GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY



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German-Texan Heritage Society

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See inside back cover for JOURNAL deadlines, subscription and other information. See the last pages of the JOURNAL for a membership application and publications price list.

GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

ANNUAL MEETING 1992

September 11, 12 & 13 in New Braunfels, Texas

REGISTRATION FORM

Pre-registration cost: \$35.00 Late registration: \$40.00 Registration includes: Registration, Friday reception at Holiday Inn, Saturday Banquet, entertainment, programs and dance. Registration: (by Aug.31) No. of persons @ \$35.00 \$	PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE August 31
Saturday Banquet, entertainment, programs and dance. Registration: (by Aug.31) No. of persons @ \$35.00 \$	Pre-registration cost: \$35.00 Late registration: \$40.00
Optional: visit to two museums/ price not known at this time List the name of each person as you want it on the name tag: Name:	
List the name of each person as you want it on the name tag: Name:	Registration: (by Aug.31) No. of persons @ \$35.00 \$
Name: Name: Address: Ph: Make checks payable to: GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY Mail to: Brett Becker, Office Manager GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY P 0 BOX 684171 AUSTIN, TX 78768 (in case of cancellation a \$15.00 service fee will be charged) HOTEL RESERVATION A block of 75 rooms is being held at the special GTHS rate of \$52.00 per night plus tax for 1 to 4 persons occupancy at the HOLIDAY INN in New Braunfels. DEADLINE Aug. 11, 92 Please reserve early. Mention GTHS when reserving by telephone. Name: Mail HOTEL RESERVATION to: Address: HOLIDAY INN City: St. Zip: 1051 IH 35 E. New Braunfels. Texas 78130	Optional: visit to two museums/ price not known at this time
Make checks payable to: GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY Mail to: Brett Becker, Office Manager	Name:
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ABOUT GTHS

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

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President

In this issue, we are especially pleased to present Patrick Janis' study of ethnic identity among Texas Czechs, Germans, Poles and Wends. You will also find Robert Robinson-Zwahr's tips on traveling in the former East Germany, and items both newsy and historical sent by our faithful members.

You may note that this issue has a number of articles on the German heritage of San Antonio, and you may attribute that to this editor's bias. Actually, this issue's content may be attributed to two factors: our members sent in even more articles on San Antonio's German heritage than we could reasonably publish--and, right now, San Antonio is where the action is relative to German-Texan heritage.

German Heritage Park has finally received City Council's long-awaited go-ahead amid much attention from print and electronic media in both countries. Two of these articles appear in this issue, one from San Antonio and one from Germany.

And, Germans are expressing a lively interest in San Antonio, both as a travel destination and as an investment. In fact, the San Antonio Convention and Visitors Bureau will soon have a tourist brochure in the German language.

Also making the news are two organizations with milestone anniversaries in 1992: Beethoven Maennerchor is 125 years old and San Antonio Liederkranz is 100 years old! Both statewide Saengerfests will be in San Antonio this year: the Deutsch Texanischer Saengerfest on May 2-3 and the Gebirgs Saengerfest on October 3-4.

If that isn't enough, a state
Historical Marker will be dedicated on
April 11 recognizing the founders of the
Alamo Roman and Portland Cement Company,
Fiesta Texas opens in March with one of
the theme park areas devoted to the German
heritage and music, and Schilos announced
an expansion of the renown delicatessen on
East Commerce Street.

Not all is San Antonio, however.
This issue also features items from
Boerne, Fredericksburg, Mason and Slaton.
And, New Braunfels, of course--the site of
our annual meeting in September! Put
those dates (Sept. 11-13) on your calendar

Sept.

. 11-13, 1992

With this issue, GTHS begins its fourteenth year of publication. For the first two years, we presented a semi-annual NEWSLETTER. Beginning in 1981, the publication went to thrice-a-year, and in 1989 its name was changed to JOURNAL, with a smaller "Newsletter" delivered between issues of the larger publication.

In 1992, we will have a revolving editor's chair. Sitting as editor for the second issue will be Mary El-Beheri, and W. M. Von-Maszewski will edit the third issue. To avoid confusion, you may continue to send all contributions and correspondence to our GTHS office address.

And, we must shout a big "Danke!" to Cathleen Witt Dunne who prepared our annual name index. After five years, she has retired from this position, and we are seeking another volunteer to take on this essential task.

NEWSPAPER PROJECT UPDATE

Miriam York, GTHS Board member, reports the microfilming of the old German-language newspapers held by the University of Houston has been completed. Please refer to our JOURNAL, issue #2 of 1991, pages 100-101, for a listing of the newspapers and issues covered.

Assuming that the four cartons of film are complete and in order, a copy of this microfilmed newspaper collection will be delivered to our GTHS office in the near future.

This valuable newspaper collection will form the nucleus of our German-Texana research center, a long-held dream of our GTHS Board.

Again we thank Miriam York for her generosity in underwriting the cost of microfilming this newspaper collection. Actually, we cannot thank her enough times!

MESSAGE FROM LEOLA TIEDT Scrapbook Editor

I appreciate that the executive Board appointed Mary El-Beheri to take pictures at the meeting in Corpus Christi. She came through with flying colors, so take time at the New Braunfels meeting and look at the scrapbooks.

KTIDOS

Our members write, about GTHS and about our Journal.

"I love to read it, both English and German." Victor and Ivarene Hosek, Floreville..."Summer 1991 is one of the most interesting issues you have published," Jody (Rippel) Feldtman Wright, San Antonio... "The best Quarterly I receive, " The E. R. Dreyers, Baytown... "The Journal really had some very good articles," Rosel Reyes, Killeen... "Keep up the good work," Carolyn Meiners, La Grange... "As usual, it was hard to put down until read from cover to cover. The articles about Christmas were very enjoyable," Herbert L. Beinhorn, Moscow..."The Journal looks better each year. Thanks, " Maurice W. Conner, Omaha, Neb... "This really was a great <u>Journal</u>. Actually, they are all good." A. W. Wied, Favetteville..."I do enjoy reading it and always look for names of my past kin," Mrs. Walter Joehitz, Slaton... "We continue to value our membership in GTHS even though we now live far away from our native state," George & Caroline Zeiss, Santa Cruz, Calif... "Your Society is a true success story. Would we have devoted people like you and your crew here in Wisconsin," Jürgen Eichhoff, Madison, Wis... "Thank you for all you are doing for the organization. We really appreciate your work," Sr. Tharsilla Fuchs, San Antonio..."We have enjoyed being members of the Society and wish to continue our membership, " Mr. & Mrs. Hartzell O. Stephens, Temple..."I always look forward to every issue of the Journal," Mrs. Walter Schlinke, Nordheim... "Thanks for the fine work with the Journal," Bill R. Wittner, Russellville, Ark.... "Thanks for the article in the Journal. I hope that results from this are as good as they were for the Hempel article," Jon Czarowitz, Temple.

SESQUICENTENNIAL TEXAS-GERMANY BAND TO RETURN TO TEXAS IN 1993

The Musikapelle Markt Erkheim under the direction of Edmund Mikusch has official plans to make its third trip to Texas in 1993. Although there is a strong network of friends and hosts throughout the state, we would welcome invitations for performance opportunities. For further information, contact Dr. Meredith McClain, 2612 24th St., Lubbock TX 79410, tel. (806) 744-6033; or contact directly Edmund Mikusch, Weberweg 3, W-8941 Erkheim, Germany, tel. (0 83 36) 3 30.

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11-13, 1992

Handbook and Registry of German-Texan Heritage, Volume II

At the September 1991 German-Texan Heritage Society meeting in Corpus Christi, plans were announced to begin seeking materials to publish Volume II of the Registry. There is much more German-Texan heritage material out there waiting to be recorded.

The format for the next volume will follow that of Volume I. The categories remain the same, but the criteria are modified (see below). Material of the mid-1920s will be included as well as material with a history of less than one hundred years providing the subject had a proven impact on the community, on its culture or its heritage.

The example, the years of the 1920s denote a low point in the history of German-Texan culture and the German-American culture in general. This is the period of anti-German feelings which gained its momentum during World War I and carried over to the post-War years. During this time, many institutions disappeared, never to revive: German newspapers, social organizations, schools, even the use of the German language in public places. In many cases, the post-World War I years saw the topic of German culture forbidden for discussion at home and much German heritage expunged from memory.

As with our first volume, haste is the order of the day to capture the fading recollections. For further information, contact Patsy Hand, 417 Cottonwood St., Victoria, Texas 77904.

Please forward any and all information and materials to: German-Texan Heritage Society, P O Box 684171, Austin, TX 78768

Categories:

I.		Stores, banks, newspapers, mills, etc., founded before 1925 by German-Texans. Need not be under the original owner throughout its history.
II.		Organizations founded before 1920, defunct or still active today, including agricultural, musical, literary, shooting clubs, etc., and/or their buildings.
m.		Congregations founded and/or buildings erected before 1925 by German-speaking people.
IV.	Cemeteries	Public, private and church cemeteries which primarily contain graves of German-Texans.
V.	Schools	Public, private and parochial schools founded before 1925 and/or their buildings.
VI.	Farms & Ranches	Homesteads of considerable size and/or significance developed before 1925 and still intact. Ownership need not bethe original family.
VII.	Fachwerk Construction	Buildings using fachwerk (half-timbered) construction in all or part of the structure.
VIII	Museums, Historical Societies, Libraries	Institutions devoted to the preservation of German-Texan history, culture, or the work of a German-Texan, or housed in a historic building of German-Texan significance.
IX.	Historical Markers, Monuments and Statues	State of Texas historical markers, local plaques, monuments, statues, and National Register of Historic places and plaques pertaining to German-Texan heritage or history.

GERMAN-TEHAN HERITAGE SOCIETY P O BOH 684171 AUSTIN, TEHAS 78768

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LEAVE YOUR GERMAN MARK Dr. Kelly H. Stevens Dies

By Rodney C. Koenig Chairperson, Gifts & Memorials

It is with sadness that we learned of the death of Dr. Kelly H. Stevens last Fall. Dr. Stevens had donated his home which was the previous German Free School in Austin to the German-Texan Heritage Society. The gift of the home was discussed at the State Convention in September and details of the gift were set forth in the Fall issue of the German-Texan Heritage Society Journal. Dr. Stevens' home is tentatively scheduled to become the headquarters for the German-Texan Heritage Society in April of 1992. Until such time the headquarters will remain in Manchaca.

Plans are currently in process for commencing an endowment drive to assist in the maintenance of the Dr. Kelly Stevens' German Free School home. We ask all of our members to consider making a gift toward this endowment fund and also to let us know of your contacts with major foundations throughout Texas which might be willing to assist us in gifts toward the maintenance of the German Free School.

We do urge that others follow the magnificent example set by Dr. Stevens in leaving his mark. Numerous items can and should be considered. We have other fine examples of gifting to help promote German-Texan heritage in various ways. Miriam York has left a fine German mark by donating significant funds toward microfilming old German newspapers at the University of Houston. Furthermore, Asta Grona has left her mark by donating funds for the Asta Grona - German-Texan Heritage Society Scholarship at the University of Houston and by donating funds toward the publishing of the history of the Houston Saengerbund. Ways in which you can leave your German mark are limited only by your imagination. We live in a time in which the two Germanies in Europe are now united. We should consider ways in which we can further enhance the positive aspects of our German heritage. Consider updating your Will, your IRA beneficiary designation or your life insurance policy designation to include the German-Texan Heritage Society as a recipient under your estate plan. Only you can leave a truly effective German mark.

JA! I wish to leave my German mark. Here is my contribution toward the presevation and promotion of the German heritage in Texas.					
From:		_Telephone ()			
Address_		ZIP			
Send to:	German-Texan Heritage Society P O Box 684171 Austin, TX 78768	You may indicate gift for: German Free School Endowment GTHS Office Expenses Kelly Stevens Memorial Fund German Newspaper Fund Other (specify)			

ANNUAL MEETING

Tentative Program

Friday, September 11, 1992

4:00 - 7:00 Registration at Holiday Inn and Reception
7:00 -10:00 Get together at Bavarian Village (cover charge, drinks, food available), or Gruene Hall, Gruene

Saturday, September 12, 1992 - Holiday Inn

8:00 - 6:00 Registration (Exhibits and sales in Sunshine Room)
9:00 Opening Addresses:
Greetings from Convention Committee
President- German Texan Heritage Society
Special guests
Mayor of New Braunfels

Everett Fey / Ann Rogers: First Families of N.B. Barney Canion: Ferdinand Lindheimer Genealogy: Genealogy Society
Hummel Museum: Sieglinde Schön Smith

Dr. Gish - Hermann Seele
Ethel Saur - Rev. & Mrs. Ervendberg & Orphanage
Mike O'Dowd & Dr. Johnson - Luckenbach, Texas
General Meeting & Election of Officers
German films and videos or
Visit to new Hummel Museum and Lindheimer Haus

5:00 - 6:00 Break

JOHN NEWCOMBE'S TENNIS RANCH

6:00 - 6:30	Get together - cash bar
6:30 - 7:30	Dinner - music during dinner
7:30 - 8:00	Meeting by President von Maszewski - Awards &
	presentation of club officers
8:00 - 8:15	Sing-a-long
8:15 - 8:30	N.B. German Folk dancers perform
8:30 -11:00	Dance music by Ed Kadlecek & the Village Band

Sunday, September 13, 1992 - Holiday Inn

9:00 - 11:30	Exhibits & sales
9:00	Non-denominational Church Service
	Barron Schlameus - Baetge in Russia and Texas
	Agnes Lehmann - Sängerbund and Schützenverein
	Herb Skoog - Oral History
	Ann Lindemann - Adelsverein / Mainz 1842

11:30 Board Meeting

Arr. date: Dep.date:

GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

ANNUAL MEETING 1992

September 11, 12 & 13 in New Braunfels, Texas

REGISTRATION FORM

P	RE-REGISTRATION	N DEADLINE	August 31
Pre-regis	tration cost: \$	35.00 1	Late registration: \$40.00
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Registration:	(by Aug.31) (after 8/31)	No. of pe	ersons @ \$35.00 \$ ersons @ \$40.00 \$
Optional:	visit to two r	museums/ pi	rice not known at this time
List the name	of each person	as you war	nt it on the name tag:
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Mail to: Bret GERM P O I AUST	t Becker, Office M AN-TEXAN HERITAGE BOX 684171 IN, TX 78768	Manager SOCIETY	ERITAGE SOCIETY ice fee will be charged)
*** A cop	y of this form	is in the	front of this JOURNAL***
	HOTEL	RESERVATIO	A
per night plus HOLIDA	tax for 1 to a	4 persons or raunfels.	he special GTHS rate of \$52.00 occupancy at the DEADLINE Aug. 11, 92 n reserving by telephone.
Name: Address: City:	St.	Zip:	Mail HOTEL RESERVATION to: HOLIDAY INN 1051 IH 35 E. New Braunfels, Texas 78130
Arr. date:	Dep.date	 e:	New Braunfels, Texas 78130

512-625-8017 or 800-465-4329

Willkommen! WELCOME! Willkommen!

With a hearty welcome we invite you again to New Braunfels for the 14th Annual Meeting of the German Texan Heritage Society beginning Friday evening, September 11 and ending Sunday noon, September 13.

Designated as a German Heritage Center in Texas, New Braunfels has long focused on the many rich traditions established by its German founders. The following are some of the topics which will be on the program. (More details in the next issue.)

- * Ferdinand Lindheimer and Hermann Seele, among the most noted and interesting early leaders of New Braunfels, will be the subjects of addresses by Dr. Theodore Gish, professor at UT Houston, and Barney Canion, who is in charge of the Lindheimer Home.
- * Now in a new home (the former City Hall), the Sophienburg Museum Archives has expanded facilities for research and better storage of materials. Ann Rogers and Everett Fey will speak about the first families who settled New Braunfels.
- * Ann Lindemann will speak on the Adelsverein, the society of noblemen who led in the settling of New Braunfels.
- * Sponsored by the local radio station and the Sophienburg Museum, an ongoing project of recording **oral history** of the area will be described by Herb Skoog.
- * Many social clubs and activities still enjoyed today were begun by the early Germans in our area. Agnes Lehmann will give an overview of these varied groups. Perhaps a state-wide study of this topic could be a project for the future.
- * Opening in May of this year, the Hummel Museum is the home of the world's largest collection of original drawings by the late Sister Maria Innocentia (Berta) Hummel. The famous Hummel figurines are created from the charming children in her drawings. Mrs. Sieglinde Smith née Schoen was the model for at least two of Sister Hummel's drawings and was instrumental in bringing the collection to New Braunfels. She now resides in New Braunfels and will share her story with us.
- * Our Saturday night banquet and dance will be held at John Newcombe's Tennis Ranch and will include a performance of authentic German dances by the New Braunfels German Folkdancers and other entertainment.

For some time we've been saying, "In New Braunfels ist das Leben schoen". Either on this visit or another we encourage you to explore our museums**, dine in our fine restaurants, raft the river, attend the theatre, enjoy symphony concerts, shop for antiques or bargains at the outlet mall... and you too will say, "In New Braunfels ist das Leben schoen".

** The Sophienburg Museum, the Museum of Texas Handmade Furniture, the New Braunfels Conservation Society's Lindheimer Home and Conservation Plaza, where restored buildings are set around a new Antique Rose Conservatory, the Historic Railroad Museum and The Children's Museum.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN SEPTEMBER, SO PLAN TO COME AND SEND YOUR RESERVATION IN EARLY.

Attention Exhibitors: Sign up soon for your table, sales and/or display. Tables are \$25.00 each, first table free to GTHS member. Contact the convention chairperson: Helgard Suhr, 8 Mission Drive, New Braunfels, TX 78130, phone 512-625-6330.



New Braunfels founded by a Prince

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

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

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

Prince Carl was appointed commissioner-general for the colony which the Adelsverein (Association of Noblemen) in Germany proposed to establish. He was an active member of the Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas and bore the responsibility of making all arrangements for the prospective colony.

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

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

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

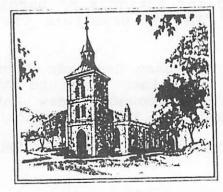
The conservative, ingenious, and hard-working German immigrants began to build the unique community of New Braunfels. In its early days, the community rapidly became an industrial community and industries initiated in the pioneering days still are operating today.

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

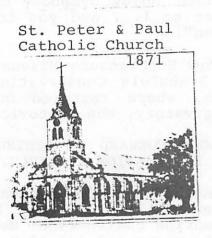




Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels



First Protestant Church- 1879

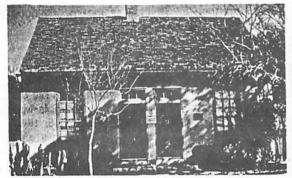


THE DIARY OF HERMANN SEELE (1823-1902)

Hermann Seele began his diary at the place of his birth, Hildesheim, Germany in 1842, when he was 19 and still attending school. He kept the diary, for the most part, on a daily basis, during 1843, which ended with his immigration to America, and the historically important years of 1844 and 1845. Seele maintained the diary sporadically in 1853 and in 1861, when he was a major in the Confederate Army.

The Seele diary resides in the Archives of the Sophienburg Museum in New Braunfels. It consists of several small volumes containing ca. 1200 pages.

In 1989, a student at the University of Houston undertook a critical edition and translation of the historically important year 1845 (the beginning of the <u>Adelsverein</u> settlement of Texas) about 1/6th of the total diary – for his Master's thesis. The diary is now completely transcribed and it is currently being translated for publication (expected in 1993.)



FERDINAND LINDHEIMER HOME, circa 1852





Ferdinand Lindheimer

Ferdinand Jakob Lindheimer (1801-1879) was a romantic and colorful figure whose important contributions to American botany led to international renown among scientists.

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

Son of a well-to-do merchant, he was born in Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany, and educated in the universities of Jena and Bonn. His revolutionary political activity (in support of representative government and unification of the separate German states) led to estrangement from his family and immigration to the United States in 1834.



Rev. and Mrs. Ervendberg raised 5 children and 19 orphans.

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Baetge House (1852)

The two story house is a good example of Fachwerk construction, a medieval construction technique popular with the German immigrants to Texas during this period. Hand hewn cedar timbers were mortised and pegged to form a skeleton frame and within this frame adobe brick was laid to form a solid wall. This was plastered over inside and covered with cypress siding on the outside. It is thought to be one of the largest houses of this type in the state.

The first floor is completely furnished, with most of the pieces dating prior to 1860. A handmade chest of drawers, original to the house, is dated 1820 and several other pieces were also from Germany. There are 20 or 25 pieces which were made by hand in the New Braunfels area. A wealth of accessories of the period complete the furnishings.

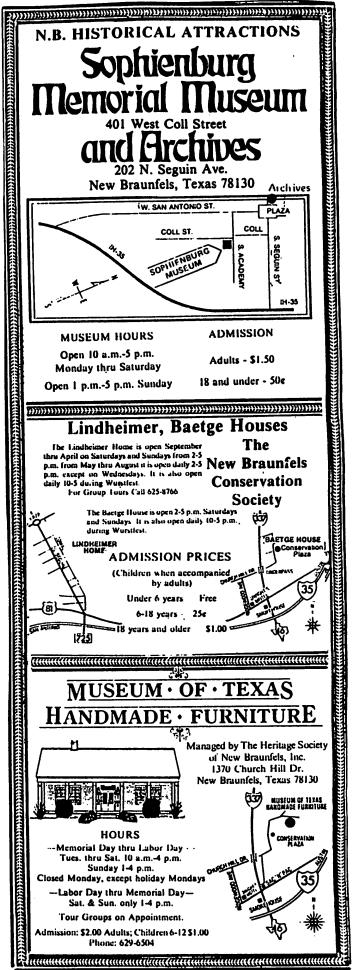
The second floor of the house has been left unfinished so that the construction can be appreciated.

Carl Friedrich Baetge was born in Germany in 1805. He was educated there as a civil engineer and is said to have been fluent in seven languages. In the early 1840's he was commissioned to build a railroad from St. Petersburg in Imperial Russia, 420 miles south to Moscow. This was to connect the Winter Palace of 1050 rooms with the Summer Palace. On the completion of the railroad in 1846 he was married to Pauline Marie Spiess, a young lady of the Czarina's Court. They came to New Braunfels in 1850 and two years later built this home on Demijohn Bend Ranch above Smithsons Valley, near the present site of Canyon Lake.

The structure was dismantled and rebuilt on its present site. Restoration was completed in 1981.

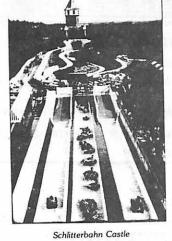
On the second floor of the house are now displayed copies of a number of drawings done by Baetge for the railroad project. These include coaches as well as railroad stations.

The Conservation Plaza is a project of the New Braunfels Conservation Society. On this site a number of early buildings, threatened with destruction, have been relocated. In addition to the Baetge House, they include the Forke Store, Welsch Barn, Star Exchange, Jahn House, and Haelbig Music Studio. The 1870 Church Hill School stands nearby on its original site.









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New Braunfels... a Great Place to Meet





Visit Gruene Historic District

A restored turn-of-the-century cotton town on the National Register of historic places, located on the banks of the Guadalupe River.

Restaurants ★ Wine Tasting ★ Unique Shopping ★ Antiques

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For information call 629-5077.

GRUENE HAS EVERYTHING...

Gruene (pronounced Green) is a unique part of Texas history that has been placed on the prestigious National Register of Historic Places as an entire district. Located on the banks of Texas' largest recreational river, the Guadalupe, Gruene was founded as an 8.000-acre cotton community in 1872 by H.D. Gruene, the son of German immigrants. In the prosperous years that followed. H.D. built a social hall, a cotton gin, a mercantile building, a lumber yard, a mansion and houses for each of his sons and his main caretakers. Gruene prospered until the 1930s when it became a ghost town after the Depression and the boll weevil took their toll.

Life once again came to Gruene during the winter of 1974-75 when the very buildings H.D. Gruene had built to serve his tenant farmers presented a unique commercial opportunity to new "settlers." The new businesses that were established were as unique as the town itself. A San Antonio businessman looking for a location for a winery stumbled on Gruene in 1974 and purchased the building that was the first electric powered cotton gin in Texas (circa 1922) as the location for Guadalupe Valley Winery and Tasting Room. He immediately convinced his good friend, who always wanted to own a beer joint, to look at Gruene Hall. Known as Texas' Oldest Dancehall, it was built by Mr. Gruene to provide entertainment for his tenants and surrounding farmers. The friend was in awe after seeing the large open-air dance floor and huge outdoor garden and immediately purchased the hall and re-established it as a major music venue (the bar had never really closed since 1878) providing the best of Texas entertainment. The rest they say is history—Gruene was on its way to total revitalization!

About a year later the Gristmill Restaurant opened in the crumbled ruins of Mr. Gruene's original cotton gin (circa 1878) located on the river banks behind Gruene Hall right under the water tower. Soon after Hunter Junction T-Shirt and Gift Shop opened and the Gruene Mansion, Mr. Gruene's personal home, was renovated and opened as an inn. (In 1988 the Mansion was purchased by new owners who totally refurbished the property making it the finest river inn in Texas.) Soon to follow was Gruene's own resident potter who created Buck Pottery in the old barn behind the mercantile building. Next the Gruene Haus Country Store was opened in the restored foreman's cottage with its lovely herb garden. At about the

same time, the old Martinez family grocery store building from Martindale was moved in to house the Guadalupe Smoked Meat Co. In 1985, Mr. Gruene's landmark mercantile building became the Gruene Antique Company—an antique mall.

1986 brought two new stores to Gruene. Texas Homegrown, featuring handcrafted Texas gifts, also offers "Sunset BBQ Raft Trips" in conjunction with the Guadalupe Smoked Meat Company. Wimberley Valley Wines Tasting Room also opened and has recently expanded to handle a variety of premium Texas wines and changed their name to Texas Wines Etc.

Many shops opened in Gruene in 1989. Boatfitters—a sports, fly tackle and outfitting shop is housed in the old Gruene Garage. Look for Splash Zone, offering sportswear for all seasons and the Gruene General Store, located in the original 1875 general store, where you can step up to the soda fountain for an ice cream float or even a 5¢ cup of coffee. They do business the old fashioned way!

"Gemuetlichkeit"

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RITTIMANN, FERDYNE K	NEW BRAUNFELS	TX	WEEDIN, MRS ELEANOR F	SAN ANTONIO	TX
ROLL, ROXIE	STAFFORD	TX	WENDT, HERMAN EDWARD	HOUSTON	TX
ROSSNER, LOUIS M & WILLOWDEEN	SAN ANTONIO	TX	WENDT, MAURICE	FORT WORTH	TX
ROTHLISBERGER, SOPHIE N	SAN ANTONIO	TX	WHITE, SHIRLEY	BEAUMONT	TX
RUHMANN, DOROTHY B	PORTLAND	TX	WHITNEY, MILDRED STEINMANN	SANTA BARBARA	CA
SAN ANTONIO PUB.LIB.HIST-REF DEPT	SAN ANTONIO	TX	WHORTON, EVANGELINE LOESSIN	GALVESTON	TX
SAUR, CARL F & ETHEL B	NEW BRAUNFELS	TX	WIED, A W / GERMAN RADIO PROGRAM	FAYETTEVILLE	TX
SCHAEFER, GUDRUN	D-6741 WEYHER	•••	WILLSON, LESLIE & JEANNE	AUSTIN	TX
SCHARF, IRENE	HELOTES	TX	WILSON, DR JOSEPH B	HOUSTON	TX
SCHMIDT, BILL	SHARON	CT	WINDLE, MRS LORENE FROEHNER	HOUSTON	TX
SCHREINER COLLEGE	KERRVILLE	TX	WITTNER, BILL R	RUSSELLVILLE	AR
SCHULDT, HR/HRS ERBEN	BEAUMONT	TX	WOODWARD, R O	FLORENCE	AL
SCHULTZE, RUTH ANN	POTEET	TX	YOUNG, MR/MRS EARLE B	GALVESTON	TX
SCHULZE, ARTHUR E	HOUSTON	ΤX	rooms, mirring since s		***
SCHUMACHER, JR, CARL W	HOUSTON	TX			
SCHUTZ, THEODORE J	LA GRANGE	ΤX	When is a german	not German?	
SCOTT, MRS ROBERT L	HOULTON	ΤX	A german (note, no	t capitalized	d) is
	AUSTIN	ŤΧ	a dance consisting of i	ntricate figu	ires
SEIDEMAN, CHARLES H	MADISON	WI	that are improvised and		
SEIFERT, LESTER W J	SAN ANTONIO	LX AT	with waltzes. From tha	t meaning,	
SEILER, DR/MRS RALPH H		ΤX	"german" also means a d		,
SEIP, JOHN P.	CORPUS CHRISTI	١X	anagifically one of whi		

specifically one at which the german is danced.

Just before the turn of the century a group of San Antonio men, most of them not German- surnamed (San Antonio Express, Oct. 22, 1893), organized a German Assembly. Today, the restricted male membership of San Antonio's German Club presents the debutantes and hosts several parties each season. It is a german club, not a German club.

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HOUSTON

ANDERSON

BRENHAM

KERRVILLE

NARBERTH

AUSTIN

HOUSTON

NEW BRAUNFELS

FREDERICKSBURG

PEOPLE

In Memoriam

In the past few months, German-Texan Heritage Society has lost three special friends.

Patrick McGuire was one of our six founding members. He was well known for his expertise in German Texana, especially for his books on the German-Texan artists Stockfleth, Iwonski, and Lungkwitz. We appreciated his participation in the program at our 1989 annual meeting.

GTHS members are familiar with Gilbert Jordan's contributions to the study of German-Texana folklore. He was a regular contributor to our publication, and his family has shared with us a postcard he wrote in 1910 as a classic example of turn-of-the century Texas German. You will find it elsewhere in this issue.

The name of Kelly H. Stevens has been on the lips of GTHS members for the past year. Although our association with Dr. Stevens was brief, he too has left us a lasting legacy.

Below are copies of published obituaries on Patrick and Gilbert. In the absence of a similar item for Kelly, we have assembled a brief biography.

Kelly H. Stevens, Artist and Special Friend of GTHS Born March 30, 1896, Kelly Hawgood Stevens was a well-known teacher and artist. He was graduated from the Texas School for the Deaf in Austin and from Gallaudet College in Washington, D.C. He spent many years studying and painting in the United States as well as in Paris, Spain, South America and Mexico. He taught art at a number of schools for the deaf, including the the school in Austin. Returning after a year in South America in 1948, Stevens purchased an old building in Austin. Although it was in a state of disrepair, he recognized its historical significance as the German Free School, originally built in 1857 with an addition in 1872. Stevens gathered information on the former school and collected significant parts of other area structures that were being razed at that time. These he incorporated into the restoration of the old German Free School building for use as his personal residence and studio. Over the years he also designed formal Italian gardens and terraces while collecting beautiful and historically valuable objects of art to enhance his unique home. In the last year of his life, Stevens sought to assure the continued care of his home, the former German Free School, and so on August 2, 1991, he deeded it to the German-Texan Heritage Society. Kelly Stevens died on November 27, 1991, at age 96. Burial was in Mexia, Texas.

McGUIRE James Patrick McGuire, age
54, died Wed., Jan. 22, 1992
after a long illness. Mr.
McGuire was closely
involved with the research
which led to the founding of
The Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio. A native of Austin, he graduated as ciass valedictorian from Kirby High School in Woodville. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the Univ. of Texas in 1960 and later served as president of the Phi served as president of the rin Beta Kappa Assoc. of San Antonio. After a year of grad-uate work at the Univ. of London, he returned to Texas London, he returned to Texas and taught social studies at schools in Beaumont, Kerrville and Austin. In 1972 Mr. McGuire received his masters degree from St. Mary's Univ. Af The Institute he became the first Director of Educational Programs, organizing The Institute's Alliance of Volunteers. He remained as senior researcher. Alliance of Volunteers. He remained as senior researcher until his retirement in 1991. He was the author of several books on European immigrant artists on the Texas frontier, and contributed rsearch to many Institute publications. His memberships included the American Historical Assoc., the can Historical Assoc., the Texas State and East Texas Historical Assoc. and the S.A. Museum Assoc. Mr. McGuire Museum Assoc. Mr. McGuire is remembered by many loving friends. Family members include: Parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. H. McGuire; brother and sister-in-law, Tom and Carolyn McGuire, all of Woodville; Mary and Bill Philmon, Lufkin; Kathy and M.L. Moore, Spring; nephews, Tim and Brian McGuire and Steve Moore; nieces, Susan Moore, Carolyn Sunde and Sharon Detter; Elizabeth and Kevin Dugi and son Matthew; Michael Burnside. A Memorial Service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, Janu-Memorial Service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 26, 1992 at St. David's Episcopal Church, 1300 Wiltshire Ave., San Antonio, the Rev. Ralph Shuffler officiating. In lieu of flowers memorials may be sent to The Institute Of Texan Cultures Memorials Fund and the San Antonio AIDS Foundation. Arrangements by Sunset Memorial Park

Gilbert J. Jordan



Professor Gilbert Jordan, of Austin, died Tuesday, January 28, 1992, in his 90th year.

Texas has lost a scholar, poet, teacher, gentieman, and gentle man. His family has lost a loving, kindly husband and father.

The bilingual grandson of immigrant pioneers, he was born Johann Gilbert Jordan in the Texas Hill Country German Methodist community of Plehweville, today called Art, in Mason County. Professor Jordan lovingly recalled life in this comfortable ethnic cocoon in a book, Yesterday in the Texas Hill Country. As a young man, he chose to leave his native place and seek a life of the intellect, rather than continue the ranching heritage of his family. His first job, totearn money for his continued education, was as teacher of the one-room school at Kothmannville in Mason County. A 1924 graduate of Southwestern University in Georgetown, he later earned a master's degree at The University of Texas and a doctorate in German Literature at Ohio State. In the middle and late 1920's, he served as an innovative administrator and teacher at Carthage, Saratoga, Port Neches, and Goose Creek schools, all in east Texas.

In 1930, he became professor of German at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, a position he held until retirement in 1968. For most of that span he also served as departmental chairman. From 1968 to 1973 he served on the faculty at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville. As recently as 1989 he taught an Elderhostel course for Texas Tech University.

His creative energies were applied to a wide range of subjects, from an acclaimed iambic pentameter translation of Schiller's Wilhelm Tell to several volumes of his own poetry, most notably *The Morning is Not Far*, and from a genealogy of the Jordan family to the folklore collection German Texana, scholarly articles on medieval German drama and a translation of a 19th century Texas German travel account. In spite of these published achievements, he regarded himself, first and foremost, as a teacher. Students remember him as a kindly master of his trade, a man who joined intellect to the piety rooted in his Teutonic Wesleyan heritage.

In 1960, the Federal Republic of Germany honored him with the First Class Service Cross, a medal recognizing his activities in behalf of German culture.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Vera; daughter, Janice Shefelman; and son, Terry, all of Austin; grandchildren, Tina Jordan, Karl Shefelman, and Daniel Shefelman, all of New York City, Sonya Jordan of San Francisco, and Eric Jordan of Austin; and by hundreds of intellectual descendants: his students.

Services will be held at Westminster Manor Chapel, 4100 Jackson Ave., in Austin, at 3:00 PM, on Saturday, February 1st, 1992, followed at a later date by interment of his ashes in the Art United Methodist Cemetery, near his native place.

He returned home, after all.

NARCISSUS
Gilbert J. Jordan
In spring I like to see and hold
An early growing daffodil,
So eager are my eyes to fill
My heart and mind with living gold.
I feel renascent life returned
When daffodils spring up anew;
When white narcissi gather dew,
The morning is not far, I learned.
Did not a Wordsworth see a field
Of dancing daffodils at play?
I wonder, though, if he could say
The thoughts that were
to him revealed.
Nor do I know the words contained

Nor do I know the words contained By jonquil or by daffodil, But I will seek and wait until Another spring has been regained.

Arrangements by Weed-Corley Funeral Home, 3125 N. Lamar, 512-452-8811.

Frances Seidensticker Dodds

A Modern Texas-German Playwright By Anne Stewart

Born June 8, 1953, to Edgar and EC Seidensticker, Burnet, Texas, Frances took up residence in a rambling, two story home with no television set. Instead of being "glued to the tube" watching other people's fantasies, Frances created her own world with dolls, stuffed animals and small plastic toys.

Doll houses and cities made from shoe boxes, styrofoam and odd bits of fabric filled the center hallway, blocked doorways and crept up the stairs. Family members tip-toed precariously through the chaos to reach the bathroom. Complaints of "Why can't she move the stuff?" and "What a mess!" carried no impact. "She isn't hurting anything," her parents said.

Bedspreads and quilts formed a tent when spread over the dining room table and chairs. All meals had to be eaten in the kitchen or at the picnic table in the back yard until the tent was struck. TV came to the Seidenstickers in the late 1950s. By then, of course, it was too late. Frances' imagination had been allowed to mushroom into creativity.

"The Battle of Bubble Gum Creek" was Frances' first play. Like a scene from an early Mickey Rooney-Judy Garland movie, the play was staged by neighborhood kids during summer vacation. The play was duly reported in the local newspaper. The eight-year old playwright wrote a play with a part for everyone. Influenced by the legend of the Lone Ranger, the play featured Indians, good guys in white hats and villains who met a just fate. The two girls cast as dance hall floozies had parts especially written for them because they were taking dance lessons. "Bubble Gum Creek", therefore became the setting for a "down-home" version of the French Can-Can. Frances costumed all her actors from a big box of dress-up clothes she and her mother kept in the down-stairs closet for just such occasions.

While attending the University of Texas at Austin on a basketball scholarship, Frances majored in Drama with an English minor. Managing to complete a four year Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in six years, she graduated in 1977 with honors.

Drama majors who "make it big" are always publicly thanking their parents for not insisting that they take a "real" job. Frances, on the other hand, immediately began working at Casa Manana Playhouse in Fort Worth.

Deciding to work as a playwright in children's theater, Frances wrote original stories based on childhood experiences and solid research. In little more than two years Frances wrote and produced three Plays; "Peter Cottontail III", Easter 1979; "The Frontier Santa: A Cowtown Christmas", December 1979 and "The Legend of the Texas Easter Rabbit", Easter, 1980.

"Peter Cottontail III" included German legends. Making and decorating Oster Eier, Easter eggs, was an old family custom. Frances' father often told the story of how smart he and his brothers thought the Oster Hase was. The Rabbit always found every nest Edgar and his brothers made in the yard of the ranch house on the Guadalupe River. As a child, Frances had picked blue bonnets and wild lavender verbena with which to decorate the nests she made the evening before Easter Sunday. As she grew older she made sure that her niece and nephews did the same. "Peter Cottontail III" opened at Casa Manana for the 1979 Easter season. Playing to school children and the public, it has enjoyed many performances. It is produced seasonally by other Texas theaters.

With "The Frontier Santa: A Cowtown Christmas", Frances moved into Texas history. Focusing on gangs of orphaned, homeless children in Fort Worth's early days, "Frontier Santa" was based on accounts in the local newspapers. Sympathetic to children's need for family love and holiday festivities, Frances created a warm and entertaining Christmas story long before "the homeless" became a media cause. "Frontier Santa" opened in December 1979. Though vocally more demanding than "Peter III", this play is also produced almost annually.

Enjoying the Texas flavor of "Frontier Santa", Frances moved toward her next creation. Before "Frontier Santa" was completed, Frances mobilized her family to begin field research for a Texas-German play. For starters, her father,

Edgar Seidensticker of Burnet and her oldest nephew, Michael Stewart of Comfort, were assigned to finding examples of grass roots Texas-German music. Edgar turned to a friend and distant relative, Adolph Karger, a Hill Country rancher and musician.

On a cold February week-end, Edgar and Michael, tape recorder in hand, went visiting to the Karger home near Comfort, Texas. "Frances," they explained, " is writing a play about us Germans. She needs some real German songs and music. Can you help us?"

Mr. Karger, aged 85, invited his daughter and granddaughter, Betty and Felicia Barth, to join him. Adolph played the accordion and harmonica; Felicia, the flute. Herr Schmidt, Du Du Leigst Mir Im Herzen and Muss: Dem were played and sung. Adolph closed with two German dance numbers, a two-step and a schottische. The family sang the songs together - a trio made up of three generations from one family.

Next, Frances decided that her cast should hear German-accented English. This would lend authenticity to her production. More family friends and relatives were pressed into service. Seated at the oil-cloth covered kitchen table on old round-back wooden ranch chairs, Mike Stewart, her brother-in-law, recorded Esther Boerner Wiedenfeld. Esther, for whom English is a second language, read all the German female parts for the rough draft of the play - from the little girls to Omas.

Frances wanted the play to be told like a story. To achieve this she used a traditional folk character, "The Little-Old-Man-in-the-Woods" to talk to the audience. She christened him Herr Schmidt. Frances asked her father to help once again. She wanted him to record Herr Schmidt's opening monologue. "Willkommen to German Texas. Come. Enjoy yourself. This is an afternoon's entertainment." Frances knew her father's voice would communicate the German atmosphere of "Gemutlichkeit": friendly, comfortable, enjoyable.

For the hero's companion and comic sidekick, she created a German Rabbit puppet and called him Quatchen (Cottontail). As a child, Frances' favorite toy was a stuffed blue and white bunny with pink eyes and one ear. "Rabbit" was the ever-present main character in her daily dramas. Because of her childhood association with this small furry creature, there was no problem in writing amusing things for Quatchen to say and do. Together Herr Schmidt and Quatchen emigrated to Texas in the late 1840s and settled in the Hill Country. This duo formed a natural bridge between eastern Europe and colonial German-Texas.

"The Legend of the Texas Easter Rabbit", with its complex story line, combined historical facts about John O. Meusebach and the German-Comanche Indian Treaty with German and Texas folklore and myths. This harmonious relationship between the indigenous Americans and the pioneers from Germany is seldom mentioned in history books or taken up by journalists as an example of two cultures living together in peace. Set in the caliche and limestone cedar-covered hills, the physical beauty of the Texas regional setting for the play at times almost over-shadows the story of the German and Indian children becoming friends.

When interviewed about her career in theater, Frances says she has "no idea" why she decided to write plays. It just seems to have developed. She has early memories of her parents telling her and her brother bedtime stories.

"The Three Billy Goats Gruff" was her favorite.

A fourth grade teacher reinforced the family custom of story-telling and reading when she praised Frances to her classmates. "Listen to Frances read. She's looking ahead with her eyes and using expression." Turning to Frances, she continued: "Your parents read aloud to you, don't they?" Reading problems in schools must not be a new problem on the educational scene.

Frances' plays reflect strong family values and an appreciation of her German heritage. A diversity of themes runs through-out her plays: family customs, ties between the Homeland and the New Land, traditional German appreciation of music, song, plays and folk-lore, Texan individuality and the strong feeling the German-Texan has for nature.

Please contact the authors of this article before using any part of it.

Thank you. Mike and Anne Stewart, Route 1 Box 153-D, Comfort, Texas 78013.

His musical expertise ranges to many composers and tunes

Herbert Bilhartz's experience includes big band, classical

Herbert Bilhartz quietly sang the first lines of a German polka tune called "Rosamunde," in an effort to give an example of the style and content of the German music that he often plays and directs. A bit self-concious at first, Bilharts sang the first bars from memory.

"Rosamunde, I'll always be true, because today, my Rosamunde, my heart beats only for you," Bilhartz's hand expertly moved to the beat.

It's the type of music that arouses passion in his heart, and he possesses a near-encyclopedic memory when recalling composers and tunes. But his expertise includes all types of music-from the big-band era to classical. A member of the Air Force and Army for 26 years, Bilhartz rose to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer before his retirement to the Hill Country around Medina in 1977. This followed three years as director and band master of the U.S. Army Europe Band based on Heidleberg, Ger-

"I had not been overseas since Vietnam, and I was fortunate to be assigned to the Heidleberg band," said Bilhartz. "I was the number-one officer and commander of the and and completely responsible for the personnel in my unit.

Born and raised in San Antonio, Bilhartz was a graduate of the University of Texas in Austin in 1951 with a degree

specializing in symphonic folk songs and waltzes and the

"I first came into the Air Force right our of U.T." Bil-hartz said. "The Korean war was going on and at that time you either joined the service or the service joined you. About 10 years later, I was offered the Band Master Warrant Officer appointment by the Army. So the Air Force released me after the Army decided that I was qualified enough."

His first hand assignment for the army was at Fort Bliss, Texas, where he served for four years. Some of his responsibilities included rehearsing the band members and directing them during ceremonies

and reviews.
"I was then sent to Vistnam as band master of the 25th infantry band in Cu Chi, which Bob Hope used to say Viet-namese for, 'You want it, you can have it!'" Bilhartz said with a laugh.

He said his most rewarding experience while serving as band master in the Army are linked to his appointment in Germany. Bilhartz could speak the language fluently and was a lover of German band music. He was delighted with the opportunity.
"Germany was a bandsman's

dream," said Bilhartz. "They love band music and want to hear it. The band sound is still an important part of the musical scene in Heidleberg. German bands love to play polkas,

audience sits there with a glass of beer and sausage, and they sing along with the band. They get up and sway back and forth and generally have an enjoyable evening."

While band master is Germany, Bilharts was faced with hundreds of demands to play



at festivals throughout the country. Sometimes the band, under his direction, would play to crowds as large as 7,000something that was unheard of in America.

"The German people are extremely fond of American big-band music. Glenn Miller and the works of John Philip

Sousa were big favorites," Bilhartz said.

In addition to the large crowds that they played for regularly, Bilhartz directed his bands before such political figures as Secretary of State Alexander Haig and Prince Charles of Wales. He enjoys recalling his meeting with the Prince of Wales.

"Prince Charles was the guest of honor and reviewing officer, and I was invited to meet him afterward at the reception. I was given specific instructions on how to act and talk to him. So I chatted for awhile and had my picture made with him," Bilhartz said.

During 1976, when America was celebrating its bicentennial, Bilhartz and his band released an album salute to American big-band music that included a successful German large audiences. Some of the selections they played includ-ed Aaron Copeland's "Fanfare "Lincoln Portrait."

"We had great attendance for media." that tour, playing such places as Munich and Nuremberg," Bilhartz has three children first time that 'Lincoln Por- ler of an armor battalion. His trait' had ever been performed laughter lives in Missouri and in that fashion," Bilhartz said. also oldest son works for the

from the Army in 1977, Bil- ton, D.C. hartz directed and taught the director. This mutual benefit society originally was limited to American citizens with German ancestors like Bilhartz,

but now includes people from all backgrounds. Bilhartz's band specializes in playing German music at many social

about a year ago," said Bil-hartz. "It's a small band, around 20 pieces, and we normally get strong reactions when we play. On Oct. 5, German-American day, we did a commemorative program at the Alamo with the guest of tour where they played to honor being the Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr. Klaus Aurisch. Two of the heroes of the Alamo For The Common Man" and were born in Germany, and we performed a short ceremony there before the tourists and

Bilhartz said. "Years later, who, naturally, all play musiafter a concert given by cal instruments. He mentioned Copeland in San Antonio, I with great pride that his told him of how we successful- youngest son is a Captain in ly performed 'Lincoln Portrait' the Army and heroically with the words of Lincoln in served in Operation Desert German. He said that was the Storm as a company comman-

*Incorrect. Was a regular

1940s. Also played extra horn in the San Antonio

Symphony in those days.

member of the Austin Symphony while a student in the late

functions in the area.

"We started that band just

Following his retirement Navy Department in Washing-

After the globe-trotting suc-Medina high-school band for cess of directing the Army's two years. He is currently band in such locations as involved with the Hermann Switzerland, Belgium, Great Sons', Lodge German band Britain and, of course, Ger-where he serves as the band many, his most pleasant memory is linked to his wife while in France.

"On Memorial Day in 1976, we played eight memorial services in Paris. It also just happend to by my 25th wedding anniversary. I took my wife along to celebrate our anniversary in Paris that evening. She went along with us to all these programs, but they were scheduled so closely together that I told the major that we were never going to make it. There was just no way that we could get from one show to the other in time.

He thought that it would be allright because we had a police escort. Well, the French bus driver, after having stopped for lunch and eating, insisted on having his brandy and coffee. Even though we were running late, he refused to go until he had his usual after-lunch drinks. Remarkably, we were still able to make it by the skin of our teeth," Bilhartz said with a laugh.

Though officially retired, it seems as if Bilhartz is busier than ever. Another current musical endeavor he's involved in his small, mail-order business that specializes in tapes of German band music. In addition, he's a regular member of the Austin and San Antonio symphonies. *

So the lover of music seems to be leading an enjoyable life in retirement.

"I love music and staying busy," Bilhartz said. "But I like to get out and have fun with the German tunes once in awhile too."

From the Bandera Bulletin, Feb. 5, 1992. Sent by Herbert Bilhartz of Medina, Texas

Long-distance, short memories

REDERICKA RICHTER-DeBERRY Point, which is a rural community near La in my life, for a total of maybe 10 minutes. But we get along fine. I like to hear they would drive to the store when they from Fredericka because she knows what it needed to call. means to make arrangements for a longdistance telephone call.

Making such arrangements was common in my early times, and the procedure will be familiar to Texans who have gray hair and rural backgrounds.

Fredericka was telling me on the phone the other morning about her early experience with long-distance. This was when she was away from home, going to college a few years back. I will let you guess how far

Her parents lived then on a farm at West

is a friend of mine I have seen twice Grange. They didn't have a telephone but Luck's Store on Highway 71 had one, and

> If Fredericka wanted to talk to her folks. she would write a letter and tell them to go to Luck's at 6 o'clock, or whenever, on such and such a day, and wait for her to call. Or else she would give them the number of a phone at school and promise to be waiting there at a certain hour when they called from Luck's Store.

This sort of long-distance arranging will seem strange to those who have grown up punching buttons any time they want to talk to mama, no matter if she's next door, or in West Virginia, or in Halifax.

Article by Leon Hale, Houston Chronicle, Nov. 24, 1991. Fredericka is a GTHS Board member and our publicity chairperson.



DUTCH TREAT BAND Melvin and Linda Scott 3808 Tarragona Lane Austin, Texas 78727 (512) 339-8548

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"I showed them what a woman could do."

-Anna Martin Mason, Texas



Anna Martin founded The Commercial Bank in 1901. She was one of the first female bank presidents in the United States.

Born to wealth in Germany, Anna Martin lived much of her formative years in poverty on the wild Texas frontier after the family's wealth was lost. Her husband lost first his wealth and then his health; daily life became a struggle to survive. It was her indomitable spirit alone which sustained the family. It is that frontier spirit of determination to succeed which built not only The Commercial Bank, but Texas.

When Anna Martin landed at Galveston on her fifteenth birthday in 1858, the family had \$150 and their baggage. None could speak English. They settled on the Llano River at Hedwig's Hill, on the wild frontier. Comanches contested with the settlers for the land. This daughter of an aristocratic mother found herself milking cows, driving oxen, and working, working, working. The lack of a future bothered her almost as much as fear of Indians.

Anna Martin's battles for survival on the frontier shaped a character. As the oldest of six children, she took the lead, developing leadership qualities that stood her in good stead throughout life. She married in 1859, and she and her husband dealt with Indians and lawless men who flocked to the frontier during the Civil War, when civil authority was absent. Loyal to the Union, the two were often harrassed by Confederate sympathizers. "If a stranger came to our door I greeted him always in fear that they came to kill my husband," she said.

Under such conditions Anna Martin developed the traits of self-reliance, determination, courage, and hard work that helped her succeed. Others fled the frontier, but Anna Martin stayed.

In 1864 Anna Martin's husband became ill, and for the next 15 years most of the burden of supporting the family fell on her shoulders. She kept a way station for the stage, sold groceries, made butter for Fort Mason, and took in sewing while she cared for an invalid husband. In 1879 both her husband and her mother died. Despite poor health brought on by overwork, she and her sons began to "battle life for all we could." In two short years she was out of debt and could at last build a nice home for her family.

Anna Martin worked hard to secure

the future for her family.

Indians, bandits, hardships, and toil drove many from the Texas frontier. Anna Martin lost both parents and a husband to a hard life; her brothers and sisters all left. But she stayed, even though she spoke of "long weary years." Finally her efforts paid off—"We were crowned with success," she said.

By her own account she "drifted in the . bank business," but one suspects she was being overly modest. Few things this remarkable woman did seem to have happened by accident.

Anna Martin dealt with the problems of being a business leader in a maledominated world in a very direct way: She excelled at what she did. "I heard men say she is only a woman, but I showed them what a woman could do and I had no trouble anymore. A many man came to me and consulted me in their affairs and still do," she wrote. "Wenn du mehr Geld brauchst, kannst du es hier haben, so viel, wie du willst," (If you need more money, you can have it here, as much as you wish) she told good customers.

"My outlook in life was not very encouraging at the beginning, but end good all good."

-Anna Martin

The Commercial Bank bull has been the symbol of the bank almost since the beginning and has taken many forms. This version, very much like the current logo, appeared on bank stationery while Anna Martin was president.

Information furnished by Ed Winton, Mason, Texas

BOOK REVIEW

Dr. Edith F. Bondi. Affidavit Hunters. Houston: Quaff Plume Press, 1990. A 28 page booklet containing Dr. Bondi's English translation of a German story (Die Affidavitsucher, Essen, Germany: Alte Synagoge, 1938) has three different types of bindings which range in price from \$5 for standard, \$4 for spiral, and \$3 for stapled. This includes tax, shipping & handling.

A most curious book arrived on my desk for review. Without any background material on either author or content, but intrigued by the simplicity of the format (child-like illustrations interspersing a simply told story divided into ten very brief sections) and amazed at the colors (forest green print on lime green paper) and very curious about notices neatly attached by hand inside both covers and held in place by chartreuse stickers, I treated myself to a trip through text.

Dr. Bondi herself offers us the best abstract of the plot on the back cover above a logo stating "Kids R Special People": "Children, 7,9,11, and 13 years of age, and their parents are confronted with the holocaust, in Berlin. Immigration is the only way out. An affidavit must be procured, to provide for food and housing while settling in America. Each child, imaginatively works up an idea to obtain the affidavit." There are touching turns of fate, naive mistakes which work miracles, and throughout the telling, a charmingly stiff formality of language reminds the reader that really we are hearing German being translated. The various threads weave together for an optimistic and happy ending. But there is still a page left on which the reader is presented with numerous suggestions for dramatic presentation of the story. This simple and spunky pedagogical frame around the Affidavit Hunters left me wondering about the author and so I decided to call her at her Houston number.

I was in luck, my Sunday afternoon call (timed politely within the German system I am familiar with) found Dr. Edith Bondi just home from a week in Hungary and not yet off to her folk harp society meeting. Dr. Bondi, a member of our organization, may be well known to many of you, so I will list her professional credentials succintly and move on to her fascinating personal up-date.

Edith F. Bondi, who received her Ph.D. in Reading and Language Education from East Texas State University, was born in Berlin, Germany, in 1919. She is a teacher, a writer, an independent international bibliographer of German children's literature, a participant in the Association for Childhood Education International, the Society of Children's Book Writers, Camp Morasha, as well as the Gimmel Foundation of Israel, and is an active member of the American Translators Association. Dr. Bondi has received close to 200 awards and citations of merit as an outstanding achiever in her field. Her projects touch hundreds of lives. There is, for example, the nature study curriculum she developed for the Houston Independent School District. Then there is her idea called "Inner-city Nutcracker" which provides about 300 children the opportunity to dance in the Nutcracker Suite each November without cost. should not fail to mention her privately donated brass drinking fountain in the shape of a armadillo, which delights Houston children. And consider her children's books like Affidavit Hunters. She says that out of a series of 5 books, the favorite is Jump Zyle Book, a group of international songs used by children as they jump rope (Seil = Zyle!). Presently in Houston, youngsters grades 2 through 4 at Davie Crockett School are busy writing up their opinions and impressions of Affidavit Hunters.

Presently in her 55 year of professional work, she has signed a contract to teach 20 weeks at the elementary school attached to Kossuth University in Debrecen, Hungary. Dr. Bondi is adding Hungarian to herother languages of German, Hebrew, Yiddish, French, and English. She is full of praise for the Hungarians she will be working with and enthusiastic to be able to introduce Dick and Jane to their children. Retire means for Dr. Bondi to put on new tires and go!

EVENTS & PLACES

Fredericksburg Marktplatz

In our previous issue was a story on the history
Fredericksburg's Marktplatz and plans for its redevelopment. Still available are commemorative brick pavers,
either square or in the shape of the Vereins Kirche,
with a phrase of one or two lines. These will be installed in the
History Walk section of the redeveloped Marktplatz with dedication
scheduled later this year. For information on price and design,
write Marktplatz Pavers, P.O. Box 1, Fredericksburg TX 78624

GERMAN PIANIST TO PERFORM

German-born painist Andreas Klein will perform in concert on April 2, 8:00 p.m. at Willowmeadow Baptist Church, Houston. Admission is free to the public. For additional information, call (713) 981-0608



Sent by John Biesele, Austin, Texas

Christ Church Cathedral
"CLOISTER GALLERY"
announces the opening of the exhibition

"The Texas Scene - Round Top"

40 original works by Christine Moor Sanders Sculpture, drawings, paintings, and other art forms to recall the times of the early German settlers

> Preview reception Schurday, April 11, 1992 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. 1117 Texas Avenue Houston, Texas

Poetry by Lorraine Yearwood German singers performing for opening Music recorded on the 100 year old pipe organ of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Round Top

Members of the Texas Historical Foundation will be in attendance co-sponsoring this event in honor of Texas History Alouth.

Exhibition will run April 1-30

GERMAN CHOIR CONCERT

42 men and women from several towns in Nordrhein-Westfalen will perform while on tour of Texas and other parts of the U.S.

April 10 in Austin

April 11 in Fredericksburg

April 13 in New Braunfels

April 18 in Houston

Cancelled: April 15 in Columbus

For times, places and ticket information, contact Helgard Suhr, 8 Mission Dr., New Braunfels TX 78130, or call (512) 625-6330

GERMAN FILMS AND OTHER EVENTS

For a schedule of German-language films, art exhitibions, lectures and other events in the Houston area, contact Goethe-Institut Houston, 3120 Southwest Fwy., Suite 100, Houston TX 77098 or call (713) 528-2787. Unfortunately, the release of the Institut's bimonthly schedule generally does not coincide with our publication deadlines.

DANKE!

Many thanks to our GTHS members in Austin who decorated two public Christmas tree exhibits in the German tradition for the 1991 holiday season. For the second year, they provided a traditional tree at the Elisabet Ney Museum. This past season they also provided the German tree for Barton Creek Square Mall's "Christmas Around the World" exhibit of ten different ethnic Christmas trees. A special thanks to Helga von Schweinitz for her responsible leadership.

ALSO IN AUSTIN...

The Austin Independent School District's school board recognized the month of November 1991 as German-Heritage month to acknowledge the "outstanding contributions made by German-Americans in our multicultural world." The resolution also noted that students and teachers of German in the Austin ISD traditionally travel to New Braunfels for "Student Day," the first Wednesday in November. Paul Mettke of the Austin Saengerrunde and Helga von Schweinitz of our GTHS accepted the resolution and expressed the German Texans' appreciation of the school board's action.

Marienkirche: A mother church restored

FREDERICKSBURG - Al- couraged the most 118 years to the day since it was first consecrated as a parish church, "Marienkirche" of Fredericksburg (Old St. Mary's Church) will be rededicated on Dec. 15 at 3:00 p.m. Archbishop Patrick Flores and Bishop Bernard F. Popp will bless the restored church. The public is invited to attend.

But the real story of the church begins in 1846 when the first settlers arrived at the site of what was to become Fredericksburg. The pioneer settlers were part of a group of German immigrants, Many Catholic families were among these original settlers and in 1847 construction of the Vereinskirche was begun. This was an octagonal church building available for use by all denominations. It served also as a school house, town hall and a

In the fall of 1847 at the urging of a visiting missionary priest, Father Claude Marie Dubuis, the Catholic congregation began building a log church and a modest home for a priest.

Despite hardships the town finally finished the first church in time to welcome Father Menzel from Czechoslovakia.

Several other priests succeeded Father Menzel. Often the parish went for weeks or months with no priest. In 1853 Bishop John M. Odin of Galveston administered the sacrament of confirmation for the first time in the community. In 1859 a Jesuit missionary. Father Wenniger, arrived and staved for three weeks. He en-

parishioners to build a larger church.

Before the cornerstone was laid in 1861, three other priests briefly served the needs of the parish. While Father Peter Bannach was pastor the new church was completed. The consecration of St. Mary's was on Nov. 22. 1863. Bishop Dubuis, the second bishop of Texas and the same missionary priest who in 1847 had urged them to build a church, performed the ceremony.

This is the story of a people well as a building. The Civil War was building to a crescendo at this time. Many had gone to war

and those left provided protection for the settlement. These pioneers volunteered their services to build the new church.

Marienkirche was built in a cruciform, typical of early Christian churches. The twofoot thick limestone walls and

large foundation blocks were native limestone quarried north of Fredericksburg, Window openings were trimmed with cut limestone quarried near Comfort. The roof was composed of hand cut rafters with cypress shingles nailed to wood lathing that spanned the rafters. The wood used was transported from Bastrop.

REDEDICATION: The 1863 church which has been restored will be rededicated on Dec. 15, at 3:00 p.m. Father Patrick Marron, pastor, invites the public to attend.



ORIGINAL CHURCH: Marienkirche and congregation circa 1870s.

The 72-foot steeple remains the most prominent and distinguishing feature of the building. Formed by a four part limestone vault finished with plaster, the dome is not characteristic of the European Gothic styles reflected in the other building features, but is more akin to detailing of the mission period of architecture in South Texas and Mexico. The corbel stone vaulting contributes to the uniqueness of the structure.

The church was not ceiled at the time of building. Later a ceiling consisting of beaded board forming a vault over the nave and intersecting vaults at the transept crossing was installed. Five six pointed wooden stars - from which lighting fixtures were suspended attached to the ceiling.

Part of the floor was covered with blue gray soapstones from the Willow City area, while the floor under the pews was covered with wood.

The entire structure was a very simple and honest architectural statement. Besides the many hours of work donated by the people, the church cost \$7,797.00.

The parish continued to grow and flourish. A new church was needed and on Nov. 24, 1908, the "New St. Mary's Church" was consecrated.

The two Mary's St churches stood side by side, and still do. The old church building continued to serve the parish. First as a school, then as a home for the sexton and his family. Then it became a storage area and later fell into disrepair.

Seeing their beloved old church so useless was difficult for many. Some wanted to tear it down and make room for a parking lot. Parish

members were divided. But in 1946, a grotto was built inside the church as a token of honor to members of the congregation who served during World War I and II. At that point the "tearit-down" syndrome stopped.

And so Marienkirche braved the aging process alone. In the late 1960s a group of friends, both Catholics and Protestants, got together to lend aid to the neglected building. Special events were held to raise money for the restoration.

MARIENKIRCHE RESTORED: Father Patrick Marron, pastor, stands in front of the restored church. The 72foot steeple is the most prominent and distinguishing feature of the church. Formed by a four part limestone vault finished with plaster, the dome is akin to detailing of the mission period of architecture in South Texas and Mexico.

Msgr. Erwin Juraschek, then pastor, was enthusiastic about the restoration and at once took over fund-raising activities. It was estimated that restoration would cost \$150,000.

Father Anthony Cummins replaced Msgr. Juraschek in 1974. Between 1976-77 interior and transcept windows were installed at a cost of \$32,500 Part of the money was a \$15,000 matching grant from the Texas State Historical Commission Restoration work continued on a gradual basis, one phase at a time. Bishop Hugo Gerberman came as nastor in 1977 followed by Father Thomas Palmer in 1980. Father Patrick Marron was appointed pastor in 1986. He appointed a young member of the parish to get a board together to finish Marienkirche project. The new committee hoped for restoration by 1989. The estimated cost was now \$281,540.

Fund-raising activities continued. And finally on June 26, 1989, services resumed in Marienkirche. After 81 years a regular schedule of services was announced.

Now at the end of 1991, the refurbished building has a place in the scheme of things. The size is ideal for daily Mass, and many a proud parent will happily bring the newest family member in for baptism. Through the years it will save in terms of heating and cooling and lighting. With the rededication, Marienkirche will again take its rightful place as the mother church of Fredericksburg.





Sonnabend/Sonntag, 4./5. Januar 1992

Mit einem Kulturpark will die Stadt San Antonio das deutsche Erbe in Texas beleben. Geplant ist der Wiederaufbau eines alten deutschen Wohnviertels der Jahrhundertwende, in dem in typisch amerikanischer Weise Kitsch und Kommerz eine Verbindung eingehen sollen.

Beethoven und Blasmusik

Von Jürgen Schönstein

Sauerkraut, Bratwurst, Liederkranz – solche "Kleinodien" der deutschen Sprache gehören in und um San Antonio, Texas, zum normalen Sprachschatz der Bevölkerung. Denn die Stadt, in der Cowboyn fast alltägliche Kleidengs-Accessoires sind, die Stadt, die mit der ehemaligen Mission "E Alamo" und dem Grab von Davy Crockett und Jim Bowie den Schrein texanisch-amerikanischen Freiheitsbewüßseins in ihrem Herzen, liegen hat – diese Stadt ist deutscher, als dem Reisenden zunächst vorstellbar scheint. Noch um die Jahrhundert.

Reisenden zunächst vorstellbar scheint.
Noch um die Jahrhundertwende war mehr als die Hälfte der Einwohnerschaft San
Antonios in Deutschland
oder dem Elsaß geboren oder
hatte niem des geboren oder
stämmige Vorfahren. Ihre
Stadtviertel hießen "KonigKonige Vorfahren. Ihre
Stadtviertel hießen "Konigkuhlehn-Bezirk" und "Little
Rhein". Stadtratssitzungen
wurden in deutsch gehalten.
An der Commerce-StreetBrücke warnte ein Verbotsschild (auch eine deutsche
Errungenschaft) in drei Sprachen; "Schnelles Reiten über
die Brücke ist verboten –
Walk your horse over this
bridge, or you will be fined
Anda despacio con su caballo, o tene la ley."

Hier, wo Adobe-Lehmbau

Hier, wo Adobe-Lehmbau und altdeutsche Möbel zu-sammentreffen, wird dem-nächst ein deutsches Kulturnachst ein deutsches Kultur-und Geschäftszenturm, der German-Texan Heritage Park", entstehen – ein gut vier Millionen Dollar teures Projekt, mit dem ein ehe-maliges deutsches Wohnge-biet restauriert und mit neu-em kulturellen Leben erfüllt werden soll. Kein Disney-world-Deutschland soll hier entstehen, sondern eine Art Kulturzentrum mit Konsum-Komponente.

Dauer-Oktoberfest mit "Lederhosen & Laughter"

Kultur statt Kitsch. Für die Auswanderer waren Liederkränze, Schützenvereine und Musikfeste noch ein Teil ihrer Traditionen. Heute jedoch wird, German'n ur allzu leicht zum Klischee, gleichbedeutend mit Blaskapellen, Lederhosen, Biergarten und Humba-Tatera. Kleinere Städte in der Umgebung von San Antonio – New Braunfels, Grüne, Borne, Fredericksburg – schufen sich ein Image von Dauer-Oktoberfest und -Dudeljö. Das größte Ereignis von New Braunfels ist das "Wurstfest"
das alljährlich im November
mit "Lederhosen & Laughter, Gemuetlichkeit & Good
Times, Bratwurst und Beer"

mit Llederhosen & Laughter, Gemueltichkeit & Good Times, Bratwurst und Beer" seine Besucher anlockt. Die Texaner fühlen sich den Bayern seelenverwandt - beides sind Südstaatler, tragenihre eigene Tracht und heben ihre regionale Selb-ständigkeit ("Freistaat" hier, "Lone Star State" mit eigener

Flagge dort) unermudlich hervor. Da ist es nur folgerichtig, daß selbst eine ausgewanderte Hannoveranerin Dirnd-berockt im "Beergarden" zur Hurmba-Polka die Bierkrüge kellnert.

Kommerziell ist diese Deutschtümelei ein Erfolg. Sogar der neue "Fiesta-Te-sas"-Vergnügungspark (Er-offnung in diesem Frühjahr), der vor allem dem musikalischen Erbe des "Lone-Startstates gewidmet ist, bietet neben der mexikanischen und amerikanischen Unterhaltungszone den Bereich "Spaßburg" – mit "Sangerfest Halle, Dornroshen Carousel" und "Wienerschnitzel and Sauerkraut". Es feiere das deutsche Erbe von Texas, unter anderem mit den Klängen einer "traditionellen Humba-Kapelle", wie der Prospekt verspricht.

Dem klassischen Liedgut verpflichtet

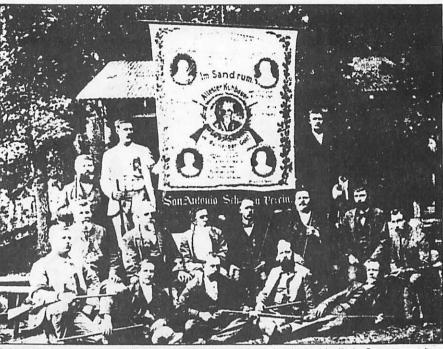
Doch mit deutscher Kultur, wie sie zum Beispiel der "San Antonio Liederkranz" pflegen möchte, hat dieser pseudo-bajuwarische Klamauk wenig gemein. "Liederkranz" das klingt zwar nach biergesalbten Mannerstimmen, ach "O du schoner Westerwald" und "Wacht am Rhein". Doch der 1892 gegrundete Männerchor führt sich eher dem "klassischen" Liedgut wie zum Beispiel Schuberts Liederzyklus und vor allem der deutschen Kirchenmusik (er wurde einst als Chor der St.-Josephs-Kirche gegründet) verbunden. Noch heute singt der Chor an jedem letzten Sonntag im Monat bei der Messe in St. Joseph.

Als der "Liederkranz" vor

Monat bei der Messe in St.
Joseph.

Als der "Liederkranz" vor einigen Jahren nach einem neuen Vereinsheim suchte, fand er das inzwischen verlassene und verfallende Gelände, auf dem 1968 die Weit-ausstellung "HemisFai" abgehalten worden war. Dieses Gelande, am sudlichen Rand der Innenstadt von San Antonio gelegen, war einst ein Wohngebeit deutscher Einwanderer. Noch heute stehen dort sechs ehemalige Wohnhauser sowie das Beethoven-Theater aus dem Jahr 1995, mit Platzen für 641 Zuschauer. Die erste Idee, eines der Gebaude zu pachten und zu renovieren, wuchs sich bald zur Initiative für ein deutsches Kulturzentrum aus.

Die "German Heritage Park, Ine" (mit der Wappeninschrift. Deutscher Garten") wurde gegründet, ein gemeinnütziges Unternehmen, das dieses Projekt in die Tat umsetzen will. Vorsitzender dieser Parkgesellschaft ist William Dielmann III., dessen Familie seit fünf Generationen in San Antonio lebt. Verantwortlich für die Entwicklung und Gestaltung des German Heritage Parks ist der gebürtige Saarländer Gerhard Büch. Der gelernte Architekt und spätere Bau-unternehmer war nach dem



Zu Beginn dieses Jahrhunderts: der deutsche Schützenverein von San Antonio vor einem Werbeplakat für eine Gesangsveran



Texas ist mit 693 395 Quadrat-kilometer Fläche der zweitgrößte US-Bundesstaat. In ihm leben 16 Millionen Finwohner Einwohner von denen sich noch heute noch heute etwa zwei Millionen auf ihre deutsche Abstammung berufen. Deutsche Siedler sind fast zeitgleich mit Anglo-Amerikanern vor 150 Jahren nach Texas

ist auch eine der größten Militärstandorte Amerikas. Allein die US Air Force ist mit ihren vier Stützpunkten der größte Arbeitgeber der Stadt, und viele Soldaten waren im Lauf ihrer Dienstzeit auch in Deutschland stationiert. Deren "romantische" Frinnerungen will der sche" Erinnerungen will der German Heritage Park in Kassenumsätze verwandeln. Deutsches Kleinod auf 1,2 Hektar Das Beethoventheater wird im ursprünglichen Stil restauriert, es soll nicht nur dem Liederkranz eine Bühne bieten, auch Gastkonzerte, Dichterlesungen, Theaterinszenierungen, sogar ein deutsches Filmfestival sind geplant. In Schultze's Hardware Store (ehemalige Eisenwarenhandlung) wird beispielsweise ein Cafe mit Konditorei einziehen. Büch hat schon eine alte Heidelberger Konditorei als Betreiber an der Hand. Eine Boutique für Trachtenmoden (Original aus Deutschland) wird ebenso im Park zu finden sein wie ein Souvenirgeschäft, ein Weinlokal und ein Kneippkur-Haus. Das Beethoventheater wird

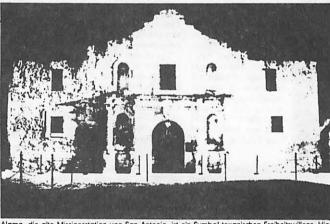
Haus.

Eine Niederlassung der Lufthansa wäre ebenso erwünscht wie eine Zweigstelle der deutsch-amerikanischen Handelskammer. Und zur Abrundung des Angebots stellt sich Büch (der seinen Namen mit Rücksicht auf das amerikanische Sprechvermogen wie "Busch" ausspricht) eine Computer-Informationszentrale für Handel und Handwerk vor. Wer Geschäfte mit Deutschland machen will, soll hier eine Liste möglicher Partnerunternehmen finden.

Ganz ohne Biergarten und

ste möglicher Partnerunternehmen finden.

Ganz ohne Biergarten und
Blasmusik wird auch dieser
Park nicht auskommen.
Denn genauso wie die Texaner ihr eigenes Cowboy-Klischee lieben und leben, erwarten sie, daß ihre KlischeeVorstellung vom bierseligen
Deutschen nicht enttäuscht
wird. Daher hat Büch den
Neubau eines Restaurant-Pavillons eingeplant, der von einer funktionierenden Kleinbrauerei mit Bier versorgt
wird. "Nur zwei Anforderungen stellen wir an die Betriebe in unserem Park", erklärt
er: "Sie müssen authentisch
sein und hohe Qualität bieten." SAD



Alamo, die alte Missionsstation von San Antonio, ist ein Symbol texanischen Freiheitswillens. Hier starben 1836 190 Amerikaner im Kampf gegen eine mexikanische Übermacht. len: Das Gelände steht der-

Krieg und nach der Gefan-

Krieg und nach der Gefangenschaft ausgewandert.
Vor einem Monat wurden der 50 Seiten dicke Pachtvertrag für das 1,2 Hektar große Gelande einstimmig im Stadtrat abgesegnet. Für 25 Jahre wird die German Heritage Park Inc. das Gelande verwalten. eine Option auf weitere 15 Jahre ist vorgesehen.
Allzu schwer ist die Entscheidung wohl nicht gefal-

len: Das Gelände steht der zeit ungenutzt da, die sechs Gebäude würden Millionen, summen verschlingen, wenn sie von der Stadt renoviert werden müßten. Die Parkge-sellschaft will nicht nur die kompletten Sanierungsko-sten tragen (sie hat schon drei Millionen Dollar aus Spendengeldern dafür aufgetrie-ben), sondern auch Geld in die Stadtkasse schaufeln: Die Halfte aller Einnahmen aus

dem Park gehen an die Stadt, mindestens jedoch 75 000 Dollar jährlich. Für die Einnahmen werden nicht nur all die Touristen sorgen, die nach San Antonio kommen (angelockt von den historischen Missionen und dem Alamo-Denkmal, von Parks wie SeaWorld of Texas und Fiesta Texas, außerdem vom berühmten Riverwalk, San Antonios historische Flußpromenade) – die Stadt

San Antonian's view of German-San Antonio

Vamishing

San Antonians reexamine their ancestry, to pay tribute to a disappearing subculture

By JULIUS GROSSENBACHER

he City Council's recent decision to lease a portion of HemisFair Plaza for con-struction of a German Heritage Park has caused many San Antonians to ask, "What

German heritage?"

Few realize that the modern city of San Antonio is largely a product of the industry of Ger-man immigrants. But what happened to all our early Germans? Did the melting pot swallow up their culture?

By the latter 19th century, San Antonio was home to more German Americans than Mexican Americans, and the city was heavily flavored with both cultures.

A later wave of immigration soon restored His-panics to predominance, and meanwhile the city's ethnic Germans were more or less sub-merging into the general "Anglo" category. But vestiges of San Antonio's German ancestry

are still visible. Look at some of the major road-ways: Fredericksburg, Huebner, Wurzbach, King William Street was originally Kaiser Wilhelm

The Germans occupied the area downtown along the east bank of the San Antonio River from the Alamo south to the Guenther Flour Mill, as well as farm land and hill country in Bexar

and surrounding counties.

The site of San Antonio's HemisFair - where the German Heritage Park will be built - was originally a German meighborhood, most of which was demolished in 1968 to make way for the world's fair. Some old homes were pre-served, but they have been empty for nearly a quarter century, awaiting an acceptable development plan.

The Hermann Sons Fraternal Benefit Society, located near the King William area, is an active organization with more than 80,000 members statewide. But while its lodge names are still German, the organization today focuses only

minimally on German culture.
In contrast, the Beethoven Home, a quaint German beer garden setting reminiscent of the early period of German society in San Antonio, is home to the Mannerchor and Damenchor choruses, which emphasize keeping German culture vibrant.

The San Antonio Liederkranz is a 100-member, male German singing society which, along with the Beethoven choruses, continues to participate in the state's German sangerbunds (singing

The most distinctive landmark of early German San Antonio is St. Joseph's Catholic Church, erected for German Catholics in 1868, affectionately known as St. Joske's because it was nearly surrounded by the expansion of the old Joske's department store. The nickname endures although Joske's is now Dillards.

Many German families from surround-ing counties still come to St. Joseph's Church along with the few remaining parishioners. Occasionally services are conducted in German. The Liederkranz serves as the church choir and continues a century-old tradition of singing German and Lat-

The Germans began immigrating to the area in large numbers in the 1840s, and prospered in San Antonio after the Civil War. By 1900 they were the dominant ethnic group in what had become the largest city in Texas.

The Guenther family erected Pioneer Flour-Mill and the Groos family operated the bank. J.C. Dielmann's store sold tur-pentine and whatever else was needed by a growing mercantile community. His company put down the first paving on Com-meron Street.

The wealthy families of San Antonio, mostly Germans, built homes in the King William area, a kind of Alamo Heights of the late 19th century. Surprisingly, their architecture was not German as might be expected but Victorian.

And it was opulent. A house with 10 fireplaces was not unusual. These "Germans" quickly became Americans, prospering in a new land where opportunity was what you made of it. The Germans were industrious.

These people spoke not German in everyday life, but English. At home they might have conversed with an elderly grandparent in German, but that was a

Children were taught German as a second language until World War I when it was considered by some as unpatriotic. The teaching of German was banned in the schools

By the usual trend German culture should have dominated the San Antonio area once the Germans took charge. Their language too should have prevailed, even above the Spanish spoken by the indigenous population.

The Germans controlled commerce, established social customs and even ousted most local political leaders of Mexican-

San Antonio Light, Dec. 22, 1991. Sent by Frances Harrison, San Antonio

But English was the language of choice,

and Americanization prevailed.

Theaters were taboo because Victorian standards looked with a jaundiced eye on the naughty themes of play acting. Opera houses, however, despite the depravity of many operatic story lines, were OK.

The Germans erected Beethoven Hall, still used today for performing arts - and expected to be a key part of the newly approved park celebrating German heritage.

There are many reasons why German culture gave way to an Americanization of the San Antonio community - some the result of two world wars that pitted America against Germany. Even before that, for prosperous German-Americans, Victorian England was a more attractive model than Germany itself.

Admiration of wealth and respectability, characteristics of the era, fit the time and place more than emulation of German legends of warrior leaders and the Vaterland.

Today, the idea of a German Heritage Park seems almost an anachronism. Unlike the Mexican-flavored Fiesta, which acknowledges a vibrant bicultural awareness among all citizens of San Antonio, there is apparently little German culture to preserve and celebrate.

But America is once again becoming home for many cultures. For San Antonio, a prime tourist city, cultural variety provides a seed bed for entrepreneurial op-portunities and economic growth, not to mention plain old city pride.

New Braunfels, for example, celebrates its German heritage each fall at Wurstfest, its version of Octoberfest, which this year drew 125,000 visitors and pumped \$7 million into the city's economy

San Antonio, which has always been classified as residential and recreational, can benefit from another natural resource, its multicultural population base, to expand its economic opportunities as well as enrich its own culture.

San Antonio's modern period began with the German settlers. They represent a vibrant heritage for the city. Any tribute to their undertakings and successes, which the German Heritage Park backers seek to provide, should endure because it is part of the city's true culture. It will not be merely another theme park.

Granted, San Antonio has the Alamo, a great success story as an effort to preserve local culture, and now one of the bestknown historical battlefields worldwide.

It honors our traditional heroes, those crazies who fought to the death against hopeless odds, but they belong to a different era. San Antonio has carnival rides and jumping whales too.

They are nice for the kids, and the grown-ups who accompany them, but only momentarily.

Heritage, on the other hand, as the tele-vision essayist James Burke says, "Tells you where you are, because you know where you've been."

An investment in true culture, as San Antonio has already seen, is an investment not only in its present but in its future.

Now that it is again respectable to be German, many San Antonians are re-examining their ancestry and are finding it has something to offer them and all the other "minorities" who live in San Antonio.

Julius Grossenbacher, a local attorney, is the San Antonio Liederkranz singing society's

German park gets go-ahead; city OKs lease

By Susia Phillips Genzalez

The City Council on Monday unanimously approved a long-term lease with a group of San Antonio business and civic leaders to develop the German Heritage Park at HemisFair Park.

The agreement capped more than a year of what officials characterized as intense negotiations that included 64 draft contracts.

After the council's 10-0 vote —

After the council's 10-0 vote After the council's 10-0 vote —
Councilwoman Lynda Billa Burke
was absent — the delegation of
about 50 people cheered, waved
miniature American and German
flags and broke into song.

German contributions

The song "Sanger Gruss" (Singer's Greeting) symbolized the group's welcoming of the city as a partner in the development, which will showcase the contributions of Germans to San Antonio.

We think this is a new way for "we think this is a new way for citizens to help local government." said Al Notzon, a board member of the non-profit German Heritage Park Inc. "And we see it as a real benefit to the city."

ANTONIO LIGHT SITE OF PROPOSED **GERMAN HERITAGE PARK** A. DEUTSCHES TYNAN-SWEENEY HOUSE RESTAURANT PAVILION & BIER GARTEN HERRMANN HOUSE KAMPMANN

The above on German Heritage Park was from the Dec. 10, 1991, San Antonio Light and Express-News, sent by Frances Harrison, San Antonio, and Walter Moser, Houston. GHP officials report they are finalizing fund raising and negotiating with prospective tenants. Plans are for the coffee house, deli and bakery to open in the former Schultze warehouse in Spring 1993 and for construction of the new restaurant and biergarten to be completed in Fall 1993. the article on pages 86-90 in March 1992 issue of Texas Monthly. GHP has a new address and telephone number: 9001 IH 10 West, Suite 900, San Antonio TX 78230 (512) 696-5372.

HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATION SUNKEN GARDENS, SAN ANTONIO SATURDAY, APRIL 11, at 2:00 p.m.

All are invited to attend the marker dedication ceremony commemorating the Alamo Portland and Roman Cement Company's original location, at San Antonio's famed Sunken Gardens.

As the text of the marker indicates (below), the cement company was founded by the Englishman William Loyd and the German George Kalteyer. Descendants of the Kalteyer family, principally GTHS member Charles Kalteyer of Austin, have proposed the historical marker.

Traveling from Berlin to attend the ceremony will be Dr. Stella Muhlhausen, granddaughter of George Kalteyer. Swiss and Italian representatives of present-day owners of the cement company and other special guests are also expected to attend.

This marker is further tribute to the German settlers as the "builders of San Antonio."

Text of the marker:

ALAMO PORTLAND AND ROMAN CEMENT COMPANY

Near this site in 1879, Englishman William Loyd discovered a blue argillaceous limestone believed to be a natural cement rock. Analysis by San Antonio druggist and chemist George H. Kalteyer confirmed the rock contained proper proportions of lime and clay to produce Portland cement.

Loyd and Kalteyer, along with other investors, organized the Alamo Portland and Roman Cement Company, which was chartered in January 1880. This, the first Portland cement plant west of the Mississippi, began with one intermittent pot kiln. A second pot kiln was added in 1881, when the company name was changed to Alamo Cement Company. The tall stack Schoefer-type kiln was added in 1889. Cement from this plant was used in the construction of the state Capitol and the Driskill Hotel in Austin.

Through the vision and leadership of Portland cement pioneers Loyd, Kalteyer, and Charles Baumberger, who succeeded to the presidency following Kalteyer's death in 1897, the company flourished. In 1908 the plant relocated to a site later known as Cementville near Alamo Heights. The original quarry became the Japanese Sunken Gardens in Brackenridge Park. The kiln area was designated as Baumberger Plaza in 1944.

THE FAYETTE COUNTY RECORD Friday, January 10, 1992



La Grange Makes International News

Trostioses Texas: Der sonst von Sonne und Hitze mehr als verwöhnte Bundesstaat im Süden der Vereinigten Staaten war während der Weihnachtstage in weiten Teilen überflutet, nachdem heftige Regenfälle tagelang nicht nachgelassen hatten. Diese Rinder verbrachten die Feiertage unter einem einsam aus der Seenplatte herausragenden "Weihnachtsbaum" auf einer Weide bei La Grange, während in mehreren Städten Tausende Bewohner die Flucht vor den Wassermassen antreten mußten. Bis gestern kamen infolge der ungewohnten Überschwemmungen mindestens 15 Menschen ums Leben, an der Golfküste bereitete man Massenevakulerungen vor.

Recently Linda and Wally Van Wart traveled to Osnabruck, Germany to visit with their foreign exchange students that they had in their home in La Grange during the years. One morning at the breakfast table, the Van Warts picked up the Osnabrucker newspaper dated Dec. 27, 1991 and looked at a picture of cattle standing in flood waters underneath a tree.

Linda was looking at the picture caption and saw La Grange. After receiving an explanation of the cutline they were surprised to learn that it was La Grange, Texas, their hometown that the flood picture was referring to.

The caption above was translated by Richard Henkie of La Grange and reads:

Desperate Texas: The State of Texas in the south of the USA, normally blessed with more than enough sun and heat, was in many parts flooded when heavy rainfalls did not cease for many days. These cattle spent the Holidays under a "Christmas Tree" which stuck out from the waters which covered the pastures near La Grange, while thousands of residents in several cities had to flee from the flood waters. Till yesterday, (Dec. 26, 1991) at least 15 people lost their lives on account of these uncommon floods. Mass evacuations are being prepared near the Gulf Coast.

The Van Warts enjoyed every minute of their trip despite knowing of the flooding in La Grange and were glad that they could keep up with happenings in their hometown while traveling halfway around the world.

Sent by Carolyn Meiners, La Grange, Texas



The Originals The first students of St. Joseph School sit on the front steps of the original St. Joseph Church, which became the school in 1921.

St. Joseph School, Slaton, celebrated its 70th anniversary in October, 1991. Eight of the original students of 1921 are still living in the community. This German farming community in Lubbock County was founded in 1911. Photo above from Slaton Slatonite, October 10, 1991, sent by Geneva Tetley, San Angelo

Photo at right from Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, Sept. 26, 1991, also sent by Geneva Tetley, San Angelo

Dry Goods 100th Anniversary

Highlighting the 100th anniversary will be the dedication of a Texas Court and the Hofmann Family. Historical Marker at 1:00 p.m.



William Hofmann started a business, Hofmann and Company, in 1890. It is observing its 100th Anniversary Saturday. The name of the business was changed to Hofmann Dry Goods in 1903.

The marker was a project of the in El Paso to come home and help

Members of the family will history of the business will be read by some comments.

Hofmann and Company opened in Bogusch, brothers-in-law.

a partner in the business.

Throughout the years descendants persons. The firm is now owned by Tallent, members of the Robert display windows. Hofmann family.

celebration of Hofmann Dry Goods Mason County Historical Commis- with the business. In 1913 Robert Company, Saturday, December 14; sion, Mason County Commissioners bought Mr. Bogusch's interest in the irm.

> In the earlier days, the business and painted. participate in the program. The was much more than a dry goods store. Cotton, wool, mohair, pecans, Della Hofmann Moneyhon. Jane hides and furs were bought and sold. Hofmann Hoerster, chairman of the Records show that yearling steers by Hofmann and Company,

August 1890 with a complete line of the business at some time during the brothers. Mr. and Mrs. Hofmann goods purchased in St. Louis, years were; Dorman McMillan, Loula Missouri. The company was owned Loring, Ella Hofmann Schmidt, (Mrs. Fred Schmidt), Robert, who by William Hofmann and Ernest H. Bertha Hofmann Montgomery, Anna Holmann McMillan, Anna Strick-The name was changed to land, Maybelle Loring, Frances Hofmann Dry Goods Company in Schuessler Hofmann, Thomas Rear-1903 when Charles A. Grote became don. Kurt Hofmann, Bill Hofmann and Pat Colvin.

Few changes have been made to of Mr. Hofmann have had ownership the building by the four generations in the business along with other of the Hofmann Family. Little has been done to the interior of the Jack and Florene Hofmann, Bob Al building. The exterior was given a and Carol Hofmann, Billie Bell face lift with the addition of pressed Loring Hofmann and Jim Hofmann tin added to the front and plate glass from Mason County News, Mason, Texas,

The building was badly damaged When Mr. Bogusch moved from in 1979 by fire and the floor in the Mason in 1911, Mr. Hofmann asked back was replaced with a cement Robert who was an engineer on a job floor. The partially burned beaded More news from Slaton--



east wall was replaced with old beaded lumber from a residence. During Mason's Main Street Project, the front of the building was stuccoed

The man who started this business, came to this country in 1870 from Germany when he was 11 years old with his mother, brother and sister. Historical Commission, will make and mutton sheep were also bought. He married Mary Bogusch April 10, 1882. She was a native of Austria who Others who owned an interest in came to Texas with her father and were parents of seven children: Ella married Frances Schuessler, Bertha (Mrs. Jeff Montgomery), Anna (Mrs. Dorman McMillan). Otto who married Della Valliant, Leo who married Lois Watkins and Walter

who died as an infant. Mrs. Hofmann died in 1926 and he died in 1927. With the exception of Lois, all of their children and their spouses are deceased.

December 11, 1991. Sent by a member and postmarked Waco, Texas.



NOW AVAILABLE: The Cemeteries of Austin County, Texas, a 776-page book, contains the records of 170 burial sites and over 18,000 names from the historic Austin County area. A multi-year project of the Austin County Historical Commission, the work also contains an alphabetical index plus a removable map showing burial sites in the County. The book sells for \$35.00, plus \$2.71 sales tax, plus \$3.50 shipping, for a total cost of \$41.21. Orders may be sent to: Cemetery Book, c/o Austin County Historical Commission, P. 0. 387, Bellville TX 77418.

The Boerne identity

Small town searches for clues to mystery of centuries-old German Bible

By David McLemore Los Angeles Times Service

BOERNE — It's an old, tattered book, bound in calfskin and filled with mysteries.

Such as: Who was Johan Schwartinge? What was his life like in the northern German low-lands? How did olive leaves get into the binding of his Bible?

The biggest mystery is how that Bible, nearly 400 years old and printed in an archaic German dialect, got to Boerne, a small town on the edge of the Torse Hill Country.

of the Texas Hill Country.

"It's like a detective story, but with a difference," says Bettie Edmonds, president of the Boerne Area Historical Preservation Society.

"The more facts we uncover about the Bible, the more mysteries there are."

Such mysteries are commonplace throughout Texas, says Curtis Tunnell, executive director of the Texas Historical Commission.

of the Texas Historical Commission.

"It's amazing what treasures there are in family collections or small-town history museums," Tunnell says. "They exist all over the state, examples of a community's cultural heritage that have survived and are cared for."

The Boerne mystery began coming to light in 1983 when the school district gave the historical society a time-worn Bible that had lain in the high school library for longer than anyone remembered.

The old book measured about 10 by 14 inches and was nearly five inches thick. Inside, it was filled with dense German text and beautifully rendered woodblock prints. The society put it safely away, bringing it out for display at the annual Christmas historical homes open house.

During one Christmas display, a visitor remarked that the Bible was printed in Platt-deutsch (Low German), a dialect that went out of common use as a written language centuries ago.

It was then that town officials noted the publication date was 1614.

"I was surprised how old it was. Every family has an old Bible, many of them 19th-century, handed down through the generations," says Mayor Patrick Heath. "We didn't know what The Bible was printed in Low German, a dialect that went out of common use as a written language centuries ago.

we had for a few years."

The historical quest began.

Thanks to three Boerne women who read Low German, it was determined that the Boerne Bible was a translation from Martin Luther's High German version, printed in Luneburg, a city in what was then the northern duchy of Saxony.

Discovery of this antique treasure launched the people of Boerne on a quest to restore the old Bible in commemoration of the city's German cultural past.

"We want to preserve it and celebrate it as a historical treasure," Heath says. "It is at the cultural root of our small town."

A 1934 rare-books catalog indicated that seven such folio editions of the Luneburg Bible existed in the world.

More than 300 letters went out from Boerne to theology departments and museums in the United States and Europe to identify the remaining number of the 1614 edition.

So far, only five have been located, including ones at the British Museum and the Newberry Museum in Chicago. It is unclear whether the Boerne Bible is one of the missing editions or is a new discovery, Edmonds says.

"We learned that the one in the British Museum acquired its 1614 edition in the 1820s," Heath says. "It had belonged to King George III."

There is little information that links the Boerne Bible to anyone.

The sole clue is the name "Johan Schwartinge" written in faded ink on the inside front

cover. Above the name is written "Mein Buch" (my book). Below it, the date, "Anno 1660."

Researchers discovered that the Boerne Bible edition was probably among the first printed by Hans Stern, a bookbinder in Luneburg, just southeast of Hamburg. The publishing house that he began in 1614 is still in business.

Stern published his Bible in Low German to further spread Luther's Protestant Bible throughout the German-speaking region. He stopped Low German translations in 1621 when it began disappearing as a written language.

In Boerne, the biggest mystery remains. How did the Bible relocate from northern Germany to Central Texas? What family brought it over?

"We still don't know," Edmonds says. "It is likely that it was brought over during the 1840s during the great migration of German people to Texas and the Hill Country. But so far, we have no proof of that. It's such a puzzle."

no proof of that. It's such a puzzle."

Learning that Boerne had a rare old book meant that extraordinary steps needed to be taken to preserve it, she says.

In 1990, the historical society learned of the work of Mary Frederickson in Canyon, from the Texas Historical Commission.

Internationally recognized as a restorer of antique books and paper, Frederickson spent a year restoring the Boerne Bible.

She painstakingly took the book apart, removing the leather cover and the bindings and each page for cleaning and repair. Each page of the ancient paper made of linen was soaked in a special bath to de-acidify and preserve it.

More clues — and more questions — were revealed during the cleaning.

Underneath the leather covers, Frederickson found ragged pieces of parchment inscribed with musical notes dating from the Middle Ages. It was apparently used as a lining.

Inside the book's spine was hidden a strange collection of straw, pins, a quill pen and a handful of olive leaves.

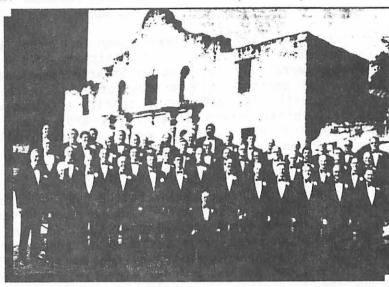
"We were amazed. How did olive leaves, that grow in warmer climates, come to northern Germany?" Edmonds says. "Perhaps they were souvenirs of a pilgrimage to the Holy Land."

From Austin American-Statesman, Oct. 7, 1991. Sent by Anna Thompson. If anyone recognizes the name "Johan Schwartinge" or has any idea as to how this Bible came to Boerne, please contact Bettie Edmonds, Boerne Area Historical Preservation Society, Box 178, Boerne TX 78006.

From: Catholic Life Insurance News, Winter, 1991 issue

Liederkranz Celebrates 100 Years of German Heritage

Shortly before the turn of the century, Reverend Monsignor Henry Gerlach met with a group of German Catholics. Immigrants and children of immigrants, they united through societies or clubs in their parishes. He urged them to form a stronger union by organizing a fraternal benefit society.



The Liederkranz in front of San Antonio's most famous landmark.

As a fraternal, they could provide life insurance, promote the Catholic faith and help each other. The response was enthusiastic and in 1901 they began accepting members. On January 1, 1902, the new fraternal benefit society issued its first certificates. Thus Catholic Life was born.

Ten years earlier Reverend Henry Pefferkorn, pastor of Saint Joseph's Church in San Antonio, gathered many of the same individuals together. He wanted to form a choir made entirely of young men of German ancestry. This choir would serve not only St. Joseph's Church, but would offer concerts outside the church walls and join similar singing societies. Thus, the San Antonio Liederkranz was born.

"We are proud to share founding fathers with an organization like the Liederkranz," said President Belz. "Their voluntary activities have kept the German musical heritage alive in San Antonio. We are proud to be a centennial sponsor."

This year the Liederkranz celebrates its 100th anniversary. Much has changed in the last century, but the Liederkranz has remained true to its purpose. It still promotes and performs male choral music of all kinds, with an emphasis on German and Church music. It still serves as a choir for St. Joseph's Church. It still maintains ties with societies that foster German music and culture.

The choir sings at services in the downtown San Antonio Church. They perform every fourth Sunday of the month during the school year as well as important feast days. The choir now consists of men of many backgrounds, some who are second, third and even fourth generation members. Many are also descendants of Catholic Life founders and a majority are members.

Beginning in February, the Liederkranz will commemorate its 100 year history with a series of events including a visit from the German President. (See Events).

The group hopes the celebration will bring added recognition to the choral society. They also hope that it will serve as a reminder of the German settlers' influence on San Antonio. The early Liederkranz choirs practiced and performed in St. Joseph's Hall. This facility was torn down in the mid-1960's to make way for HemisFair. A search for a new Liederkranz home has led to the development of German Heritage Park Incorporated. This non-profit organization is negotiating with the city to develop a German culture park. The park would include a home and practice facility for the Liederkranz.

Events

February 29, 1992 May 2, 1992 June 13,1992 July 11, 1992 October 2-4, 1992 Fastnacht Maskenball (Mardi Gras) Deutsch Texanischer Saengerfest Centennial concert Centennial Thanksgiving Mass Gebirgs Saengerfest

Call (512) 225-7261 for information about the Liederkranz and its Centennial events.

125 YEARS

BEETHOVEN MAENNERCHOR

February 23, 1867 has always been regarded as the founding date of the Beethoven Maennerchor. According to the history of the society, the name was assumed after an Abend Unterhaltung (evening of entertainment) at the old Casino Hall on this date. The choir had performed in various concerts directed by W.C.A. Thielepape since 1865 and most recently in 1866 for a charity affair given under the guidance of Jacob Waelder, an influential German of that day and time. For the most part, the singers had participated in a 'nameless' choir, but eventually desired better identification and of course no one could hope to improve on the title BEETHOVEN; a name synonymous with German music and song.

Thielepape is a definite link to the past which belongs to the history of the Beethoven Maennerchor. The San Antonio Maennergesang-Verein was the earliest German cultural institution in San Antonio and was founded by Johann Nicholaus Simon Menger in July 1847. Menger states that statutes were drawn up in August 1847, however these are not available and presumed lost, giving us the earliest documentary evidence of the choir as 1851. Menger was musical director, resigning this position in March of 1853 and the leadership was assigned to Adolf Douai who had recently moved to the city and was publisher of the San Antonio Zeitung - "A Social-Democratic sheet for the Germans in West Texas."

A name that appears in the minutes of the San Antonio Maennergesang-Verein in May 1852 is W. Thielepape who was accepted as a member on that date, and after moving to San Antonio from Indianola in 1854, was named honorary member and co-director on the recommendation of Douai. Thielepape was elected president of the chorus on October 16, 1854. The last entry in the minute book of the old choir is August 12, 1855 when it simply ceased to exist for want of interest. With the Civil War almost a certainty, the German element had to abandon most of their activities since they were largely pro Union, and after 1859 there is no more evidence of German choral music in San Antonio until 1865. Thielepape however, maintained quartets, and is the bridge from the old SAMGV to the Beethoven Maennerchor. He was appointed mayor of San Antonio on November 8, 1867 and held that position until March 12, 1872.

Lota Mae Spell, Texas musical historian wrote about the conditions in the state in 1865, and remarked that the Germans were entirely unaffected by the freeing of the slaves since they had always done their own work, and that "the development of music fell mainly to the foreign population and it was only in the centers that boasted a substantial German population that any noteworthy musical progress was made." By 1876 San Antonio had grown to a population of 15,066 of which the majority (5,630) were of German descent; a mixture of various professions and talents and while not all were musicians or singers, most were ardent admirers of German song and music.

At the beginning of the choir's activities, song and good fellowship prevailed, and generally rules and regulations, discipline, etc. found no place here. Rules deemed essential were laid down by director Thielepape. As Secretary Schuwirth stated at the twenty-fifth anniversary: "We were without name, without rules, without money, and without debt." Thielepape moved to Chicago some years later and was succeeded by Andreas Scheidemantel, a capable and talented musician. Under his leadership, the free and easy times came to an end, and on September 12 1876 a constitution and by-laws were adopted and signed by every singer.

In 1869 the singers made a trip to New Braunfels and gained great acclaim with their renditions. In 1870 they held the first real Saengerfest in the Casino Hall with the proceeds going to the wounded of the Franco-Prussian war. Many other concerts were given in the city for various social events, and in 1877 they sponsored a most successful Saengerfest in what was then known as San Antonio's Central Park. This date is reflected on the old retired flag of the Beethoven Maennerchor rather than the founding date of 1867. It is believed that the flag originally belonged to the San Antonio Maennerchor (SAMGV), and that the words "Beethoven" and "1877" were added preceding the event, providing us with an additional bond of existence between the past and the present.

Undoubtedly the greatest achievement in the history of the Beethoven Maennerchor was the building of a magnificent concert and club hall on Alamo street in what is now the HemisFair area. Construction was begun in October of 1894 and the hall was finished in August of 1895 with the official dedication observance on October 12. Albert Beckmann was the architect for the project and the hall served for many years as the opera house of San Antonio and the southwest. Many renowned artists performed here including Mme. Schumann-Heinck, Fritz Kreisler, Sarah Bernhardt, John Phillip Sousa, the Chicago Symphony and others. On October 31 1913 a disastrous fire almost totally destroyed the beautiful hall, but the spirits of the singers prevailed as eleven months later the building had been rebuilt with a re-dedication program on October 1, 1914. Leo M.J. Dielmann was the architect on the restoration. The hall today is totally disfigured due to the widening of Alamo street in the 1920's when the vestibule and music rooms were demolished.

Events following World War I subdued the activities of the Beethoven Maennerchor. Prejudice by the non-Germans of the community coupled with an influenza epidemic, causing a long quarantine of the facilities, impending prohibition, and the resignation of musical director Arthur Claasen, finally compelled them to dispose of the hall and acquire a lesser property on Pereida street in the King William area where regular rehearsals and concerts are held to this day. Great assistance was afforded the society with the founding of the Beethoven Damenchor (Ladies Chorus) in 1932. The Beethoven Band followed in the 1940's, and today these sections are invaluable assets in the programs, concerts, and general everyday activities of the Maennerchor.

In 1926 the choir joined the Texanischer Gebirgs Saengerbund (Texas Hill Country Singers League) which had been founded in 1881. They had been members of the Deutsch Texanischer Saengerbund (German Texas Singers League) - founded in 1854 - almost since their organization date, and today maintain membership in both Bunds. In 1990 the Maennerchor also joined the Nord Amerikanischer Saengerbund (North American Singers Association) to cement a nationwide relationship with the German song and language.

The fiftieth and seventy-fifth anniversaries were barely observed due to war years. The fiftieth was in 1917 (WW I) and the seventy-fifth in 1942 (WWII). The one hundredth however, was a gala affair on February 25 and 26 1967. A total of twenty choirs from both Texas Saengerbunds were in attendance and the annual Saengerfest for the statewide organization was held on Saturday in Villita Assembly Hall. The centennial observance on Sunday was in Municipal Auditorium with the full complement of the San Antonio Symphony Orchestra participating as well as soloist Frances Bible from New York Metropolitan Opera. The choir numbered sixty two singers at the concert and sang a special number - JAEGERCHOR - aus 'Der Freischuetz' by C.M. von Weber accompanied by the French horn section of the Symphony.

The Beethoven Maennerchor has always provided leadership over the years for many commemorative celebrations such as the Bicentennial of our nation, the Tricentennial of German Immigration, the Texas Sesquicentennial and others. These events were mainly sponsored by the Volksfest Association and the two Texas Saengerbunds who provided capital but relied on the Beethoven for steering and guidance. Probably the most important move to further unite German song throughout the United States was the presence of the celebrated Rheinischer Gesangverein choir from Chicago at the Texas Sesquicentennial in 1986. Their great performance enticed all fifteen Texas choirs to eventually join the North American Singers Association thereby forming the Southern District of Texas and Louisiana.

Today, as for seventy years, the choir maintains its residence at 422 Pereida street in quarters not as elaborate as the distant past but in an atmosphere of German "Gemuetlichkeit." From early spring to late fall, the Beethoven welcomes one and all to Fiesta Week, Maifest, Garten Concerts, Oktoberfest, and an occasional Saengerfest. Be assured that you may always find peace and pleasure where you hear song; evil persons have no knowledge of such....to wit:

See also page 73

Wo man Singt da lass dich ruhig nieder, Boese Menschen haben keine Lieder.

HISTORY & RESEARCH

WHEN THE MORNING BROKE ETERNAL BRIGHT AND FAIR

BY: Frank T. Harrowing Chaplain, Texas Division Sons of Confederate Veterans

Charles Niederhofer, a German immigrant, was born September 17, 1828, near Berlin. Nothing ia known of his childhood nor of his family in Germany. In early 1857 he came, by ship from Bremen, Germany to Galveston, Texas. Following his arrival in Galveston he married a young widow, Mrs Frances Mueller, whom he met on the ship, their marriage taking place on February 8, 1857, and celebrated by the Rev. Fred Eninger, pastor of the Lutheran Church in Galveston.

Nothing more is recorded in the annals of Galveston regarding Charles Niederhofer until he enlisted in the Confederate Army one day after Maj. Gen. John Bankhead Magruder's confederate forces recaptured Galveston from the Yankees, January 1, 1863.

His military record from the National Archives reveals that he was a private in Company G, 20th Texas Infantry, (Capt. D. H. Lewis' company, Col. H. M. Elmore's regiment) Confederate States Army. He was a master gunsmith and was assigned within the Confederate forces in Galveston. Private Charles Niederhofer was detailed to the Ordance Division of the Confederate Army by Maj. Gen. John Bankhead Magruder as a gunsmith and formally detailed as such by Brigadier General Debray as "the only gunsmith in the place and indispensable". This transfer was made in the fall of 1863. His indispensable services were cut short as he died of yellow fever on September 20, 1864, at the age of 36 while in the Confederate service and was buried in the Galveston City Cemetery. In the meantime, his union with Frances Mueller produced two sons, John, born in 1857, and August, born in 1859.

After his death, the young widow, Frances, with her two sons, John and August, moved to Walker County, Texas, and settled in the community of Hawthorne, east of New Waverly.

The 1870 U. S. Census for Walker County, Texas, reveals Frances Nieder-hofer, 50 years of age, born in Prussia, with sons John and August, both born in Texas. It is apparent that this Charles Niederhofer, patriotic Confederate soldier and master gunsmith, was the progenitor of the Texas Niederhofers.

His repose in the Galveston Cemetery was interupted on September 8, 1900, when Galveston was all but destroyed by a tropical hurricaneof unusual proportion. The cemetery, as well as many other areas of Galveston, was completely washed out of existence.

So for 127 years following his tragic death in Galveston he was but a name written on a few documents and leaving most of his thirty-six years with little or no known accomplishments. Therefore with the 127th anniversary of his death approaching, a determined great-granddaughter, Mary Niederhofer Harrowing, president of Thomas Jefferson Stubbs Chapter #2325 United Daughters of the Confederacy, decided that something must be done to perpetuate the memory of Private Charles Niederhofer, Company G, 20th TexasInfantry.

Knowing that his widow Frances Mueller Niederhofer had moved to Walker County Texas, following her bereavement, had raised her two sons to manhood in that splended area of East Texas, and who died there and was buried in Waverly Cemetery in 1900, the determined great-granddaughter arranged for a

Veterans Administration Confederate Grave marker specifying "In Memory of" be erected between his widow's grave and the grave of his youngest son, August, in the Old Waverly Cemetery. With the help of members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans from Dick Dowling Camp #1305, Houston, Granbury's Texas Brigade Camp #1479, of Conroe, Capt. James Gillaspie Camp #226, Huntsville, A. W. Spaight Camp #1545 of Woodville, and members of the Texas Chapter Military Order of the Stars and Bars, together with a host of Niederhofer kinsmen and friends a memorial service was planned and carried out on the morning of September 21, 1991 in the Old Waverly Cemetery, Walker County, Texas. The morning broke clear and bright and was a typical fall morning on the edge of the East Texas Piney Woods and the Sam Houston National Forest.

With a complete set of Confederate Flags, together with the Texas Flag and the Stars and Stripes, with adequate uniformed color bearers and fireing squad, the crowd of over 100 spectators was taken back some 127 years to the Confederacy of 1864. With the assemblage singing, "Rock of Ages" and "When the Roll Is Called up Yonder", three volleys by Captain Kraig White's 11th Texas Cavalry, and the silver notes of "Taps" from the cornet of a talented member of the New Waverly High School Band, Mike Frey, and with prayers and dedicatory remarks, there were few dry eyes as the ceremony climaxed to a glorious finale in keeping with the ideals of the Confederacy some 127 years late.

After the ceremony the assemblage enjoyed a luncheon at the Hawthorne Baptist Church in nearby New Waverly.

It was one of those rare moments in history when everything went right and when over 100 people were carried backward in time to the days of the Confederacy. Deo Vindice!

The Nesbitt Memorial Library Journal announces the publication of

Excerpts from the Kirchenbuch of Louis Cachand Ervendberg

a transcription of the pages of the register of this early and important Lutheran minister's ecclesiastical activity among the German settlers of Colorado and Comal Counties in the 1840s

featuring baptisms, burials, marriages, confirmations, and first communions

faithfully reproduced by Bill Stein, Marie Rose Remmel, and the German Texan Heritage Society's own W. M. Von-Maszewski.

For single copies, send \$5.00 to Nesbitt Memorial Library, 529 Washington Street, Columbus, Texas 78934. Annual subscriptions (three issues) available for \$15.00. Back issues also available by mail.

THE CZECHS, GERMANS, POLES, AND WENDS OF TEXAS: A STUDY OF ETHNIC IDENTITY SURVIVAL

by Patrick J. Janiš, College Station, Texas

ABSTRACT

This report discusses the survival of the ethnic identity of four Central European immigrant groups who first came to Texas in the Nineteenth Century. A description of their common roots and common reasons for their exodus is given. The study focuses on three factors to measure the extent of assimilation - religious, social, and agricultural. The four groups, Czechs, Germans, Poles, and Wends, still have a distinct identity in Texas based on more than their language.

CENTRAL EUROPE IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

The Nineteenth Century brought death and destruction to much of Europe; there were both famines and diseases as well as wars and rumors of war. Hapsburg Rule brought dissent and revolution among both the peasants and the upper-class lords and nobles.² From the beginning of the century there was much animosity toward the rulers, particularly in the form of resentment of the lords by the peasants. Germans began leaving their homeland early in the century.³ Austro-Hungarians began leaving a little later. The year 1848 was a turning point: in that year revolutions began in several European nations, beginning in France and reaching to Germany, Austria, Hungary, and Bohemia. These revolutions were not caused by the Industrial Revolution, but were caused by the absence of it in many places. The size of many towns increased "faster than the industries which provided employment and goods; and, as a consequence, their growth led to a declining standard of urban life."4 The revolutions of 1848 in central and eastern Europe were touched off by the Paris revolution which began on February 24, 1848.

These wars were begun by the students at universities first, then as the "spirit of nationalism" grew, the peasants were politically motivated to fight for their identity. In 1848 there was a revolution in practically every city with more than 100,000 inhabitants.⁵ The freedoms they were calling for were the same freedoms people still fight for today: freedom of discussion and suppression of censorship.⁶

Before 1848, Prussia (North Central Europe) and Austria-Hungary (South Central Europe) were, in some ways, more than a century behind Western Europe. While England was embracing democratic ideas, and had been for some time, peasants in the Austrian Empire were "still paying manorial dues to the nobility, the state, and the church." The combined tax for each peasant was nearly 70 percent by the mid-1800s. The obligation to their lords most despised by the peasants was *robota*. This system forced the peasant to work for his lord, free of charge, for a specified number of days each year. Generally, these obligatory days would be demanded during the two most important times of the year to the peasants - during the planting and harvesting seasons. The nobles had a great deal of power to usurp over the peasants, a class of people that made up the majority of society. All that changed in 1848. When the revolutions took hold, there was solidarity among the workers, the peasants, and the students.

The monarchist leaders were forced to allow a little more freedom and more equality; and, after 1848, although socially separated, the peasants and the lords were on equal footing with the government and were bound by all the laws decreed. Land ownership was a scarcity among the peasants, and the majority of the land was in the hands of a minority of people. In the western parts of Germany, many peasants owned land nucleof eastern

Prussia, land ownership was nothing more and a dream. But whether the farmer was a tenant or a land owner, it was likely that he farmed the same land that his ancestors had farmed for centuries. 12

Mandatory or compulsory military service was another complaint of many of the peasants, since leaving the farm for a few years would leave the family short-handed. It was conscription evasion that led many to leave their homeland. 13

With the advent of such large empires, not only was the individual being lost but also the individual character of the ethnic groups. The Czechs and Germans struggled with their language, with the Germans calling for German as the official language and the language to be taught in the schools, and the Czechs calling for the promotion of their language. The Wends, a small group of people of Slavic origins but living in an area of almost total German domination, were losing their language and their culture. The Poles, although less affected than the Wends, were still greatly affected by the Germanization of Central Europe. Over half of the Nineteenth Century official records of Central Europe are written in the German Language. 14

The Europeans of this study are from four groups that had their origins in central Europe - Poles, Wends, Germans, and Czechs. These ethnic names are very general and to some extent there is overlapping among all four. The Poles of this study are

¹ Jordan, Terry G. German Seed in Texas Soil: Immigrant Farmers in Nineteenth-Century Texas. (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1966), 38. This is an excellent source for studies in agricultural practices of Germans and Texans in the Nineteenth Century.

²Taylor, A.J.P. *The Hapsburg Monarchy* (London: Hamish Hamilton, 1966), 57-70.

³Biesele, Rudolph Leopold. *The History of the German Settlements in Texas* (San Marcos, Texas: German-Texas Heritage Society, 1987), 2.

⁴Taylor, 58.

⁵Taylor, 58.

⁶Tavlor. 60.

⁷Machann, Clinton, and James W. Mendl. *Krásná Amerika: A Study of the Texas Czechs, 1851-1939* (Austin, Texas: Eakin Press, 1983), 11.

⁸Blum, Jerome. Noble Landowners and Agriculture in Austria, 1815-1848 (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1948), 68. A study in the origins of the peasant emancipation of 1848.

⁹Machann, Krásná Amerika, 11. The word "robot", now used to mean a machine that performs a human function, but without a will of its own, has its roots in a play by Karel Čapek in 1920.

¹⁰ Machann, Krásná Amerika, 12. The peasants were divided into three classes although most were rural farmers. These classes were sedláci, the farmers and the ones who profited most by the reforms; chalunníci, the cottagers who owned a house and occasionally a plot of land; and nadeníci, the day laborers who owned nothing except their labor. The latter two profited least from the reforms.

¹¹ Jordan, 37.

¹²Jordan, 38

¹³Baker, T. Lindsay. The First Polish Americans: Silesian Settlements in Texas. (College Station, Texas: Texas A&M University Press, 1979), 16.

¹⁴Machann, Clinton J. A Report on "The Czechs in Texas: A Symposium." (College Station, Texas: Department of English, Texas A&M University. 1979). 320.

from Upper Silesia, an area which is in what is now southern Poland and northern Moravia, the central province of Czechoslovakia. ¹⁵ The Wends are from the present-day junction of Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Germany, while the Germans are from Germany and the Czechos are from the two western provinces of Czechoslovakia, Moravia, and Czechy (Bohemia).

They suffered together in the old world: the peasants under the old system, and the peasants and nobles under the new system of 1848. Many left Central Europe in the Nineteenth Century, and they left for many lands. Their reasons for leaving fit into at least one of three categories: 1) better economic conditions, 2) religious freedom, and 3) political freedom. The underlying reason for all, regardless of their Central European roots, was to seek a better future for themselves, and more importantly, for their descendants.

TEXAS IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

In many ways Texas in the 1800s was a worse place to be than Europe. Europe was developed, and had been for centuries. Texas, on the other hand, was both undeveloped and untamed. In the area west of the Balcones Fault there were problems with Indians. 16 And if the Indians were not enough trouble, there was also drought, flooding, bad farmland, and extreme heat. In the area east of the fault there was extreme heat, high humidity, and mosquitoes. Several Central Europeans had come to Texas in the early Nineteenth Century to survey the conditions there. The reports brought back to Europe were mostly positive, but their reporting was "sugarcoating the real difficulties that were awaiting settlers."17 Texas was once a part of Mexico. During that time, the government of Mexico encouraged the development of Texas by offering large tracts of land to certain settlers called empressarios, provided they would bring in two hundred or more families to settle the area. The land was being offered virtually free by the Mexicans in return for the settlers' promises to become Mexican citizens and to adopt the Catholic religion.¹⁸

By 1835 there were 35,000 Americans living in Texas. ¹⁹ These American settlers, along with some of German descent, ignored local Mexican laws and oppressed the native Mexicans. In 1836 the Texans called for independence and, after several fierce battles, they had won it by the end of the year.

There were people of both Mexican and American descent who were trying to gain control of the government of the new republic. Soon, Texas sought annexation by the United States. After much debate in the U.S. Congress, and after being denied annexation in April of 1844,²⁰ Texas was admitted to the Union on December 29, 1845, as the twenty-eighth state.

Beginning in 1846 the stage had been set for a mass influx of immigrants to Texas.²¹ Guides were prepared in Prussia and

Austria-Hungary to promote the settlement of Texas. There were attempts to build new colonies to be composed solely of people from one particular ethnic group. Although none of these succeeded, many communities in Texas still have a strong flavor of one ethnicity or another.

IMMIGRATION TO TEXAS IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

Immigrants to Texas traveled in whatever vessel they found available as they turned their eyes toward the freedom of America. The names of many of the ships of the pioneers are known, but many were forgotten soon after the immigrants landed in the United States. Whether the names were recorded or forgotten, these crafts hold a place of vital importance in the story of immigration.

There does not seem to be a pattern in the order of family member's immigration - many sent their children first, then rejoined them at a later time; others sent their fathers first. And since the cost of immigration was so high, many only sent one member, never again to see their family.²² Leaving their homeland, and the land of their fathers, was often as emotionally difficult as was the logistics involved in such a long-distance move.

GERMANS

The Germans were among the first of the Central Europeans to come to Texas. In 1831 Fredrich Ernst, a native of Oldenburg, received a grant of land from the government of Mexico in what is now Austin County, Texas. After establishing a farm there, he invited others to follow, promising them land. He described the area in "glowing terms." In 1838 he laid out the townsite of what later became Industry. It was estimated by Ernst's wife that several hundred Germans settled in the area between the years 1838 and 1842. Responsible for much of the Nineteenth Century immigration to Texas was the Verein zum Schutze deutscher Einwanderer in Texas. 25

There were basically two areas the Germans chose to settle in Texas. The first is the Austin, Waller, Washington, Fayette, Colorado, and Lee County areas. The other is west of the Balcones Escarpment, in Guadalupe, Comal, Kendall, Kerr, Gillespie, and Llano Counties. The Verein was responsible for settling nearly 7,500 Germans between 1844 and 1846, in the western area, mostly in what was the Fisher-Miller Grant. Several small "Germantowns" were born along a line from Galveston to Fredericksburg after the demise of the Verein since there were, at the time, thousands of Germans on their way to the Fisher-Miller Grant from the port town. Communities emanating from Ernst's Industry began to grow as well. The Germans that settled Texas in the 1800s consisted mostly of

¹⁵Nielsen, George R. In Search of a Home: Nineteenth-Century Wendish Immigration. (College Station, Texas: Texas A&M University Press, 1989), 3.

¹⁶Biesele, 178-190.

¹⁷ Tetzlaff, Otto W. "A Guide for German Immigrants." Rice University Studies: Texas and Germany: Crosscurrents 63:3 (1977), 13

¹⁸Norton, Mary Beth, Katzman, David M., Escott, Paul D., Chudacoff, Howard P., Paterson, Thomas G., and William M. Tuttle, Jr. A People and a Nation: A History of the United States. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1986), 348.

¹⁹Norton, et al., 348.

²⁰Norton, et al., 348.

²¹There had been a flow of new settlers since early in the century, but only after Texas had been admitted to the union was there enough

political stability in the area to attract settlers from war-torn Central Europe.

²²The author's great-grandmother, Frances Ožima Laža left Zlín, Moravia for Texas, alone, at the young age of 14.

²³Jordan, 41.

²⁴Jordan, 41.

²⁵The Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas. According to Jordan, 43, it was also known as the *Mainzer Adelsverein*, the *Adelsverein*, or simply the *Verein*. The best general source on the *Verein* is *History of the German Settlements of Texas*, by Riesele.

by Biesele.

26The Fisher-Miller Grant was originally intended as the settling place for the Germans, but due to financial problems within the Verein, a bankruptcy occurred in 1847. The largest concentration of Germans west of the Balcones was in the Fredericksburg and New Braunfels area. These towns were first established as way stations for those traveling to the grant since the journey west and north of these towns was treacherous through the Hill Country.

farmers; many who were not farmers in the "old country" quickly adapted to Texas' rural settings.

WENDS

The immigration of the Wends to Texas is easier to trace than any of the other three groups in this study because there were so few of them and they remained concentrated in a small geographic area for many years. The first known Wends emigrated to Texas in 1849 aboard the Hamburg. Within one year they had moved to the German settlement of New Ulm, near Industry in Austin County. This first group consisted of eight members of the Seydler family from Bautzen, a city in the southern part of Upper Lusatia.²⁷ The Wends were encouraged to leave Europe when they did due to the three factors that encouraged most European immigration at the time: the problem of earning a living, the improved transportation system, and an available destination.²⁸ The one factor that forced them to leave was religious freedom. Their conservative Lutheran Church was being forced by the government to combine with the Calvinistic doctrine of the state church, and it was for the survival of their church that they left for Texas.

The leader of the Texas Wends was Jan (John) Kilian, a Lutheran Minister. He led the largest group of Wendish immigrants to Texas. They left Europe on October 23, 1854 aboard the *Ben Nevis*. Seven weeks later approximately 500 Wends arrived at Galveston and eventually moved further inland to establish a Lutheran Church and the town of Serbin in southern Lee County.²⁹ The passengers aboard the *Ben Nevis* were all members of Kilian's congregation back in Lusatia. The colony built by the Wends had many purposes, but primarily it was the preservation of their religion, language, and culture that that caused them to build a colony exclusively for Wends. With the dominance of Germany thousands of miles away, they could finally have a homeland of their own.

POLES

The first Poles to America came to Texas in late 1854 and early 1855. These first Poles were not actually from the nation of Poland, since their homeland, Upper Silesia, was under the control of the Kingdom of Prussia until 1918. They had been separated from the Polish state for nearly 500 years.³⁰ Despite the long separation, their language, customs, and religion had been kept intact by the peasants.

The Upper Silesian counties providing the earliest immigrants to Texas were Opole, Strzelce, Toszek-Gliwice, Lubliniec, and Olesno. In 1855 the combined population of these counties was 288,390; this consisted of 90 percent Catholic, 8 percent Protestant, and 2 percent Jewish. All the known Polish immigrants to Texas in the Nineteenth Century were Catholic, and were considered as "pawns in a German-dominated society." 32

The immigration leader of the Poles was Father Leopold Moczygemba, a Roman Catholic Priest and missionary to Texas. By 1852 Moczygemba was at his post in Texas, assigned to the German Catholic parish in New Braunfels where he served until February, 1854, at which time he was sent to serve at Castroville, a German (Alsatian) settlement west of San Antonio.³³ His letters from Texas to his former home in Upper Silesia had been found from as early as 1855. In the letters he talked only good of Texas and pleaded with family and friends to

come to Texas. The letters were passed from family to family and "treated like 'religious relics."

As poverty continued to increase in Moczygemba's homeland, the thoughts of his Polish friends and families turned to Texas. Late in 1854 the first group of immigrants left for Texas; by 1856 there were quite a few Silesians living on farms in Texas. The immigration peaked and then trickled off by 1857.³⁴ The Poles who came to Texas were not the stereotypical Slavic immigrants who were poverty-stricken and starving; instead, these were land-owning people "with a stake in society." They must have had some capital since the cost of immigration was so high, even for the worst accommodations aboard the ships.

The settlement prepared by Moczygemba was called Panna Maria³⁶ in Karnes County, southeast of San Antonio. Most of the Polish families settled here, but a few chose to settle in Bandera, on the opposite side of San Antonio. The oldest Polish Roman Catholic Parish in America is located at Panna Maria. Several smaller Silesian settlements are located on a line between St. Francisville in Matagorda County to Las Gallinas in Atascosa County.

CZECHS

Czech immigration to Texas in the 1800s was almost totally limited to four small areas in Czechy (Bohemia) and Moravia, provinces in what is now Czechoslovakia. Czech immigration began with individuals rather than groups.³⁷ The first to arrive came as early as 1823. It was Josef Lidumil Lešikar who organized the first group of immigrants. On November 6, 1851 seventy-four immigrants left for Texas. Of the seventeen families, sixteen were Protestant and one was Catholic.38 Instead of founding Czech communities, these first immigrants moved to the German communities of Cat Spring and New Ulm in Austin County.³⁹ Later immigrants formed their own settlements and soon Wesley, Fayetteville, Hostyn, Praha, and Moravia were almost totally Czech towns. Fayetteville, originally inhabited by Anglos, was taken over by the Germans, and is now almost completely Czech. The number of Czech immigrants steadily rose to a high of about 12,000 in 1881 and, after a small decline, reached another peak in 190740.

The roots of these early Czech settlers were in the areas of Vsetin, Hranice, and Frydek in Moravia, and in the areas of Praha and Čermna in Czechy. The cradle of Czech civilization in Texas is in Washington, Austin, Fayette, and Lavaca Counties, but there is a Czech flavor in more than 20 Texas counties surrounding this area.

The Czech Protestants were a minority whose church was outlawed in their homeland. Ninety percent of the Czech immigrants were nominally Catholic, but Protestant church records sometimes identify baptismal sponsors as "Catholic." In many communities both Czech Catholic and Czech Protestant churches flourished.

SURVIVAL OF ETHNIC IDENTITY

There are probably hundreds of methods of evaluating the survival of an ethnic identity. In Texas, as in most of the United States, there were people from almost every ethnic background,

²⁷Nielsen, 64.

²⁸Nielsen, 13.

²⁹Nielsen, 75.

³⁰Baker, 3.

³¹Baker, 5.

³²Baker, 5.

³³Baker. 8.

³⁴Baker, 21.

³⁵Baker, 21.

³⁶This is translated to "Virgin Mary."

³⁷Machann, Krásná Amerika, 22.

³⁸ Machann, Krásná Amerika, 30.

³⁹Nagel, Charles. A Boy's Civil War Story (Saint Louis, Missouri: Eden Publishing House, 1934).

⁴⁰Machann, Krásná Amerika, 10.

⁴¹ Machann. Krásná Amerika. 106

all influencing one another thus creating the "Great American Melting Pot." Some guages of a group's identity survival include language, religion, marrying patterns, agricultural practices, foods, customs, music, social structure, and social organizations. These can be considered in three categories: religious, social, and agricultural. To have a good picture of an ethnic group's identity survival, one must consider at least these factors. And since each group has some effect on the other, their interaction must also be considered. It is beyond the scope of this study to consider the effects of such groups as the Native Americans and African-Americans. Here, the Anglos, Germans, Wends, Poles, and Czechs will be compared and contrasted as each factor is examined.

RELIGIOUS

With the exception of a few German Freethinkers in the western Texas German colonies, the Central European immigrants of the Nineteenth Century were Christian, the majority of which were Roman Catholic. For the Catholics, their primary reasons for leaving Europe were not to seek religious freedom. For the Protestants, though, particularly the Lutheran Wends and the Brethren Czechs, survival of their religion depended on their exodus.

For the early European settlers, and even to some extent today, the Church was the center of the community.⁴² It acted to preserve the language of its people while offering mutual support to its members. While Anglos were not forbidden in their churches, few ever ventured in, thus adding to the preservation of the churches. In many instances, though, Polish priests had to serve German Catholic churches since true Germans were not always available. Aside from the Germans having an occasional Polish priest, the Germans stayed in their parish and the Poles in theirs. In communities where Czechs and Germans co-resided, the Catholics usually attended mass together since there was only one church. The Czech and German Protestants usually had their separate churches; the Czechs with their Brethren Church and the Germans with their Lutheran Church. In areas where there was no Catholic Church, some who considered themselves Catholic attended services in Protestant churches.⁴³

The Wends fled Lusatia primarily for religious freedom, but the German domination in their lives also added to their leaving. For centuries the Wends searched for a home and independence from the Germans. They wanted to preserve their customs and their language.⁴⁴ Coming to America seemed to be the answer to their age-old search. But what the Germans had not done for hundreds of years was done in one generation in Texas - the Germanization of the Wends. It began with the church at Serbin. The area around Serbin was almost totally German when the Wends arrived. Many of the Wends could speak German because they had learned it in their homeland. And practically the only communication they had outside their community was with the Germans, in the German language. Before these Wends had seen their grandchildren, the German language had replaced their native Wendish in the church at Serbin. This makes the Wendish a very interesting group to study because only two generations later, the Wends were speaking English. It is unusual for an immigrant group to America to make the transition through an intermediate language before learning English.

With so much in common between the Wends and the Germans, intermarriage was not uncommon; this led to the eventual destruction of the Wendish culture. With the Wends being so outnumbered by the Germans, they were swallowed up by the Germans by the beginning of the Twentieth Century. By the 1930s there were few people who had even heard of the Wends, and there are many Texans who consider themselves either German or Czech⁴⁵ who have a Wendish heritage.

The Czech Catholics and Protestants preserved their language well into the Twentieth Century, despite the German influences. In Europe the Czechs, too, were faced with possible Germanization, but their churches in Texas never used the German language. Some Czech Brethren churches used the Czech language into the 1970s and even today have occasional services in the vernacular. The mother language was used regularly into the 1950s throughout the state in the Brethren Churches. The Czech Catholics did not hold on to their language quite as long as the Protestants, only using it occasionally through the 1950s. The reason for the Protestants' hold on the language is probably due to the close-knitness of their parishes. While there were plenty of Catholic churches, both Czech and otherwise, there were only a few Brethren parishes in the state.

There are still many Czech-speakers in Texas, but the generation born during the World War II era is probably the last group to know more than the Czech pleasantries exchanged by so many younger Czechs today. The Germans, on the other hand, began to lose their language in Texas during World War I. But since they were the most numerous of the four ethnic groups, their language has survived the longest.

In interesting phenomenon occurred in Panna Maria, the Polish community in Karnes County. The town was so strongly Polish that both American and Germans living there had learned the Polish language. As early as 1866, there was a family of German Catholics where "the youngest to the oldest all speak Polish." After World War II, the Polish language began to decline in Texas.

Recently there has been a rebirth of ethnic awareness among the churches. Special services are held at certain times of the year where tradition hymns are sung in the language of their forefathers. This is occurring in both Catholic and Protestant churches.

SOCIAL

Social organization also plays an important part in the assimilation of ethnic groups. The Germans had their agricultural societies almost since their earliest arrival. There were unions of every kind among the Germans. The membership in these societies usually began as 100 percent German, but in some cases Czechs and Poles were allowed to join. The social organizations were usually made up of men in the community and were not like the service organizations of today. Their chief purpose was to promote commerce and to offer support to each other. In the late Nineteenth Century many began offering life insurance. Some of these organizations were born out of churches.

The Czech Brethren had the Mutual Aid Society. The purpose of this group was three-fold: first, "to give to the survivors of its deceased members a certain sum of money"; second, "to support charitable and benevolent enterprises and undertakings for mutual

⁴⁶Baker, 169.

⁴²In many communities the church building was literally the center of the community and often the first public building built.

⁴³The author's great-great grandfather, Frank Blumrich was catholic, but since the area of Lavaca County he lived in had no Catholic Church he joined the Lutheran Church.

⁴⁴Their language was neither Czech, nor German, nor Polish. It was an independent language of Slavic origin.

⁴⁵The Wends and the Czechs did not intermarry until the Twentieth Century.

self-protection"; and finally, "to perform deeds of love and charity in general and especially among its own membership." 47

Other Czech societies include the KJT, and KJZT, and SPJST. The Cat Spring Agricultural Society in Austin County, an organization of German farmers was born in 1856 and is still in existence today. Today there are German organizations for singing, shooting, mutual aid, and gymnastics.⁴⁸

The mere numbers of organizations lends to the ethnic identity survival among these groups. These organizations, for the most part, are open to anyone, regardless of their ethnic background, but they continue to attract those of the founders' ethnic origins. Competition among the organizations is practically non-existent, and they continue to work together to help promote the ethnic identity of their members. Aside from the churches, the social organizations are the second most important factor contributing to the survival of the Czechs and Germans.

Only in this century have the Poles had any success with social organizations outside the church. The Polish National Alliance gained popularity after the Second World War, and in 1971 the Polish American Congress of Texas was organized.⁴⁹

The Wends were such a small group that their social organizations were built almost solely around their churches. There was a beef club at Serbin, but its members were not all of Wendish descent; there were many German members. The awakening of the Wendish heritage reached a new high point when the Texas Wendish Heritage Museum opened in Serbin in 1988.

Many of these organizations continue to promote the heritage of their members by publishing newspapers and newsletters with sections written in the "old language". It is through these means, and through continuing education programs in school districts throughout Texas, that the heritage can be kept alive through the teaching of the languages of their ancestors to younger generations.

AGRICULTURAL

Agriculture is a broad factor in considering ethnicity. Probably more than 98 percent of the Central European immigrants to Texas in the Nineteenth Century were farmers or became farmers upon arrival. Their agricultural practices were as different as the soils in which they tilled. There were similarities in the practices of these immigrants. In fact, there were more similarities than there were differences.

When the first groups of Germans arrived at Industry, they were in an area that was already settled by Anglos. Their assimilation into American society occurred faster than the assimilation of the Germans who came later to the western German colonies of Texas. The primary reason for this is that the western region was largely unsettled, and the Germans were, for the most part, on their own. There were fewer Anglos to influence them. They learned quickly, however, that crops would not grow well and that grazing cattle was to be the means of their livelihood. They adapted practices from Europe to Texas. When the Anglos moved into the area later, they imitated the successful practices of their German neighbors. In a sense, the Anglos assimilated themselves to the German-Texan culture.⁵¹

The German settlers in the area of Industry became cotton farmers. The practices of cotton growing had been set in the South before the Germans ever arrived. So, the Germans just followed the practices taught by their Anglo neighbors.

While the foodstuffs cultivated by the Central Europeans differed some, the labor performed in the field was almost identical among the Germans, Wends, Poles, and Czechs. For centuries they had been farming in Europe. Their practices had developed differently than the practices that had developed in America. Agricultural techniques practiced by each of these groups was not distinguishable.⁵² What may be distinguishable is the difference in the attitudes of the Anglos and the Central Europeans. The immigrants were strangers in a new world.

It is very difficult to measure the assimilation patterns of the immigrants based on agriculture practices. The fact is, farming is farming is farming. But the fact that these immigrants continued to be actively involved in agriculture, even three or four generations later, kept their language and culture alive, because living in a rural setting kept the contact with "Americans" to a minimum. In other parts of the United States where manufacturing industry in the large cities was the major source of employment for the immigrants, assimilation occurred faster.

CONCLUSIONS

The assimilation of the Central Europeans who immigrated to Texas in the Nineteenth Century is not yet complete. There are some areas in the state where Czechs, Wends, Germans, and Poles once lived where the only signs of their culture remaining today are their names, many of which now take on an English pronunciation.⁵³ There are other areas of the state, mostly the areas of the first immigrants, where the German, Czech, and Polish languages can still be heard in the homes, and occasionally on the street.

While marriages between Anglos and Central Europeans did not occur much until the Twentieth Century, intermarriage among the Czechs, Poles, Wends, and Germans have occurred almost since their arrival. Many third-generation immigrants have ancestors from two or more of these groups. In these intermarriages, however, usually only one of the parents' language was passed on to the children. In general, it was the language of the mother that won out. The children of these marriages are raised in a mixed-cultural environment. The foods prepared in the home are probably ethnic foods the mother learned from her mother to prepare. Family traditions and customs are blended together, and aside from the language, there is a blending of the cultures that is neither identified with one ethnicity nor another, but one that can be called Central European. The Anglo-Central European marriages have created a truly Texan culture, blending with American, Mexican, and Central European.

In the areas of earliest immigration, there are still some people today who can speak very little English. They may have assimilated to the extent of modernization, but they have refused to give up their culture. Some people have even changed the spelling of their names to insure the correct pronunciation.⁵⁴

⁴⁷Christian Sisters Union Study Committee. Unity of the Brethren in Texas (1855-1966). (Taylor, Texas: Unity of the Brethren, 1971),

⁴⁸Jordan, 203.

⁴⁹Baker, 161.

⁵⁰Nielsen, 109.

⁵¹The study by Terry Jordan, German Seed in Texas Soil is an excellent source on the agriculture practices of the Germans in Texas in the 1800s.

⁵²In his book We're Czech. (College Station, Texas: Texas A&M University Press, 1988), Robert L. Skrabanek points out that the Czechs differ from the other groups in their farming practices and their attitude toward farming. While it may be true that there is a difference between the Anglos and the Central Europeans, there is no evidence that the Czechs were any better at farming than the Germans, Wends, or Poles.

⁵³Some names have changed in their spelling as well.

⁵⁴The name *Janis* is pronounced *Yahnish*. Some have changed the spelling to *Janish* to preserve pronunciation since the Czech letter *s* is pronounced *sh*.

Festivals are held today by representatives of all four ethnicities. These help promote their dance, music, language, ethnic food, as well as a better understanding of their culture and the heritage given to them by their ancestors. Some people tend to group the four ethnicities together as either German, Czech, or Polish, but anyone knowing their heritage will surely correct them. Even the Czechs are divided - they consist of Bohemians and Moravians, and a Moravian will sometimes resent being called a "Czech" or especially a "Bohemian."

The ethnic identity of the Germans, Czechs, Poles, and Wends has survived in Texas. Because of the numbers of immigrants in each group, the ones with the greater numbers have survived better than those with lesser numbers. The strongest is the German, followed by the Czechs, Poles, and Wends. ⁵⁵ Regardless of the numbers, one has only to journey through the Texas ethnic communities to be convinced that their cultures have survived, and will be around for years to come.

55The reawakening of the Wendish heritage is causing a greater awareness of their existence. With time, more information will be available on this group and more people will attempt to re-identify with them. This reawakening of a heritage is somewhat a false act. The true heritage must be passed down from generation to generation and the Wends have only a thread of linkage between the past and the present.

Editor's Note: Patrick Janis reports he began research on this project in late 1989 and completed it in May 1991 when he submitted this report to Dr. Walter Kamphoefner, professor of history at Texas A&M University. Funding for the project was provided by the Department of History at Texas A&M University. We thank him for sharing it with us.

UT announces creation of The Center for American History

The University of Texas at Austin has created The Center for American History, a new unit of the General Libraries with administrative responsibility for special collections and activities relating to American history.

The new Center consolidates the University's holdings in American history, including collections housed in the Eugene C. Barker Texas History Center, the University Archives and the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum located in Bonham. Dr. Don E. Carleton has been named director of the new Center.

The Center for American History is housed in Unit 2 of Sid Richardson Hall, adjacent to the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum. Its public hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. The telephone number is (512) 495-4515.

DE WITT COUNTY HISTORY
Now off the press! An 860-page
history of De Witt County, Texas.
Over 1,000 families sent in their
stories--and many of them are
German families. Published in 1991
by De Witt County Historical
Commission. Price is \$65.00, plus
\$4.50 shipping via UPS (\$69.50
total). Make check to "De Witt
County History" and send to De Witt
County History, 1213 McArthur,
Cuero TX 77954.

ANOTHER BOOK OF INTEREST

News from the Land of Freedom:

German Immigrants Write Home,
edited by Walter D. Kamphoefner (of
Texas A&M University), Wolfgang
Helbich and Ulrike Sommer. First
published in German in 1988, this
is an English translation by Susan
Carter Vogel.

The product of a five-year transatlantic collaboration, this book consists of some 350 German immigrants' letters from all parts of the U.S., including contributions from our own Elizabeth Lehmann of Brenham.

For further information, see our GTHs Newsletter/Journal, issue #3 of 1986, issue #2 of 1987 and issue #1 of 1989.

To order, send \$35.00 plus \$3.00 postage and handling (\$38.00 total) to: CUP Services, P.O. Box 6525, Ithaca NY 14851.

We hope we might have a complete review of this work in a future issue!

Origin of the Word Dollar.

The word dollar is derived from the German thal, meaning valley. The little town of Joachimsthal (valley of Joachim,) in the heart of Bohemia, was the place in which the Counts of Schlick, from the year 1517 to 1526, coined pieces of about an ounce weight, and worth about 113 cents of our money. They were known in use as joachimsthaler, this word was afterwards reduced to thaler, and still later became anglized into dollar.

From The American Baptist and Freeman, Aug. 4, 1870, a newspaper published by the American Baptist Free Mission Society and circulated throughout the U.S. Sent by Harold Henck, Houston, Texas.

CULTURE & TRAVEL

REISEAUSKUNFT

Bob Robinson-Zwahr

With the dissolution of the former German Democratic Republic and the resultant reunification of Eastern and Western Germany, a renewed interest of many German-Texans to visit and acquaint themselves with the homeland of their forefathers in Eastern Germany has taken place. At the same time, travelers wish to get the most out of their dollars. As a travel agent as well as someone with roots and family in Eastern Germany, I have made numerous trips there before and after the reunification, the last being in April 1991.

Prior to the collapse of the GDR, one was required to either stay in an Intourist Hotel (which ranged from luxurious to adequate) or with relatives, the former proving to be expensive and the latter often creating problems for one's family. This, however, is no longer the case, except that the Intourist hotels are still expensive. There are, however, many small hotels and pensions, not to mention lodgings in private homes, now available at very affordable prices.

New hotels are also now under construction.

Unfortunately, to my knowledge a comprehensive Hotel and Motel Guide for Eastern Germany has not yet been published. Most cities of any size, however, do have tourist centers which can direct travelers to the type lodging they wish. These are called, for example, Information Leipzig, Information Bautzen, etc. If one has his trip mapped out pretty well in advance, he can write beforehand and request information on types of lodging, prices, etc. In smaller towns and villages, the mayor's office or the police are very helpful in directing one to lodging. For tourists traveling through Eastern Germany by car, they can often spot small inns, hotels, etc. or see signs directing them to such places. For lodging in the small places and in private homes, it might be well advisable (just as it is in many European countries) to bring along a bar of soap, a towel and washcloth and for those accustomed to Charmin quality toilet tissue several rolls of paper.

Located 16 km south of Bautzen and 2 km north

and Sonland is in a nilly picturesque where hixing and taxing long long.

Another bargain is the Gastenheim dem Ev. Bruder-Unitat in Herrnhut, located some 10 km south of Lobau and some 31 km southeast of Bautzen. Run by the Brethern Church and usually having guests representing many countries, the rooms are comfortable (although none have private baths), the staff extremely courteous and helpful, and the meals (if one desires to eat there) very good. Herrnhut is certainly an interesting town dating from 1722 when Nikolaus Ludwig Graf von Zinzendorf brought the Czech Bretherns from Czechoslovakia to Germany.

From Herrnhut Brethern missionaires were sent out worldwide. Many of the From Herrnhut Brethern missionaires were sent out worldwide. Many of the

rrom Herrnhut Brethern missionaires were sent out worldwide. Many of the guests staying at the Gastenheim are people there on retreat or church members from throughout the world.

Many families have rooms to let for tourists and some have apartments. My cousins Hans and Elfriede Nostitz, for example, have an apartment behind their home in Wilthen, located 11 km southwest of Bautzen, which they rent for approximately \$20 per night and arrangements can be made for breakfast. Because of the severe economic crisis facing Eastern Germans since the reunification, many have found that renting a room to tourists certainly is a big belo economically.

cation, many have found that renting a room to tourists certainly is a big help economically.

In larger cities, if one is willing to stay out of the downtown area, he can save a great deal of money by utilizing the smaller hotels in the suburbs. In this article, I have concentrated on the southeastern corner of Eastern Germany, as it is the one I have traveled to most often and is the one which I am best acquainted; however, having spoken with travel representatives in the former GDR and here, there is little doubt that the same type of situation regarding accomodations in Eastern Germany exists throughout. One needs only to do a little advance planning and shopping around in order to make his dollar stretch.

One may find, as I did, that even with relatives in the area with whom he could stay, it is often more advisable to stay elsewhere. Often feelings can be hurt if one stays with one relative and does not have time to stay with another. Then too, often one wishes to have the luxury of having a little time to himself. Thus, by staying elsewhere a person is better able to spend time with everyone and still have a little time to himself to rest and do some things on his own.

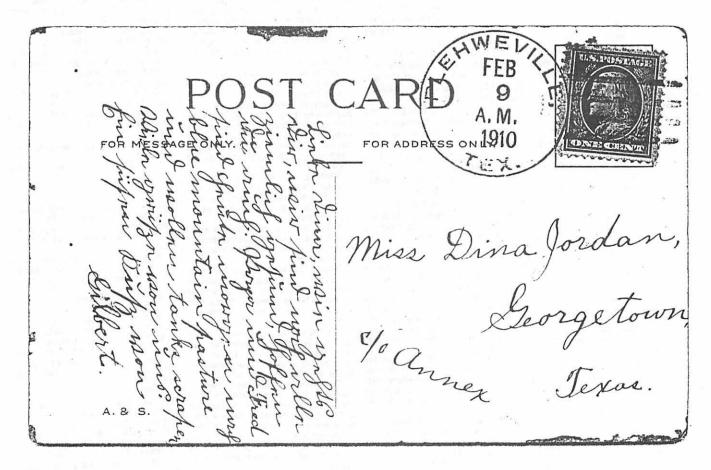
For this issue. Guto Poise!

For this issue, Gute Reise!

AN EXAMPLE OF HILL COUNTRY TEXAS GERMAN, 1910

submitted by Terry G. Jordan and Marlis A. Jordan

This postcard below, written by a resident of Mason County (Plehweville is the present Art), reveals the mixture of languages and scripts prevalent in Hill Country Texas German by 1910. The text, transliterated, reads "Liebe Dina, wie gehts Dir, wir sind noch alle ziemlich gesund, hoffen Du auch. Papa und Fred sind heute morgen auf blue mountain pasture und wollen tanks scrapen. Viele grüsse von uns. Ein süsen Kuss von Gilbert [Jordan]." Clearly, the writer knew which words were German and which were English loanwords, for he shifted from Gothic to Latin script for the latter.



'Knappers' relearn art of making arrowheads

From Austin American-Statesman August 24, 1991 Sent by Anna Thompson, Austin TX

By Zeke MacCormack American-Statesman Staff

MAXDALE — Flecks of flint were flying and spalls of chert changed hands as the Texas Flint-Knappers began their annual convention Friday in Chili Park.

Starting with stones the size of bar soap, the 40 knappers shaped crude arrowheads with calculated blows from a deer antler, finishing the points with chisel-like tools and rocks used as files.

"Knapping is an old German

'Knappers' craft arrowheads from ordinary rocks

word that means 'to nibble,' "explained Bill Metcalfe, an organizer of the three-day event off County Road 195 west of Florence.

Varieties of rough-cut rocks, shape an arrowhead called "spalls," were traded, including flint, agates, opals and a 40 minutes, he said. silica stone common in Texas

called "chert."

Metcalfe, 53, has 25 tons of knapable rock piled around his Maxdale home "for years to come when it's hard to find."

Several local deer have felt the fatal sting of flint, Metcalfe said, but most of the points sold go to collectors, jewelers and for decoration.

An experienced knapper can shape an arrowhead in 10 minutes and a knife or spearpoint in 30 to 40 minutes, he said.

Eastern Germany's schools in crisis With demise of communism, teachers must learn to teach truth

By Kevin Costelloe Associated Press

POTSDAM, Germany -When Birgit Idler was a young schoolgirl back in the communist era, her teacher insisted there were no barricades locking East Germans in their coun-

Sure, everyone knew about the Berlin Wall, but Birgit was relieved to learn in school the rest of her country was open.

"Then we drove off on vacation toward the southern border," the 16-year-old Potsdam student recalls. "It was so terrible to see fences and dogs and barbed wire there. I started sobbing when I first saw that.'

Today, eastern Germany is reforming a school system where black was sometimes white and secret police inform-

ers lurked about.

For the hard-line communists, schools were foundries designed to teach youngsters to stay in line.

Now, the same schools are rushing to become crucibles of democracy for 2.1 million students, two years after the Berlin Wall opened.

Idler and many of her 450 fellow students at Potsdam's William and Alexander Humboldt high school just outside Berlin voice the same opinions often heard across the country.

behind a repressive past, they're worried about being pushed headlong into a Western-domi-

nated future.

"I'm very disappointed," says Dorothea Funke, another 16year-old student at Humboldt.
"Now, everything is just directed toward competing with one another."

For Funke, things went far too quickly in revamping the eastern German schools.

"Everything was just adopted from the West," she says, adding that it may have been better to find "a middle way" between the two educational systems.

Among the many discarded relics of the past is the communist system's virtual automatic promotion of students, which was designed to show off the schools' efficiency.

The educational reforms are part of the huge changes taking place throughout eastern Ger-

man society.

Jobs have disappeared by the tens of thousands. Western Germans are snatching up property. The old camaraderie of the isolated communist society is

yielding to intense competition.

After 40 years of being told what to do, eastern Germans have to take affairs into their own hands. When it comes to schools, the new ideas often have to be spelled out in the most basic terms.

"Democracy must grow from the bottom toward the top," Brandenburg state education minister Marianne Birthler wrote in a new pamphlet.

She added that for many "the new shores are still not in view, an acknowledgement of the difficult changes ahead for eastern

German students. Getting parents, teachers and pupils involved in decision-making is a revolution in the east, where the few educators who bucked the system were fired.

For decades the party line was unquestioned, on domestic and international issues.

Today, teachers and students must draw immediate lessons from the wave of neo-Nazi violence that has swept the former commu-

There's also the need to fill in huge gaps in students' — and in some cases teachers' — knowledge of the Nazi Holocaust.

Under the old regime, teachers barely dealt with modern-day Israel and treated the Jewish state "as an aggressor at best," says Humboldt high school Principal Holger Rupprecht.

One widely used communist While they're happy to leave textbook described how "the people of eastern and southeastern Europe greeted Soviet troops as liberators from the fascist yoke" at the end of World War II.

The same history textbook published in 1986 branded the United States an imperialist nation greedily bent on world power.

Many East German children learned how to count by ticking off the number of helmeted communist soldiers, while military balliatics provided practice examples

for math students. Students also received military instruction.

Above all, the East German police state was intent on proving the evils of the capitalist West and the wonders of socialism.

Rupprecht recalls how one textbook first dealt with West European countries and saved communist nations for the second half.

"The pictures in the first half of the book were all in black and white, and the color pictures only started with Poland," the 38-year-

old high school principal says. Everyone agrees it will take a long time to reform eastern German education, even though the communist school principals already have been kicked out.

Anti-communist purge

The German newsmagazine Quick estimates that 60 percent of

the 190,000 teachers belonged to the party, and authorities are now trying to weed out those deemed un-

A leachers' union estimates that several thousand eastern German teachers will luse their jobs because of their prominence in the party or their collaboration with the once-dreaded secret police.

The purge mirrors the anti-communist zeal now sweeping eastern German society as a whole, dumping thousands of business experts and former government officials into oblivion.

In the opinion of some teachers, the sweep is taking on the form of

a witch hunt.

"Certain things that are now happening in the former German Democratic Republic are certainly comparable to the McCarthy era," says 42-year-old Andreas Viehrig, a chemistry and math teacher at Humboldt.

Viehrig, who gave up his Com-munist Party membership in the fall of 1989, says he fears his past will cost him his extra job as assis-

tant principal.
When students returned to classes in late summer, schools across eastern Germany, lacked many of the essentials.

New textbooks and other sup-plies were missing. Curriculums were not complete. Aging school buildings badly needed repairs, and Humboldt itself was undergoing

renovation.
"There is total chaos here," says 18-year-old Jochen Beutel, an aspiring law student now in his last year at Humboldt. "From start to finish, nothing was organized." Traditionally, the last year of classical high school means non-

stop studying before the Abitur, the grueling examination that's a cornerstone of Germany's proud education system.

For Beutel and his peers, it will

be a year of frustration and uncertainty.

Students say teachers themselves also are troubled by the lingering threat of losing their jobs, and insecure about the changes sweeping the schools.

As eastern Germany reorients itself toward the West, Russian language teachers are frantically being retrained. English teachers are in top demand.

Berlin's Jewish community has offered a seminar for eastern German teachers to fill in gaps about knowledge of Israeli history.

There is even talk of introducing the study of religion in some form into the schools.

Religion was taboo under the old regime and church activities old regime and church activities could spell a dead-end for career aspirations. Youngsters were coerced into joining communist youth groups instead.

Quick, the German newsmagazine, last June described how the communist phobia against the

communist phobia against the churches was carried to an ex-

treme.

"Watch out for pastors," one feacher reportedly told her stu-dents "They lure children into the church and then get them drunk on

With their whole system dumped so quickly, many eastern Germans are beginning to winder how history textbooks will judge their 40-year experiment with socialism.

Rupprecht, a reformer who started his job in August, insists the now-vanished state can boast of "certain successes" that students should learn about.

"Whether textbooks can deal with that is a big question." he says. "Not everything was bad."

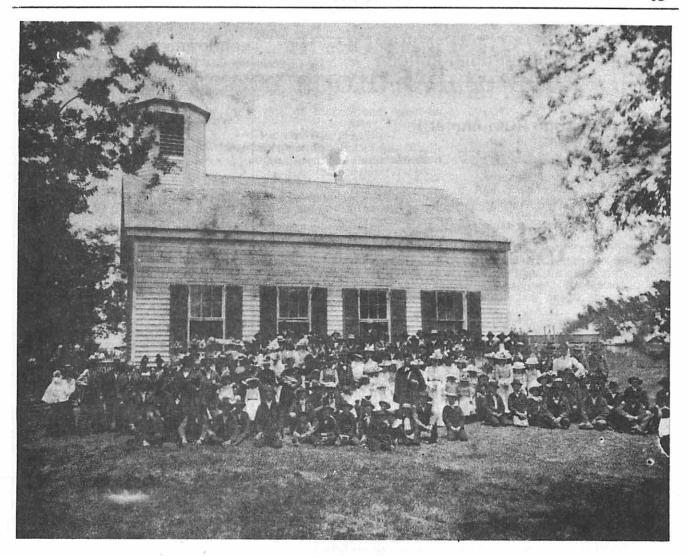
Rupprecht, like thousands of other teachers, started reaching out to Western colleagues shortly after the desperate communists opened the Berlin Wall in November 1989.

That opening also let Rupprecht fulfill his teacher's dream of heading to the North Sea, just to watch the mighty water come up the shore and go back out again. "That always fascinated me in-

credibly, because I'd always had to tell students about high tide and low tide without ever seeing it." the former geography instructor says with a laugh.

National Geographic

presented an article "The Morning After Germany Reunited" in the September 1991 issue, which included a two-sided fold-out map, with one side showing travel information and the other side political boundaries, etc. A series of small inset maps shows boundary changes over the years.



Das Foto wurde anläßlich des 25jährigen Bestehens der St. Jakobi Kirchengemeinde Neu-Wehdem in Brenham, Texas, im Jahre 1894 aufgenommen.

Zur Entstehung dieser Kirchengemeinde im fernen Amerika kann Herr Wilhelm Niermann aus Wehdem folgende Informationen geben, die er aus der Chronik von 1969 und 1989 entnehmen konnte:

Im Sommer 1869 stellten die Auswanderer F.W. Meyer, Christian Ringener und William Remmert ihre Häuser zur Verfügung, um Gottesdienste abzuhalten, die von Pastor Lieb aus Salem geleitet wurden. Am 7. November 1869 fand dann eine Gemeindeversammlung unter Mithilfe von Pastor Lieb statt.

Die nachfolgend aufgeführten Personen waren die Gründer der Kirchengemeinde St. Jakobi in Neu Wehdem, Texas: Christian Ringener, William Remmert, Christopher Richter, F.W. Meyer, Christopher Emshoff, Frau Henry Stern, Louis W. Stern. William Kramer, Friedrich Lueckemeier, William Schaefer, Fritz Meiske, Martha Sander, Christian Emshoff und Fritz Remmert.

Anläßlich dieser Zusammenkunft wurde für einen Kirchenbau eine erste Kollekte gesammelt, bei der 967,25 Dollar gespendet wurden.

Für den Bau der Kirche stellte Christian Emshoff ein Grundstück zur Verfügung; weitere 6.000 qm Land wurden dazugekauft.

Am 26.12.1871 fand der erste Gottesdienst in der neuen Kirche unter der Leitung des Gemeindepfarrers Koch vom St. Chrischona Seminar aus Deutschland statt.

Gleichzeitig wurde Schulunterricht eingeführt, der ebenfalls vom Pfarrer versehen wurde.

Am 8. Januar 1883 wurde dann per Gemeindebeschluß folgendes festgelegt: Der Name der Kirchengemeinde sollte St. Jakobi Neu Wehdem heißen, weil der größte Teil der Gemeindemitglieder aus Wehdem, Westfalen/Deutschland, stammte.

Im Juli 1890 verließen 25 Familien die Neu Wehdemer Kirchengemeinde mit dem Auftrag, eine neue Gemeinde in Kentucky Ridge, heute St. Pauls, Philipsburg, zu gründen. Heute lautet der Name der Kirchengemeinde St. James Lutheran Church - New Wehdem und gehört zur Stadt Brenham, die ca. 100 km westlich von Houston liegt. Brenham zählt heute 13.000 Einwohner.

From:: Stemweder Bote, Jan. 10, 1992. Sent by Fredericka Richter de Berry, who reports she sent the photograph and supplied the information. Our GTHS member, Wilhelm Niermann of Wehdem, Germany, was responsible for getting it into the paper there.

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Small Americas begin unraveling in Europe

Associated Press

BERLIN — Bob LePere runs a little bowling alley and beer joint at the U.S. air base in Berlin. Life was good until a few weeks ago, when he had to fire his fiancee.

"Guy came in here, looked around for 15 minutes and said I had to get rid of half my staff," Le-Pere said, sitting at a table and commiserating with two of his eight remaining workers.

"It was tough. Karen had to go."

"It was tough. Karen had to go." Their marriage is still on, but Tempelhof Air Base is scheduled to close next year. That means the bowling alley, bookstore, recreation center, restaurant and sport

shop will go too.

The end of Cold War will cut U.S. forces in Europe in half by 1995 and disrupt dozens of cozy American military communities — self-contained societies of eye doctors, auto dealers, teachers, tailors, bankers, barbers, bartenders, burger flippers and, of course, soldiers.

Most of the civilians in these vacuum-packed villages are military dependents or German citizens.

Others are civil servants who are guaranteed jobs back home or expatriates such as Willard "Skip" Lowery, a Vietnam veteran who was stationed in Germany, got his

discharge and decided to stay. That was 21 years ago.

He has worked in the Tempelhof stereo shop since, enjoying rich European culture and cheap, subsidized U.S. goods and services.

dized U.S. goods and services.
"It's a little America inside another country," said Lowery, a native of Peoria, Ill., who has a wife and two children.

The U.S. Army and Air Force Exchange Service operates most of the stores and services on American bases. It also oversees 2,100 private concessions.

Tempelhof is part of a vast American community in Berlin that is dominated by U.S. Army installations.

The estimated 150,000 people of Europe's miniature Americas fall into a dizzying array of job classifications. Many are "local hires" with few benefits.

In 1990, the Army employed 61,000 civilians in Europe. The number will drop to 52,000 this year and 33,000 by 1995, Boyle said. The Air Force had 23,281 civilians in 1990 and likely will wind up with around 10,000.

Enrollment at the military's 134 European primary and secondary schools plunged from 91,297 in 1990 to 68,200 in December, said Frank O'Gara of the Department of Defense Dependents Schools.

Western names tops in Germany

What's in a name? Sometimes a hit movie.

Kevin has made its first appearance among the top 10 names Germans chose for their sons. The phenomenon coincided with last year's release of the American hit movie "Home Alone," whose main character is named Kevin.

Kevin was the third most-popular boy's name in western Germany and No. 5 in east Germany, according to the Wiesbaden-based German Language Society.

German Language Society.

Leading the boy's list in the west was Daniel; Philipp was tops in the east, the society said.

Both lists were dominated by Anglo-American names, such as Jennifer, Julia, Patrick, Robert and Melanie.

San Antonio Express-News, FEb. 16, 1992

San Antonio Express-News, Peb. 23, 1992



TO Bost of Class

Chambers of Commerce

Did you know that there is a Chamber of Commerce in most foreign countries? Next time you are planning your vacation and want travel information, addresses of churches, family names, etc., in a foreign country, you can write to the Chamber of Commerce. Most cities have one. Most can read/write in English.

Below is a list of a few of the Chambers of Commerce in different countries. You use the name as given, plus the city, state or province, and country. Most countries have postal zip codes; if not used, the letter will take a little longer to arrive. U.S. postage requires a 45-cent stamp for a 1/2 ounce letter to leave the U.S.

Terms for Chambers of Commerce:

<u>U.S.</u>, <u>Canada</u>, <u>Great Britain</u>: Chamber of Commerce <u>Germany</u>: Handelskammer, also Verkehrsamt in the west and Information in the east;

Mexico, Spain, and South America: Camara

Natcional de Comercio

<u>France</u>: Syndicat d'initative, or Chambre de Commerce

<u>Poland</u>: Izba Handblowa, or Polska Izba Handluzagraniczego.

---from Wilber W. Baldemer, Portland, Texas

The News from Germany

On this page and the next three pages are articles from The Week in Germany, a weekly publication of the German Information Center. Although the publication includes reports from the German press on political and ecomonic issues, those topics are ever changing and are often continued from week to week, making it difficult to select a single article that will stand Thus, most of the articles we selected concern social, cultural or human interest To obtain a free subscription to The Week in Germany, in English or in German, write to the German Information Office, 950 Third Ave., New York NY 10022.

Study Seeks to Give "Whole Picture" of Eastern German Youth

report in the daily Frankfurter Rundschau described a recently-pub-Alished study, titled Children and Young People from the German Democratic Republic" as the "first comprehensive study on the situation of young people in eastern Germany." Initially undertaken by the GDR Ministry for Youth and Sports, the study was completed by the federal Ministry for Women and Youth in April of this year; the authors, all from the five new states, came primarily from the Institute for Contemporary Youth Studies in Berlin, Humboldt University, and the now-defunct Central Institute for Youth Research in Leipzig (Saxony). The study seeks to "put into perspective" the situation of young eastern Germans, in view of their portrayal in the media as victims of East German government policies, lacking in opportunities for vocational training and jobs today, prone to violence, and xenophobic, according to the Rundschau. It concludes, the report says, that many of the current problems associated with eastern youth are rooted in the GDR's "totalitarian system of raising and educating children", but also that young people are more optimistic about their prospects in unified Germany than are their parents, even if the percentage of "optimists" has sunk from 90 to 64 percent since late 1989.

As of January, 1991, some 120,000 eastern German young people were unemployed and the numbers were rising. Accustomed to strictly-regulated school and recreational activities, eastern German young people find it difficult to organize their own time or to "develop strategies to overcome depressive phases" in their lives, according to the report. This is paralleled by difficulty in taking the initiative to develop new interests: while ninety-five percent of the young people in the GDR belonged to the party youth organization, only 2.7 percent of the 14-15 year olds surveyed showed

interest in joining new clubs, according to the study.

About 40 percent of the young people surveyed declared that they considered themselves "leftist"; a "relatively slight" number said that they felt drawn to such groups as skinheads and punks, and two to five percent said that they "sympathized with the National Socialist scene." However, only a "negligible" percentage was actually active in extremist groups; the authors, therefore, cautioned against "dramatizing the potential for violence" among castern German youth.

The authors of the study state that family relationships were closer than in the West; they postulate that "in a controlled system, the family was a private space." Eastern German youth also proved to be more attracted to theater, movies, and literature than their western counterparts. Fifty-four percent of those questioned said they "regularly read literature." Now, according to the authors of the study, they have "turned massively to video tapes and television."

Nov. 15, 1991

Consumer Report: Germany Has "Gone to the Dogs"

ccording to an announcement Amade recently in Hannover by the Consumer Center of Lower Saxony (VZN), Germany has "gone to the dogs." In 1973, there were 2.3 million dogs in the eleven old states of the Federal Republic; by 1990, the number had jumped to 3.8 million in the western states and one

million in the eastern. Responding to the information needs of these many dog owners, the center has now published a 60-page brochure addressing such topics as barking, biting, brushing, clipping, showing, legal liability, veterinarians, and pet

Feeding so many dogs is expensive: western German owners alone spent some DM 3.5 billion (about

Citing the Constitution, Court Lifts Ban on Women's Night Work

In a decision made public on Tuesday (January 28), the Federal Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe (Baden-Württemberg) found that the current prohibition on night work for women workers violated the equality principle contained in Article Three of Germany's constitution, the Basic Law, which states that "men and women shall have equal rights." The prohibition against work by women at night has existed for one hundred years and was taken over into the law of the Federal Republic in 1949. The German Democratic Republic had no such law.

The western law has frequently been subject to attack for its supposition that women's health suffers greater detrimental effects through night work. The prohibition is not absolute, however: women in white-collar jobs may work at night, as may nurses, bus drivers and police women, and women workers may work shifts that end at 11 p.m. or that begin at 5 a.m. The court found no proof that women suffered more and stated simply that "night work is essentially harmful to everybody's health." This last and decisive challenge to the law was brought by the management of a baked goods factory, which was fined for having women packers work at night. The German judges followed the lead of the European Community Court of Justice in Luxembourg, which declared a French prohibition on women's night work to be illegal in July, 1991. Jan. 31, 1992

U.S. \$2.1 billion) in 1990 for dog food, according to the VZN. The center noted that the fast-growing dog food industry is dominated by one company, based in Lower Saxony, which accounts for seventyfive percent of all dog food sales. Other accessories for the pooch, such as leashes and muzzles, cost owners some DM 145 million (about U.S. \$85.3 million) in 1990. Nov. 15, 1991

More News from Germany

Long Live the "Broiler": Eastern Germans Speak on (and With) Their Own Terms

A study on language usage among heastern Germans that was presented on Tuesday (October 22) in Hamburg shows that the characteristic language forms of the former German Democratic Republic have not disappeared, but rather have continued to develop. Alluding to the eastern preference for the term "Broiler" over the western German "Brathuhn" for roasted chicken, researchers said that the gist of their study was: "The broiler lives!"

Such terms as "collective" continue in use and product names are still used in the vernacular, although their referents have disappeared from the shelves, according to the researchers. In a new development, young people have created expressions from the initials of old ones, usually as a way of expressing disgust for the old ways: for example, "Produktionsgenossenschaft Handel" (production cooperative for retail trade) has become "Pech gehabt" (tough luck) and "kommunale Wohnungsvermittlung" (KWV, an agency that assigned apartment space) has "Kaputt-Wüst-Verrottet" become (broken-wasted-rotted). 0ct 25, 1991

Children Seek Guinness Entry With "Longest Drawing"

Children at a recreation center in the town of Grimmen (Mecklenburg-Vorpommern) want to make the "longest drawing in the world." According to center Grector Joachim Mittag, the artwork is already some 200 meters (about 656 feet) long; work will continue until the end of the school year this summer.

Children work on the drawing every Wednesday at the recreation center, as well as at children's parties. The Grimmen children are working toward a specific goal: they plan to submit the drawing for inclusion in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Feb. 7, 1992

Buffeted by the Winds of History, Manor's Fate Remains Undecided

In the last six months, there's been a tempest in the small community of Zeesen, near Königs Wusterhausen (Brandenburg). The fuss concerns the town manor (Gutsschloß), its rightful owner, and its purpose. Before the Nazis came to power, the manor was owned by a family named Goldschmidt. Then, the actor Gustaf Gründgens, director of the state theater from 1934-45, whose life was the basis for the 1982 film Mephisto, acquired it for use as his country estate. In the German Democratic Republic, the estate served as a children's home, and later as a vacation spot for members of the East German foreign service. After the GDR ceased to exist, the house stood empty.

This changed in June, 1991, when a group of young artists and craftspeople from Berlin discovered the 150-year-old, two-story house and suggested using it as a cultural center. The mayor of Zeesen didn't share their enthusiasm, but alerted them to the "unclear legal status of the property" and the fact that descendants of Gründgens had registered claims to it. Undaunted, the Berliners moved in and began

renovating the structure with their own funds.

Their presence provoked hostility on the one hand, evidenced by attacks by skinhead groups, but also "solidarity events." The new residents formed "Splirtz e.V. Brandenburg," a cultural association with the purpose of promoting "cultural and artistic initiatives by youth and adults in Brandenburg," and on December 1, they had an official opening ceremony, including a cultural program and a presentation of their concept for the building, named the "Culture and Communication Center of Zeesen Manor." Currently, the center includes a photo and painting exhibition, and a harp-building workshop is located in the building. Future plans are diverse, including, for example, a computer training course; the project is gaining in favor among the local population, according to a report in the daily newspaper Neues Deutschland.

Meanwhile, the only person able to prove himself as Gründgen's descendant has petitioned the Königs Wusterhausen Office of Property and Assets for the manor house. He would like to convert it into a luxury hotel. If he succeeds, "then the citizens of Zeesen will once again be outside, watching other people spend money" said one of the Splirtz representatives. The fate of the castle will be decided this month; in the meantime, the project's increasing popularity can be seen in the fact that some 200 people have signed a petition to keep the castle as a cultural and artistic center.

Jan. 24, 1992

Looking for Laughs? Try Dialing Frankfurt's "Happy Phone"

Ten years ago in December, Joachim Peter, the director of the press and information office of the city of Frankfurt a.M., was looking for a way to show the softer side of the modern metropolis. He dreamed up the "Happy Telephone" (or Das frehliche Telephon, as it's called in the Frankfurt dialect), a one-of-a-kind service in the Federal Republic that provides historical information, information on current

events, anecdotes and even recipes, all in the Frankfurt dialect. Since 1981, 600,000 calls have come in from all over Germany and from as far away as New Zealand and Australia.

Each week, a new three minute tape is made by one of a team of announcers, who include actress Liesel Christ, poet H.P. Müller, and television reporter Frank Lehmann. In honor of the anniversary, the three will produce a joint tape. For those who can't get through, Joachim Peter's successor, Nikolaus Münster, has also issued a "Best of Frankfurt's Happy Telephone" cassette.

Jan 10, 1992

More News from Germany

Folktales: Not Just for Children

At a recent conference at the University of Freiburg (Baden-Württemberg) on "Wit, Humor and Comedy in Folktales," participants referred to fairy tales as "news stories from yesterday." According to storyteller Maria Christa Maennersdoerfer, the first people to tell folktales were on the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. "These tales were a form of gossip by adults for adults" she commented, a way for information to be recorded before it was written down.

Since fairy tales predate published stories, the stories were performed, rather than read, by professional storytellers, and this tradition was continued at the Freiburg conference. The conference title notwithstanding, participants pointed out that fairy tales are not always funny. "Red Riding Hood, Sleeping Beauty, Bluebeard, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs are not funny. Rumpelstiltskin is ridiculous, but he himself has nothing to laugh about," said one participant. Laughter can, however, be the theme of the story, when, for example, a prince must make the princess laugh to win her hand.

Though they no longer serve as direct sources of information, fairy tales can tell adults much about the world and human relations - not to mention their effect on tired children.

Oct 12, 1990

The steel industry was one of the key industries in the Federal Republic until the mid-seventies, when an oversupply on the world market caused a crisis in the industry. The Ruhr valley region in North Rhine-Westphalia, where the mining of rich deposits of bituminous coal spawned a vast iron and steel industry in the 19th century, is the center of steel production. Our photograph shows workers at a Hoesch AG plant in Dortmund; other industry giants are Krupp, Thyssen and Mannesmann. Steelworkers are organized in the Metalworkers' Union (Industrie-Gewerkschaft Metall); founded in 1891, it is the largest single union in Europe.

1991 Set Records for Automobile Production, Registration

he German automobile industry produced more than five million vehicles for the first time in 1991, the industry's association reported last week in Frankfurt a.M. A spokesperson for the association said that a record number of 5.015 million vehicles rolled off the assembly lines, surpassing the previous record of 4.977 million attained in 1990. Although last year's production of 4.661 million cars was some 1,000 less than in 1990, the difference was made up by the 15 percent increase in production of utility vehicles of up to six tons, for a total of 200,700, and the production of heavier utility vehicles by nine percent to 154,600 units. Automobile exports dropped 16 percent over the same period to 2.18 million units.

The Bureau of Motor Vehicles reported Friday (January 24) in Flensburg (Schleswig-Holstein) that another record was set last year: the number of new vehicle registrations. According to the figures, the bureau licensed 4.67 million new vehicles, among them 4.16 million cars, almost 290,000 trucks and trailers, and 144,000 motorcycles.

Jan. 31, 1992

All articles from The Week in Germany on issue date given.

Heine Institute Makes "Sensational" Acquisition

oseph A. Kruse, director of the Heine Institute in Düsseldorf (North Rhine-Westphalia), announced late last week that the institute had acquired a private collection with "sensational" documents on the life and work of the poet Heinrich Heine (1797-1856).

The material consists of "more than 100 manuscript pages by and about Heine," including heretofore unknown texts, variations of poems and drafts of newspaper articles. The heart of the material, which was acquired with federal and business support, is the "Gottschalk collection," a private Berlin collection missing since the Nazi period. According to Kruse, the material includes "writings of the young Heine to Rachel Varnhagen, as well as a poem from the dying Heine to his last love, Elise Krinitz or 'Mouche.'" Kruse said that the new archive was the "largest collection of Heine material available in 25 years" and that the documents will be open to the public in May. Jan 17, 1992



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More News from Germany

Flow of Ethnic Germans Slowing, Germans from Ex-GDR Still Moving West

The number of ethnic Germans from eastern Europe emigrating to the Federal Republic (Aussiedler) continues to decrease, ac-

cording to an announcement by Parliamentary State Secretary in the Interior Ministry Horst Waffenschmidt on Thursday (February 20) in Bonn. Waffenschmidt noted that some 27,459 eastern Europeans of German descent

emigrated to the Federal Republic during the six-week period from January 1 to February 15. They included 20,659 persons from the Commonwealth of Independent States, the successor to the Soviet Union, 4,355 persons from Poland and 2,154 Romanians. In comparison, 30,182 ethnic Germans entered Germany during the same period one year ago, a figure that also represented a sharp drop from the 1990 figure of 52,991. During all of 1991, a total of 221,995 Aussiedler were registered at the nine facilities for newly-arrived ethnic Germans, according to the Interior Ministry; more than half of whom came from the former Soviet Union. The figure was 397,073 in

A related figure was given by a representative of the Federal Bureau of Statistics in Wiesbaden (Hessen), who said in an interview on Friday (February 14) that a total of 214,000 Übersiedler, as Germans from the former German Democratic Republic are called, had moved to the eleven states of the old Federal Republic in 1991.

All articles from The Week in Germany from the Peb. 21, 1992, issue.

Study: Most Germans Favor Greater Equality for Women

Inister for Women and Youth Angela Merkel (CDU) recently presented the results of a study conducted by the Institute for Practical Social Research (Institut für praxisorientierte Sozialforschung or IPOS) in Bonn on the situation of women in eastern and western Germany. Among the results of the 1991 study, for which the responses of 2,633 people (1,554 in the West and 1,079 in the East) were sought, was the statement by more than 60 percent of the respondents that efforts to achieve equality between the sexes have been "insufficient" up to now.

In the eastern states, 57 percent of the respondents said that the state was responsible for creating equality, while 73 percent of the western respondents pointed to individual responsibility. There was unanimous agreement in East and West that women are disadvantaged in professional life, although 75 percent of the respondents also said that they did not care whether their supervisor was male or female.

Although a large majority of the respondents felt that a woman's wish for a career should be supported (73 percent in the West and 86 percent in the East), nearly half of the 1,554 western respondents also thought that women with children should put off working while their children were small. This finding was in dramatic contrast to the eastern states, where only one-sixth of the 1,079 respondents felt the same way. Similar differences surfaced on the question of childcare: 47 percent of the westerners thought that full-time daycare facilities could be harmful to children's development, whereas only 14 percent of the easterners thought so.

Eastern and western reactions also differed on the issue of domestic violence. When asked what their reaction would be if they knew that a woman was being hit by her husband, 73 percent of the western respondents said they would be prepared to personally contribute to the solution to the problem. Some 47 percent of the easterners said that it was "better to keep out of it" and that there should be "governmental measures."

It's almost never too soon to start children on skis, especially if they want to compete in the sport. In our photograph, a youngster is learning with the "no poles" method favored by many instructors. Other, somewhat older, German skiers who began gliding down mountains early in life have been competing in the winter Olympics in Albertville, France. German athletes won medals in biathlon, tobogganing, and speed-skating, where women swept the 5,000 meter event. This was the first Olympics for the all-German team since unification.



GENEALOGY

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

BITS AND PIECES AND NEWS

1992 NGS Conference in the States will be 29 April-2 May 1992 in Jacksonville, Fl. Using a theme based on the quincentenary of Columbus' voyage, this year's annual National Genealogical Conference includes such topics as an update on genealogical research in unified Germany, researching your ancestor's immigration stories, reconstructing your ancestor's neighborhood with tract maps, freedom-of-information rights, the immigrant experience from steerage to Ellis Island, printed passenger lists, genealogy and genetics, German records for the family historian, genealogical research in Texas, analysis and origin of German surnames, records in the National Archives, Civil War soldiers' index, cemetery research, workshops on computer genealogy--and many more. These are just some of the topics of greatest interest; there are 198 workshops and special sessions in all! For a brochure, write: 1992 NGS Conference, 4527 17th Street North, Arlington VA 22207-2399.

<u>Palentines to America</u> national genealogy conference "That Elusive Immigrant" will be 18-20 June 1992 in Lancaster, Penn. For information write: Conference Registrar, P. O. Box 280, Strasburg PA 17579 or call (717) 687-8234.

Research in Berlin and surrounding area is the topic of an article in German Genealogical Digest, fourth quarter of 1991 issue. This article is "must" reading for anyone with ancestors from Berlin and environs. It tells how to use directories (on LDS microfilm) to find a family's street address and to determine the parish jurisdiction for that street. The article includes a list of major churches in the city of Berlin and a map showing their locations. The list shows which church records have been filmed by LDS. "Roman-Catholic Parishes of Muenchen, Germany, 1820-1860" is another article in the same issue of German Genealogical Digest (above). In 1820, Muenchen had only three parishes, but later there were many others. If your ancestors were from Munich, check the information in this article. Then, for further information, send an SASE and the name of the parish to: John Dahl, Ph.D., A.G. 560 East South Temple St., No 604, Salt Lake City UT 84102. This particular issue also contains articles on Mecklenburg records, the process of verification (is that the name of my ancestor?) and a listing of recent microfilm acquisitions from various localities in German lands. The German Genealogical Digest for the third quarter of 1991 had an article, "Tracing Germans in Southeast Europe," and featured also Baden-Baden, Hessen, Pommern and Westfalen. Subscriptions are \$22.00 a year (four issues); single issues are \$6.50 each. The address is P. O. Box 700, Dept. 91, Pleasant Grove UT 84062.

More genealogical help may be available in the Glenn G. Gilbert Papers at the Barker Texas History Center, University of Texas at Austin. This collection contains genealogical information for some of the individuals questioned by Gilbert and his aides in the mid-1960s. Three types of information are most helpful. At the end of almost all of the "Texas German Questionnaires" a researcher finds the birthplace and date of the informant and often the birthplace of his or her parents. The two most helpful forms are "Supplementary Biographical Questions to Texas German Questionnaire" and "Field Questionnaire for the Investigation of Texas German." These give genealogical information on the spouse, parents and sometimes grandparents and great-grandparents. All three types of material are interspersed throughout boxes 3J277, 278 and 279. This information sent by Lauren Kattner of Garland and verified by Glenn Gilbert.

Genealogical Society of Kendall County issued its 10th anniversary issue of Keys to the Past in October 1991. That particular issue included a topic index for the entire ten years.

<u>Our Heritage</u>, quarterly of the San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society had a three-and-a-half-page article in the Summer 1991 issue in the form of a letter to the editor from your GTHS Genealogy Editor. It pointed out obvious discrepencies in a memoir that appeared in a previous issue. The family supposedly had "come to Texas around 1839-40 with Count Von Braunfels, or Prinz Solms. At the same time, Count Von Meusebach also brought over a group of colonists" and so on. Our letter commended the author of the memoirs and the SAG&HS for publishing them but also reminded of the necessity of placing family history in its proper context--and of checking oral histories and personal memoirs against documentary evidence for

Bits and Pieces and News, continued

accuracy. In this case, checking even readily available published sources would have revealed the discrepencies.

German-American Genealogy is a big annual publication of the Immigrant Genealogical Society, in addition to that group's monthly Newsletter. The 1991 issue included an article on records in eastern Germany and changes since unification, including a description of each of the "five new states" and addresses for research. Other articles included: history of Czechoslovakia, computerized IGI (LDS's International Genealogical Index), post-World War II letters from Germany to a family in Houston, Lutheran research in Bavaria, list of surnames in July-December issues of FANA, state archives at Marburg and Speyer and excerpts from emigrants' diaries about their trans-Atlantic voyages. Membership in IGS is \$15.00 per year; single issues of German-American Genealogy are \$5.00 each. The address is P. O. Box 7369, Burbank CA 91510-7369. IGS also offers research services from published sources, such as passenger lists, gazetteers, and German telephone books; also translation services. Write for fees and additional information.

Address Book for German Genealogy by Ernest Thode has been updated (the 4th edition) to reflect changes due to the unification and includes former East German areas. The price is \$24.95 plus \$2.00 postage. Order from Ernest Thode, R.R. 7, Box 306, Kern Road, Marietta OH 45750-9437.

Research help in Leipzig is available, reports GTHS member Wilhelm Niermann of Stemwede, Germany. He shares with us the name and address of the office that helped him in his search for a family from Texas. It is: Deutsche Zentralstelle für Genealogie, Georgi-Dimitroff-Platz 1, Postfach 947, 0-7010 Leipzig, Germany. The telephone number is 31 14 12. Herr Niermann's address is Wehdem 113, W-4995 Stemwede 3, Germany. His own telephone number is 0 57 73/16 18.

Researcher in Czechoslovakia recommended by Lou Bradshaw of San Antonio is Mr. Jiří Ošanec. She sent along his list of services and fees, which she reports are speedy and reasonable, respectively. He lives in Olomouc, near the area of origin of so many German-speaking Moravians who immigrated to Texas, and he gives preference to clients whose ancestors were from Moravia and Silesia. You should consult in advance as to the extent of the services you expect. Write to: Mr. Jiří Ošanec, I. P. Pavlova 26, 779 00 Olomouc, Czechoslovakia.

German Genealogical Society of America now has a Newsletter published monthly except August and December (10 issues per year). This is that group's effort to bring information to members on a more timely basis, as the GGSA's <u>Bulletin</u>, informative and helpful as it is, last appeared over a year ago when the combined issue for May/August 1990 arrived. GGSA maintains an extensive library in Claremont, Calif., and has volunteers to research the holdings for members. GTHS exchanges publications with GGSA. Membership is \$18.00 per year; the mailing address is P. O. Box 291818, Los Angeles CA 90029.

Western New York Genealogical Society has been recommended by GTHS member Chester Eckermann of Santa Maria, Calif. He particularly recommends an article in that group's Journal for December 1991 about a German emigrants' register covering the period 1820-1918. For information contact the registrar: Mrs. Nancy Stowe Barrett, 89 Sunset Lane, Orcahrd Park NY 14127-2518 or call (716) 662-6845.

The Huguenot Society of Texas accepts membership from lineal descendants of Huguenots, but they must meet certain criteria. There are chapters in 45 states; Texas has three chapters. For membership qualifications, write to the state registrar, Melford S. Dickerson, M.D., 1206 E. Applegate Dr., Austin TX 78753.

"Communities and Towns of Fayette County" is the title of an article in the December 1991 issue of Stirpes, the quarterly of the Texas State Genealogical Society. The nine-page article by Sue Nite Raguzin gives brief histories, generally three to eight lines each, on 63 Fayette County settlements. The longest and most informative are on Ford's Prairie, Stellar, and Winchester, 10-15 lines in length. Generally the items give the location and tell something about the founding and naming, post offices, voting precincts, schools and churches, but not all these items are covered for all settlements. The September 1991 issue had an article by Robert Janak

Bits and Pieces and News (continued)

on the Czechs in Texas, their European background and history, their emigration to the U.S. and their Texas settlements. The 13-page article includes maps and references. Membership in TSGS is \$18.00 a year and dues should be sent to TSGS treasurer, 6914 Scottsdale, San Antonio TX 78209. GTHS member Frances Condra of San Antonio is the new Stripes editor!

"The Obituary as a Genealogical Source" is the topic of an article in the November-December 1991 issue of Ancestry Newsletter. This brief, but interesting, article does not have anything new to the experienced or creative researcher, but it might be of help to the novice. It is gratifying to see that the author, Sheilah Kirker, a New York village librarian, advises caution in the use of information in obituaaries, as such facts are "often based on the faulty memories of survivors, are not 'carved in stone,' and errors did occur. Therefore, all data...should be treated as leads and always verified by at least one other source." The September-October 1991 issue had articles on the historian and the genealogist, on using public records of the administration of estates and on interpreting gravestone epitaphs. This newsletter is \$12.00 per year (six issues) and the address is P. O. Box 476, Salt Lake City UT 84110.

St. Louis Genealogical Society's Quarterly featured a story "The Emigration from Limbury-Weilburg County to Bastrop county, Texas" in two parts in the Summer and Fall 1991 issues. was written by Manfred Kunz and translated by Carol Marlo. Surnames in the articles include these arrivals at Indianola, 10 October 1846 on the ship "Bohemia": Becker, Diehl, Grimm, Jager, Low, Hollinghausen, Nink, Pfeiffer, Ernst, Gartner, Meurer, Pauli, and Waldschmidt. Arrivals at Indianola 30 November 1846, ship "James Edward": Brahm, Eisenbach, Eufinger, Faxel (later, Foxel), Geis, Rossbach and Meuth. The Becker, Brahm, Diehl, Ning, Eisenbach, Eufinger, Gaxel/Foxel and Meuth families went to Bastrop County. The article includes stories of most of them including Adam Becker, the building of the Catholic church at Pin Oak; Matthias Nink, who went to Pin Oak in 1848 after his first two years at New Braunfels; the brothers Andreas, Johann Franz and John Peter Meuth who built the church at Meuth Hill, and William Eisenbach--the stories of his physical strength read like Texas tall tales! About 31 others arrived 11 November 1855 from Würges and some of these came to Texas, including Bermbach, Eichhorn, Görz (Goertz), Hartmann, Meuth, Wilhelm and Wolf. This Meuth is apparently different from the three brothers who arrived in November 1846. This article appears to be based on newspapers, ships' lists, local emigration permits, correspondence between the emigrants and their famlies in Germany as well as the author's personal correspondence with present-day descendants of those emigrants.

1920 Census of the U.S. becomes available in March 1992, but it may be much later before those rolls of microfilm actually arrive at your local library. (San Antonio Public Library staff project availability in summer 1992.) When it does become available to individual researchers, you will find that it resembles the 1910 Census in format and information. The 1920 Census did not ask, as did the 1910 Census, for the number of children a woman had borne or how long a couple had been married. Four new questions were added: one asking the year of naturalization and three about the mother tongue. Census takers were not instructed to ask the spelling of names not were they to request proof of age, date of arrival or other information. If family members were temporarily absent, they were to be listed with the family or on the last page for that census subdivision. So, this tells us to look around to ensure that we find all members of a particular family. (From: "News 'n' Notes," St. Louis (Mo.) Genealogical Society, Nov. 1991)

Can't Find a Town? The Immigrant Genealogical Society (see above item) often receives inquiries about towns which researchers have not been able to find on maps. One of IGS's projects is a check of gazetteers and maps. The group reports when their volunteers fail to find a town, it usually is because of confusion in spelling of the name of the town. Naturally, a reasonably accurate German spelling increases the likelihood of finding the town on a map. Likewise, to find a Polish town, you need to know the Polish spelling. If all else has failed, turn to the Rand-McNally Maps archivist, Phil Forrestor, P. O. Box 7600, Chicago IL 60680, telephone (312) 673-9100, ext. 2339. (From IGS Newsletter, Nov. 1991, previously in Jacksonville FL and Orange County CA genealogical societies Newsletters)

Eastern European Records The records up to 1895 for what is today Hungary have all been microfilmed, reports Daniel Schlyter. Many of those records are in German because so many

Bits and Pieces and News (continued)

Germans were enticed to settle there in earlier centuries. Also, Czechoslovakia has finally given permission to the LDS to microfilm vital records, and Bulgaria is asking for that same service. LDS microfilming crews cannot keep up with the requests! (From IGS Newsletter, Nov. 1991)

FROM OUR MEMBERS

The following section was compiled by your Genealogy Editor from the 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 or query 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 \$5.00 query fee.

If you wish to submit a longer article for publication, please be sure it is camera-ready. The manuscript specifications are: materials must be typed, <u>single spaced</u>, on 8 1/2" by 11" white paper, with <u>only 1/4 inch margin on all sides</u>. Remember, your typing must be almost edge-to-edge. Because of concerns as to the length of the <u>Journal</u>, we suggest that such articles be limited to two pages.

Bill Lehmann 430 North Park, Guthrie OK 73044 reports he thinks he has found the origin of his Lehmann ancestors since his item appeared in our previous issue. He was looking for a place named Landsberg an der Warthe in the Kingdom of Prussia, and now has found information indicating that it is now known as Gorzow Wielkopolski in Poland. The river Warthe is now called Warta. According to Gustav Lehmann's 1892 obituary in the Cuero newspaper, he was employed by the Morgan Steamship Lines at Indianola until the 1886 storm destroyed the town. Since Indianola was not rebuilt after this second great storm, Gustav and many other Indianola survivors moved inland to Cuero. Now Bill is looking for additional background on Indianola and on the Morgan Steamship Lines.

Bill Wittner 1705 Skyline Dr., Russellville AR 72801 is searching for any descendants of the children of August and Ida (Wittner) Streicher. August was born 13 July 1861 in Anhalt, Prussia, Ida was born 4 January 1864 in Austin County, Texas. They were married 25 December 1883 in Austin County. Ida died "during a plague" 25 September 1906 in Austin County, at either Industry or Welcome, and August died 7 December 1944. Bill seeks to identify the descendants of the following children of August and Ida, all born in Austin County, probably at either Industry or Welcome: Arnold, born October 1884; Minna, born 22 April 1886; Josephine, born August 1887; Fritz, 17 October 1888-8 October 1906; Albert, born February 1892; Erna, born June 1895; and Anna, 1899-1900. Bill has found 570 descendants (including relatives in Germany) of his 9th great-grandfather, born in the late 1500s in Appenzell, Switzerland, but the Texas descendants of this Streicher family have eluded him for years.

Mrs. Walter Schlinke Rt. 1, Box 10, Nordheim TX 78141 is working on the history of the Jean Baptiste and Christina (Wenisdoerfer) December family and has been unable to find information on one member of that family. He is Curtiss Schroeder, son of Mary December and Walter Schroeder, born about 1927. Mrs. Schlinke was told that he had three daughters, so she would appreciate any information or addresses for this family.

Elizabeth Banks 1106 Harville Rd., Duncan OK 73533 reports one response to the item on her great-grandfather Schulze in our issue #2 for last year (p. 162), but it was from a different family. In the meantime, a famiy member has given her a picture that sheds a bit of light. John Schulze's widow is pictured with various relatives in Houston, summer 1908, in mourning dress. Assuming she followed a common custom of dressing in mourning clothes for a year, Elizabeth is speculating that John's death (due to a trolley accident in Houston) occurred between the summers of 1907 and 1908. Editor's note: if a date is completely unknown, this is about as good a starting point as any.

OUR MEMBERS WRITE ABOUT THEIR FAMILIES

Carolyn Entrop Gottschalk of Arlington and her brother, Elmer Entrop of Austin, have produced an updated book on the family of William Edward Entrop Sr. This 63-page publication is a sequel to the 30-page report they compiled in 1985. William Entrop, originally Eulentrop, from Geseke in Westfalen, emigrated in 1881. Although the family has not yet documented all the places he lived, it is thought that he went first to St. Louis, Mo. He has been traced to Clifton in Bosque County, Texas, and then to Tours in McLennan County. There he married Katie Deiterman who had been born in Teutopolis, Effingham County, Ill. Her father, Edward Dieterman, had arrived at Galveston in 1851 and moved to Effingham after several years in Texas. In 1873, he settled at Tours and later moved to Wichita Falls. Shortly after their marriage (they eloped!) William and Katie Entrop moved to St. Louis where their first four children were born. Then, they moved back to Tours where their next eight children were born and to Westphalia where their youngest child was born (that makes 13 in all). The story tells how William and Katie never owned their own land or home and goes on to describe them, their characters, interests, and activities. Most of the book is a listing of the descendants with dates of birth, death, and marriage as well as addresses and telephone numbers, but it also includes brief biographies of the children and grandchildren of William and Katie. As the authors have corresponded with relatives in Germany and have visited the ancestral hometown, they include some information on the German relatives plus the results of ancestral research taking the family back to the mid-18th century. This second book greatly amplifies the 1985 effort. Your genealogy editor has frequently used their 1985 work as an example of getting your first efforts into print to share with your relatives even if you feel it is "not completed." It is never completed!

Arliss Treybig of El Campo has produced an 82-page book on the family of Joseph Henneke, Sr., and Anna Maria Middeke as a follow up to her 1983 work on the same family. Although this book is entitled Hardship and Promise, Arliss refers to it as "Henneke History, Draft #2." The previous book (called a "Partial History" of the family) was incomplete since no one had located the family's ancestral home in Germany. Now that the village has been identified as Entrup in Westfalen, the new effort contains considerable background on the ancestral home plus names and dates for two generations of Henneke ancestors and three generations of Middekes. The author admits that this history is still not complete, but it is a beginning. As her objective appears to be to share the results of her historical research, she does not list the family's descendants beyond the second Texas-born generation. For example, she includes six different published accounts of how Mary T. Henneke Jurgens was captured by Indians and then points out similarities and discrepencies among those accounts. As in the case of the Entrop family history, above, this is an excellent way to share research with other family descendants. Arliss has also produced books on the descendants of Jacob Hennecke and Mary Braden, on the descendants of William Henry Treybig and Lena Marx and on the Nicolaus Treybig family.

Theresa Gold, your GTHS Genealogy Editor, compiled and published the first-ever Newsletter for the Hoelscher-Buxkemper Family. Released in November 1991, it was 14 legal-sized pages and was mailed to over 3,300 family addresses. The Newsletter contained a report on the 1990 reunion in San Antonio (attendance was 1,078!), an announcement of the 1992 reunion (June 27-28 in San Angelo), updates on family research to augment the 1978 family history book, reports on contacts with relatives in Germany, dates of death for over 450 who have passed away since publication of the 1978 book, news from the principal family settlements in Texas, a chronology of the first 19 biennial family reunions, names and addresses of the family Board Members, newsy items about 50 interesting present-day relatives, and miscellaneous other items. A few extra copies are available; anyone interested may have a copy by sending postage stamps valued at 52 cents to Theresa Gold, 106 Ranchland, San Antonio TX 78213.

RESEARCH HELP IN GERMANY

Hans-Joachim Hinners, Wurster Strasse 390, W-2850 Bremerhaven does research in the northern region of Germany, particularly in the area around Bremerhaven and extending as far as Cuxhaven, Strade and Bremen. He recognizes the importance of this area in our emigration history. Although it is not generally our custom to recommend specific professional researchers, Herr

Research Help in Germany (continued)

Hinners' letter included some information that may prove valuable to our members and others, and so we pass that information on to you. He works as a secretary at the local courthouse, does research in his spare time and assures us he is "fair (sincere)". Following is a list of the records he has or knows about, including * (birth), + (death) and oo (marriage) records. Upon request, he can furnish copies (photostats) of churchbooks for these years: 1715-1726, 1746, 1751, 1752, 1759-1852. In some cases, he has data after 1900 and nearly up to the present time, and in other cases before the beginning of the churchbooks. He has compiled a 334-page Ortssippenbuch (village lineage book) for the village of Misselwarden containing all families between 1680-1900. The price of \$40.00 includes surface mail delivery, but for air mail delivery add another \$10.00. Upon request, he can do research in other towns in northern Germany at the rate of \$10.00 per hour plus reimbursement for mileage and postage. He specifically requests payment in cash dollars because of the high fee for conversion of checks from dollars to marks, but we again recommend that you obtain a bank draft in marks for payment for goods and services (see our third issue of 1991, page 227, for assistance in obtaining a bank draft in marks).

Below is a list of the records available through Hans-Joachim Hinners, including the name of the Parish and the year its churchbooks begin:

Imsum, 1694 Mulsum, 1697 Wremen, 1667 Selsingen, 1715 Bramstedt, 1715 Wulsdorf, 1687 Debstedt, 1691 Lehe, 1690 Schee β el, 1709 Brockel, 1715 Neuenkirchen, 1715* Daverden, 1715 Neuenfelde, 1716 Kirchwalsede, 1715 Wersabe, 1625 Altluneberg, 1673 Oese, 1669 Uthlede, 1715 Horneburg, 1632 Bargstedt, 1653 Bülkau, 1651 Harsefeld, 1715 Apensen, 1715 St.-Jürgen, 1715 Scharmbeck, 1675 Wulsbüttel, 1715

Midlum, 1682 Paddingbüttel, 1715 Cappel, 1681 Neuenwalde, 1681 Bederkese, 1715 Bremervörde, 1689 Bramel, 1698 Rhade, 1715 Zeven, 1652 Visselhövede, 1715 Worpswede, 1759 Kuhstedt, 1680 Ahausen, 1698 Gnarrenburg, 1791 Beverstedt, 1665 Kirchwistedt, 1668 Büttel, 1683 Hambergen, 1637 Gyhum, 1716 Ahlerstedt, 1667 Nordleda, 1654 Ringstedt, 1678 Fischerhude-Wilstedt, 1715 Osterholz, 1715

Misselwarden, 1704 Spieka, 1715 Dorum, 1672 Loxstedt, 1715 Geestendorf, 1688 Altenwalde, 1715 $Hol\beta el, 1691$ Schiffdorf, 1686 Trupe/Lilienthal, 1715 Schneverdingen, 1715 Rotenburg, 1681 Wolterdingen, 1715 Achim, 1715 Flögeln, 1700 Bexhövede, 1651 Stotel, 1678 Elsdorf, 1658 Sittensen, 1668 Kirchtimke, 1691 Heeslingen, 1663 Otterstedt, 1715 Ritterhude, 1715 Bruch, 1715 Arbergen, 1715 Schwanewede, 1715 Mulsum/Strade, 1667

Sandstedt, 1715

FAMILY REUNIONS

Krautsand/Elbe, 1715

Hoelscher-Buxkemper Family's 20th biennial reunion will be in San Angelo, June 27-28, 1992. Over 1,000 are expected for the biggest family reunion and the best family round-up in Texas. Anticipated is the attendance of Buxkämpers of Olfen, the first German relatives to attend a reunion. Chairperson is Dottie Frerich, 1811 Forest Park, San Angelo TX 76901, telephone (915) 653-9491.

William Mark Wittenburg-Augusta Julianna Sydow/Zedal Family reunion was held in June 1991 in Kerrville. Some 225 descendants of the third, fourth and fifth generations attended. This family name is well known in the sheep and wool industry from the turn of the century. Contact Mrs. J. T. King, P. O. Box 6, Lometa TX 76853.

GTHS MEMBERS' GENEALOGICAL EXCHANGE

At the request of several members, we have added a column, "Origin in Germany," to the Genealogical Exchange. Because of the positive feedback on this additon, we are continuing the new format. The "origin" may be given as broadly or as specifically as known.

Researching

Origin in Germany

Tex. County

Religion

Surnames

Settled

Member: Helen Oehrlein Davidson, P. O. Box 417, Cedar Park TX 78613 (512)

Oehrlein Tanterl Preusse Mager

Veitshoheim Bavaria Travis/Williamson Vienna Austria

Williamson Anhalt Dessau

Travis/Williamson Travis/Williamson

Catholic Catholic Lutheran Lutheran

Member: Doris Zirkel Rohlfs, Rt. 16, Box 48, Medina TX 78055

Schlick

Hanover

Berlin

Washington/Falls

Lutheran ?

Hester

Smith/Comanche/Bexar Methodist ?

Note: the Schlick family was from the Kingdom of Hanover, in the Harz Mountains. Although the Hester family's German origin is unknown, they lived in North Carolina, Tennessee and Mississippi before coming to Texas in the 1840s.

Member: Madeline Edna Gold Wyrwich, 10207 Sunrise Field Dr., San Antonio TX 78245 (512) 673-1125

Gold Locke Marquardt Peschel

Germany from Spain ? Switzerland ? Comal Comal Kendall Kendall

? ? ?

Note: this Gold family is of no know relation to the family of your Genealogy Editor.

Member: Mark A Krause, 15319 Pebble Path, San Antonio TX 78232

Ziegelbauer/Zeigelbauer

Tarrillion Seffel Rottenstein

Krause Byholt Gillespie/Bexar

Catholic Bexar Catholic

Harris/Lavaca

Bexar/Comal/Kendall Lutheran

Catholic

Harris

Concordia Historical Institute has preserved since 1847 the history of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The collection encompasses 2.5 million mnuscripts, 58,000 books and pamphlets, thousands of photographs, 200 movies, 340 slides and thousands of filmstrips and artifacts, 156,000 feet of microfilm and over 2 million feet of tape recordings. Some items can be borrowed, and the staff can do some research for specific questions. Individuals and organizations may become members of the Institute and receive its Quarterly and Historical Footnote. The Institute is located at Concordia Seminary, 801 De Mun Ave., St. Louis MO 63105. (From: Immigrant Genealogical Society Newsletter October 1991)



FINDING A PASSENGER LIST



FROM: "THEY CAME IN SHIPS" BY JOHN PHILIP COLLETTA (PAGES 66-67)

____1

You must know your ancestor's:

- Full, Real Name
- Approximate Age at Arrival
- Approximate Date of Arrival

Where you can find this information

- Oral family tradition
- Family documents: passports, letters, Bible inscriptions, etc.
- Civil and religious records: military service, naturalizations, U.S. censuses, marriages, burlals, etc.
- Published genealogies and local histories.

2

1565-1819

If your ancestor arrived between 1565 and 1819, the passenger list, if it still exists, might be in any archive, museum, courthouse, basement, or attic. But many have been published! You will search in the library in indexes to published lists.

1820-1954

If your ancestor arrived between 1820 and 1954, a microfilm copy of the passenger list is probably at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. You will search in the indexes there, or, if necessary, in other indexes.

3

Indexes to Published Lists

If you know the name of your ancestor's ship: Search for that ship in Indexes compiled by ship name.

Or

If you do not know the ship: Search for you ancestor in indexes compiled by passenger name.

Or

If you know your ancestor's nationality: Search in indexes compiled by nationality.

Oi

If you do not know the nationality: Search in indexes compiled by particular group (such as indentured servants or Irish Potato Famine immigrants) or by geographic settlement or port of entry.

Or

If your ancestor was a slave, he or she was not listed by name in the cargo manifest. Circumstancial evidence of your ancestor's ship can be obtained, however, if you know where, when, and by whom the slave was first purchased. Then search

- In the National Archives, manifests of ships importing slaves into the ports of Savannah, Mobile, and New Orleans, 1789–1808.
- In museums, special collections containing manifests of slave ships.
- In libraries, published compilations of documents relating to the slave trade in America.

4

The Passenger List

When you find your ancestor's name or the ship's name in the index, use the reference cited to locate the published or microfilmed list. Then read the list line by line to find the name. Double check what you find against the ancestor's real name, approximate age at arrival, and approximate date of arrival, to be certain you have your ancestor!

National Archives Indexes

These are compiled by port for U.S. ports on the Atlantic, Pacific, Great Lakes, and Gulf Coast, but they do not cover every year or every port!

- If you know your ancestor's port of entry: Search the index to passenger arrivals for that port.
- If your ancestor arrived in New York, 1847–1896:
 Search the registers of vessel arrivals, note which ships arrived when your ancestor did, then seach those lists.
- If you do not know the port of entry: Search all available indexes to passenger arrivals.
- National Archives staff will search the indexes if you supply a passenger's name, port of entry, and month and year of arrival. Use NATF Form 81.

Or...Published Indexes

These are limited in years covered and specialized in passengers included, but they often complement National Archives indexes.

 Search indexes compiled by nationality or port of entry.

Or . . . The Morton-Allan Directory

This book lists the arrival date for every steamship entering New York, 1890–1930, and Boston, Baltimore, and Philadelphia, 1904–1926, from Europe.

- If you know the name of your ancestor's ship: Note every date when that ship arrived, then search those lists.
- If you know the date when your ancestor arrived:
 Note which ships arrived on that date, then search those lists.

Or . . . The Hamburg Emigration Index

 If your ancestor emigrated from eastern, northern, or central Europe, he or she may have embarked from Hamburg, Germany. Emigration lists at Hamburg are indexed, 1850–1934. Search microfilm copy of the Index at any branch of the LDS Family History Library

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BEINHORN FAMILY: "Das Kirche Buch"

In our family search, (GTHS <u>JOURNAL</u>, Vol. XIII, No. 1, 1991) we were running into a wall in regards to who and what happened to the six BEINHORNS and five Tendlers that arrived in the fall and winter of 1853. Reverend Wm. J. Luthe in his booklet "ST. PETER CHURCH 1848-1948" (GTHS <u>JOURNAL</u>, Vol. XII, No. 1, 1990) excerpted entries from a church record book started in 1856. First marriage at St. Peter was that of JACOB BEINHORN and WILHELMINE TENDLER on the 22 August 1856. CHRISTIAN BEINHORN, my great-grandfather, was listed as one of the carpenters that built a new church house that was dedicated in 1864. According to my cousin, Charlie Beinhorn, a member of St. Peter Church, this book was missing from the church files.

I received a $2\frac{1}{2}$ lb. package from Charlie and his wife, Louise, in mid-December 1989. It contained a large manila folder of 126 legal-size sheets, copied on both sides, entitled "KIRCHEN BUCH der GEMEINDE SPRING BRANCH, HARRIS COUNTY" and below that in smaller letters "Angifangen Monat August 1856, Pastor John Hardtle." The old record book had been located and Charlie and Louise made a copy for me with the notation "Merry Christmas and have fun."

The "BUCH" had many entries in the early years concerning not only the BEIN-HORNS, but other family relations too. TENDLER, MÜLLER, KOLBE, BAUER, NEUEN and OBERPRILLER were all represented. Many entries were made in the Old German Script and were difficult to decipher. The book was sectioned into categories of Baptisms, Confirmations, Communions, Marriages and Deaths. Much needed information was obtained from these 1856-1937 entries.

The Baptismal section listed two previously unknown BEINHORNS, DIETRICH and HEINRICH as sponsors in 1858 and 1862.

The Confirmation section showed DIETRICH BEINHORN as the father of HEINRICH Confirmed 1 April 1860.

The Death section contained the following information: HEINRICH BEINHORN died 2 March 1866. Age 18 years, 8 months and 2 days. DIETRICH BEINHORN died 1 December 1866. Age 73 years. CHRISTIAN BEINHORN died 25 October 1905. Born Oslohs, Hanover. Age 71 years. Heinrich and Dietrich were probably victims of the fever epedimic and were buried in unmarked graves of which there are 37 in the St. Peter cemetary. The first clue as to the hometown of the BEINHORNS came from this section. It is $Oslo\beta$, pronounced Osloss. The pastor had misspelled it as Oslohs, using the old script "h." Thanks to our GTHS Genealogy Editor for solving this.

DIETRICH was 60 years old in 1853. His son HEINRICH was 6 years old. JACOB was 26 and CHRISTIAN was 19 at that time. I beleive that they were also sons of DIETRICH and all four were part of the BEINHORN family of six from the State of Hanover and sailed on the "SUWA" out of Bremerhaven 11 November 1853 and according to passenger lists arrived at Galveston, Tx. 23 December 1853.

The "KIRCHEN BUCH" was a great Christmas present! The finding of a previously unknown great-great-grandfather BEINHORN, his children and the name of their home-town in Germany (all yet to be confirmed by further research) was exciting and certainly a help in the search for our BEINHORN ancestors. Yes, I had a very "Merry Christmas" and I am still "having fun" with the "KIRCHEN BUCH."

Submitted by: Herbert L. Beinhorn Route 1, Box 100 Moscow, Texas 75960 Ein Dank nach Texas und nach New Braunfels!

Langjährige Familienforschung und eine große Portion Glück verhalfen mir zur Adresse ehemaliger Auswanderer nach Texas aus unserer Familie.Dieses war 1984. Fast alle Pargmanns in Deutschland wußten, daß wir Verwandte in Amerika hatten, bis 1914 hatte sogar noch ein Briefwechsel stattgefunden, aber jetzt 1984 zwei Generationen später konnte sich keiner mehr an eine Adresse erinnern.

Mein Anschreibpartner war Frau Lillian Pargmann-Rosenthal in New Braunfels, eine Enkelin von Gerhard und Rebecka Pargmann welche 1897 mit 13 Kindern von Norddeutschland, genau gesagt von Rönnelmoor aus der Wesermarsch den Sprung über den Atlantik nach Texas gewagt hatten.

Der Zufall half wieder mit, Lillian Pargmann-Rosenthal ist eine stark angagierte Familienforscherin, alle wichtigen Daten der Pargmann Familien in Amerika hatte sie schon mit viel Fleiß gesammelt. Nur die Verbindung zum ehemaligen Herkunftsland, das ehemalige Grossherzogtum Oldenburg hatte sie trotz intensiver Versuche nicht herstellen können. Nun war die Verbindung gelungen, und das beidseitige Familieninteresse ließ einen regen Briefwechsel entstehen.

Ich wurde gleich 1984 im ersten Jahr zu einem Familientreffen der Pargmanns nach Nordheim bei San Antonio eingeladen. Aber erst 1990 konnte ich meine Reise verwirklichen. Ich war über-rascht, dort so viele Pargmanns anzutreffen. Fast 200 Familienmitglieder treffen sich dort seit 1955 Jährlich in der Shoting Club Hall um ihre Familienbande zu festigen oder aufzufrischen.

Es ist erstaunlich, so etwas habe ich in Deutschland noch nicht erlebt. Soviel Familiensinn so viel Idialismus. Ich denke es sind noch alte Überlieferungen aus der Pionierzeit, wo ein jeder den anderen gebrauchte, wo man aufeinander angewiesen war, und diese wertvollen Tugenden haben sich bis heute erhalten.

Einige Familien von Indianapolis, andere von New Orleans angereist, obwohl, der größte Teil war von Texas, dem Einreiseland der ehemaligen Emigranten.

Wohnung mit vollem Familienanschluß wurde gleich großzügigerweise von der Familie Dickey und Rosenthal in New Braunfels angeboten. Es war eine wunderbare ehrliche liebe nette Gastfreundschaft.

Ich hatte die Möglichkeit, Land&Leute vor Ort, also direkt, kennen zu lernen und ich konnte immer wieder diese nette freundliche Art von Interesse für Familie, Heimat und für den Gast, bewundern.

Alle waren interessiert von Norddeutschland, von der Heimat ihrer Ahnen, zu hören. Mit viel Begeisterung wurden Dias vom Geburtshaus und von der näheren Heimat der ehemaligen Auswanderer bewundert. Selten hat ein Vortrag dieser Art, so viele wißbegierige, interessierte Zuhörer. Es machte Freude, alles möglichst naturgetreu und wirklichkeitsnah vorzutragen. Ich war von meinem 4 wöchigen Aufenthalt in New Braunfels bei der Familie Dickey und Rosenthal so begeistert, mir werden die schönen Tage in Texas ewig in Erinnerung bleiben und ich hoffe, ich bekomme in Deutschland einen Gegenbesuch und ich kann mich ein wenig revangieren.

Meine Feststellung: Land und Leute in Texas sind wunderbar, es lohnt sich, alles kennenzulernen. Es war herrlich, und sollte es möglich sein, werde ich Texas noch öfter besuchen.

From: Gerd Pargmann, Schwarzweg192 W12930eWarelta3 SGermany

THE CASE OF THE JOYOUS SECOND COUSINS TWICE REMOVED

By Rodney C. Koenig

Fulbright & Jaworski

From Deutsche Welt-U.S.A., Houston, Texas Sent by Rodney Koenig, Houston, Texas

Have you ever wondered what happens if you die without a Will? The following example is one in which second cousins unknown to a Houston lady eventually inherited much of her estate.

Irma Mangels, the adobted daughter of Heinrich Mangels und Marie Gebauer Mangels, was born in 1913 and had one adopted brother who died in infancy. She was baptized as a German Lutheran in Winchester, Texas which is located between La Grange and Giddings in Fayette County. Irma grew up in Texas as an only child. She never married and had no children. On March 14, 1985 she died in Houston, Texas without ever having signed a Will.

Under Texas law, if no spouse and no descendants survive, then the heirs are found by looking toward parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, until one finds living descendants of some of these ancestors. On the maternal side, finding heirs of Irma was

fairly easy. Her mother's brother had two children, Ursula Gebauer and Hildegard Gebauer, who survived Irma and who live in Berlin, Germany. These two first cousins are her only heirs on her maternal side. Furthermore, in Texas the estate is divided into moieties. The maternal moiety in this case passes to Irma's two first cousins, Ursula Gebauer and Hildegard Gebauer.

However, in Irma's estate the paternal moiety got quite complicated. Her father, Heinrich Mangels, had siblings, but all of them died without leaving any descendants. Hence, when we look to the grandparents of Irma on her father's side, we have no descendants living in that line. Accordingly, we must go up to great-grandparents on the father's side before we can find common descendants. Each of us two parents, four grandparents and eight great-grandparents. Accordingly, since Irma's estate is looking toward great-grand parents on the paternal side, we will be looking at two separate moieties on the paternal great-grandparent side. Irma's grandfather was Heinrich C. Mangels and her greatgrandfather was Hans Jacob Mangels, who was born approximately 1784. Her great-grand mother was Katherina Schmalfeldt, who was likely born in the late 1700's as well. To put this into proper time context, Irma's great-grandfather, Hans Jacob Mangels, was born before George Washington become President of the United States of America. The other paternal branch involved the parents of Irma's grandmother, Metta Kahlcke, namely Albert Kahlcke and Christina Schippmann Kahlcke. Hence, to find the paternal heirs of Irma Mangels we needed family histories of the Mangels family, starting with Hans Jacob Mangels in the late 1700's, and of the Kahlcke family, also starting in the late 1700's and early 1800's. The families involved here lived in and around a portion of northern Germany which is north of Hamburg, Germany near the cities

Elmshorn, Uetersen, Glückstadt, Altona, Klostersande, Munsterdorf, Königsmoor and other small villages in northern Germany. At the time of the birth of Irma's great-grandfather, Hans Jacob Mangels, this area was part of Denmark, with the boundaries changing in approximately 1860 to what is now Germany. Germany as a country did not exist at that time.

After the death of Irma Mangels, a family member on the maternal side (who was not a direct heir of Irma Mangels but who was a close friend), namely Mary Ann Kocurek, was appointed as administratrix of Irma's estate. Mary Ann's mother was a cousin of Irma's mother who was known as "cousin Marie". This family was connected through ties in Winchester, Texas. After Irma died, Mary Ann Kocurek had the job of administering Irma's estate and also had the job of finding the appropriate heirs who would inherit Irma's estate. Mary Ann diligently searched for a Will, but finally gave up and realized that Irma had not ever made a Will. Irma, who succumbed to cancer, did make an appointment to prepare a Will, but died before she kept that appointment. hence, the church that she attended and the friends and neighbors she might have benefited were not beneficiaries of her estate.

Mary Ann and her attorney, Nany Hamilton, an estate and probate law specialist, realized that it would be quite difficult to locate heirs on the paternal side of the family. They retained a search firm known as Fiduciary Research, Inc. which had correspondents in north Germany where the paternal heirs would be located. Fiduciary Research commenced work on the search and by June 1988 had located 17 paternal heirs, most

of whom were second cousins of Irma and none of whom Irma had ever met or known. Houston attorney, Roy Wright, who represents Fiduciary Research, Inc., was instrumental in coordinating work for Fiduciary Research Inc., in Houston.

In light of the vast amount of German records which would be involved in Irma's Estate, Probate Judge John Hitchison ultimately decided to appoint Rodney C. Koenig, an estate and probate law specialist with Fulbright & Jaworski (who reads and speaks).

Estate, Probate Judge John Hitchison ultimately decided to appoint Rodney C. Koenig, an estate and probate law specialist with Fulbright & Jaworski, (who reads and speaks German and who also has a number of German ancestors) as the attorney ad litem to represent the unknown heirs. After a review of the various records, Koenig met on numerous occasions with Wright and Hamilton. He suggested several other avenues of approach to attempt to find other descendants of the paternal great-grandparents of Irma, including court permission to retain a German genealogist to independently review and search for additional heirs. As a result of Fiduciary Research's expanded

search and of the search by Detlef Hollatz, the independent genealogist retained by Koenig, the list of paternal heirs grew from 17 to 40, uncovering an additional 23 paternal heirs over the next 2-1/2 years. Questionnaires were sent to a number of the known paternal heirs asking for family trees, family histories, Stammbaum, Ahnenpaß, and any other data which would help shed light and uncover additional heirs. Fiduciary Research found an additional 16 heirs and Detlef found an additional 7 heirs.

On her father's side, Irma had 15 second cousins, 20 second cousins once removed and 5 second cousins twice removed who where her direct heirs at law on the paternal side. On the paternal side shares were as large as 1/44 for seconds cousins descended from the Mangels line, 1/64 for second cousins descended from the Kahlcke line to as small a share as 1/176 interest for second cousins twice removed on the Mangels side and shares as small as 1/320 for second cousins twice removed on the Kahlke side.

Certain of the heirs were located in southern Denmark in cities such as Kolding, Rodding, Romo, Sonderborg, and Tonder, Denmark. As might be expected with 42 known heirs, certain of the heirs of Irma have died since her death. As an example, Niels J. Hansen, died less than 6 months after the death of Irma. Accordingly, he, while he was an heir of Irma's, never lived to know that he had inherited 1/64 of her estate. The saga will continue as to the share inherited by Niels Hansen since his heirs must now be located.

The names of the heirs of Irma include the following family names: Gebauer, Heinze, Kehlert, Groenwoldt, Siedeck, Dahnard, Hildebrandt, Matthies, Offermann, Goetsche, Schmauch, Gielow, Voss, Mangels, Kruger, Kuhn, Hansen, Bundesen, Atzen, Knudsen, Holst, Snor, Kahlcke, Stenger, Sander, Chelala, Assmann, Lechler, Maehl, Titz, Kelting, Reese, Becker, Jensen, Schilling, Lewandowski and Brandt. These heirs live throughout northern Germany and southern Denmark. Total ancestors researched to locate the 42 heirs involved over 123 persons and over 79 spouses for a

Irma Mangels as a Baby

total of 202 direct persons being involved.

Approximately 235 documents in German, Danish and English were found and studied. Typical documents involved birth certificates, baptismal certificates, confirmation certificates, marriage certificates, adoption certificates, death certificates and other governmental and religious records which illustrated the family history of Irma Mangels. Certain of the records predated George Washington's term as President of the United States. Many of the records involved survived the ravages of wars, such as the Napoleonic wars, the various battles in northern Europe, including World Wars I and II.

On Thursday, May 30, 1991, the Honorable Judge John Hutchison, Judge of Probate Court No.1 of Harris County, Texas, admitted into evidence the 200 plus documents and the 21 foot plus family tree which had been painstakingly prepared by Fiduciary Research, Inc., their attorney, Roy Wright, attorney ad litem Rodney Koenig and his associate attorney, Karen Schiller. Judge Hutchison found that Irma Mangels had indeed died without a Will and that 42 individuals composed of two first cousins, 15 second cousins, 20 second cousins once removed and 5 second cousins twice removed were Irma Mangele's heir, who would share in her wealth. Irma Mangels effectively left her German mark when she died without a will. Her estate will be disbursed to numerous individuals living in northern Germany and southern Denmark, including a number of second cousins who likely will not grieve for Irma since she was not known to them before being informed of the inheritance.

Computer links Civil War soldiers, ancestors San Antonio Express-News September 1, 1991

A new computer system that will enable visitors to Civil War sites to find out if their ancestors fought in the war is being planned by the National Park Service. At present that information can be obtained from the National Archives in Washington. The new system is expected to be in place by the fall of 1994.

A directory of the Civil War's 3.5 million soldiers will be compiled for the National Park Service. which administers the sites, by the Federation of Geneological Societies and the Geneological Society of Utah. According to historians, at least half of all Americans have ancestors who were Union or Confederate soldiers.

"This is something our historians have always wanted us to do," said John Peterson, head of computer planning for the National Park Service in Washington.

"It's the most popular question we get from visitors. Now it can take half a day of research at the National Archives to find out if your great-grandfather fought in the war."

All 28 of the Park Service's Civil War sites will have a computerized directory available that will list soldiers by name, home state and

regiment.
Computerized historical information about the 7,000 regiments and some of the 10,500 battles and skirmishes will be provided.

The computers will also record where soldiers are buried in the 11 Civil War cemeteries.



WANTED: FAMILIES FROM POMERANIA, BRANDENBURG, MECKLENBURG-STRELITZ

Three researchers engaged in a Rostock University research project on East Elbian emigration are seeking information on German emigrants from Pomeranian, Brandenburg, or Mecklenburg-Strelitz between 1815 and 1914. Data collected on more than 60,000 emigrants indicates the majority of these emigrants went to North America: in particular, the Midwest, especially Wisconsin. The researchers now wish to undertake trans-Atlantic tracing and would like the help of American descendants.

If your ancestor emigrated from Randow or Lauenburg counties (districts Stettin and Lauenburg, Pomerania) or the Uckermark, Prignitz, or Ruppin areas (District Potsdam, West Brandenburg), please submit information to Dr. Rainer Mühle, Janstr. 9, W-0-2500 Rostock, Germany.

Readers knowing of emigrants from the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, are asked to contact Axel Lubinski, Gdansker Str. 31, Lütten Klein, W-0-2520 Rostock 22, Ger-

Descendants of emigrants from the East Brandenburg counties of Friedeberg, Landsberg, Soldin, Arnswalde, or Cottbus should write to Uwe Reich, Egon-Schultz-Str. 12, W-0-1590 Potsdam, Germany.

Additional information on the project may be obtained by sending a self-addressed envelope and one International Postal Coupon to any of the researchers.

(Thank you to Maralyn Wellauer, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for forwarding the notice from which the above was

From: Federation of Genealogical Societies Forum, Fall 1991 Sent by Patsy Hand, Victoria, Texas

Germans to Make 'Discovery Trip' For Quincentenary

CCLUMBUS - Note to Colorado County residents with German heritage: The following news release was received in the Columbus, Texas, Quincentennial Coramission Inc. office this week:

"Europe will take part in a special way in the Quincentenary 1992. Forerunger is Germany, because no other munority has had so much influence on the history of the USA as the German one. Two hundred years after the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus, 43 Germans landed in America, at the mouth of the Delaware. They were the first immigrants from Germany.

"Today, about 50 million Americans bear a German name, but they do not have any family ties in Germany. For this reason, in 1992 Germans will again 'get going to America.' Their aim is to get to know their American 'unknown namesakes.

"For this family-history discovery they have chosen the year of the Quincentenary Jubilee, in memory of the discoverer Columbus, and in grateful recognition to America, which was the new home for the German immigrants.

"Up to now, more than 30,000 Germans have already decided on this 'discovery trip,' and they also want to visit your town in order to meet their 'namesakes.'

"Inhabitants bearing a German name who are interested in meeting their German 'namesakes' should write to the German commission, which organizes this 'Back to the Roots' meeting. The address is: The European/Germany, P.O. Box 76 04 44, 2000 Hamburg 76, Germany.

According to the news release: the German participants looking for their namesakes and new friends in the USA will remain in each town a maximum of three days, staying in hotels of the towns. Their main purpose will be to meet with their 'unknown namesakes.''

The release contains this further information: "For Americans bearing German names, we can trace them back to the roots in Germany. Through family archives with several million of source proofs which are at our disposal and the joining together with other home and foreign archives, we have the possibility to give information about all names from the Germanspeaking area back to the 13th Century. Every American bearing a German name gets this information free of charge.

January 1992 Sent From Victoria Advocate, by Patsy Hand, Victoria

* Another genealogy article on page 73 *

BIOGRAPHICAL TRIBUTE



TTO ZIRKEL. Among those pioneer business men of San Antonio who, in building up their own private interests contributed so much to the development of San Antonio, the name of Otto Zirkel, pioneer in the marble and granite business here, stands out. Mr.

Zirkel was the typical self-made man, launching his business with the determination to make it a success and in this determination he more than succeeded. He came to San Antonio as a young man. entering the granite business, which he had learned in Chicago, at that time. As the city grew and developed and the demand for marble and granite for construction work increased, Mr. Zirkel expand-

continued on next page

ed his business to keep pace with this increased demand, and with the passing of the years the Zirkel Granite and Marble Works became one of the largest at San Antonio, and the product of this plant used in many of the larger and more important buildings of San Antonio. A determining factor in this growth was Mr. Zirkel's ability to foresee progress in the building field, and when the demand for construction material came he was ready to meet it. Thrifty and a hard worker, he was not afraid to work for success. He knew how to save and invest his savings to expand his business, and during the forty years of his identification with the business world of San Antonio, he was respected and honored for his high ideals of business operation and personal conduct.

Otto Zirkel was born in Dresden, Saxony, Ger-

many, the twenty-sixth of November, 1856, and spent his early years there. As a lad of fourteen he left his home in Saxony, and came to the United States, going to Chicago, where he joined his uncle, under whom he learned the granite business. He then came to San Antonio, arriving here in 1885, and shortly establishing the small granite works that laid the foundation for the larger plant which he operated at the time of his death. The business grew and prospered, and at the time ci Mr. Zirkel's death, in 1924, was located in a large and modern plant, with power machinery at 702 Wyoming Street, and employing a force of twenty operatives. Mr. Zirkel's sons, E. A. Zirkel, C. H. Zirkel, Raymond Zirkel, and Milford Zirkel, now have the management of this business, and are continuing it along progressive policies laid down by their father.

Mr. Zirkel was married twice, his first marriage being to Miss Emma Schlick, whose parents were from Hannover. To this union eight children were born, four sons, E. A., C. H., Raymond and Milford Zirkel, and four daughters, Stella, now Mrs. Henry Meier, Lilly, now Mrs. Ernest Rossman, Alice,now Mrs. R. Rossman, and Lula, now Mrs. Brune Boezinger, all of whom live in San Antonio. Mr. Zirkel was married the second time to Mrs. Agnes Froehling Schomber, widow of Herman Schomber, the eighteenth of January, 1921. Mr. and Mrs. Zirkel resided at 1147 Denver Avenue. Mrs. Zirkel now makes her home with her sister, Meta Rosebrock at 1206 Virginia Blvd. Mr. Zirkel also had twenty-two grandchildren. He was very active in the business world, directing the granite works, until six months prior to his death, which occurred the twentieth of November, 1924, just Six of six days before his sixty-eighth birthday. his grandsons acted as pallbearers. Mr. Zirkel was a member of the Independent Order of Oddfellows and the Hackberry Street Methodist Church.

From The New Encyclopedia of Texas Vol. 3, page 1850, compiled and edited by Davis and Grobe, published by Texas Development Bureau, Dallas, in the late 1920s. Above biography, typical of the thousands in the three volumes, contains valuable biographical information, but sometimes details are not 100% accurate. Note that submitter, Doris Rohlfs of Medina, Texas, has made a few corrections. She also notes that the Zirkel Monumental Works, founded in 1885 by her grandfather, is currently operated by her brother, Sidney Carl Zirkel. The former location of the Zirkel Monumental Works at 702 Wyoming St. is now part of the Alamodome site (see GTHS Journal, issue #3 for 1990).

Plan ahead for successful reunions

By Gene Pettit

No one enjoys family reunions more than me, and I could write a heavy pamphlet if not a book on my reunion experiences. My recommendations for a successful family reunion include these:

- Have a definitive plan, well in advance. Assign duties to others early.
- 2. Send announcements to everyone in the family. Insure everyone gets the word. If possible, give a one year lead time. Send out at least three notices. Provide telephone numbers for information and RSVP's. Be certain to advise what costs will be incurred.
- Have a schedule and stick to it. Decide whether an unstructured time frame or rigid schedule will be most appropriate.

- 4. Get the group photograph. Years later, this will be the most important thing you will have done. Establish a picture-taking time when everyone will be there. Plan in advance how the subjects will be arranged. Record everyone's names in the proper sequence, and note the date and place. Have a non-family member take multiple shots or use tripod-mounted cameras with timers. You may want to line up in family groups behind a sign showing your surname, the date and place.
- 5. Decide when and where the next reunion will take place before breaking up. Some reunions are annually in the same place while others may be infrequent wherever the host elects to hold it.
- 6. Follow-up. Constructive criticism ("lessons learned") is extremely important for the host/hostess for the next reunion.

Family reunions are among the grandest times in our lives. Everything we can do to make them more enjoyable for each of us is a good investment.

From Texas State Genealogical Society Newsletter, Jan. 1991

"OLD LUTHERAN" GENEALOGIES WANTED

America, today, is a nation seeking its roots. People across America research their ancestor's names, locations, occupations, families, and any other possible tidbits of information able to be located. At CONCORDIA HISTORICAL INSTITUTE we experience the interest first-hand as we field inquirers searching for early church records.

To assist in these searches, CONCORDIA HISTORICAL INST-ITUTE welcomes researched genealogies of descendants of Lutheran immigrants. We are particularly inviting the descendants of "Old Lutherans" to deposit a copy of their family tree records at CONCORDIA HISTORICAL INSTITUTE. This will enable researchers to look, not only at the departure of these "Old Lutherans" from Europe, but at the nature of their life in America after they arrived.

To deposit your genealogy at the CONCORDIA HISTORICAL INSTITUTE, send a copy of your genealogy and a copy of your supporting records to:

Concordia Historical Institute 801 DeMun Avenue,

St. Louis, MO 63105

Please include a cover letter mentioning permission for us to share your information with others.

REMINDER ON ZIP CODES IN GERMANY

Because numerical zip codes are duplicated in the two areas of the unified Germany, mail addressed to the former East Germany uses an "O" before the zip code, while mail addressed to the former West Germany uses an "W" before the zip code. We carried this in our <u>Journal</u>, Spring 1991 issue, but apparently the word is slow in getting around.

END-OF-THE-ISSUE ITEMS

Annual Indexes for 1991 Issues

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Compiled by W. M. Von-Maszewski

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Stuff Miscellaneous

Items that didn't fit elsewhere or arrived too late to fit in but were too important to leave out entirely!

German singing group seeks descendants

By Susan A. Merkner Express-News Staff Writer

The Beethoven Maennerchor, a German singing group, is celebrating its 125th anniversary with a special public performance and a search for descendants of its foun-

The oldest German singing organization in Texas was founded by representatives of several of the city's best-known families, but some of its initial members' descendants have disappeared, said Lee H. Gastinger, a past president of the group.

Beethoven Maennerchor leaders are hoping to locate more relatives with links to the organization so the families may be recognized at a special anniversary performance.

The 125th anniversary show is scheduled for 8 p.m. March 14 at Beethoven Hall at HemisFair Park. Joining the all-male chorus of singers will be the group's women's division, the Beethoven Damenchor, which began in 1932, as well as the Beethoven Band, the Texas Bach Choir and other instrumentalists.

Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$6 at the door, and are available at 422 Pereida St., or by calling 222-1521.

Beethoven Maennerchor historians trace the organization's founding to Feb. 23, 1867, when an informal group of singers decided to name themselves after their homeland's well-known composer, Ludwig van Beethoven. One of the group's earliest members was W.C. Thielepape, who went on to serve as San Antonio mayor from November 1867 to March 1872.

On Sept. 12, 1876, a constitution

and bylaws were adopted. The Maennerchor's first secretary, A. Schuwirth, said at the organization's 25th anniversary that it was a choir "without rules, without money and without debt.

Previous Maennerchor anniversaries were marred by war in 1917 and 1942, but a weekend-long 100th anniversary celebration occurred Feb. 25-26, 1967.

The Maennerchor currently has a total membership of about 200 men, including 50 active singers, said Gastinger, who has been a member of the group for 42 years. His parents were German singers in Fredericksburg.

The 43 Maennerchor members who signed the society's first constitution were:

Ch. Baer, H. Barbeck, John A. Beckmann, Louis P. Boettler, J. Boltz, J.H. Bosshardt, Adolph Dreiss, A. Fahrenberg, Ch. Fickeisen, E. Gerhardt;

M. Graebner, A. Greisen, H. Grossmann, R. Hanschke, E. Harnisch, John A. Herff, M. Herweck, D. Heye, Wm. Hoefling, C. Horn, F. Karbe, H. Karber;

G. Katzenberger, H. Klocke, A. Kuhn, John Loessberg, F. Wm. Mc-Allister, Dr. Rud. Menger, C.H. Mueller, F. Nagel, J.G. Nedon, Dr. Fred Petersen:

Theo. Schleuning, Oscar Schmidt, J. Schuehle, Hermann Schulz, Adolf Schurig, W. Schuwirth, A. Siemering, G. Storm. F. Waltersdorf, F. Wild and Emil Ludwig Zawadil.

Descendants of those families who have not been contacted by the Maennerchor are asked to call Gastinger at 826-8900 or write him at 426 Linda Drive, San Antonio, GTHS member Anita Tatsch, author of the book Jacob Broadbeck Reached for the Sky, reports that on Dec. 21, 1991, she and her disabled husband were washed out of their mobile home on Lake Travis. They lost nearly all their belongings, but Anita salvaged the Broadbeck books and some of her papers. At ages 75 and 71. they are living temporarily in Seguin, but would like to rebuild their own home, so Anita asks for moral and financial support from our members to assist in rebuilding a small cabin. The temporary address is: 156 Deepwoods Dr., Seguin TX 78155, tel. (512) 379-9364.

Fred White, Sr., GTHS member and Texana book dealer, reports that after a 35-year-search he located a copy of Descriptive Account of Bandera City and Bandera County by Guthrie. He now has released a reprint of this extremely rare 22-page pamphlet originally published in 1888 in Bandera by Guthrie, the newspaper publisher of that time. The earliest known history of Bandera County, this book is so rare as to be virtually unknown. Fred says he beat bushes, climbed hills, and swam Hill Country creeks at flood level to find a single copy. The reprint is only \$5.00, with 40 cents tax, with postage paid. Contact him at P.O. Box 3698, Bryan TX 77805.

San Antonio Express-News, Feb. 21, 1992

Ken Knappe of Fredericksburg reports that the former Deutsche Verein Fredericksburg has been renamed German-American Heritage Association. The new president, Werner Weierstahl, can be contacted in care of Schiller's R.V. Park, Kerrville Highway, Fredericksburg, Texas 78624.



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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 JOURNAL is published three times a year (50-75 pages). It is sent to all members. The JOURNAL 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 JOURNAL 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.

Membership categories are:	Student	\$ 6.00
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The German-Texan Heritage Society calendar year is from January 1 to December 31. Membership payments and renewals are due in January.

Completed projects of the Society:

1. The reprint of ROEMER'S TEXAS (temporarily out-of-print).

2. Sponsorship of the reprint of THE CABIN BOOK (DAS KAJUTENBUCH), by Charles Sealsfield.

3. The reprint of Rudolph Biesele's THE HISTORY OF THE GERMAN SETTLEMENTS IN TEXAS 1831-1861.

4. THE HANDBOOK AND REGISTRY OF GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE.

For more information or price lists for books and back issues contact:

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German-Texan Heritage Society

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ISSUE DEADLINE ARRIVAL

SPRING February 10 April 1 August 1 SUMMER June 10 December 1 FALL October 10

(This schedule allows one week to assemble, four weeks to print, one week to prepare for mailing, and time for the US Mail.)

Subscriptions and membership inquiries should be sent to the GTHS office. Announcements, articles, genealogical inquiries, conference, meeting and reunion dates, news of other German heritage events, etc., are always welcome from members. Correspondence, contributions and manuscripts for publications should be sent to the JOURNAL Editor, to the GTHS office, or to the appropriate member of the editorial board. Deadlines are posted above.

All articles must be typed, SINGLE SPACED, on 8 1/2-inch by 11-inch white paper, with a 1/4-inch margin on all edges. The Editor-in-Chief has the right to refuse any materials that may not be in accordance with the by-laws of the German-Texan Heritage Society.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

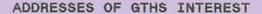
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