twenty-six in the past.

Dr. John Gilbert, District Superintendent, brought the afternoon meditation. Emphasizing the homecoming theme, Dr. Gilbert used several illustrations of people returning to their home. Among these was Jesus of Nazareth.

According to a history, published in conjunction with the 100th Anniversary celebration, the Monthalia Methodist Church was founded by families who began settling in the area around what became the Monthalia community in the early 1880's. The history writers, Leonard Gandre and Estelle Froehner, give the

following account:

"During the fall of 1885 and the early part of 1886, the Reverend Daniel Matthaei, pastor of the Seguin Methodist Church, came to the Monthalia community and held services in an old schoolhouse. He made this trip once a month on horseback riding a distance of approximately 3 miles. On March 12, 1886, Reverend Matthaei and Reverend Dossall, th District Superintendent, came for a visit. On March 13, 1886, the first quarterly conference was held in a schoolhouse in the Monthalia community. This meeting was of historical significance for it was during this meeting that the Monthalia congregation became organized as the Monthalia Methodist Church with seventeen charter members and one probationary member comprising the membership roll. The seventeen charter members were:

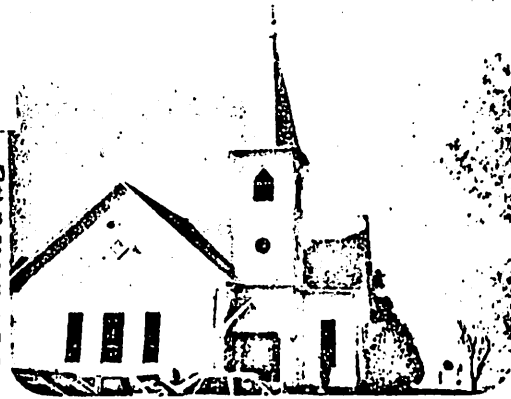
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Nagel, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Nagel, Minnie and Fredericke Nagel, August and Carl Utich, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Schultz, Mr. and Mrs. Enderly, Mr. and Mrs. Schoch, Fritz Weber, and Mr. and Mrs. William Glazer. The one probationary member was F.C. Nagel."

The history also records the completion of the first church building in 1889, and also the moving of the congregation to a new building at the present location in 1914.

Also included in this excellent compilation of church history is information concerning the pastors who have served, missionaries who have originated in the church, and the many and varied ministries of the congregation.

In addition to the history book, a commemorative plate was also prepared by the church's Historical Committee as a part of the 100th Anniversary observance.

Pastor Rob McGill and the congregation are commended for the excellent manner in which the anniversary proceedings were conducted.



Majestic spire and bell tower of the church building signifies the dedication of past and present members of the church.

## Kneipp-Bewegung feiert ihr hundertjähriges Bestehen

Die internationale Kneipp-Bewegung feiert in diesem Jahr ihr hundertjähriges Bestehen. Sie ist in 37 Staaten der Welt vertreten und hat in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland in 560 Vereinen rund 150.000 Mitglieder, erklärte der Präsident der Kneipp-Bewegung, Engelbert Memminger in München.

200.000 Bundesbürger unterziehen sich jährlich den von der Sozialversicherung anerkannten Kneipp-Kuren in 700 Kliniken, Sanatorien oder 60 staatlich anerkannten Kneipp-Heilbädern. Die Kneipp-Behandlung ist nach Ansicht von Gesundheitsexperten keine altmodische Kaltwasserbehandlung, sondern eine umfassende Physiotherapie mit den natürlichen Heilfaktoren Wärme und Kälte, Ruhe und Bewegung, sowie vollwertige Ernährung und Heilkräuter.



*Frau  
Lorede Froehner  
Windke  
(Houston)*



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Dear German-Texas Heritage Society Members:

Greetings, my name is Gerald Laubach. I am a fifth generation descendant of (John) Adam Laubach, who sailed to Texas in 1847 and settled east of New Braunfels (Geronimo near Seguin) on an eight-hundred-acre farm where a two-story house stood beside giant oak trees and spring-fed Geronimo Creek. When Adam donated six acres of land for a school, the settlement became known as "Laubach", which today has a bowling alley, dance hall, and several houses. The basement of Adam's house is still standing, along with a tool shop next to an oak tree whose trunk measures about 25 feet.

Adam had three girls and one son with his first wife from Germany (Margaret Planz or Platz). She died 12 hours after giving birth to the boy, who followed her 20 days later. Adam had four girls and two boys with his second wife from Texas (Amalia Schmidt or Schmitt). When grown up, the sons, Simon and Adam (Jr.), became interested in ranching in those "mountains" west of New Braunfels. So it happened that they both bought land in the Bulverde area. My great-grandfather, Simon, first built a log cabin, then two rock wall additions (dining room and kitchen) and finally several frame additions (hall, parlor, bedroom).

In the following years he bought more land until his ranch totalled 3,300 acres which included high wooded hills. Simon attended Anhalt dances, winning at one time a contest for having the longest beard for which he was awarded a fancy straight-edge razor.

Today, the Laubach place is next to the backside of the St. Joseph Honey Creek Church grounds. For many years, to attend Mass, our family used the old pasture road that led right up to the church. The rock used to build the church in 1909 was quarried from a ridge across the fence on Simon's land. The lumber for its roof was also furnished by him.

There is an interesting note about Simon's parents. Adam was Catholic and his second wife was Lutheran. They had an agreement that half their children would be raised as Catholics and the other half as Lutherans. Adam was quite a bit older than Amalia, and after he died, she raised the younger children as Lutherans. That is why the descendants of Simon are Catholic and the descendants of Adam (Jr.) are Lutheran.

My aunt, Mrs. Adeline (Laubach) Kuntz, wrote a booklet about our family history (includes names Offer, Kneupper and Gleitz). If there is anyone interested in it, or if you might have more information about the Laubachs, we would appreciate hearing from you. Bulverde is in Comal County and Geronimo is in Guadalupe County.

I have been looking for an old German pioneer house (any building that has the German style framing) that I could make my home. If anyone out there has one or knows of someone who does have one, I would appreciate your help. My address is Route 2, Box 2271, Bulverde, TX 78163. My telephone number is (512) 438-7792.

Have enjoyed sharing some of the Laubach history with you.

Sincerely,

Gerald Laubach

# Kleindeutschland verschwindet

## Yorkville, einst Unterschlupf der Emigranten, verwandelt sich

New York

New York hat keinen deutschen Broadway mehr — auch kein „Kleindeutschland“, von seinen Bewohnern, die zumeist aus Süddeutschland stammten, liebevoll „Deutschlände“ genannt. Der Grundstücksboom macht diesem deutschen Viertel — Yorkville — den Garaus.

Noch gibt es ein paar deutsche Restaurants dort, die Sauerbraten, Bratwurst und Knödel anpreisen. Auch einige Konditoreien haben sich zu erhalten vermocht. Und noch immer kann man in Yorkville das beste Marzipan in New York kaufen. Aber es gibt kein deutsches Theater mehr an der 86. Straße Ost, kein deutsches Kino, in dem man Filme mit Hans Albers und Willi Forst sehen könnte. Alte deutsche Filme werden jetzt nur noch an manchen Sonntagen in einer Kirche vor ausverkauftem Haus vorgeführt.

Menschen deutscher Abstammung aus anderen Stadtteilen gehen immer noch gern nach Yorkville, oft mit nostalgischen Gefühlen. Es gibt keine „Lorelei“ mehr, in der Schuhplattler tanzten und man manchmal auch einen prominenten Jazzmusiker hören konnte, keinen „Ratskeller“ und kein Kaffeehaus mit einem „Salon-Orchester“, das unter dem Beifall der Stammtische „Auch ich war einst ein Csardas-Kavalier“ spielt. Dafür sind Single Bars und Discos zum Entsetzen der Alteinwohner mit großem Getöse eingezogen.

„Kleindeutschland“ hatte sich schon seit langem gegen die Invasion von Tschechen, Slowaken und Ungarn zu wehren gehabt. Aber das deutsche Element blieb lange vorherrschend.

Yorkville, das zwar auf dem Stadtplan des Bürgermeisters im Norden von der 59. Straße bis zur 96. Straße und von der Lexington Avenue bis zum East River reicht, hat längst in Wirklichkeit an „Lebensraum“ verloren. Im Süden und Westen des Viertels entstanden riesige, elegante Hochhäuser. Deren wohlhabende Bewohner würden die Nase rümpfen, sagte man ihnen, daß ihre Appartements in Yorkville liegen. Das wahre Yorkville verzog sich zur 86. Straße, zum „Deutschen Broadway“ (seit „Manna-hatta“ begann, wuchs es von Süden nach Norden).

Die ersten deutschen Siedler gründeten bereits dort Farmen um 1790. Manhattans reiche Geldaristokratie, Familien wie die Astors und Rhinelanders ließen sich prachttvolle Landsitze in Yorkville bauen — fern vom Getriebe der zu allen Zeiten hektischen Stadt. Das erste wirkliche Kleindeutschland entstand später weiter im Süden Manhattans am Tompkins Square. Eine Zeitlang war auch das jetzt von Schwarzen bewohnte Harlem ein deutsches Viertel. Dann begann der Exodus nach Yorkville.

Dorthin strömten die Einwanderer, sobald sie vom Schiff herunter und von den US-Behörden auf der „Träneninsel“ Ellis Island durchge-

schleust waren. Hier fanden sie Landsleute, Hilfe, Rat und Arbeit. Und billige, dunkle Wohnungen. Hier schien jeder jeden zu kennen.

Hierher kamen auch die „Achtundvierziger“, die Barrikadenkämpfer von der Breiten Straße in Berlin und von Rastatt. Zu Ehren des Prominentesten von ihnen wurde der Park am East River in der Nähe der Residenz des Bürgermeisters Carl-Schurz-Park benannt. Hier unterhielt dessen Freund und Mitkämpfer Dr. Abraham Jacobi, der „Vater der amerikanischen Kinderheilkunde“, seine Armenpraxis und gründete das „Deutsche Hospital“, das sich im Ersten Weltkrieg in „Lenox Hill Hospital“ umtaufte.

In Yorkville versah ein Ehepaar aus Nastätten in Hessen Portierdienste. Sie konnten sich nicht an Amerika gewöhnen und kehrten nach Hessen zurück. Ihr Sohn, Robert F. Wagner, wurde US-Senator in Washington und der Architekt des modernen Sozialversicherungssystems, der „Social Security“, die das amerikanische Leben grundlegend veränderte. Präsident Roosevelt, der ohne Wagner diese als revolutionär verschrieene Maßnahme nie hätte durchführen können, nannte Wagner den „Schöpfer der Zweiten ‚Bill of Rights‘“.

Dessen Sohn wurde dreimal Bürgermeister von New York. Yorkville war mehr als ein deutsches Viertel in New York — für die Tausende von Vereinen und Organisationen im ganzen Land war es einstmals das Herz des Deutschamerikanertums. Zumindest bis 1917, als die USA auf Seiten der Alliierten in den Krieg eintraten.

Nach 1933 sah man auch in Yorkville SA-Sturmtruppen und Hakenkreuze. Es gab Mitmacher, aber im allgemeinen wollte man in Yorkville nicht viel mit der lauten Propaganda zu tun haben. Als der Zweite Weltkrieg ausbrach, stand Yorkville — genauso wie die Deutschamerikaner im Ersten Weltkrieg — treu zum Sternenbanner. Nach 1945 dauerte es einige Zeit, bis die neuen Einwanderer, die von Hitler Vertriebenen, ihren Weg zu den Geschäften und Gaststätten Yorkvilles fanden.

Das alte Yorkville existiert nicht mehr. Die kleinen, billigen Wohnungen, in denen die Familien teilweise unter den Überbleibseln des Mieterschutzes lebten, fielen der Abwrack-Kugel zum Opfer. Die alten Familien und ihre Nachkommen wurden vertrieben. Ein Hochhaus nach dem anderen entsteht. Yorkville ist ein guter Markt für junge, vitale Manager mit höheren Einkommen, erklären die Grundstücksagenten. Und die teuren Eigentumswohnungen (die kleinsten kosten zwischen 150 000 bis 200 000 Dollar) werden ihnen nur so aus den Händen gerissen.

Aber noch immer gibt es einige Alteingesessene, die sich nicht weggräulen lassen und versuchen, einen Hauch der alten, für sie romantisch verklärten Zeit aufrechtzuhalten.

Gerard H. Wilk

About one fifth of U.S. residents today claim German ancestry — a close second to English Americans. See if you remember how some of their predecessors influenced American history!

(a) John J. Astor, (b) Herman Hollerith, (c) Jacob Leisler, (d) Franz Pastorius, (e) Johann Roebbing, (f) George "Babe" Ruth, (g) Carl Schurz, (h) Baron von Steuben, (i) Levi Strauss, (j) John P. Zenger

- 1. helped train Washington's troops
- 2. rebelled against British rule
- 3. founded Germantown, Pa.
- 4. developed northwest fur trade
- 5. designed computer punch-card
- 6. established freedom-of-press rights
- 7. set baseball records rarely broken
- 8. designed Brooklyn Bridge
- 9. set up reforestation plan
- 10. designed first blue jeans



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SOUTHERN ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Margaret (Hopkins) Edwards  
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From left to right:

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Theo. Havekost, Bishop John L. Nuelsen (from Zurich,  
Switzerland), H. Homburg and John C. Groth

Row 2 - Wm. Makowski, C. F. Bohmfalk, Dr. John Pluenneke,  
F. Beckendorf, Wm. Buerer, H. Schmalz, J. Streit,  
J. W. Witt, August Didzun, E. F. Schuessler, \_\_\_ Traeger,  
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(Top row - Hopkins, Schmidt and Schlechte)

The SUNDAY EXPRESS-NEWS,

# German settlers led way for arts growth

By DAVID ANTHONY RICHELIEU  
Express-News Staff Writer

It was about the same time the Express began writing itself into the pages of San Antonio history that the formal arts began emerging in what was for years and years Texas' largest metropolis.

A flourishing of the arts occurred in the latter half of the 19th century, carrying over to the Depression when all but a few major institutions ultimately vanished.

But before that, the Spaniards had provided the artistic imprint that to-

day people refer to as the city's unique ambiance — the elements of Spanish Colonial architecture, sturdily adapted to the brutal Texas frontier, but still alive with the exuberance of the baroque in such things as statuary, carvings, decoration and a general sense of splendor, even in the most humble of buildings.

The Spanish Colonial influence that dominated San Antonio for more than a century fell into disfavor as more settlers arrived from scattered northern areas and even from abroad — Alsace-Lorraine, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Germany.

San Antonio owes much of its modern artistic traditions to the German settlers who arrived in the city in great numbers in the latter half of the 19th century.

These are the people who built Beethoven Hall — now stripped of its imperial German facade by the mad street-wideners of HemisFair — and who established in 1867 the still-existing German singing groups, the Maennerchor and, later, its female counterpart, the Dammenerchor.

By the turn of the century, the thriving "Little Rhein" community had beer gardens with oompah bands where German traditions flourished.

But as the city grew, others joined in building the city's artistic life.

It was in this latter part of the century that Sidney Lanier lived in San Antonio and O. Henry was practically a resident, he visited so often and stayed so long. Both wrote about San Antonio, attracted inexorably to the city's aesthetic — its river and bridges.

San Antonio had a Grand Opera House on Alamo Plaza, where the H. L. Green store now stands at Alamo and Crockett streets.

After the turn of the century came the first of three serious attempts to organize a symphony orchestra. Those in 1906 and 1916 ultimately failed, though bands and orchestras of various kinds abounded in the city.

It wasn't until German immigrant Max Reiter came to San Antonio in 1938 that a sustained effort succeeded in establishing a symphony in San Antonio.

Since then, the symphony has remained the keystone of the fine arts community in South Texas, providing music not only for classical music lovers, but for student educational concerts, operas, the coronation of the Queen of Fiesta, for visits by the Joffrey Ballet and other performing troupes.

From  
SAN ANTONIO  
Express-News

# 1855 brewery was first

By BILL CUNNINGHAM  
Express-News Staff Writer

"Breweries have flourished in San Antonio since 1855 (except for the Prohibition era), and two major ones still satisfy the thirsts of beer drinkers all over Texas and in other states.

One of the two went through Prohibition selling La Perla, a near beer. The other began production in 1940 in a building constructed in 1933 at the end of Prohibition.

Beer drinkers of today probably are not familiar with the products of William Menger and Charles Degen, Joe Hutzler Brewery, Henry Karber Brewery, H. Hamner Brewery, Schober's Brewery, Peter Brothers Brewery, William Esser Brewery, Alamo Ice and Brewing Co. or San Antonio City Brewery.

But many San Antonians quaffed beer from those breweries in the years between 1855 and 1918, when Prohibition closed most breweries all over the country.

Authorities list the Menger Brewery, founded in 1855 with Degen as brewmaster, as the first commercial one in San Antonio. When Menger opened a boarding house and then the Menger Hotel, Degen ran the brewery on Blum Street and sold the beer there.

Degen's beer was said by some to be the best in Texas, and he declined offers from large brewing companies to buy him out.

Hutzler's Brewery was on Presa Street just south of Market Street,

Karber's on San Pedro Creek near Martin Street, Hamner's near Karber's, Schober's near Josephine Street, Peter Brothers' at 427 E. Commerce St., Esser's on Flores Street between Hickman and Krempekau streets, Alamo Ice and Brewing Co. at Cameron and Houston streets and San Antonio City Brewery on the present site of the Pearl Brewing Co.

A Lone Star Brewing Co. facility, with Adolph Busch as principal owner, was built in 1883 on Grand Avenue near the Sunset depot. Busch bought the Alamo Ice and Brewing Co. in 1895 to be incorporated into the Lone Star operation.

In 1885 a group of San Antonio business leaders bought the San Antonio City Brewery, formed the San Antonio Brewing Association and named Otto Koehler manager.

Koehler's staff began producing Pearl Beer in 1886, using a formula purchased by Koehler from the Kaiser-Beck Brewery of Bremen, Germany. The name also was purchased.

By 1916 the Pearl Brewing Co. was the largest brewery in Texas and never has ceased operations since 1886. There were lean times during Prohibition, but Mrs. Otto Koehler kept it going by brewing the near beer, bottling soft drinks, entering the commercial ice and creamery businesses and operating an advertising sign company.

No other San Antonio brewery survived Prohibition.

Within 15 minutes of the end of Prohibition at midnight Sept. 15, 1933, 104 trucks and 25 boxcars loaded with Pearl Beer rolled out of the brewery grounds.

Pearl acquired the Goetz Brewing Co. of St. Louis in 1961 and in 1970 merged with Southdown Corp. of Houston. Since 1978 Pearl has been a member of a family which includes General and Falstaff Brewing companies.

Also in 1933, Carl Joseph and C.A. Haegelin, operators of the Sabinas Brewery in Monterrey, Mexico, bought 17 acres of land on what is now Lone Star Boulevard for a brewery. Production started in 1935, but it was not a success.

Donald W. Reynolds of Massachusetts bought most of the Sabinas stock in 1939 to produce Champ beer.

But the real success started in 1940. Muehlebach Brewing Co. of Kansas City bought the plant and began producing Lone Star Beer. With Harry Jersig having broad powers as vice president, Lone Star went on the market in April 1940.

In 1949 it went public and all 213,000 shares were sold the first day. Capacity has been increased through the years.

In 1976, Lone Star was merged with the Olympic Brewing Co. and then came under control of the Pabst Brewing Co. In 1983, G. Heileman Brewing Co. of La Crosse, Wis., bought the San Antonio company and immediately launched expansion plans.



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### GERMAN-SAN ANTONIO STUDY TOUR.

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### 'Texas Forever'

A new historical music-drama, "Texas Forever," will be performed for the first time at 7:30 p.m. June 6 at the First United Methodist Church in Mason.

The drama tells of John O. Meusebach, founder of Fredericksburg, and his 1847 Peace Treaty with the Comanche Indians.

Scott Zesch of Mason County wrote the music and lyrics and has dedicated his work to the Sesquicentennial. Performing Zesch's score will be a chorus of 46 singers plus soloists, all from the Mason and Gillespie county areas.

Additional performances will be offered at at 3 p.m. June 7, 7:30 p.m. June 13 and 3 p.m. June 15 at Holy Ghost Lutheran Church in Fredericksburg.

THE COLORADO COUNTY CITIZEN, COLUMBUS, TEXAS, MAY 1, 1986

## Dilue Rose Harris Chapter Honors Bernard Scherrer with Plaque

The Dilue Rose Harris Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas held a memorial service unveiling the Citizen of Republic of Texas plaque for Bernard Scherrer, great-grandfather of Julia Collins. The ceremony was held in the La Grange City Cemetery on Thursday, April 24.

Miss Mary Bernice Obenhaus, District VI Representative of Houston, led the service with Mrs. Millycent Crank leading the pledges to the United States and Texas flags and Mrs. Lela Wehner giving the invocation, devotional and benediction. Mrs. Julia Collins unveiled the plaque and gave a tribute to her ancestor.

Bernard Scherrer came to Texas from St. Gallin, Switzerland in 1833 and traveled around Texas. He first settled in an area near Frelsburg in Colorado County, then finally settled permanently in Biegel Settlement.

He taught Frederick Ernst of Industry how to raise tobacco and roll cigars which led to a thriving industry. He was a highly educated man therefore he was appointed as county commissioner in 1842 and 1847. In addition, he had

a freighting business, using oxen and wagons.

According to records, Scherrer also participated in the first District Court of Texas

held in Columbus, under an oak tree along with "Three-Legged Willie."

Scherrer, along with Christian Wertzner and Joseph Biegel, was instrumental in the settlement and progress of eastern Fayette County. One of the cabins from Scherrer's farm has been placed in Henkel Square in Round Top. The original farmstead is now covered by the waters of the Fayette Power Plant.

Descendants attending the grave marking, were Lawrence H. Meinert of Flatonia, grandson of Bernard Scherrer; Marian Gindler of Gonzales; Ed and Mary Margaret Knolle of Sandia; Louise Schimmel and two sons of Corpus Christi; and Robert and Julia Collins of Columbus.

After the service, all participants and members toured the Monument Hill State Park, after which they went to Frischauf Country Club for refreshments served by Catherine Gunn, Grace Yoder and Virginia Walker of Weimar.

Mrs. Julia Collins  
404 Smith St.  
Columbus, Texas 78934

### Texas in Germany

Two of our readers, Mrs. Willie E. Williams of Brenham and Master Sergeant Fidel Paredes of San Saba, both stationed in West Germany, found out the reach of their home state in Europe.

*The Stars and Stripes* recently ran a story about the northern German town of Hoefingen-Texas and the mystery surrounding its name. Local history buff Konrad Diekmann believes the name may be tied to a 19th Century emigrant from the area, Johann Sempf, who made a fortune in Texas sugar.

Diekmann speculates that Sempf's brother, who stayed in Germany, heard about Texas through Johann's letters, and named the area Hoefingen-Texas. Today, the locals simply call it "Texas."

Although Diekmann is uncertain about the origins of the town's name, he's sure about how its neighbor got its name.

A man who returned to the area from Texas in 1928 built the first house just south of the Hoefingen-Texas border. Today, the area is a bus stop known as —you guessed it— Hoefingen-Mexico.

From TEXAS HIGHWAYS  
July, 1986

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ANN LINDEMANN

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Renate H. van der Dussen

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 The Netherlands

Den nachfolgenden Bericht habe ich einer niederländischen Wochenzeitschrift entnommen, dem "Elsevier's Weekblad", vom 15.2.1986.  
 Den ursprünglich niederländischen Text habe ich ins Deutsche übersetzt.

"Engländer und Amerikaner gehen ohne weiteres davon aus, dass man überall auf der Welt ihre Sprache versteht. Nach Ansicht der Franzosen würde die Welt besser aussehen, wenn ihre Sprache noch hohes Ansehen geniessen würde. Die Deutschen sind bescheidener geworden, seitdem ihre Sprache ihre internationale Bedeutung mehr und mehr verliert.

Eine Untersuchung, die die westdeutsche Regierung kürzlich bei 68 internationalen Organisationen ausführen liess, ergab, dass das Deutsche nur bei 12 dieser Organisationen eine der Hauptsprachen ist. Auch sinkt Zahl der Ausländer, die Deutsch lernen wollen. Gegen Ende der siebziger Jahre waren dies noch siebzehn Millionen, im Jahre 1983 nur noch fünfzehn Millionen, darunter neun Millionen Bürger der Sowjetunion. Trotz der grossen Zahl von Deutschen, die in den letzten 150 Jahren in die Vereinigten Staaten emigriert sind, sprechen nach einer Schätzung der Bundesregierung nur noch ungefähr 1.3 Millionen Amerikaner die deutsche Sprache; nicht mehr als 2.7 Prozent der amerikanischen Schulkinder lernen diese Sprache. Die Zahl der Universitätsstudenten in den Vereinigten Staaten, die deutsche Vorlesungen besucht, ist in den letzten zwanzig Jahren gesunken von 216,000 auf 126,000. Zahlreiche Universitäten haben diese Ausbildung daher gestrichen. In Europa ist die Situation nicht viel besser.

Die westdeutsche Regierung verwendet dieses Jahr ungefähr 500 Millionen DM auf die Verbreitung der deutschen Sprache im Ausland. Ungefähr 200 Millionen davon sind für das Goethe-Institut bestimmt, das über 150 Bildungsinstitute in 66 Ländern die Verbreitung der deutschen Sprache und Kultur zu fördern versucht."

### Das Häschen.

Häschen saß im grünen Gras. Häuschen dachte: „Was ist das? Kommt dort nicht der Jäger her mit dem großen Schießgewehr? Hursch, mein Häuschen, hursch in den dichten Haselbusch!“

Jäger zieht den Kahn schon auf. Liebes Häuschen, lauf doch, laß dich nicht ängstlich an unsa Gewalt dafs es durch die Büsche schallt. Schau, wie Häuschen laufen kann, hat doch keine Stiefel an!



# Fairy tale king or mad monarch, Ludwig top draw

By **WIELAND SCHMITZ**  
Reuters

**MUNICH, West Germany** — To his fans, Ludwig II of Bavaria was a fairytale king who gave the world dream castles; to his critics he was a mad monarch bent on chasing crazy fantasies.

But 100 years after he sank to a mysterious, watery death, he is a favorite with tourists.

Neuschwanstein, a mountaintop tumult of turrets, parapets and crenelated towers in the Bavarian Alps, is Ludwig's best-known castle, and as many as 10,000 visitors a day are expected to crowd through its portals at the height of the season this year.

The Walt Disney empire has a concrete and plaster model at its Disneyland park in California and one U.S. airline uses it on posters to advertise flights to West Germany.

Neuschwanstein was one of three grandiose castles built by Ludwig and they were to prove his undoing. Having near bankrupted Bavaria to build them, he was declared insane by his ministers and dethroned on June 11, 1886.

Two days later he drowned at the age of 40 with his physician in Lake Starnberg, where a castle had been hastily converted into a royal lunatic asylum.

Generations of amateur sleuths have since pondered whether he jumped or was pushed.

"He was shot in the back," said

Hannes Heidi, a 50-year-old set builder at the Munich city opera who runs what he claims is the biggest of about 30 Ludwig II fan clubs.

"He probably killed his physician and then himself in a state of mental derangement," said Wilhelm Woebling, a Munich detective who has just published a book on the mystery.

Belief in such theories — and there are many more — depends on whether one thinks the corpulent king was mad. He certainly was out of the ordinary.

Crowned king at 19 in 1864, one of his first acts was to have an artificial waterfall installed in his bedchamber.

A lover of the arts, Ludwig patronized the opera composer Wagner and even built an underground grotto for him complete with wave-making machine.

His castle at Herrenchiemsee, set on an island in a lake, is modelled on the chateau of Versailles. Ludwig shaped his own aspirations to grandeur on Versailles' most famous occupant, the 17th century French "Sun King" Louis XIV.

One of the top attractions at Linderhof, Ludwig's third castle, is a table that rises through the floor. It would often be set for three so Ludwig could "converse" with Louis XIV and his successor Louis XV.

More than 2.5 million visitors — the foreigners are led by Americans and Japanese — flocked to Ludwig's castles last year. Neuschwanstein was the favorite.

"The whole world visits Neusch-

wanstein," said custodian Julius Desing, who heads a staff of more than 30 official couriers, all equipped with tape-recorded tour guides in 14 languages from English to Chinese.

Most visitors come once but some cannot stay away. Among them are a Frenchman who likes to dress up as Ludwig, a West German who thinks he is the Bavarian king reincarnate and a British woman who

says she is in telepathic contact with him.

Tourism officials say this century year is likely to break all visitor records, with firework displays at Neuschwanstein and Lake Starnberg among the special events to lure tourists.

Visitors are also being offered tours to the castles by horse-drawn carriage, concerts and exhibitions.

SAN ANTONIO LIGHT

SUNDAY, MAY 18, 1986

## Museum zum Anfassen für Blinde

Bonn - (INP). "Berühren verboten" - diese durchaus übliche Aufschrift von Hinweisschildern in den meisten Museen der Welt - wird man von nun an im zweiten Stockwerk des Bonner Museums König nicht mehr finden: Hier wurde im Februar eine Dauerausstellung mit ausgestopften Tieren, Knochen und Terteilen eröffnet, die speziell für blinde oder sehbehinderte Besucher gedacht ist.

Alle Exponate dürfen angefaßt, betastet werden; mit ihren Fingerspitzen können Blinde die Tierwelt erforschen, Kleintiere, Insekten aber auch Hirsche, Kühe oder Wildkatzen in eigener "Anschauung" kennenlernen. Die Bundeshauptstadt möchte mit diesem neuen Angebot im Zoologischen Forschungsinstitut gegenüber der Residenz des Bundespräsidenten den nichtsehenden Besuchern Bonns zusätzlich zum bereits bestehenden "Blindengarten" eine weitere Möglichkeit eröffnen, Fauna und Flora selbst zu erkunden.

## COLOGNE COMIC AND DOLL MARKETS

Hundreds of collectors from the Federal Republic, Holland and Belgium traveled to Cologne for the yearly international doll and comic book exchanges. Prices for both dolls and comics were up, provided the items were rare and in good condition.

The first of the popular teddy bears made by the Steiff company, which was introduced at a fair in Leipzig in 1903, went for DM 4,500. A Dutch trader offered a 100-year-old French Jumeau doll with a porcelain head for DM 10,000.

"You see, this doll has a closed mouth - very rare!" the trader said. "If it had an open mouth, it would only be worth perhaps DM 3,000."

A Jumeau doll dress, without the doll, was selling for DM 800. Many dolls and teddy bears from the sixties and seventies, whose former owners are in many cases still in school, went for less than DM 50.

Mailing Address

Deutsche Welt - U.S.A.  
P.O. Box 35831  
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the  
**German-Texan Heritage Society**  
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# German-Texan Heritage Society



Founded in 1978, the German-Texan Heritage Society is a non-profit organization devoted to building pride in the heritage of the German-speaking settlers who brought an important cultural ingredient to Texas. The Society is united in its effort 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, history enthusiasts, folklorists, preservationists, and those interested in the German-Texan experience.

A NEWSLETTER is published three times a year (50-75 pages). It is sent to all members. The NEWSLETTER features a genealogical section which includes hints about research in German-speaking countries, Texas, and the United States; brief family histories submitted by members, and a genealogy exchange column. Other sections of the NEWSLETTER include reprints of articles from other publications, announcements about activities and events, a book review column, an annual index, and original essays about various topics related to German-Texana.

An ANNUAL MEETING is held the second weekend in September in various German heritage areas of Texas. The program emphasizes the German-Texan heritage and includes talks, slide shows, show-and-tell sessions, and discussions by researchers, preservationists, folklorists, authors, members who have a story to tell and guest experts in specific fields; informal social events; plays and music; and tours of historical sites in the host city.

|                            |               |      |
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The Society has actively participated in the plans for the 1986 Texas Sesquicentennial through the Texas Germany Sesquicentennial Committee. Projects of the Society are: 1) The reprint of ROEMER'S TEXAS, which has been completed and may be purchased through the Society. 2) A KALENDER(calendar) for 1986, which may be ordered from the Society. 3) Sponsorship of the reprint of THE CABIN BOOK (DAS KAJUTENBUCH) by Charles Sealsfield which may be ordered from Eakin Press. 4) The creation of a German-Texan Registry, and 5) The sponsorship of a film about the German-Texan experience.

The German-Texan Heritage Society Calendar Year is from January to December. Membership and renewals should be made accordingly.

For more information contact:  
Dona Reeves  
Southwest Texas State University  
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San Marcos, TX 78666



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San Marcos, TX 78666

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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!!

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ANNUAL MEETINGS  
10 Year Plan

1986..SEPT. 12-14  
HOUSTON  
Ann Lindemann

1987... SEPT. 11-13  
GALVESTON  
Frances Knappe

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

1992...Sept.  
SAN ANGELO  
Otto Tetzlaff

1993...Sept.  
FREDERICKSBURG

1994...Sept  
KERRVILLE/BOERNE/COMFORT

1995..Sept.  
NEW BRAUNFELS

1996..Sept.  
INDUSTRY  
Texas Statehood 150 Year  
Celebration

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