

# German-Texan Heritage Society

## NEWSLETTER



FOUNDED 1978

VOLUME IX

NUMBER 1

SPRING 1987

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NEWSLETTER

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GERMAN TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY 1987 MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 11-13, 1987 in GALVESTON

REGISTRATION FORM

PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE: August 12, 1987

Registration cost of \$45.00 (before August 12) or \$50.00 (after August 12) includes the following:

Registration, Saturday Luncheon,  
Saturday dinner at the Garten Verein with transportation

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee:			
(Before Aug. 12)	___	x \$45.00	_____
(After Aug. 12)	___	x \$50.00	_____
Option 1*	___	x \$22.00	_____
Option 2	___	x \$15.00	_____
Option 3	___	x \$ 8.50	_____
Total			_____

List the name of each person attending as you want it to appear on the name tag: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: GERMAN TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

MAIL THIS REGISTRATION FORM AND CHECK TO:  
Anna Thompson  
2116 Lynnbrook Drive  
Austin, TX 78748

\* Refer to Page 5 for more information.

Cut out Hotel Reservation Form and mail as soon as possible, or call (713) 765-7721.

ATTENTION: Reservation Department



2024 Seawall Boulevard  
Galveston, Texas 77550 (713) 765-7721

Arrival: **SEPT. 11, 1987**  
 Departure: **SEPT. 13, 1987**  
 Cut Off Date: **AUGUST 12, 1987**  
 File No.: **559**  
 Group Name: **German-Texas Heritage Society**

**RATES**  
 Single: **\$55**  
 Double: **\$55**  
 TRIPLE/Quad: **\$55**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Company Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Area Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other persons sharing accommodations \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_ AX \_\_\_\_\_ DC \_\_\_\_\_ MC \_\_\_\_\_ VS Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ or Check No. of Check Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

In order to confirm your reservation we require a deposit for your first night's room and tax. Please complete this card and return it with your check or credit card information. If your plans change and you must cancel this reservation, please notify us 72 hours in advance to avoid any charge.

ALL ROOMS ARE SUBJECT TO STATE AND LOCAL TAXES. (10%)

We hold room block up until cut off date, or until room block is filled. Beyond that date room reservations are on a space available basis.

CHECK OUT TIME IS 12 NOON. ROOMS MAY NOT BE READY FOR YOUR OCCUPANCY UNTIL 3 P.M.



GERMAN TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME IX

NUMBER 1

SPRING 1987

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Editor's PAGE

NEWSLETTER LATE....  
BUT GREAT...  
"EILE MIT WEILE"

Getting all the details of a convention worked out is sometimes a slow process.

Putting together the indexes takes hours.

Theresa the jewel of our 9 years of Genealogy has enough for a whole issue herself.

No excuses folks, when volunteers are at work, things like this happen... so please forgive and forget and ENJOY!!!

THE BAD NEWS...

Galveston is expensive because it is our tourist city and we are to be there in the high season...and with no hurricanes, we hope.... The ISLAND and the PREMIER hotel, the Galvez put us in the high price class. Start saving now.....I am.

THE GOOD NEWS....

GALVESTON IS A TREAT and worth the price. The program is being planned to take advantage of all that is the best in Galveston. We hope you will jump at this opportunity.

THANKS TO Anna Thompson for assisting with the editing of this issue... numbering pages and making the table-of-contents. The editor wisely bought a house, but foolishly bought it in the busiest time of the school year!

NEEDED FOR GALVESTON:

PROGRAM

REPORTS: Tell us about your latest project.

AUTHORS: If you have published a German-Texana book or article in the past two years, please tell us about it.

CONTACT: Frances Knape  
Ball High School  
4115 Ave. O  
Galveston, Tx. 77550  
Tel: 409-765-5294(home)



Onward

Writing of his visit to America and Texas in the early 1850s, Frederick Law Olmstead described his visit to Kapp's: "Sisterdale is a settlement of eight or ten farms about forty miles from San Antonio upon the Guadalupe at the junction of the Sister Creeks and the crossing of the Fredericksburg Road. The farmers are all men of education and have chosen their residences — within social distance of one another."

*Karl and Betty Weymeyer are freelance writers based in Ingram.*

NO COMMENT!

DEADLINE FOR THE SUMMER ISSUE:

June 20

All of the editorial board will be at home this summer, so we hope to get the summer issue out on time. Send me news. My new address, after May 1 is: 507 Parland Place, San Antonio, Tx. 78209. Same telephone number.

M. El-Beheri, Ed.

Re: Thirty-Three Days in the German Democratic Republic (DDR)

Dear Traveler:

My wife and I just returned from a 3½ month trip to the DDR. My wife is a native of Dresden, East Germany, who witnessed the fire bombing of the City of Dresden during WWII with two youngsters age 2 and 4.

For your information I am a German, fourth generation in Texas. My people settled in Bastrop and La Grange, Texas areas. Family names are Hoppe (of course), Wolle, Schroeder, Denker, Dietrich, etc. We have had family reunions since the '30's, in either La Grange, New Braunfels, Seguin under the name of Wolle. The Wolle family originated in the Dresden area (Woelkenstein, Meissen---the Erzgebirge (mountains)). The Schroeder family originated in Bremen, Bremenhaven, Oldenburg, etc. The Hoppe family originated in Leipzig, Hannover and Berlin. They all settled in Bastrop and La Grange area about 1842 to 1850 except the Schroeder family which settled near Brenham, Texas in 1871.

I've just read your article in the Newsletter of the German-Texas Heritage Society upon our return from East Germany on 2-21-87. We went over there 11-1-86. Actually, I've spent two Christmases in Dresden (1985 and 1986). I enjoyed your article very much and must say you covered the life and conditions over there. They are friendly and helpful people. Yes, they are happy to see Americans, especially from Texas, but still have "ideas" that Texans are "wild" and live somewhat in wilderness, and that we are all cowboys with boots and guns, etc.

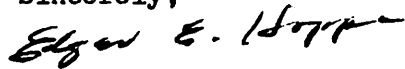
I have spent time in Magdeburg and East Berlin in addition to our time in Dresden---have seen much of the outside of Dresden and surrounding towns and villages, many old castles, museums, which were built in the 10th and 12th century. Have listened to organs, built 300 years ago by Mr. Silvermann, old churches over 600 to 700 years old. My first trip to East Germany was in 1983 with a Lutheran Tour group. Dresden has been rebuilt, I have seen old photos of the bomb and fire ruins in which around 60,000 people were killed. Hope you saw the old Zwinger castle area and its museums. Also the famous statue of "August Der Starke" and his castles, including his famous hunting lodge. Also learnt that he was king and his son later of the Saxons and that the Romans and Swedes were not able to conquer the Saxons.

There is much more we can say about this country, and I hope that somewhere along the way we can meet and talk more. I have a son and daughter living in San Antonio. I once lived in San Antonio from 1935 to 1939. I am 79 years of age and have some problem in typing, hence I shall bring this to a close. Again, I must say I enjoyed your article very much. I must say the Germans are tired of wars and are peaceful people, but they must also learn to do away with weapons and "thoughts" of forcing "peace" on people. We all need to understand our "differences" as we all grew up under different methods of life. We must recognize that there are "differences" and decide to live our lives honestly with human understanding and human kindness---that will make a peaceful world.

With our best wishes,

5502 Longhorn Landing  
Austin, Texas 78734  
March 16, 1987

Sincerely,



Edgar E. Hoppe

1987 ANNUAL MEETING...GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY  
GALVESTON, TEXAS  
SEPT. 11-13  
HOTEL GALVEZ

4

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER. 11.

- 4-6:30 Registration at hotel and reception  
(8th floor suite)...good view of the Gulf.  
Welcome/Greetings from Dignitaries
- 7-9:00 OPTION 1. Cruise with dinner on the  
Mississippi Paddleboat "Colonel"  
  
Other dinner suggestions in registration  
packet.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12.

- 8:00 -9:00 - REGISTRATION  
- EXHIBITS (Conference rooms A & B)
- 9:00-9:30 - "Overview of Galveston history, folklore,  
ethnic variety"...Bob Nesbitt
- 9:30-10:00 - "German architecture in Galveston" - Spotlight  
on craftsmen who built Victorian homes"  
.....Evangeline Whorton
- 10:00-10:30 - "Comments on Indianola, Texas"...Bronson,  
Malsch, Edna, Texas
- 10:30-10:45 - "The German Heritage in Victoria"
- 10:45-11:15 - COFFEE BREAK  
- VIEW EXHIBITS (Conference rooms A&B)
- 11:15-11:45 - Genealogy workshop: Ella Sheffield
- 12:00-1:30 - LUNCHEON AT THE GALVEZ, Entertainment: string  
quartet; Speaker - Herb Polinard
- 2:00-5:30 - OPTION 2: TOUR OF GALVESTON with Mary Faye  
Barnes and Bob Nesbitt (See registration form  
for information)
- 2:00-2:30 - "HOW TO" SESSION 1: topic t.b.a.
- 2:30-3:00 - "HOW TO" SESSION 2: topic t.b.a.
- 3:00-5:30 - FREE TIME : Suggestions for sightseeing and  
shopping in registration packet
- 6:30-10:30 - DINNER AND DANCE: GALVESTON GARTENVERIEN  
(Polka band, Dancers, Singers, Presentations)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13.

- 8:00-9:30 - OPTION 3. BUFFET BREAKFAST  
SEE PACKET FOR OTHER OPTIONS
- 10:00 - 11:00 - SPECIAL GERMAN CHURCH SERVICE OFFERED  
AT FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH...Rev. Vernon  
Rabel
- 10:00 -10:30 - MEMBERS' PROJECTS: SHORT REPORTS
- 10:30 -11:00 - NEW BOOKS AUTHORED BY MEMBERS
- 11:00 - 11:30 - COMMENTS: THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC  
REPUBLIC(East Germany) with slides  
...Mary El-Beheri
- 11:30 - 12:00 - Business meeting with closing comments



GERMAN TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY 1987 MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 11-13, 1987 in GALVESTON

REGISTRATION FORM (Keep this copy in the Newsletter. There is an extra copy behind the front cover for easy removal.)

PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE: August 12, 1987

Registration cost of \$45.00 (before August 12) or \$50.00 (after August 12) includes the following:

Registration, Saturday Luncheon,  
Saturday dinner at the Garten Verein with transportation

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Registration Fee:			
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Option 1**	_____ x \$22.00		_____
Option 2	_____ x \$15.00		_____
Option 3	_____ x \$ 8.50		_____
		Total	_____

List the name of each person attending as you want it to appear on the name tag: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Make check Payable to: GERMAN TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

MAIL REGISTRATION AND CHECK TO: ..... Anna Thompson  
2116 Lynnbrook Drive  
Austin, TX 78748

\*\* PLEASE NOTE:

There are three optional activities connected with the meeting .  
If you wish to participate in any or all of them, please enclose the fee for each with the above registration.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

OPTION 1. FRIDAY, SEPT. 11...CRUISE ON THE COLONEL(MISSISSIPPI PADDLEBOAT) - SEAFOOD DINNER AND DANCING...\$22.00.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 12.....2-5:30 P.M.  
OPTION 2. SPECIAL GALVESTON TOUR: INCLUDES JOCKUSCH HOUSE, ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, POWHATAN HOUSE, AND THE SHIP "ELISSA" LED BY BOB NESBITT AND MARY FAYE BARNES.  
PRICE INCLUDES ENTRY FEES AND TRANSPORTATION...\$15.00.

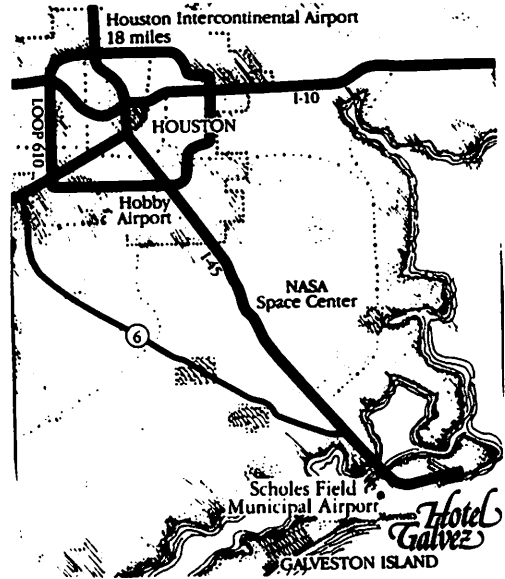
OPTION 3. SUNDAY MORNING BUFFET BREAKFAST IN THE GALVEZ...\$8.50

NOTE ABOUT THE REGISTRATION IN THE HOTEL:

Please reserve your room right away - GTHS has a block of only 60 rooms. It is first come, first served. DEADLINE: August 12, 1987.



SEE YESTERDAY TODAY ON GALVESTON ISLAND



Please use the form behind the front cover to make your reservation. It can be removed easily. Keep the form below in the newsletter for future reference.

ATTENTION: Reservation Department



2024 Seawall Boulevard Galveston, Texas 77550 (713) 765-7721

Arrival: SEPT. 11, 1987
Departure: SEPT. 13, 1987
Cut Off Date: AUGUST 12, 1987
File No.: 5-59
Group Name: German-Texas Heritage Society
RATES: Single: \$35, Double: \$55, TRIPLE/QUAD: \$85

Name, Company Name, Home Mailing Address, Street, City, State, Zip, Area Code, Phone Number, Arrival Date, Departure Date, Other persons sharing accommodations, Credit Card, Expiration Date, Credit Card Number, or Check No. of Check Enclosed

In order to confirm your reservation we require a deposit for your first night's room and tax. Please complete this card and return it with your check or credit card information. If your plans change and you must cancel this reservation, please notify us 72 hours in advance to avoid any charge.

ALL ROOMS ARE SUBJECT TO STATE AND LOCAL TAXES. (10%)

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CHECK OUT TIME IS 12 NOON: ROOMS MAY NOT BE READY FOR YOUR OCCUPANCY UNTIL 3 P.M.

## ON YOUR OWN GALVESTON

Ride the "Galveston Flyer" Trolley and tour HISTORICAL GALVESTON in comfort. The trolley will pick up riders Friday, Saturday and Sunday at the Holiday Inn each day at 9:45 a.m., 10:45 a.m., and 11:45 a.m. for an hour tour. Purchase your tickets for \$3:00/person at the registration desk, lobby, Learning Center.

Visit the historic 1877 steel hulled sailing ship — ELISSA. View an interesting 20 minute film about the restoration process at the Visitors Center, 2016 Strand. The Elissa is a short distance from the Visitors Center. A self guided tour, plan on 1½ to 2 hours, \$3.50/person, 10:00 a.m. — 5 p.m.

Walk the HISTORIC STRAND with a self guided tape recording. Go to the Visitors Center, 2016 Strand, plan on an hour or so, \$2.00/single, \$3:00/double.

ARTS CENTER GALLERY, 22nd & Strand, has on display "Precious Junk Show," Monday—Saturday 10:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m., Sunday 1:00 — 5 p.m.

### Galveston Convention & Visitors Bureau

2106 Seawall Boulevard  
Galveston, Texas 77550  
(713) 763-4314



Operated by Galveston's  
Park Board of Trustees

**Dana Denton**  
Assistant Director

## GALVESTON FIRSTS . . .for TEXAS!

- 1841 Oldest military company chartered now the Galveston Artillery Club.
- 1842 Oldest newspaper established, "Galveston Daily News". (IN GERMAN)
- 1845 First Chamber of Commerce established.
- 1847 First convent established — Ursuline Convent.
- 1854 First Terminal established — the Galveston Wharves Company.
- 1854 First telegraph organized.
- 1856 First gas lights appeared.
- 1865 First steamship line organized (Mallory Line).
- 1868 Oldest hospital founded — St. Mary's Infirmary (now St. Mary's Hospital).
- 1867 Oldest drugstore established.
- 1878 First flour mill organized — Texas Star Flour Mill.
- 1878 First telephone operated.
- 1880 First orphanage founded — Galveston Orphans Home.
- 1888 First electric lights burned.
- 1891 First medical college established.
- 1894 First brewery established — now Falstaff Brewing Corporation.
- 1895 First Ford agency established — now Bob Pagan Ford.
- 1898 First golf course and country club.
- 1900 Rosenberg Monument — largest monument to Texas Heroes.



GARTEN VEREIN  
Galveston, 1876.

**GALLERIES**  
Galveston Arts Center on The Strand,  
2127 Strand  
Richard's Gallery, 2607 Broadway  
Studio 4, 1407 Broadway

**STRAND AUDIO TOUR**  
Rent a portable tape player and enjoy a forty minute walking, audio tour of The Strand National Historic Landmark District. Available from the Strand Visitors Center, 2014 Strand, 7 days a week from 10:00-4:00 pm.

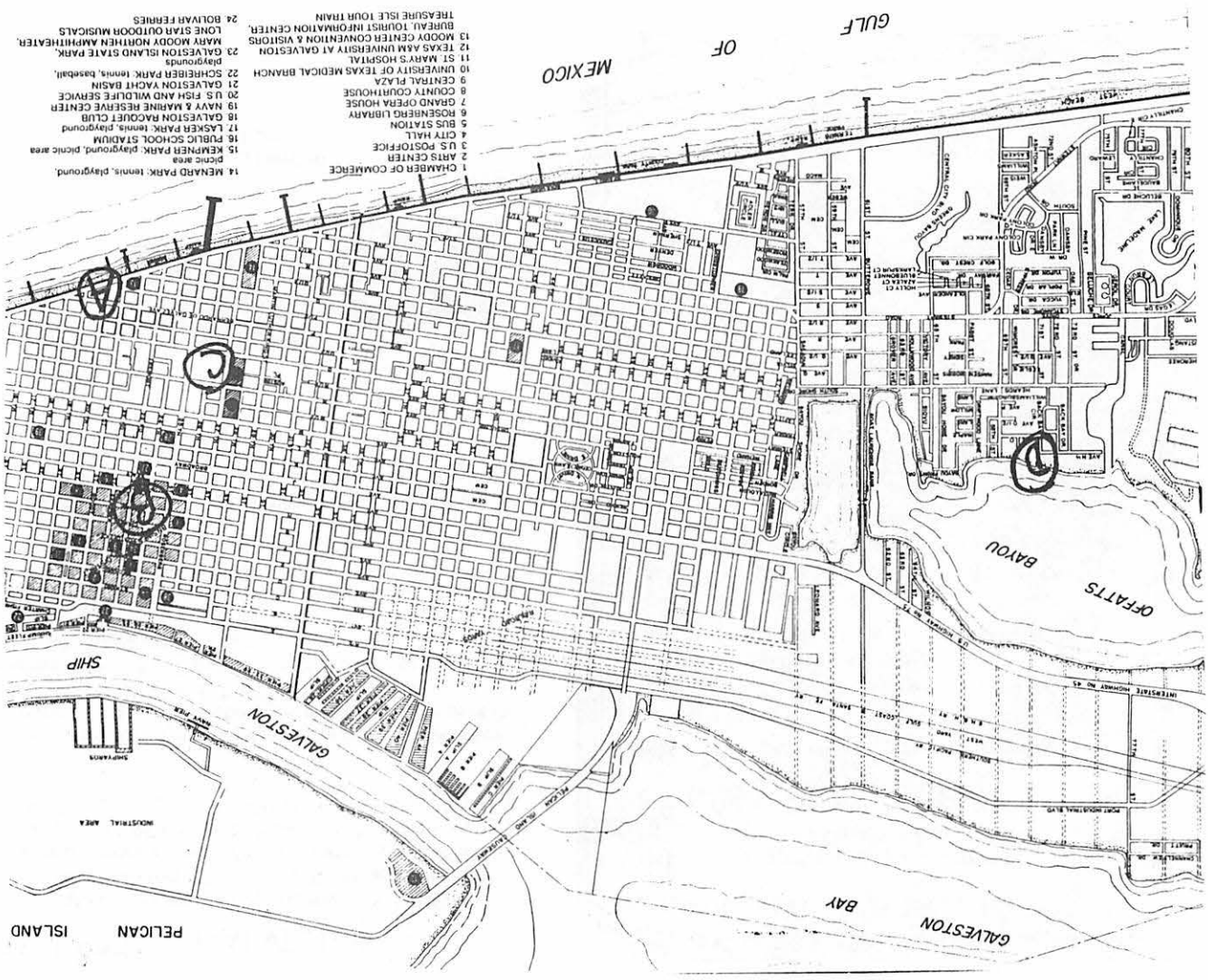
**SURFING**  
Galveston beach is well known to surfers. A number of state and Gulf Coast surfing championships are held here. Exclusive surfing areas and "no surfing" areas are designated. Boards

PLEASE REFER BACK TO THE LAST TWO ISSUES OF THE NEWSLETTER FOR INFORMATION ABOUT GALVESTON: NEWSLETTER... Vol. IV, Nr. 3, Fall, 1982, pp. 25-28. ... Vol. 5, Nr. 1, Spring, 1983, pp. 3-5.

ABOVE YOU WILL NOTE THE PLACES WHERE THE MAJOR MEETINGS WILL BE HELD IN GALVESTON. A COMPLETE SET OF MAPS WITH EXACT STREET NUMBERS, AS WELL AS A PACKET CONTAINING ALL SORTS OF INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE GALVESTON CONVENTION AND VISITOR'S BUREAU.

ABOVE YOU WILL NOTE THE PLACES WHERE THE MAJOR MEETINGS WILL BE HELD IN GALVESTON.

(A) GALVEZ HOTEL  
(B) ROSENBERG LIBRARY  
(C) GALVESTON BOAT CLUB  
(D) GALVEZ HOTEL  
(E) GALVEZ HOTEL  
7002 O - 4th Noords  
LANE



**GALVESTON**

**Restaurants**

Strand Area

The Wentletrap -- 23rd and Strand Located in the restored League Building. Beautiful surroundings; formal, expensive; delicious seafood and other delicacies

Cafe Torriffie -- 22nd and Strand Located in restored Mensing Brothers Building. Nice atmosphere. Varied menu. Moderate to expensive. Pleasant watering hole.

La King's Confectionery -- 2323 Strand Located in restored J. F. Smith and Brothers Building. Inexpensive sandwiches, fountain Cokes, ice cream sodas, and candy made on the spot.

Strand Emporium -- 2112 Strand Located in restored Mallory Building. Inexpensive sandwiches and unusual wines, cheeses, etc.

Pier 19 -- 19th and Water (Avenue A) Informal, inexpensive, and delicious seafood. Try sitting upstairs for a good view of the "Mosquito Fleet."

The Strand Restaurant -- 19th and Strand Greek sandwiches, varied inexpensive food.

Seawall

Gaido's The same family has operated this restaurant for over sixty years. Good seafood; expensive; no reservations.

Russo's Italian Restaurant -- 1228 Seawall Range of Italian dishes; moderate.

Galvez -- 21st and Seawall Build in 1912; restored in 1980. Beautiful surroundings. Good lunchtime buffet; pleasant lounge. Expensive.

Happy Buddha -- 61st and Seawall Chinese food. Moderate.

Captain's Galley -- 53rd and Seawall Seafood and good desserts; moderate to expensive.

Balinese Room -- 21st and Seawall (over the Gulf) Old Maceo gambling mecca; live entertainment; dancing; varied menu; expensive.

Elsewhere in Galveston

Clary's -- 8509 Teichman Road across from the Galveston News Building Clary used to work for Gaido's. Delicious seafood; expensive.

Shrimp and Stuff 39th and O 69th and Stewart Road Seafood; moderate.

Rusty's 801 Postoffice

Vegetarian sandwiches; delicious salad bar; good desserts; homemade bread. Moderate. Located near UTMB, so it is crowded between 12 and 1.

Galveston Experiences

Squeeze Inn -- 3915 Winnie (Rear) In the alley off 39th between Winnie and Ball (Avenues G and H) Genuine soul food; inexpensive and good. Lunch only served from 11:45 until food runs out. A favorite with courthouse employees.

Candy's -- 2112 Mechanic (Avenue C) Candy does it all! Italian. A favorite of Kathy Whitmire.

The Original Mexican Restaurant -- 14th and Market Corner store Mexican restaurant; family operated; inexpensive.

Seamen's Center -- 2002 Mechanic Shoot pool with the seamen and eat the best hamburgers in town.

John's Oyster Resort -- Gulf Freeway at 77th Street Restored and air conditioned -- even painted for the first time in 50 years.

Seabreeze -- 61st and Offatts Bayou Uncharted.

Galveston historian Bob Nesbitt has published his book on the Island's history.

It is full of wit and humor, along with lots of good information. Only Nesbitt, a self-proclaimed poor man, could list the 15 wealthiest men in Galveston's history.

ROSENBERG LIBRARY

823 Tremont. Extensive collections of rare books, documents and artifacts relating to early Texas history. Open Monday through Thursday 9 to 9. Friday and Saturday, 9 to 6. Closed Sunday.

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH

2206 Avenue K. St. Joseph's Church, a simple frame structure with rich Victorian Gothic interior, is over 100 years old. Built by German immigrants in 1859. The massive door, hand-carved altars and cofered ceilings reflect the skilled hands of its parishioners. Leased by the Galveston Historical Foundation, the church will become an Ecumenical Museum to display the city's religious history. Call GHF for tour information 765-7834.

RAILROAD MUSEUM

The Center for Transportation and Commerce, or Railroad Museum, is located at Shearn Moody Plaza, Galveston's former Santa Fe railroad depot on The Strand. Explore 35 railway cars, from steam locomotives to an opulent 1929 private railcar. See the amazing "people's gallery," where 39 life-size travelers are posed in a moment from 1932 and enjoy the 5 imaginative sound and light shows, leading you through the history of the Island. Rosenber (25th Street) at The Strand. Open daily from 10:00-5:00 pm. Saturdays until 6:00 pm.



Schedules to Airport	Schedules from Airport
6:00 AM	7:30 AM
7:30 AM	9:00 AM
9:00 AM	10:30 AM
10:30 AM	12:00 Noon
12:00 Noon	1:30 PM
1:30 PM	3:00 PM
3:00 PM	4:30 PM
4:30 PM	6:00 PM
6:00 PM	7:30 PM
7:30 PM	9:00 PM
9:00 PM	10:30 PM
	*11:15 PM
	*1:15 AM

\*Served by Intercontinental Schedule

**TO THE HOUSTON HOBBY AIRPORT**

Reservations are necessary for all passengers going to the Houston Hobby Airport on schedule trips, these reservations should be made an hour prior to the scheduled departure time.

For reservations call:

Galveston	765-5288
Texas City/La Marque	765-5288
NASA Area/Pasadena	223-2256

**Beaches**

Galveston Island has 32 miles of beautiful beaches. Municipally maintained beaches are recognized as "the cleanest on the Texas Gulf Coast." They are also among the safest. The Galveston County Sheriff's Dept. Beach Patrol posts lifeguards in designated areas and provides comprehensive safety and rescue services. March 15th-September 15th vehicular traffic on beaches is restricted to posted parking areas. See the map on the opposite side of this brochure for location of free and pay parking areas. Varying degrees of amenities such as restrooms, concessions and other facilities are available where fees are charged for parking.

**R. A. APFFEL PARK**

Seawall & Boddecker Drive (extreme East end of island). Wide, sandy beach, boat launching, jetty and surf fishing, bait camps and restaurants. A new 11,000 square foot recreation center with concessions, gift shop, bath house and restroom facilities makes this family recreation area even more enjoyable.

**POINT BOLIVAR LIGHTHOUSE**

Take the free ferry to Bolivar Peninsula and drive approximately 1 mile for a view of the old Bolivar Lighthouse. Built in 1872, it's one of a very few left intact.

**PORT OF GALVESTON**

9th to 41st Streets at Water St., Galveston is known as America's "Port of Quickest Dispatch" and offers a spectacular view of ships from around the world. No major port in the U.S. provides faster access to open sea.

**SEAWALL**

Running parallel to Galveston Beach and the Gulf of Mexico is the Island's world-famous seawall. Stretching over 10 miles and rising 17 feet above mean low tide, the seawall was built to protect the Island from hurricanes. Seawall Blvd. is lined with hotels, motels, restaurants, cafes, gift shops and attractions.

# History is integral part of Galveston's charm

**GALVESTON** — Few places can boast of as much history contained in as small an area as Galveston Island, a sandbar only one and a half miles wide and 32 miles long.

The island was once a haven for Spanish explorers, a hunting ground for savage indians, and a hide-away for colorful pirates. Its natural harbor became known to adventurous settlers.

From its earliest day, through settlement, The Battle of Galveston during the Civil War, the devastating 1900 storm and reconstruction, Galveston's past is alive today for island guests to enjoy.

Ashton Villa, a three-story red brick, Italiante mansion, was built before the Civil War, and is now listed as one of the nation's major historic treasures. Constructed in 1859 by island pioneer James M. Brown, the house has been restored to its original ante bellum elegance by the Galveston Historical Foundation. A well-documented presentation on the 1900 storm is included in the Ashton Villa tour.

Annual special events include morning teas, the July 4th Ice Cream Crank-Off, the Glow of Christmas, old-fashioned summer-time band concerts and more.

Located at 2328 Broadway, Ashton Villa is open daily. Call 762-3933 for information and group reservations.

The Strand, once known

as the "Wall Street of the Southwest" contains one of the finest examples of 19th century commercial buildings. This seven-block area has been designated as a National Historic Landmark District and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Today, The Strand District is restored and packed full of unique shops, gourmet restaurants, theater, art and more.

Visitors should begin a Strand tour by stopping by The Strand Visitors Center, 2016 Strand. Audio walking tours of this historic area are available seven days a week. For information call the Galveston Historical Foundation at 765-7834.

Bishop's Palace, opened in 1893, has been designated as one of the 100 outstanding buildings in the country. Architectural experts point out that the Biltmore House in Asheville, N.C. is the only comparable structure of Victorian design in the United States.

Building materials for the mansion came from all over the world. The exterior is of gray sandstone with pink and blue granite in mosaic work. The interior has a handcrafted staircase, jeweled glass windows and several award winning fireplace mantels. The Bishop's Palace, at 1402 Broadway, is open for tours daily May through September. Group tours by appointment. For information call 762-2475.

The 1894 Grand Opera

House, 2020 Postoffice, was originally opened to include an adjoining hotel. During its era "The Grand" offered outstanding entertainment in drama, dance, opera and music. Reknown entertainers such as Sara Bernhardt, Anna Pavlova and the John Phillip Sousa Band once performed at this Victorian showplace.

"The Grand" has been acquired by Galveston Arts! and is undergoing a complete restoration. Today performances by national artists, musicians and touring companies are regularly scheduled at the facility. For tour information and show schedules call 763-2403.

Greek Revival, Queen Anne, Moorish, Gothic, wood, brick, gabled...these and many other terms can be used to describe Galveston's variety of architecture.

Neighborhoods across the island hold a marvelous assortment of 19th century homes.

As people settled, houses were designed to fit the owner's life style, personality and nationality. Today, one of the best collections of historic homes still in use in Galveston's East End Historical District.

The East End Historical District has been designated as a National Historic Landmark. This once bleak, decaying area is now a progressive, thriving neighborhood through restoration efforts of its residents.

The East End Historical District covers approximately 40 blocks, stretching from Broadway to Market, and 19th to 11th Streets.

Bye-Lo Baby Dolls, beautifully detailed French and German dolls, ethnic and rag dolls are all on exhibit. Special display rooms feature nursery, circus and train station displays. For information call 762-7289.

**The Galveston Daily News**  
**Thursday Morning, May 26, 1983**

**HISTORIC STRUCTURES**

There are over 500 structures in Galveston that have historic significance and many are marked as such by the Texas Historical Commission medallion. The Galveston Historical Foundation can provide complete information on historical buildings and residences. Visit the Strand Visitors Center for detailed brochures and maps of historic Galveston.

# AATG GERMAN SUMMER CAMP

## "GERMANY IN TEXAS"

**JUNE 7 - JUNE 14, 1987**

**FOR STUDENTS OF GERMAN, AGES 13-18**

A variety of camp activities in a non-academic "camp" atmosphere will increase the student's knowledge of the German language and German culture. These activities will include intensive German instruction developed within the activities of the camp, Deutschkunde, and excursions to nearby Texas-German historical sites.

The staff will consist of German teachers from Houston area secondary schools and the University of Houston.

The "Germany in Texas" Camp will use the facilities of Camp Lone Star, a Lutheran Church Camp. Camp Lone Star is located in the heart of the "eastern" Texas-German country, one mile south of La Grange, just off U.S. Highway 77. The extensive and excellent dining, classroom and recreational facilities available for the "Germany in Texas" program include air-conditioned sleeping quarters for all participants.

**\*\*\*\*\*The cost for "Germany in Texas" 1987 is \$175\*\*\*\*\***

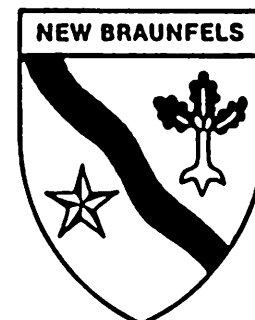
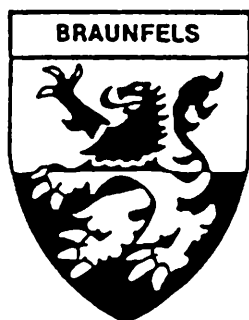
This cost will include the week's room and board, instructional materials, excursion costs, use of many camp facilities. A few scholarships, based on financial need, will be available.

**APPLICATION FORMS** for "Germany in Texas" 1987 are now available. The deadline for application is April 30, 1987. The enrollment is limited to 40 students.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Theodore Gish, Department of German, University of Houston, Houston, Texas 77004.  
Phone 713-749-2159

"Germany in Texas" 1987 is sponsored by the Houston Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German and has been made possible by a generous grant from the Federal Republic of Germany

# How German is New Braunfels?



A Town Meeting on the Topic:

*New Braunfels: Ethnicity as a  
Definition of the Community in Texas*

SATURDAY, MAY 23, 1987

9 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

NEW BRAUNFELS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
(ACTIVITIES CENTER)

373 HOWARD STREET

**Topics and schedule:**

- I. *Language and Culture*: 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- II. *Gender, Family, and Society*:  
11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- III. *Religion and Myth*: 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- IV. *Summary*: 4 p.m.

**Panelists:**

JOHN BOLES, professor of religious and southern history, Rice University; author of studies on southern religious history and slavery

HUBERT HEINEN, associate professor of German, University of Texas (Austin); author of studies on Texas-German culture

LAUREN A. KATTNER, instructor in history, Brookhaven College (Farmers Branch, Texas); author of studies on the historical development of New Braunfels

INGEBORG RUEBERG McCOY, professor of German, Southwest Texas State University; author of studies on Texas-German women and gender roles

ERIKA NIELSEN, assistant professor of German, University of Houston; expert on German folklore

JOSEPH SALMONS, assistant professor of German, Purdue University; expert on the Texas-German language

**Moderator:**

THEODORE GISH, professor of German, and director, Institute of Texas-German Studies, University of Houston

**For further information contact:**

The Sophienburg Museum, (512) 629-1572

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The Town Meeting is sponsored by the Sophienburg Memorial Association Inc. and the Institute of Texas-German Studies at the University of Houston. This project is also made possible by grants from the Texas Committee for the Humanities, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Federal Republic of Germany.



The SUNDAY EXPRESS-NEWS, San Antonio, October 5, 1986

## ART WATCH

## SAMA exhibit 'made in Texas'

By DAN R. GODDARD  
Express-News Arts Writer

San Antonio became the incubator for Texas culture in about 1850 with the arrival of three Germans and a Frenchman: Hermann Lungkwitz, Friedrich Petri, Carl von Iwonski and Theodore Gentilz.

These four artists brought European sophistication and classical art training to the frontier. And with the arrival later in the 19th century of Robert Onderdonk and his son, Julian, San Antonio was able to maintain its position as the state's cultural center until the 1930s and the rise of the Dallas Nine.

Recently opened at the San Antonio Museum of Art, "Texas Seen—Texas Made" is a nostalgic look back at the city's early days as the state's cultural capital. The exhibit of paintings, drawings and lithographs was drawn from the permanent collection by Senior Curator Cecilia Steinfeldt, who has been with SAMA for 50 years. SAMA probably has the best collection of 19th-century Texas painting in the state. The overall quality of the collection, however, falls off sharply after 1922.

"I think our collection of 19th-century work is simply outstanding. San Antonio became important during that period because of the German-trained German immigrants," Steinfeldt said. "The credit for the collection is due largely to the two dedicated women who established the original Witte Memorial Museum: Ellen S. Quillin, the director, and Eleanor Onderdonk, the art curator. And every time we have an exhibit like this, we always flush a few more paintings out of the woodwork. It also usually drives up the prices for things from this period."

Several well-known Texas paintings, many reproduced in history textbooks, are contained in the exhibit. Anyone who has grown up in Texas will probably recognize Hermann Lungkwitz' "San Antonio de Bezar" lithograph, Carl von Iwonski's "The Terry Rangers," Thomas Allen's San Antonio "Market Place" and Julian Onderdonk's masterpiece "Dawn in the Hills."

But rather than being a comprehensive survey of Texas painting, such as the "Texas Images and Visions" exhibit at the University of Texas at Austin three years ago, this is a rather hastily assembled overview of artists who worked in San Antonio from 1850 to 1945 put together as SAMA's entry in the Sesquicentennial sweepstakes.

## Europe meets Texas

Still, this show will appeal to anyone with an appreciation for the European romantic tradition of painting as translated to the Texas frontier.

The artistic tradition in Texas developed rather suddenly with the German immigration as a result of the Revolution of 1848. Under the guidance of Prince Solms Braunsfels and the Adelsverein, the German settlements of New Braunfels and Fredericksburg sprang into being by 1850. Among the new arrivals were many highly cultured people, including many of the students, artists and university professors who had been at the core of the revolutionary movement.

None of these early artists made much of a living from their painting, however. Settling on a farm outside of Fredericksburg in 1854, Hermann Lungkwitz moved to San Antonio 10 years later in order to



'EL AQUADOR' BY THEODORE GENTILZ  
... is part of SAMA's 'Texas Seen—Texas Made'

join a photography business started by his brother-in-law, Carl von Iwonski. By 1871, Lungkwitz was working in Austin as a photographer for the General Land Office. While he worked at what he called "day labor" to support his family, he spent his evenings and holidays painting romantic landscapes around New Braunfels, San Antonio and Austin.

His most important painting, "Crockett Street Looking West" became an internationally known lithograph and one of the best advertisements for San Antonio widely distributed in Germany. The photographically realistic scene depicts neat German homes in the foreground, the rear of the Alamo on the right and San Fernando Cathedral in the distance. On display are the original minutely detailed drawing, the oil painting and a copy of the famous lithograph bordered by views of the Alamo and the missions.

## Enchanted Rock

Among Lungkwitz's landscapes is the bucolic "Enchanted Rock," an 1856-vintage idyllic view of the fabled granite dome near Fredericksburg. The Indians considered the spot sacred, and a foursome of noble savages occupies the foreground in Lungkwitz's dreamy painting which reflects his art training in Dresden and Vienna. It is composed in the style of Claude Lorraine, the 17th century artist known for his poetic use of light.

Richard Petri had training similar to Lungkwitz's, and left behind several genre paintings and landscapes that depict the Texas frontier lifestyle in a traditional European idiom. But he died at age 33 when, suffering from a high fever, he decided to cool off by swimming in the Pedernales River and drowned.

Of the Germans, Carl G. von Iwonski, who had the least training, created some of the most memorable paintings. He came to Texas with his family when he was 15 and is thought to have been self-taught, although he tried his hand at many different types of scenes and subjects. And in addition to his photography business, he worked as San Antonio's tax collector and as a drawing instructor.

His best-known painting, "The Terry Rangers," has been widely reproduced in Texas history books. A rough-and-ready scene of four riders on horseback, it shows a red-bearded, laughing Sam Maverick waving his canteen over his head and rearing back on his steed. He was a member of the 8th Texas Cavalry and the son of Samuel Maverick, one of the first Anglo families to settle in San Antonio.

## Most accurate

But of the work of the Big Four, Paris-born Theodore Gentilz probably left the most accurate record of life in mid-19th century Central Texas. Trained as an engineer and surveyor, though, Gentilz probably never sold a painting in his life according to Steinfeldt. A laureate of the National School of Mathematics and Drawing in Paris, he assisted Henri Castro in surveying and laying out the town of Castroville. By 1850, he moved to San Antonio, and during the Civil War began teaching art at St. Mary's College.

His approach was much more direct and straightforward, undistorted by the romantic leanings of the Germans. His "Comanche Chief" depicts a proud and noble buckskin-clad warrior astride a sturdy white horse, and carrying a white-tipped lance and shield. There are also scenes of "Comanches on the War Path" (1896) and of a "Camp of the Lipans." Gentilz's self-portrait reveals an intelligent-looking man, slightly balding, with piercing eyes. He also painted pictures of the city's missions, water vendors, portraits of family and friends and many scenes of daily life.

Another important painting in the exhibit is Thomas Allen's "Market Place," done in the winter of 1878-1879 on a brief visit to San Antonio. A stunning example of 19th-century academic painting, it shows chili stands in Military Plaza — surrounded by people, birds and livestock — with the stone walls of San Fernando Cathedral in the background. It was shown in the Paris Salon of 1882, and the peasant garb of the people made an exotic impression on the sophisticated Parisians of the era.

Other, unusual, early paintings on dis-

play include the folk art of Louis Hoppe, whose four known paintings all belong to SAMA. An itinerant laborer, his depictions of the Julius Meyenberg farm in the La Grange area have been widely reproduced as typical of the Texas frontier. Another folk painter, William G.M. Samuel, is represented with four different views of San Antonio's Main Plaza circa 1849.

## Robert Onderdonk

But the next important artist on the San Antonio scene was Robert Onderdonk, who was born in Maryland and trained at New York's National Academy of Design before settling in San Antonio in 1879. Although this exhibit does not contain his best-known painting, "Mrs. Chandler in Her Room," it does have a few, select works from the SAMA collection that have rarely been shown. "The Groesbeck House" is a pastoral vision of one of his favorite subjects situated on the undeveloped San Antonio River. Although he struggled to support himself in San Antonio and tried to dissuade his offspring from following in his footsteps, his son Julian became one of Texas' first impressionists.

Though known as "the bluebonnet painter," a name he thoroughly detested, Julian Onderdonk is best-known for his many scenes of the Texas Hill Country awash with the bright wildflower. Unlike the many, mostly amateur imitators who came after him, Julian Onderdonk was a well-trained artist who never painted the same scene twice, possessing an uncanny ability for capturing the subtle beauty of the Texas landscape.

"Dawn in the Hills" is a haunting masterpiece with misty steam rising in a quiet, bluebonnet-studded meadow painted in a style learned from the French impressionists. The painting was on its way to New York to be hung in the National Academy of Design's annual exhibit when the artist died at age 40 on Oct. 27, 1922, probably from a gastrointestinal problem brought on by his high-stress work methods. It is a vivid bridge between the 19th-century painting styles and the freer, explosion of styles ushered in by the 20th century.

Another prominent transitional figure is Jose Arpa, who was born in Spain in 1858. He studied and traveled extensively in Europe, winning the prestigious Gran Prix de Rome. His growing reputation led to an invitation from the Mexican government to become an instructor at the Academy of Fine Arts in Mexico City. Although he declined the position, he remained in Mexico and may have moved to San Antonio as early as 1899. His "Bluebonnet Field" is a sterling achievement in the genre, and his nephew Xavier Gonzales went on to become an important New York muralist.

"Texas Seen—Texas Made" concludes with a few works of the Dallas Nine, including Otis Dozier, Everett Spruce and two recently acquired paintings by Charles Bowler. The Dallas Nine, led by Jerry Bywaters, became the most vital movement in Texas painting during the 1930s, eclipsing San Antonio as the state's cultural center.

You can learn more about that period at the exhibit "Lone Star Regionalism: The Dallas Nine and Their Circle, 1928-1945" on display through Oct. 26 at the UT-Austin art building, which in tandem with "Texas Seen—Texas Made" provides an informative survey of the first 100 years of Lone Star painting.

THE FAYETTE COUNTY RECORD Friday, November 28, 1986

At Gay Hill Cemetery

From Minnie Schlortt, Knippa

# Wertzner Plaque Unveiled

A "Citizen of the Republic of Texas" plaque was dedicated on Thursday, Nov. 20 by the Dilue Rose Harris Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic Of Texas and sponsored by Julia Collins of Columbus. The ceremony took place at the Gay Hill Cemetery on Highway 71 between Ellinger and La Grange at the burial site of Christian Wertzner.

Christian Gotthelf Wertzner was born in Wolkenstein, Saxony, Germany in 1800. His father, Karl Wertzner, was a merchant in Wolkenstein.

He came to Texas in February of 1830 and was living in St. Felipe in April of 1831 when Frederick Ernst arrived. He influenced Joseph Biegel to select his headright league of 4,428 acres in Fayette County.

In 1839 Wertzner purchased 1,872 acres of this land from Biegel. Bernard Scherrer also purchased land from Biegel, thus giving them co-credit in the beginning and success of the Biegel Settlement.

During the Texas Revolution, Wertzner was a member of the Company F, First Regiment, Texas Volunteers, and in this company there were more Fayette County men than any other organization with service in San Jacinto. Wertzner served from Feb. 1 until May 10, 1836 and again from July 20 until Nov. 13. For each of these services he was

issued a Bounty of 320 acres and a Donation of 640 acres for being in the Battle of San Jacinto.

Wertzner was a tailor by profession and a responsible citizen of Fayette County, often going bond for other citizens. He also served on the First Grand Jury in 1837.

In 1936, the State of Texas erected the State Marker naming him as the First Permanent German Settler of Fayette County and San Jacinto Veteran.

The memorial service was led by Julia Collins and assisted by Rev. Robert Schlortt, a descendant of Wertzner. The pledge to the

American and Texas flags was led by president Millycent Cranek. Mrs. Minnie Schlortt, the great, great niece of Wertzner unveiled the marker and gave the tribute to her ancestor.

Attending the ceremony were Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Schlortt of Knippa; Mr. and Mrs. Connally of San Antonio; Rev. and Mrs. Robert Schlortt and daughter, Elizabeth, of Columbus; Miriam York of Giddings; Daphne Garrett of Houston; and Leola Tiedt of La Grange. Also, DRT Chapter members attended.

THE ART OF DECORATING WENDISH EASTER EGGS

by Daphne Dalton Garrett

The Wendish people in Lusatia have long been known for their artistic decoration of Easter Eggs, and the Texas Wends have continued this Slavic tradition. As described in this book, three techniques are used to make intricate designs on the eggs: wax, scratch, and acid.

The process for decorating these traditional Wendish Easter Eggs is given step by step in this 36 page book. Directions are concisely given and illustrated to allow readers to try the method on their own.

The book describes preparation of the eggs and the dye, the dyeing process, and the applications of the design by the three techniques. The Wax Technique, which is much like batik, is explained in detail.

Sample designs are included, as well as a color photograph of eggs showing these designs. Readers can enjoy using the examples or inventing designs of their own.

The author is the Archivist at the Texas Wendish Heritage Museum at Serbin, and a researcher, writer and photographer of Texas History. She and her husband own a farm in the Wendish community of Warda. Mrs. Garrett is available for lectures and workshops on this interesting folk art.

GARRETT HISTORICAL RESEARCH  
P.O. Box 35, Warda, Texas 78960  
409-242-3822  
713-468-7516

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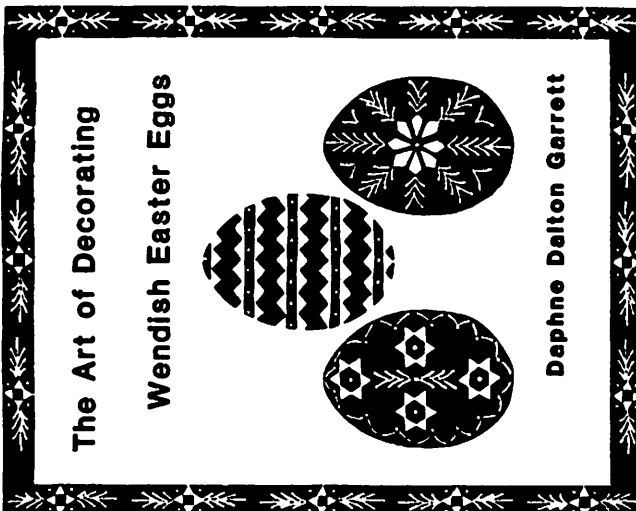
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**TEXAS BOOKS**  
By Brenda Smith

# Touring Texas

It's more fun with a good travel book on your lap

One of the great side effects of this Sesquicentennial celebration of Texas is the wealth of books being published about the state.

Among the best are those which the weekend traveler can use for self-guided tours. And now that most tourists have returned to school and/or jobs, there should be plenty of elbow room at the more popular stops. If the weather and the sap cooperate, you might even get to see some gorgeous fall color. Even without it, the Hill Country we recently toured has a rugged beauty all its own. We first armed ourselves with:

- Three of Ray Miller's Eyes of Texas Travel Guides — *Hill Country/Permian Basin, San Antonio/Border* and *Fort Worth/Brazos Valley* (Cordovan Press).

- *Texas Monthly Guidebook for the Hill Country* by Richard Zelade (Texas Monthly Press).

- *Amazing Texas Monuments & Museums* by Ann Ruff (Gulf Publishing).

Pack picnic supplies and drinks, because part of the charm of traveling Texas' backways is being able to experience the freshness of the land. And what better way to do that than to break bread to the sounds of a slow-running creek or watch the clouds pass over an open green meadow? You'll have no problem finding spots to stop. Picnic areas abound on the highways and in state and city parks.

To make your trip more complete, make your overnight reservation with the help of such new publications as:

- *A Guide to Historic Texas*

Brenda Beust Smith is a Chronicle correspondent.

*Inns and Hotels* by Ann Ruff (Gulf Publishing).

- *Texas Bed & Breakfast* by Ruff, Gail Drago and Marjie Mungo (A Texas Monthly Guidebook, Texas Monthly Press).

Our weekend jaunt started out I-10 west, but at Katy we branched off onto old 90, which leads to many landmarks of the Texas revolution. Stop at San Felipe where Stephen F. Austin headquartered the first major settlement in the area. If you want to zigzag a little, Miller's book is full of tidbits about nearby small towns like Industry, the oldest permanent German settlement in Texas where you can see what, in 1838, was the only post office west of Galveston.

Down the road at Columbus, the highway parallels the banks of the Colorado River where Sam Houston's men faced Gen. Santa Anna's men on the opposite shore. Houston had the ferryboats burned, which avoided a confrontation.

Columbus' town square is highlighted by an old opera house and a dead tree trunk. Ah, but it's a historic tree trunk, where sentences

were handed down by Judge R.M. Williamson while the citizens of Columbus waited for a courthouse to be built.

To the south is Gonzales, where the first shot of the Texas fight for independence was fired. The city is a maze of historical markers.

The oldest library in the state is in Luling, to the northeast of Gonzales. Ann Ruff's *Amazing Texas Monuments* includes the fascinating story of how the eccentric millionaire Edgar B. Davis discovered the Luling oil field in 1922.

From Luling, you can zip up to the site of the Council House Fight (where Texans killed 35 Comanches who thought they were coming to a peace parley). Then continue to Lockhart, where historical markers tell you all about the Battle of Plum Creek, in which Colt revolvers were used for the first time in a war situation.

Follow Highway 142 from Lockhart through rolling hills to San Marcos, one of the prettiest cities in Texas. This is a great family stop, since it is the home of the Aquarena Springs entertainment

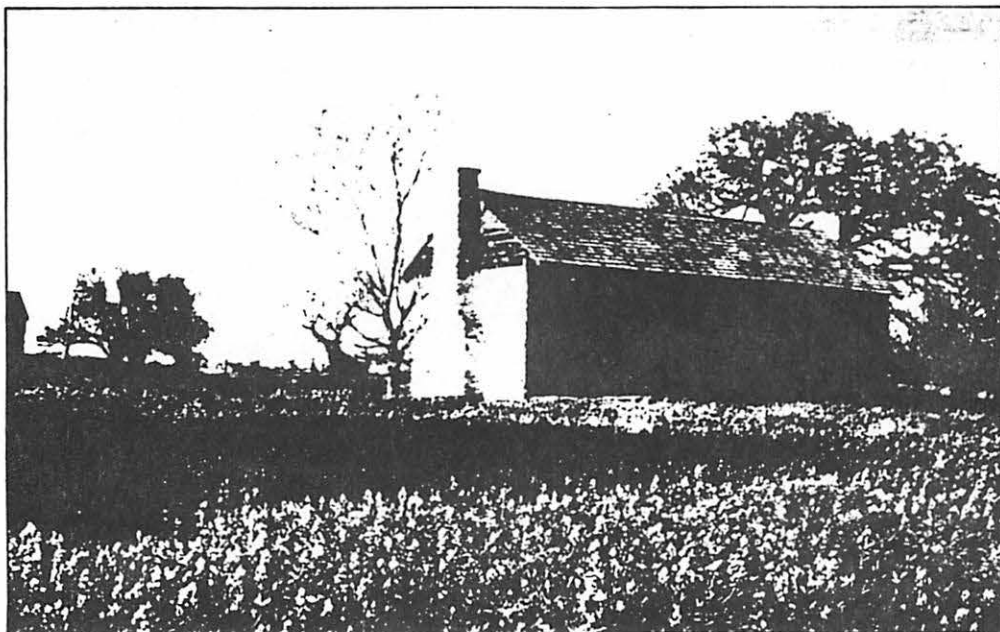
park along the crystal clear, fast-moving San Marcos River. Wonder Cave is nearby, and in the heart of the city is Southwest Texas State University.

Just north of San Marcos is Wimberly, famous for its massive flea market on the first Saturday of each month from May to October.

Zigzagging between San Marcos and Kerrville, our overnight destination, are some fascinating small towns like Fischer, where you can see the old Bruemmer limestone barn (60 feet long and 25



The cover: The deer in Kerrville State Recreation Center are so tame photographers can get real close. This picture is from George Oxford Miller's *Texas Photo Safari* (Texas Monthly Press).



The old German home — photographed by Reagan Bradshaw for his beautiful coffee-table book, *The Great State of Texas* (Graphic Arts Center Publishing Co.) — is typical of rustic homesteads dotting Central Texas.

feet tall). Other vintage stone houses and barns line this stretch of Highway 32 which parallels the Little Blanco River. Just to the south are two look-alike peaks, and that's where the town of Twin Sisters got its name.

Zag down to Highway 473 to Kendalia, named after the world's first war reporter, George Wilkins Kendall. There are some great old buildings here.

I missed most of the scenery from Kendalia to Sisterdale, some 14 miles down 473. I was too fascinated reading Zelade's history of this little German settlement. Seems a group of intellectuals from Germany settled Sisterdale in 1847. They worked their farms to survive but met religiously every week at the little log schoolhouse to discuss the latest literary news from around the world. Often they would speak only in Latin.

In 1853 this group held the first open convention for abolition in the South. Needless to say, they weren't popular with their Confederacy-loyal neighbors. In 1862 German settlers opposed to secession tried

to leave Texas for Mexico but were ambushed by Southern calvarymen. A badly neglected monument, erected by their friends and relatives, still stands in Comfort, just down the road from Sisterdale, the only monument in the South honoring Union sympathizers.

The Hill Country scenery gets better and better as you wind up to Kerrville. Kerrville State Park has excellent camping facilities and lots of deer so tame they'll venture into your camp for snacks.

A wonderful side trip from Kerrville is to take Highway 16 down to Bandera and return via 173, which will take you through the infamous Bandera Pass. Warning: Take off the cruise control. The narrow gullies and sharp curves, sites of many Apache battles, are roller-coaster enough without it.

The country around Bandera is home to several dude ranches, and in the city is an incredible collection of folk artifacts in the Frontier Times Museum.

North of Kerrville is Fredericksburg, worth a trip in itself. One spot tourists may overlook, be-

cause it's a little difficult to find, is the Garden of Peace, tucked behind the Admiral Nimitz Center. The garden was a gift from the government of Japan, a replica of the garden of Nimitz's counterpart, Adm. Heihachiro Togo. The center is a tribute to the heroes of World War II and details many battles in multimedia presentations.

Unpack your climbing shoes and set out for Enchanted Rock, 18 miles north of Fredericksburg. It's about a half-mile climb to the top of this gigantic pink mound of granite, the second largest of its kind in the country. But even though the slope is not that steep, it will be a workout for the less-hardy. The view from the top is spectacular. All the books include the various legends and historical confrontations associated with the rock.

Returning to Fredericksburg, we paused for a moment of silence for the tourist business which used to rely on visitors to nearby Balanced Rock. They must despise even more than we do the nitwit who blew this site into obscurity.

Luckenbach is just east of Fred-

ericksburg. Don't blink. You'll miss the big metal grain-processing building and little shack where myriads of Luckenbach-souvenirs are sold. That's all there is. There's a bag on the counter inside that says prices include taxes. Just take what you want and drop the money in.

The Lyndon Baines Johnson-historical sites are on down 290, and just past them is Pedernales Falls. A half-mile nature trail leads down to the falls, which are rapids-like cascades that stair-step down natural rock dams. The drive in and out of the 4,800-acre state park is a treat in itself, and we were delighted to spot an albino deer right by the road.

We skirted Austin and headed back to Houston via 290, making a short jog to Round Top, which so many Houstonians have helped restore. It was late, and everything was closed. But the vintage German structures are worth a drive-by.

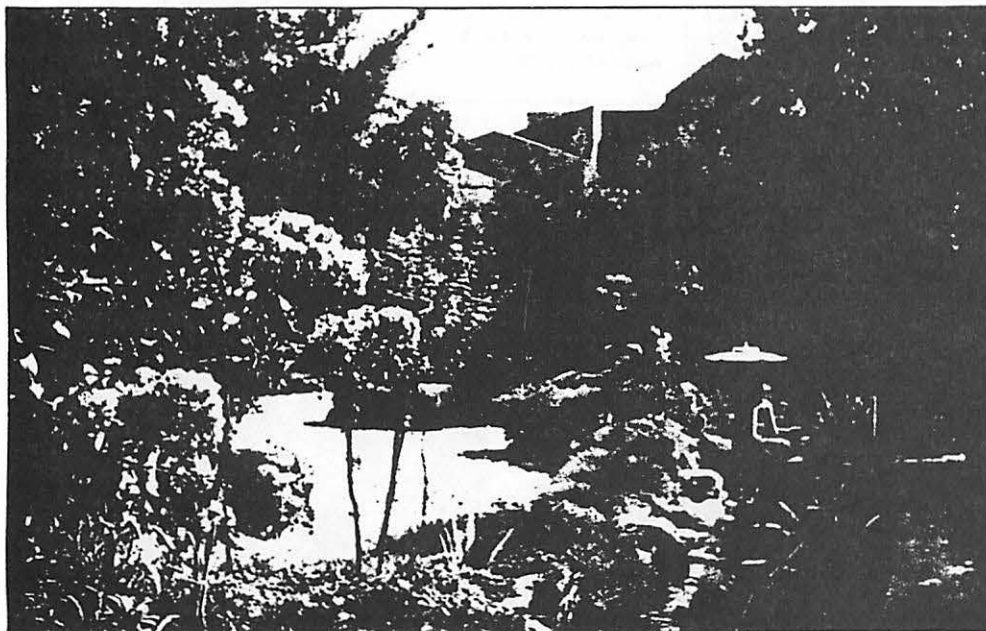
\* \* \* \* \*  
Because so many books were published as special Sesquicentennial projects, they may not be available in all bookstores. For additional information on the books mentioned above, write the publishers:

- Cordovan Press, 5314 Bingle, Houston, Texas 77292.
- Gulf Publishing, Lone Star Books Division, P.O. Box 2608, Houston, Texas 77001.
- Texas Monthly Press, Inc., P.O. Box 1569, Austin, Texas 78767.
- Graphic Arts Center Publishing Co., P.O. Box 10306, Portland, Ore. 97210.

The Eyes of Texas series and the Texas Monthly Guidebook series both cover all sections of the state. *Traveling Texas Borders* (by Ann Ruff with Michael Burke, Gulf Publishing) covers boundary sites in the directions of Mexico, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and The Gulf Coast.

If you'd rather see Texas from the comfort of your armchair, some beautiful picture books have come out this year. Among them:

- *The Great State of Texas*, photographs by Reagan Bradshaw, text by Griffin Smith, Jr. (Graphic Arts Publishing Co., P.O. Box 10306, Portland, Oregon 97210).
- *A Picture Tour of Texas* (Charles Scribner's Sons, New York).
- *Where Texas Meets the Sea — A Coastal Portrait*, photographs by Skeeter Hagler, text by Bryan Woolley (Pressworks Publishing, Dallas, Texas).



The lovely, serene Garden of Peace, behind the Admiral Nimitz Center in Fredericksburg, was a gift from Japan, a replica of the garden of Nimitz's World War II Japanese counterpart, Heihachiro Togo.

# Als Amerika noch Kolonie war...

## Deutsche Siedler vor 1776

17

Gut hundert Jahre vergingen nach Kolumbus' Entdeckung (1492), ehe auch der Teil der Neuen Welt kolonialisiert wurde, den die Spanier wegen der - von ihnen so empfundenen - Unwirtlichkeit des Klimas gemieden (to avoid) hatten. Die Initiative dazu ging von den Engländern und Franzosen aus; Holländer und Schweden folgten. Deutschland war zu dieser Zeit durch den Dreissigjährigen Krieg so sehr mit seinen eigenen Problemen beschäftigt, dass Deutsche im 17. Jahrhundert nur vereinzelt und im Dienst fremder Mächte nach Nordamerika kamen.

Die ersten dürften drei Zimmerleute (shipwrights) gewesen sein, Unger, Keffer und Volday mit Namen. Sie gehörten zur Mannschaft jenes Captain Smith, der 1607 Jamestown gründete und damit die englische Besiedlung der Ostküste einleitete. Bereits in Amt und Würde überquerte Peter Minuit (Minewit) aus Wesel den Atlantik. Als Generaldirektor der holländischen Besitzungen in Nordamerika landete er 1625 auf Manhattan. Für ganze 60 Gulden kaufte er den Indianern die Insel ab, auf der heute die Wolkenkratzer New Yorks stehen. Diesen Namen erhielt Minuits Siedlung allerdings erst, nachdem die Engländer Neu-Holland 1664 in ihren Besitz gebracht hatten.

Später, im Verlauf der "Glorreichen Revolution", die im englischen Mutterland ganz unblutig verlief, kam es auch in New York zu Unruhen. Die Bevölkerung vertrieb den Gouverneur Thomas Dongan und beauftragte den Kommandeur der Bürgermiliz, den gebürtigen Frankfurter Kaufmann Jacob Leisler, mit der kommissarischen Verwaltung der Kolonie. Zweieinhalb Jahre lang versah dieser das Amt mit Umsicht und Tatkraft. Als der vom neuen König ernannte Nachfolger eintraf, erreichten Leislers Gegner, dass er unter der Be-

schuldigung des Hochverrats festgenommen, ungerechterweise verurteilt und noch im selben Jahr (1691) öffentlich hingerichtet wurde. Doch schon vier Jahre später rehabilitierte das englische Parlament den Patrioten, der zwar für mehr Eigenständigkeit der Kolonie gekämpft hatte, bei alledem aber königstreu geblieben war.

### Nach Pennsylvania

Zog es die ersten deutschen Einwanderer zunächst nach New York, Maryland oder Virginia, so änderte sich das mit der Gründung Pennsylvanias 1681. Dort errichtete der englische Edelmann William Penn eine Kolonie, in der absolute religiöse Toleranz herrschte. Wer, wie die Quäker, zu denen sich Penn bekannte, in der Alten Welt aus Glaubensgründen verfolgt wurde, der sollte in diesem Staat die Freiheit finden, das ersehnte "ruhige, ehrliche und gottgefällige Leben" zu führen. Gern folgten die Mitglieder der zahlreichen pietistischen Sekten Deutschlands, darunter Mennoniten, Schwenckfelder, Tunker und Lambadisten, dieser Einladung.

Den Exodus begannen 13 Krefelder Mennoniten-Familien. Der Tag, an dem ihr Schiff 1683 im Hafen von Philadelphia anlegte, der 6. Oktober, wird noch heute als German Day begangen. Vor den Toren der Stadt erwarben die Krefelder ein grosses Stück Land und legten darauf ihre eigene Siedlung an: Germantown. Zum Bürgermeister wählten sie Franz Daniel Pastorius (1651-1720), der schon die Überfahrt organisiert hatte. Dieser tatkräftige junge Gelehrte war von Haus aus Jurist und Theologe, besass daneben aber auch umfangreiches praktisches Wissen, das es ihm ermöglichte, sich erfolgreich an der Lösung öffentlicher Aufgaben zu beteiligen. Schnell wurde er ein enger Freund und Berater William Penns. Sein besonderes Interesse galt dem Aufbau eines Schul-

systems, das auch Abendklassen für Erwachsene umfasste. Bereits 1688 verfasste er das erste Manifest gegen die Sklaverei.

In der Regel hielten die Mitglieder pietistischer Gruppen auch nach der Überfahrt zusammen und erschlossen ein gemeinsames Siedlungsgebiet. Als Gemeinschaft weiterexistieren zu können war meistens ein ausschlaggebendes (decisive) Motiv für die Auswanderung gewesen. Der Zusammenhalt sollte sich als so stark erweisen, dass noch viele Nachkommen dieser Einwanderer bis auf den heutigen Tag im Siedlungsgebiet ihrer Vorfäter zu Hause sind und bestimmte, religiös motivierte Vorschriften für den Bereich des täglichen Lebens - bis hin zu Kleidung und Haartracht - befolgen. So entwickelte sich ein vielfältiges, bisweilen auch exzentrisches, aber eigenständiges Brauchtum, das die deutschstämmigen Einwohner Pennsylvanias, die "Pennsylvania Dutch", von Anfang an von ihren Nachbarn abhob.

Traditionen anderer Art kennen die Herrnhüter oder "Moravians", wie sie hier in Amerika ihrer Herkunft aus Mähren wegen genannt werden. Sie hatten sich die Bekehrung der Indianer zur Aufgabe gemacht, wobei sie grosse Erfolge erzielen konnten. Noch heute sind sie karitativ und in der Sozialpflege tätig.

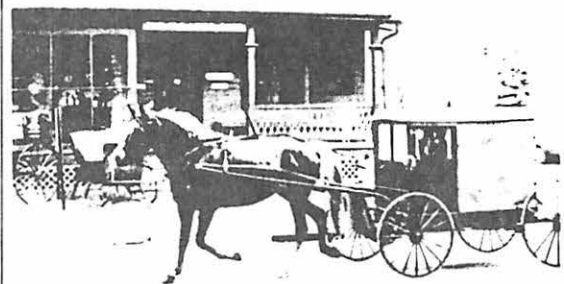
### Massenauswanderung

Seit Anfang des 18. Jahrhunderts folgten den pietistischen Sekten auch Angehörige der protestantischen Konfessionen. Dabei kam es zu den ersten Massenauswanderungen, als das obere Rheintal im Verlauf des Spanischen Erbfolgekrieges völlig verwüstet wurde und die katholischen Herrscher der Pfalz damit begannen, ihre Untertanen lutherischen und reformierten Bekenntnisses zu verfolgen. 1708 brachte Josua von Kocherthal 60 mittlere Pfälzer nach London, deren Überfahrt die ebenfalls protestantische Königin Maria aus eigenen Mitteln bezahlte.

Im folgenden Jahr waren es gleich 13.000 Auswanderungswillige, die sich in der Hoffnung auf eine freie Überfahrt in London einfanden. Eine Gruppe wurde nach North Carolina geschickt, die



Bei den Amish in Pennsylvania: diese ursprünglich deutschsprachige Gruppe gehört zu den frühen Amerika-Einwanderern, die ihre Heimat aus religiösen Gründen verliessen. Auch heute noch haben religiöse Vorschriften einen deutlichen Einfluss auf Lebensgewohnheiten und Alltag.



andere nach New York. Dort war schon im Jahr zuvor Kocherthal an Land gegangen und hatte im Tal des Hudson, der ihn an den heimatischen Rhein erinnerte, eine Siedlung, Newburgh, angelegt. Doch die Gegend erwies sich als wenig fruchtbar. Er fasste deshalb den Entschluss, mit den Neuankömmlingen weiter flussaufwärts zu ziehen. Aber auch dort fanden die Pfälzer keine Ruhe. Streitigkeiten mit den holländischen Grossgrundbesitzern veranlassten sie nach wenigen Jahren, entweder nach Nordwesten ins Mohawtal vorzudringen oder sich - wie die Mehrzahl - nach Süden zu wenden, wo man ihnen in Pennsylvania bereitwillig Aufnahme gewährte.

Eine weitere Gruppe von Reformierten, diesmal aus der Gegend um Braunschweig, war schon 1707 in Richtung New York gesegelt, durch widrige Winde aber in den

Hafen von Philadelphia getrieben worden. Sie liessen sich schliesslich im benachbarten New Jersey nieder, wohin 1733 auch der Urahn einer der heute reichsten Familien der Welt, Johann Peter Rockefeller, ausgewanderte.

Die Berichte der Auswanderer an die in der Heimat Zurückgebliebenen malten die Zustände in den Kolonien in derart leuchtenden Farben, dass der Strom der Einwanderer ständig anschwellte. So lebten bei Ausbruch des Unabhängigkeitskrieges schon 250.000 Deutsche zwischen Maine und Georgia. Unter ihnen befanden sich aussergewöhnlich viele Handwerker, an denen es damals noch allenthalben mangelte. Sie trugen entscheidend dazu bei, dass die deutschen Siedlungsgebiete sich im jungen Amerika schnell zu wichtigen Zentren von Industrie und Handel entwickelten.

**Gottlieb Mittelbergers  
Reise  
nach  
Pennsylvanien  
im Jahr 1750.  
und  
Rückreise nach Deutschland  
im Jahr 1754.  
Enthaltend  
nicht nur eine Beschreibung des Landes  
nach seinem gegenwärtigen Zustande, sondern auch eine ausführliche Nachricht von den unglücklichen und betrübten Umständen der meisten Deutschen, die in dieses Land gezogen sind, und dahin zehr.**



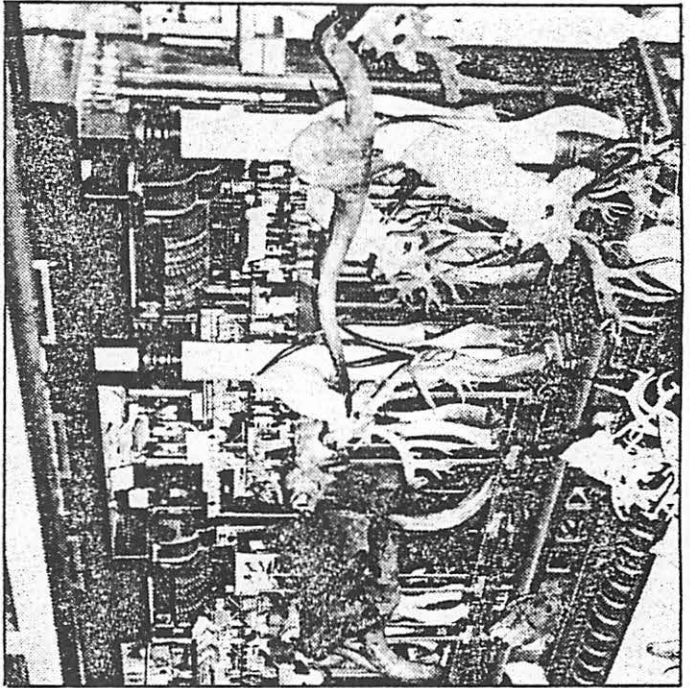
Stuttgart,  
gedruckt bey Gottlieb Friederich Jenisch. 1756.

**Titelblatt eines 1756 in Buchform veröffentlichten Berichts über eine Reise nach Pennsylvania.**



Der Rathausplatz von Neu-Amsterdam (New York) um die Mitte des 17. Jahrhunderts.

# That was the bar that was: The Buckhorn



When the Buckhorn closed, its horn and trophy collection was purchased by the Lone Star brewery.

music. Old Friedrich probably would've loved today's video games. Also, similar to the free buffets offered by today's Loopland discos, Friedrich instituted what came to be known as the "free lunch" at the Buckhorn. A special counter was often laden with sausages, cheeses, hardboiled eggs, pickles, onions and radishes, and rye or whole wheat bread. Sometimes there was Irish stew. The free lunch went with a nickel glass of beer.

A somewhat fictionalized version of the Buckhorn appears in "Lone Some Dove," Larry McMurry's Pulitzer Prize-winning epic novel about Texas cattle drives.

In one scene, Capt. Augustus McCrae and V.F. Call, two old former Texas Rangers, stop in the Buckhorn for the first time in years. Modern civilization is encroaching and they aren't too happy with the changes.

When the "salty" young bartender "dawdles," Gus McCrae breaks his nose on the bartop and then pulls his big Colt and shatters a whiskey glass. A gambler sitting at a back table laughs.

When the Buckhorn closed, the old cherry wood backbar with marble columns and the entire horn and trophy collection was purchased by the Lone Star brewery. Today the remnants of the old saloon can be found at the Buckhorn Hall of Horns located on the grounds of the brewery.

It's hard to imagine McCrae and Call and their real-life counterparts from the cattle-drive days being pleased with this turn of events. It's hard to imagine them standing around holding small clear-plastic cups of beer with a bunch of wide-eyed tourists from Des Moines.

The Hall of Horns is no longer run like a real saloon anyway. For \$2.25

There are places I want to go, things I want to see. Trouble is — none of 'em are now.

For example, I'd like to visit Cuba in the 1920s. Castro's Cuba, regardless if it's better or not for Cubans, bores me. Likewise I'd like to drop in on Hong Kong during that same period. And, of course, Paris in the 20s. Paris, too, in the '30s and late '40s after the war. But not Paris now.

Also I'd like to be in London during the early (pre-Beales) '60s. Or Hamburg when they were first breaking out. Yeah, and for some reason I keep thinking I want to visit Denver in 1952. Don't know why, except I have this feeling something would happen if I could.

So people are always asking what's my favorite bar in San Antonio. Well, it's this one for this that one for that, and this other one for this other stuff. But, truth is, the S.A. bar I would most like to visit no longer exists. At least not exactly.

The legendary Buckhorn Saloon operated in San Antonio from 1881 until 1956. The original location was on Dolerosa Street. Later it was situated at the corner of Houston and Soledad streets. I'd like to stroll in there about 1887, park my bootheel on the brass rail and order a nickel schooner of "fresh San Antonio cily

you gain admission and the right to two small draft beers or two root beers. No longer are there tables or chairs in the barroom. People are not encouraged to linger and drink. Move 'em in and move 'em out, seems to be the plan.

This is not to knock the Hall of Horns, which is a trip in itself. And, if the old Buckhorn Saloon had to close, it's good someone salvaged as much as they could. Many additions have been made to the original Buckhorn collection and the place is fascinating.

The place is divided into the Asiatic Hall, the African Hall, the European Hall, the North American Hall and the Texas Room with each representing game trophies from each region. Other additions include the Boar's Nest, the Hall of Feathers, the O. Henry House, the Hall of Fins, the Toepferwein Gallery, a section of



NELSON ALLEN

beer on tap," and maybe play a little faro in back.

For over 70 years the old saloon was home away from home for downtown locals as well as for generations of visiting cowboys, trappers, traders, hunters, gamblers and soldiers. It quickly became known for its collections of horns and trophy heads. Even in its early years the saloon's horn collection was considered to be the largest in the state.

The Buckhorn was founded by Albert Friedrich and he and his wife, Emilie, operated the saloon for almost 50 years. It was Albert who started the deer antler and cow horn collection to decorate the bar. Cowboys and trappers could count on getting a few free drinks by bringing in a rack of horns. Soon there were so many horns that things took a weird turn and "creaks of nature" were the

most sought after — locked horns, horns with strange growths on them, horns that had grown into the eye.

Emilie was a little weird, too. Her thing was collecting rattlesnake rattles. She designed signs and even pictures with them. One example is a deer Mrs. Friedrich made entirely of rattles in honor of Teddy Roosevelt's visit to the Buckhorn. The rattles from 637 reptiles were used in that one design. A cowboy could count on a drink in trade for rattles and several drinks if he brought in the skin as well.

The skins were mostly used to make bells, ties and watch fobs, which were sold in the saloon's curio shop. Tourism, apparently, has always been with us.

In some ways Friedrich was ahead of his time. He loved coin-operated machines and the old saloon was filled with nickel machines that could tell your fortune, cause mechanical birds to warble, produce photos of theatrical foils, test your strength, advise the loveborn, flicker stereoscopic scenes, dispense good luck tokens and sell stamps. There were "marble tables" which predated the pinball machines and there was a nickelodeon which provided

Continued on Pg. 8-H

looked like?

But the rest of the collection including the horns from the old saloon, is really interesting. Of particular note are the "treasures of nature" which include two-headed calves, a female whitetail deer with antlers, red-eyed albinos, Siamese cats, and Siamese lambs.

Imagine a world where the people were stuffed and the animals crushed about going. "Oh, my, look at that!" Well, it's educational and I'm glad Lone Star was able to save the old saloon and keep its history alive.

But I still wish I could hop in a time machine and find myself standing at the bar in 1887. I'd order a nickel draft beer and a shot of rye. Then I'd look around to see what was going on.

The Buckhorn Hall of Horns is open from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and is located at 690 Lone Star Blvd.

From: Sister M. Immaculate Gentemann, C.D.P.  
**Commitment To German  
 Propels Kinderschule Staff**

The teachers who staff Frederick-sburg's Kinderschule have many re-wards, but getting a paycheck isn't one of them.  
 Since its inception last fall, the German classes conducted here for six to ten year olds have been taught weekly and coordinated by volun-teers.

The program, which is the brain-child of Ted and Boatrice Alexander, has as its goal strengthening the teaching of language in schools.

Volunteers for the program were drawn to that concern.  
 "When we first moved here, I pre-sented my concern about preserving the German language at the Deut-sche Verein Friedrichsburg and they appointed me the head of a commit-tee that included the late Ella Gold, Elisabeth Conflitti and Betty Scrog-gin," Alexander said.

Not only did the idea for trans-planting Alexander's Lubbock Kin-derschule spring from that commit-tee, but suggestions for teachers came as well.

Annabel Wilkinson, Laverne Boos and Glenda Summers became the original staff of teachers when the school opened in September of 1985. Elisabeth Conflitti became the man-ager for the group and also worked with students. Alexander rotated working with each class sometime during the Monday afternoon ses-sions, and Mrs. Alexander made the myriad of visual aids used in the program.

This year due to illness, Mrs. Boos has taken a leave and veteran teacher Edna Crenwelge has assumed her duties.

All of the teachers have a working knowledge of German and all spoke German at home.  
 "That's very unique. That's the

reason German ought to be promoted here," Alexander said. "It's almost a sin, not to teach German in Frederickburg."

No salary is paid to anyone on the staff. "There's no way we could pay them enough anyway," Alexander said.

An entire spring and summer be-fore the classes began, the original group met to discuss their approach to the program. The Alexanders had used an oral/visual method of teaching in Lubbock, where they were both on the faculty at Texas Tech University.

"There is a leerness among teachers when you tell them that there will be no books," Alexander said.

"We all would have felt safer with a book," Mrs. Conflitti confirmed.

"But the children have to learn how to talk first," Alexander said. Once the classes began, the teachers met every two weeks for a while, then once a month. "And we still talk a lot on the phone," Mrs. Alexander said.

At the meetings, the Alexanders would give demonstrations with visuals. Sometimes the teachers played students' roles as they learned to do directed dialogue.

Mrs. Crenwelge, the group's newest member, is a former Doss school teacher with 40 years experi-ence.

"I minored in German in college, but I grew up with it, too. When I was in grade school, our pastor and his wife taught a Summer Schule for German that I remember attend-ing," she said.

Both Mrs. Wilkinson and Mrs. Sum-mers are full-time teachers as well. Mrs. Wilkinson teaches second grade at St. Mary's School and Mrs. Sum-



**BY THE NUMBERS**--Students like Jessica Carra-no from Annabel Wilkinson's class were studying German numbers during Monday's session at Kin-derschule. The classes are held weekly at Holy Ghost Lutheran Church. All teachers and helpers in the program volunteer their time. --Standard-Radio Post Photo

# Fredericksburg Standard

November 19, 1986  
 Radio Post

Breitenkamp, Edward C., and Jack Autrey Dabbs, trans. The Church Records of the Pioneer Families of Berlin, Texas. With Editorial Assistance by Janice Curtis Pampell. Bryan and Austin, Texas: Family History Foundation, 1985. viii + 292 pp. \$35.00.

This attractive volume of genealogical and historical information, translated from German into English, contains the records preserved in the Ebenezer Evangelical Lutheran Church of Berlin, Texas. Unfortunately, not all of the church's records from the last century have been retained. The church records covering roughly the period from 1854, when the congregation was first formed, to 1860, and from 1870 to 1890 are contained in Books I, III, and IV. Book II, which contained most of the records from the 1860s, was accidentally destroyed. The records of those troubled years, when many German communities in Texas were passionately divided over secession and loyalty to the Union, cannot be recovered or reconstructed. Their destruction represents a serious loss to genealogists and students of German settlement in Texas.

The church's records are set down in nine major sections: 1) Family Records; 2) Baptisms; 3) Confirmations; 4) Marriages; 5) Deaths; 6) Holy Communion; 7) Congregational Constitutions and Assemblies; 8) Annual Reports, including a membership list for 1859; and 9) Financial Records, including Missionary Accounts, School Tuition, and expense records for Preacher's Salary, and for Firewood. The final entry is the "Rinderknecht Account," a curious one-page record of payments in 1899 chiefly for beer. The volume is concluded by an extensive index to persons and places named in the records. The translators have identified for the user the location of most German towns mentioned by province (Land), district (Regierungsbezirk), county (Kreis), and Kirchspiel.

An examination of the records contained in this volume affords the reader intimate and informative glimpses of pioneer life in Texas in the latter half of the nineteenth century. The financial records depict an era of modest means and expectations: in 1859 the pastor's salary for nine and a half months totaled \$158.33 (p. 183), and in 1876 each male adult member of the congregation pledged to deliver to the church each year one half cord of good firewood (p. 207). The grim severity of life on the Texas frontier, however, is forcefully born out by the records of deaths in the congregation. Pioneer life was particularly difficult for the very young, it seems; of the total seventy-eight deaths recorded, forty-five (58%) were children under ten years of age.

The publication of the records of the Ebenezer Evangelical Lutheran Church of Berlin, Texas, represents a valuable contribution to the genealogical and historical studies of the German Texans. For the descendants of the German settlers of Washington County this book will be a Fundgrube of genealogical information. For the student of Texas history and German settlement in Texas, the publication of these records represents a significant addition to the growing body of archival source material available and easily accessible in print. At the very least, the work of Breitenkamp and Dabbs will enable a future contributor to The Handbook of Texas to depict accurately the history of Berlin, Texas. The current and outdated first edition of the Handbook cites 1864 as the founding date of the community (I, 150). As these records make abundantly manifest, the settlement known as Berlin was a small but thriving community a full decade



earlier. This volume belongs certainly in every college library in Texas, and in all municipal libraries dedicated to building strong genealogical and historical research collections in Texana.

Louis E. Brister  
Southwest Texas State University

RAY MILLER'S TEXAS

## A Trip To The Past: Kreische Brewery State Park

AAA WORLD MARCH/APRIL 1987

*Visit the picturesque ruins of an early Texas brewery.*

BY RAY MILLER

No one now living remembers how good a brewer Henry Kreische was. The hundreds of gallons of beer he served to thirsty Texans were drunk long ago, and the brewery is no longer in operation. But there is plenty of evidence that he was a good stone mason.

The industrious Kreische came to Texas from Saxony in 1846 and went to work as a mason in LaGrange in 1849. He bought 170 acres on a bluff overlooking LaGrange that same year. Kreische

built a home and a brew house on this site above the Colorado River and started brewing beer.

There was plenty of limestone on the site, and Kreische used it extensively in his home and brewery. He was one of the earliest commercial breweries in Texas, and by 1870 it was the third biggest in the state. Kreische maintained a beer garden at the brewery and another one in downtown LaGrange, selling his product to the local farmers and ranchers. But the business declined after 1882, when Kreische was killed by a load of stone falling on him.

Kreische descendants continued to live in the old house till the last one died in 1952, but the brewery was neglected and allowed to fall into ruins. The site was a private resort until the state bought it in 1977 and annexed it to the old Monument Hill State Park.

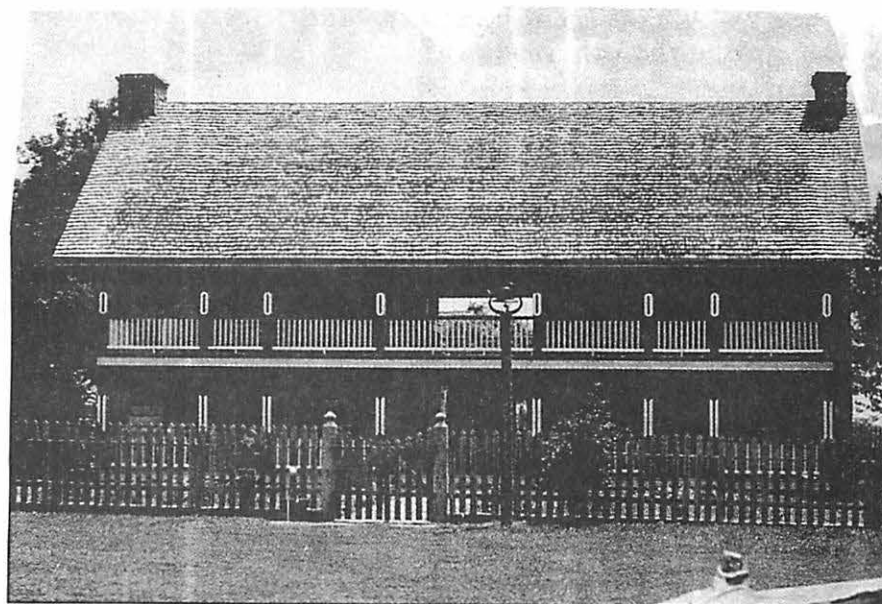
The ruins of the brewery have been stabilized and are no longer in complete decay. Although the house is still under

restoration, the grounds are open and rangers conduct tours of the brewery ruins. They'll explain how Kreische made his beer and tell you stories about the heyday of the brewery.

Monument Hill Park next door is the place where the remains of 52 Texans killed in encounters with the Mexicans in 1842 and 1843 were interred in 1848. Both Monument Hill and the brewery are located off U.S. 77, just south of LaGrange in Fayette County. A tour of the south central Texas bluebonnet county could include side trips to some of the historic sites like the ruins of the old Kreische brewery outside LaGrange.

The main road between LaGrange and Schulenburg passed right by the door in the days when Henry Kreische was brewing and serving beer there. □

*Ray Miller, a contributor of Texas history, can be heard and seen on KTRH/AM and KTRH/TV-Channel 11.*



*The old stagecoach inn at Winedale, east of Round Top, is near the Kreische Brewery; the inn was restored by the late Ima Hogg.*

### Diäterfolg

*"Herr Meyer, Ihre Frau ist aber dünn geworden."*

*"Ja, das verdanken wir einer chinesischen Diät. Sie isst seit vier Wochen nur Hühnerbrühe."*

*"Mit Nudeln?"*

*"Nein, mit Stäbchen!"*

\* \* \*

### Eine Bitte

*Sagt der Tourist zum Passanten: "Bitte helfen Sie mir, ich möchte gerne in den Zoo." — "Als was?"*

\* \* \*

### Züchtungsgeheimnis

*Herr Weber hat die pünktlichsten Brieftauben. Nach dem Geheimnis seines Erfolges gefragt, erklärt er: "Ich kreuze sie mit Papegeien, da können sie unterwegs nach dem Weg fragen!"*

\* \* \*

Lisa Kahn, Tor und Tür. Fotografien von Hans P. Kühne.  
München:Galerie an der Treppe, 1986.  
Kinderwinter. Berlin: Stoedtner-Verlag, 1986.

Lisa Kahn's Tor und Tür is a companion piece to her previous Bäume. The poems are connected by the theme of doors and gates and the volume is beautifully illustrated by the black and white photogaphy of Hans Kühne. Kahn emphasizes the role of doors in the arrivals and departures of life, the everyday life of those who live behind the portals, the symbolic doors of slavery, gender and language.

..... Langsam stossen Frauen die  
Türen auf, Zutritt zur Welt der Männer zu gewinnen.

Und da sind Sprachtüren, die uns isolieren, uns  
von unseren Mitmenschen trennen. Wir können sie  
öffnen, können andere Sprachen lernen; wir können  
auch lächeln, singen, unsere Hände ausstrecken.

Kinderwinter is a more conventional book of poetry. The poems are arranged according to months-- January, February, March and April. They follow a cycle from coldest winter to the awakening of spring and cover a variety of topics from mother-daughter relationships to Kafka's fiance, Caspar David Friedrich to Dachau. To me some of the most effective lyrics are those that concern Kahn's attitudes toward her family in Germany:

.....Wo ist das Kind das-- nun erwachsen--  
bald da sein wird wo jetzt  
die Alten geschwätzig und  
gebrechlich hocken?

To be an adult where once you were a child, to see all the relatives who have aged while you were gone, to meet an extended family when you have long been part of a nuclear one-- we have all experienced this.

These two volumes live up to the high standard we have come to expect from Lisa Kahn. I only have one complaint--I wish Kuhne would have identified the places where he took the photographs for Tor und Tür. My curiosity was aroused and not satisfied.

Hanna B. Lewis

Sam Houston State University

# OUR TEXAS HEROES

## Fredericksburg's son remembered the home folks

**I**t wasn't easy for the commander of the largest armada in United States history to make it home to visit with the folks in Fredericksburg. But Chester W. Nimitz did keep in touch. Every time he flew cross-country, he made sure the pilot flew over the small Hill Country city, and he would drop a cheery note via parachute.

These notes are treasured keepsakes today in Fredericksburg, home of the Admiral Nimitz Center. The center honors the man who was fleet admiral of the U.S. Navy during World War II, commander-in-chief of the Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean area and later chief of naval operations.

Chester Nimitz attended the Naval Academy and, from the time he first served as a submariner in the Pacific, drew immediate attention from his superiors. A quiet man who disliked personal publicity, Nimitz rose quickly in the ranks. It was President Franklin Roosevelt himself who passed over admirals with more seniority to assign Nimitz command of the fleet shattered by the attack on Pearl Harbor. Seven months later Guadalcanal was being added to the U.S. forces' victory roster.

Nimitz always called himself a disciple of the great Japanese Fleet Adm. Heihachiro Togo. Ironically, it was Togo he helped to defeat. After the war, Nimitz returned the swords which the



Chester W. Nimitz

Japanese commanders had surrendered and organized a fund drive to restore the Mikasa, Togo's flagship. Japan in turn donated a "Garden of Peace" to the Admiral Nimitz Center.

Nimitz died at the age of 80 in 1966.

## Revolution in Amerika

Philadelphia (Amerika), gemeine Volkswahl, legitimiert sein.  
4. Juli 1776

Dreizehn englische Kolonien in Amerika haben sich heute von ihrem Mutterland gelöst. In einer vom Kontinentalkongress zu Philadelphia angenommenen Resolution haben sich die Kolonien für unabhängig erklärt. Die von dem jungen Thomas Jefferson aus Virginia verfaßte Erklärung wurde durch einen Kongreßausschuß erarbeitet, dem auch Benjamin Franklin und John Adams angehören. Die Entscheidung ist nichts anderes als eine Revolution und bedeutet den totalen Bruch mit England.

In ihren zentralen Punkten beinhaltet die Resolution drei Grundsätze:

- Alle Menschen besitzen die gleichen, unveräußerlichen Rechte auf Leben, Freiheit und Streben nach Glück.

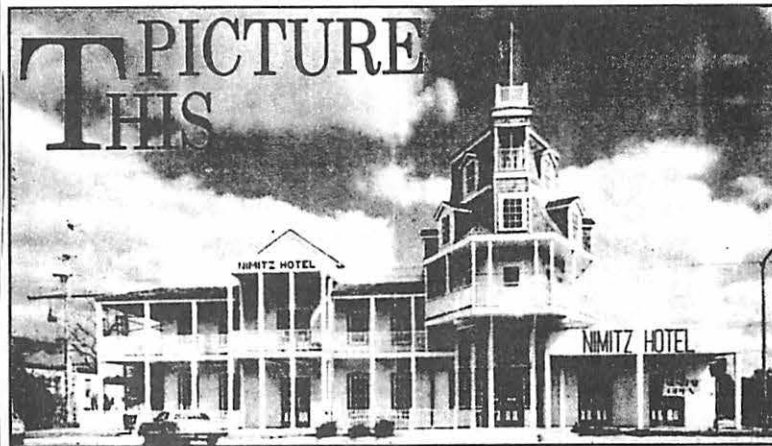
- Die Regierungen müssen demokratisch, also durch all-

Das Volk ist berechtigt, eine Regierungsform, die die Menschenrechte verletzt, zu ändern oder abzuschaffen.

Diese Grundsätze — so heißt es in der Erklärung — seien von der britischen Regierung nicht beachtet worden.

Im Dezember 1773 kam es zur Eskalation, als einige Bostoner Bürger ein britisches Schiff stürmten und 342 Kisten Tee ins Wasser warfen. Diese „Bostoner Teegesellschaft“ führte zu energischen Strafmaßnahmen der ergrimten Briten, woraufhin sich am 5. September 1774 zum ersten Mal die Kolonien zu einem Kongreß zusammenfanden. Sie riefen zum Boykott der englischen Importwaren auf und sandten eine Bittschrift an Georg III. Der englische König war jedoch nicht zu Zugeständnissen bereit und trug somit zur weiteren Verschärfung der Lage bei.

From Texas Women — A Celebration of History



**A**s a child, Adm. Chester Nimitz played in what today is the Admiral Nimitz Center, a naval museum in Fredericksburg. In those days it was dubbed the Steamboat Hotel because the front was constructed to resemble a ship's flying bridge. That was the design chosen by Chester's grandfather, Charles Nimitz, a German ship's captain, who opened the hotel in 1847.

### Ablehnung

Krause hat auf der Party ein nettes Mädchen kennengelernt. "Geben Sie mir Ihre Telefonnummer", bittet er.

Sie lächelt: "999-999".

Krause zuckt die Schultern: "Na, dann eben nicht."

By Ted J. Simon

## From Dugout to Victorian Manse

# Homes Tell the Ranchers' Story

Wearing wide-brimmed Western hats to shade their weather-beaten features, two men stride across the grounds of the Ranching Heritage Center at Lubbock. Their jeans and boots are appropriate for the nearby buildings.

One of the men points to a small bunkhouse and observes, "I worked a spread where there was a line shack that looked a lot like that."

The men, unmistakably, are cowboys, and not of the urban or drug-store variety.

A camera-toting tourist approaches the men. "You two work here?" he asks.

"Nope," one of them replies, "we're visitors, too."

As the cowboys excuse themselves and walk toward a blacksmith's shop, the tourist says to his wife, "I guess they're on a busman's holiday."

His wife counters, "Maybe they see their heritage here."

Every visitor who follows the path winding across the Ranching Heritage Center discovers that heritage and traces the years of a significant era.

Along the path, an impressive collection of structures represents the history of ranching in Texas (and much of the Southwest), from the early 1800s to the early 1900s. Those same years saw ranching in Texas change from open ranges and long trail drives to fenced spreads and cattle shipped by railroad.

Much of that colorful era is reflected in the houses and other structures at the 12-acre ranching center, a Texas Tech University

outdoor museum. More than 24 buildings here originally were located on working ranches in various parts of the state. Since 1970, structures have been moved to the site in Lubbock just north of the Texas Tech campus, where they have been painstakingly restored and furnished.

The buildings range from a primitive log cabin to a large Victorian

*Ted Simon is travel editor of the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal and a free-lance writer and photographer in his spare time.*

house. A pamphlet at the visitor orientation building gives a brief description and history of each major structure. On weekends during the summer, docents relate detailed histories of the buildings and explain how the pioneers used many of the antique pieces in them.

A suggested one-hour self-guided tour starts on a path bordered by earthen berms. The grass-covered hillocks block views of nearby modern surroundings and create individual settings for some of the ranch structures.

The first structure, circa 1838, has more of a "woody Daniel Boone" appearance than a Texas ranch look. With hand-hewn logs and hand-split shingles, the one-room El Capote Cabin is a good example of the earliest Texas ranch architecture. Originally on the Capote Ranch in South Texas near Gonzales, this cabin may have been built by French Smith, a colorful politician of the Texas Republic years.

A boy visiting from San Antonio peers into the cabin and shouts to his parents, "Hey, they forgot the

bed." He takes a second look and asks, "Where's the bed?"

Although the cabin is furnished with a small table and other items, it has no bed. To some of our pioneering ranchers, a bed was considered a luxury that took up too much space. A cowboy using the cabin had to sleep on the floor.

The Hedwig Hill Cabin, a double log cabin of the 1850s built by German immigrants on a hill between Fort Mason and San Antonio, offered considerably more comfort.



Bob Parvin

The 1850 Hedwig Hill Cabin shows visitors at the Ranching Heritage Center the kind of home German immigrants built in the Texas Hill Country.

SCISSORTAILS STILL RETURN TO SCHOENAU, by Geraldine Mittanck Luetge. Dallas: Taylor Publishing Company, 1985. Available from Mrs. Luetge, Rt. 2, Box 143, New Ulm, Tx. 78950. Price: \$38.04 incl. tax and postage.

I usually do not like to read genealogies. Therefore I was surprised to spend an entire Saturday evening recently reading Mrs. Luetge's genealogy of the small town of Schoenau and its inhabitants. Perhaps the title attracted me to the book, since I am myself a bird aficionado. Certainly the last paragraph of Mrs. Luetge's preface to her work vividly recreated in my mind the beautiful, wildflower covered landscape which is typical of Austin County in the spring, and which must have appeared to the Swiss German ancestor, who named the town, as an exotic version of the Au (meadow) in his native country. Or it might have been the fascinating pictures contained in this book which made it so spellbinding. The faces of the people, the details of their houses, the scenes from their work and leisure time all narrate their own stories. Marvelous pictures of stern and sturdy looking women, photographed standing up straight and with their hand on the shoulder of their man sitting down on a chair, tell of their dedication to family, work and endurance. Classic pictures of family men wearing big Mexican-type hats and sporting huge drooping mustaches or full beards transport the reader back to pioneer times. Also, I probably was so engrossed in this genealogy of a town because I knew some of the people: there was Fairy Wittner, granddaughter of one of the "founding fathers" of the German settlements in that area, Charles Fordtran, riding on a horse. She contributed such funny stories to our (Dona Reeves and my) research in Industry. Then there were the pictures of Jesse Buenger, the self-styled historian of Industry, who so generously shared his knowledge with us when we recorded some video film in that area in 1979/80. And the note about the time when Ella Kautz's house was moved to Industry. In any event, I found the book entertaining reading!

But of course this work, since it is about people, also is a major contribution about the history of a German immigrant community and therefore a valuable resource for researchers. Since the information about the families in Schoenau is arranged chronologically in the order in which settlers arrived, it presents fascinating demographic facts. To begin with: the early arrivals appear to have come from areas in Westphalia and Lower Saxony. Is it, in fact, possible that the famous America letter written by Friedrich Ernst, alias Fritz Dirks, the so-called "Father of German Immigration in Texas," did indeed

reach so many people from places not too far removed from his native Oldenburg? In later years, the population of Schoenau began to originate from other places in Germany, including north eastern and southern regions.

Mrs. Luetge lists a black family having been in Schoenau since 1860, the Williams. Their ancestor Henry, initially a slave owned by the Bartels family, chose his former owner's first name as surname after he was freed and given some land. In several other sections of the book the author mentions that German families owned slaves, a fact that is generally denied in the history of the German settlements. A related point is Mrs. Luetge's comment that few doctors were available, that "midwives were used by many women in assisting with births (p. 136)," and that some of the midwives were Nancy Roberson and Dora Ray. Since the Williams family had relatives by the name of Ray, I assume that Dora was a black woman, and probably Nancy also, because the index lists no family for her. My assumption is based also on information from oral history texts from that area concerning black midwives. And then there is the fascinating book I am Annie Mae: An Extraordinary Woman in Her Own Words, collected and edited by Ruthe Winegarten (Austin: Rosegarden Press, 1983), consisting of stories by Annie Mae Hunt, a black woman, whose midwife grandmother lived in Wesley, Austin County.

Another interesting feature of this town's history concerns the present, however. Two current developments are recorded by Mrs. Luetge: in the 1970s "weekend farmers" (to borrow the term from Fairy Wittner) from Houston began to buy up land in Schoenau and its surroundings, even decorating the scenery with the "Schoenau Skyscraper", a home built five stories high, featured in the book with pictures taken from two angles. But more importantly, young married couples purchased land in order to live and work in the country again, thus returning the land to its original purpose. Our previous research had uncovered both of these contemporary demographic features in other German Texan communities of that area.

Other scholarly information in the book concerns the fact that for the social "rituals" in their lives the people of Schoenau made extensive use of their store: here they exchanged the latest information, gathered for singing groups, and even danced in a special little building right behind the store! It is of interest that the first singing group met in the parlor of the impressive house belonging to the Witte family, because I have often wondered just how these urdeutsche gettogethers came about, and whether they were tied to the Saengerhallen and other similar buildings or not. Finally, the book contains the

following marvelous bit of information for myself as a feminist scholar: Fritz Schloemann, owner of 100 acres in Schoenau, died in 1861, leaving his wife, Marie, pregnant with her fourth child and deeply in debt. The entry by Mrs. Luetge announces that Marie "never married again, and in 1873 purchased 200 acres of land with a large house near Wesley from C.G. McGregor and wife (p. 30)." This is of course the stately house purchased by Ima Hogg in 1968 which she moved to and restored at Winedale! Somebody needs to write the story how Mrs. Marie Schloemann, debt-ridden, single, and with four children in 1861, managed her finances with such acumen that she could buy all of that property in 1873. What all is known about this woman who had come as a widow with one child to America in 1857? I would not be surprised if she would turn out to be another matriarch like one of the grandmothers of the Lehmann sisters in Brenham, about whom I reported in my essay the "German- Texan Family," in The Texas Humanist, March/April 1985, (p. 31-33).

Mrs. Luetge's book contains a myriad of seeds for other stories which she herself or other family members might know and which urgently need publishing. I hope that she, as an accomplished journalist, will find time to honor the German Texan Heritage Society Newsletter with the submission of some of her writing now that her major endeavor, to publish this book under review, has been accomplished.

Reviewed by Ingeborg H. Rueberg McCoy, February 1, 1987.

## So alt wie der Film: Pola Negri

Ihre „lauern den Blicke, schwarzum-rändert“, ein „ironisch aufreizendes Lächeln“, „zuckende Gliedmaßen“ und der „Schlangentanz der Arme“, nicht zuletzt die „geheuete Sanftmut und der schnaubende Sinnenterror“ machen unsere Großväter verrückt. Heute ist Pola Negri, der 90jährige Schummelfilmstar, eine Legende — so alt wie der Film: Am 3. Januar hat sie Geburtstag.

Als die Bilder lauten lernten, wurde die Tochter eines ungarischen Zigeuners und einer Polin für den Film entdeckt. Anno 1916 rief Max Reinhardt sie nach Berlin, und Ernst Lubitsch brachte sie zur Ufa, wo sie die Titelfolgen unter anderem in „Madame Dubarry“, „Car-men“, später in der „Kameliendame“ spielte. Damit war der Sprung nach Hollywood vorgezeichnet: in den „Roaring Twenties“ drehte sie in den USA für Trauungsgagen einen Streifen nach dem anderen. Pola war Star in „Schatten von Paris“, „Hotel Stadt Lemberg“ oder „Das verlorene Paradies“. Über ihre Schauspielkünste läßt sich streiten, nicht aber über die erotische Ausstrahlung, die ihrerzeit unübertroffen war.

Was auf uns heute eher alberrn wirkt, das Ekstatische, Exaltierte, machte die Diva zur Sex-Göttin des Stummfilms. Alle Größen der Leinwand wollten sie haben, und tatsächlich hatte sie so begehrte Partner wie Charlie Chaplin und Rudolfo Valentino an ihrer Seite. Vielbeneidet und vielumschwärmt, setzte sie auch in puncto Mode Akzente. Laut eigener Aussage hat sie die roten Fußhügel, den Turban und hohe Stiefel für Frauen „erfunden“.

Pola Negris Erinnerungen sind sowohl film- als auch zeitgeschichtlich

— Dienstag, 30. Dezember 1986

Rheinische Post



Vamp anno 1935: Pola Negri in „Mazurka“.

interessant: ihre Rückkehr nach Deutschland im schwarzbraunen Jahr 1935, ihre mehrfachen Begegnungen mit Adolf Hitler, der mißlungene Comeback-Versuch in den USA. Alle Erfolge in Deutschland gerieten bald in Vergessenheit, und obwohl Pola Negri auch als reife Frau reizvoll war, blieb sie lange Zeit ohne Rolle. Eine Reihe von Selbstmordversuchen war die Reaktion auf das Vergessenwerden. Aber schließlich raffte sie sich wieder auf: „Ich habe zwei Weltkriege, vier Revolutionen und fünf Ehemänner überlebt“, sagte Pola Negri in ihrem letzten Film „The Moonspinners“, der in den sechziger Jahren von Walt Disney gedreht wurde. Sie hat auch zwei weitere Jahrzehnte überlebt eingebettet im Luxus ihres Apartments in San Antonio (Texas), geachtet als Aufsichtsratsmitglied des städtischen Synchronie-Orchesters und Sponsorin der Universitäten St. Mary und Trinity. Für die anderen ist sie seit langem von der Bildfläche verschwunden, ist ein Stück Erinnerung. **Angela Corte**

**German Methodism in New Braunfels:****A new look at the 1870s**

by Lauren Kattner

(copyright 1987)

The history of the Methodist Church in New Braunfels is currently being written with a firm basis on its origins in the Methodist-Episcopal, South, Rio Grande Mission Conference. Yet, another, more elusive, story remains: that of Methodists who chose to be affiliated with the Northern branch of Methodism. Knowing more about the Northern branch in a location where Anglo-Americans were in the minority moves us toward an understanding of the connection between religion and assimilation in the nineteenth century.

By 1870, Northeastern Anglo-Americans had been accepted into German-Texan society at New Braunfels because they had met specific economic needs within the community. John Torrey, for example, was highly influential in the early factory industrialization of New Braunfels. In contact with German-Texans at church as well as at places of business, and married to a German-Texan woman, he had ample opportunities to discuss new technology. Torrey installed a horse-powered corn mill during his first year in residence in 1846. Using water, he opened a grist and saw mill--one of fourteen in the state--three years later. He made contacts with his family and friends in Connecticut and left New Braunfels by 1850 to get his father. While away from the town, Torrey was influenced by new trends in mechanization. Upon Torrey's return, William H. Merriwether, a Southern planter, installed a water-powered cotton gin, and flour, grist, and saw mills; Torrey built a three-story sash, blind, and door factory, one of four in Texas. During the Civil War, when paper, cloth, and yarn were at a premium in the South, Torrey's influence extended into manufacturing of these items. Dr. Theodor Koester, for example, converted his distillery into a woolen yarn factory using steam-powered machinery. Using the financial backing of the German-Texan Runge Brothers of Indianola to implement Parr Curtis spinning and weaving machines, Torrey added cotton cloth manufacturing to his list of



factories. By 1870, 46.6 per cent of the 15 known factories and mills in New Braunfels were owned by resident German-Texans. All but one of the owners had known Torrey prior to 1850; most were originally craftworkers who owned acre-lots. Moreover, most of the other factory owners had migrated to New Braunfels from Torrey's home state after his arrival.

Factory industrialization was an integrating force that brought German-Texans in greater contact with Northeasters. Torrey's sash and blind company hired men aged 30 to 50, mainly, German-Texan joiners and carpenters. The Comal Cotton Manufacturing Company, chartered eight years later, used 25 to 40 middle-aged northeastern and German-Texan men, and a handful of Negro children. Three years later, the New-Braunfels Woolen Manufacturing Company attracted young German-Texan women in their mid-teens and German-Texan men in their mid-twenties, and New Englanders as well. Sixty per cent of the employees lived in two houses near the factory.

Although Northeastern Yankees fit into the social order of New Braunfels' town center, Southerners did not. Not only were most Southerners in Comal County holding rural jobs by 1870, but also, they still identified themselves with the Confederacy and the ideology of slavery. The tension between Southerner and middle-class German-Texan was most clearly illustrated in conflicts within the Methodist-Episcopal church. Whereas upper class German-Texans had owned slaves, the myth that all German-Texans were abolitionists was perpetuated by the skilled and unskilled artisans and craftworkers who had no economic use for slaves. Moreover, non-German Methodist-Episcopalians in New Braunfels had no slaves. Yet Anglo-American church administrators, many of whom had been officers or soldiers in the Confederate army, encouraged German-Texan ministers to preach about "how skillfully they should beat the Yankees, who wanted to rob [most Southerners] of their negro slaves. . . ." Rev. Julius Urbantke, a preacher in East-Central Texas, wrote in his journal: "[S]lavery had been abolished, but among the people of the South, it lived on. The North had robbed [them] of [their] labor, that being the opinion of the South. Our German people simply said, 'We do not want to belong to such a church any more'" (J. Urbantke, 27-28). A movement to separate from the Southern Methodist-Episcopal branch, and

to join the Methodist-Episcopal's northern faction, began in 1867 in the vicinity of the Nassau Farm and reached New Braunfels in 1871. By 1870, German-Texans had already begun to leave the Southern branch at a rate of about 15.4 per cent per year following the Civil War.

Christening, confirmation, and communion documents for the Northern branch in New Braunfels surely existed, but as yet, they have not been located. However, Comal County marriage records of the 1870s, linked to censuses, provide some details of the growing flock which Rev. Wm. Felsing and Rev. Carl Urbantke (Jul's brother) shepherded. Young, farming families with mixed Nassau-Alsace marriages, and Texas-born young women of Alsatian descent tended to join the Northern branch. Like their Northeastern counterparts, the young ladies were wool factory workers who came from middle-class farming families. The origins of these people indicate that not only Southern Methodists, but also former Catholics joined the Northern branch of Methodism. Perhaps the Northern branch provided mixed families a compromise.

Given the material at hand, one can see that Southern administrators tried to use the Methodist-Episcopal, South church as a tool for forming a German-Southern identity among Central Europeans after the Civil War, but in the Hill Country and among town residents, they were not successful. There, German-Texans as a group had less personal contact with Southerners--less so as one moved deeper into West Texas. In industrializing towns like New Braunfels, young people developed friendships with Northeastern Yankees who shared similar social and economic interests. Additional information such as journals, diaries, and letters could clarify the role of friendship patterns when youths from German, Yankee, and Southern backgrounds interacted with one another.

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## Die deutschen Vorfahren der Comic-Strips

Unter den zahlreichen Erfindungen Amerikas gelten die Comics vielleicht als die amerikanischste. Doch schon eine der ersten "echten" Comicserien verweist mit dem Titel "Katzenjammer Kids" auf Deutschland. In der Tat sind deutsche und europäische Einflüsse nicht ganz unbeteiligt an der Entstehung der Comics.

Der Schweizer Rodolphe Toepfer (1799-1846), dessen "Bilderromane" schon Goethe lobte, und Wilhelm Busch (1832-1908), dessen "Max und Moritz" anfangs von Pädagogen in Deutschland ebenso attackiert wurde wie hundert Jahre später die Comic-Hefte, waren Mitte des 19. Jahrhunderts Vorläufer des neuen Mediums. Busch und viele Autoren der zahllosen europäischen Bilderbogen benutzen schon manche der zeichnerischen Mittel, die auch für die "komischen Streifen" unserer Tage noch cha-

rakteristisch sind.

Selbst humoristische Wochenendbeilagen, die Wiege der Comics, waren nicht auf amerikanische Zeitungen beschränkt. So hatte zum Beispiel das *Neue Münchener Tagblatt* schon um 1890 jede Woche die mit Witzen und Bildgeschichten gefüllte achtseitige Beilage "Münchener Humoristische Blätter". In einer ähnlichen Zeitungsbeilage des *New York Journal* von William Randolph Hearst (1863 bis 1951) erschienen am 12. Dezember 1897 auch erstmalig die "Katzenjammer Kids", die in zweierlei Hinsicht deutsche Eltern haben: Zum einen entstanden sie, weil Hearst eine Übersetzung von "Max und Moritz" gelesen hatte und etwas Ähnliches als Attraktion im harten Konkurrenzkampf mit Joseph Pulitzers (1847-1911) *New York World* suchte. Zum anderen war Rudolph Dirks, der die Er-

gebnisse von Hans und Fritz zeichnete, 1877 in Deutschland geboren worden und 1884 mit seiner Familie in die USA gekommen.

Seit 1912 gibt es die mit starkem deutschen Akzent sprechenden "Katzenjammer Kids" doppelt, weil Dirks von der Konkurrenz abgeworben wurde. Hearst durfte laut Gerichtsbeschluss die Serie unter dem ursprünglichen Titel mit einem anderen Zeichner weiterproduzieren, während Dirks die Figuren unter dem Titel "The Captain and the Kids" ebenfalls weiterzeichnete.

Amerikanische Zeitungsverleger hatten in den Comics ein Mittel entdeckt, neue Leser anzulocken. Doch um die Jahrhundertwende waren in den Vereinigten Staaten noch nicht genügend Zeichner verfügbar, die das neue Medium beherrschten. So suchte James Keely von der *Chicago Tribune* 1905 in Berlin Mitarbeiter für die sonntäg-

liche Comicsbeilage. Anfang 1906 stiess er auf einen in Amerika aufgewachsenen Sohn deutschstämmiger Eltern, der eigentlich Musiker werden sollte, nun aber in Hamburg und Berlin als Zeichner lebte: Lyonel Feininger (1871-1956). Von März bis Spätsommer 1906 zeichnete Feininger für die *Chicago Tribune* insgesamt 47 Seiten der Serien "The Kin-der-Kids" und "Wee Willie Winkie's World". In den "Kin-der-Kids" arbeitete er comic-üblich mit Sprechblasen, bei "Wee Willie Winkie" in der eher europäischen Tradition einer Trennung von Bild und Text.

Feiningers Comics sind Vorboten seines künstlerischen Werkes. Sie verdeutlichen, was man in Europa erst langsam zu erkennen beginnt: Dass Comics von Künstlern herrschten. So suchte James Keely von der *Chicago Tribune* 1905 in Berlin Mitarbeiter für die sonntäg-

liche Comicsbeilage. Anfang 1906 stiess er auf einen in Amerika aufgewachsenen Sohn deutschstämmiger Eltern, der eigentlich Musiker werden sollte, nun aber in Hamburg und Berlin als Zeichner lebte: Lyonel Feininger (1871-1956). Von März bis Spätsommer 1906 zeichnete Feininger für die *Chicago Tribune* insgesamt 47 Seiten der Serien "The Kin-der-Kids" und "Wee Willie Winkie's World". In den "Kin-der-Kids" arbeitete er comic-üblich mit Sprechblasen, bei "Wee Willie Winkie" in der eher europäischen Tradition einer Trennung von Bild und Text.

Feiningers Comics sind Vorboten seines künstlerischen Werkes. Sie verdeutlichen, was man in Europa erst langsam zu erkennen beginnt: Dass Comics von Künstlern herrschten. So suchte James Keely von der *Chicago Tribune* 1905 in Berlin Mitarbeiter für die sonntäg-

# Historical Footnotes



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## OUR HERITAGE-LANGUAGE, GERMAN

At Concordia Historical Institute we are surrounded by the Germanness of our past: thousands of German books, certificates, and letters. Nevertheless, many of our people, even those who speak German, seem unaware of the great value of German and do not realize what our children will lose if they lose all acquaintance with the language of their forebears. Such acquaintance is crucial for an understanding of our heritage and for the study of family and church history. And in general, we Americans need to know languages in today's small world. One way of coping with this problem is for each of our varied ethnic groups to foster the knowledge of its own heritage-language among the young. Not all of us can learn Polish, for example, but if those among us of Polish ancestry learn it, they will not only help themselves understand their heritage, they will perform a valuable national service. If each ethnic group does the same, we will have a great pool of knowledge of other languages and other peoples--a critical resource for international understanding and the preservation of peace.

Of course, German is not the only heritage-language of our Synod: Slavs and others joined us, sometimes taking on the German language in the process, sometimes continuing their own language. But the synod continued to be overwhelmingly German, and German is our main heritage-language. Moreover, beyond its heritage value, German continues to be one of the most important languages of the world, in which much of the world's knowledge is stored. To be well-educated one should know German as well.

Acquaintance with our heritage can broaden our lives in many other ways, also. We will be reminded, for example, that the dream of freedom offered by America included not only the priceless freedom of religion, guaranteed by the separation of church and state, but it also offered another freedom, which some people today seem to have forgotten: the freedom to speak one's language. English was accepted as the language of the government and of the majority, but this did not mean that everyone had to use it. Most immigrants came and settled in groups, intent on continuing their native language, their religion, and their customs. America was a colorful quilt of different peoples and different languages--but all loyal Americans. Sometimes when we hear mutterings against the use of Spanish or Vietnamese by our current immigrant groups, we should remember that our own group used German for over a hundred years. America is bigger than the English language.

We have an obligation to see to it that our young people understand the importance of their heritage-language and have an opportunity to study it. If they then stand uncomprehending before an inscription in stone, and it is in Greek, they may be forgiven--but not if it is their grandmother's German gravestone.

Joseph Wilson, Member  
Board of Governors

A.A.Z. Nov. 1850

T E X A S

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As a result of advertisements, to date, the preliminary announcement of organized travel to Texas early next year to: GALVESTON & INDIANOLA makes good progress and as soon as a sufficient number is reached, I will invite your definite application with a circular notice and name the ship designated for this trip. A number of letters leave doubt WHETHER THE FAMILIES WISH TO LAND AT GALVESTON OR INDIANOLA (emphasis in original). I must therefore ask that in future letters this is to be definitely stated. That every proper and convenient expectation of the passengers shall be satisfied will be my main intention.

The greatest difficulties for emigrants to western Texas have heretofore been that direct ship travel there has been lacking, and the trip from Galveston to Indian Point has cost at least 15 Reichsthaler extra per head. This extra expense of the trip and the great labor, difficulty and disadvantages, which ensue by a two and three time reloading of baggage have caused many emigrants not to reach their real desired goal. Those, however, who went anyway have often used up their last resources. This great problem can be solved by a direct trip to Indianola. (Compare the testimony of 35 of the most respected German settlers in Texas in issue No. 90, of this newspaper).

RUDOLSTADT, (Thuringia), end November 1850.

G. FROEBEL

Translated by: Bernard F. Kneuper

from Allgemeine Auswanderer-Zeitung, Nov. 1850

(1)



## TEXAS.

In Folge meiner bisherigen Anzeige haben die vorläufigen Anmeldungen zu einer Frühjahr-Expedition nach

### GALVESTON & INDIANOLA

ihren guten Fortgang, und sobald dieselben eine genügende Anzahl erreicht haben, werde ich mittelst Circular-Bericht zur definitiven Anmeldung besonders einladen, und das für diese Expedition gewonnene Schiff bezeichnen. Mehrere Briefe lassen es zweifelhaft, ob die betr. Familien in Galveston oder in Indianola zu landen wünschen. Ich muß daher bitten, bei ferneren Anmeldungen dieß gleich ganz bestimmt auszudrücken. Darauf, daß jeder gerechten und billigen Erwartung der Passagiere Genüge geschehe, wird mein Haupt-Augenmerk gerichtet sein.

Für Auswanderer nach dem westlichen Texas hat bisher die größte Schwierigkeit darin bestanden, daß es an directer Schiffsgelegenheit dorthin gefehlt und die Reise von Galveston nach Indianpoint mindestens 15  $\mathcal{R}$ . Extrakosten pr. Kopf verursacht hat. Diese Werthbeurung der Reise, und die enormen Anstrengungen - Schwierigkeiten und Nachtheile, welche mit einem 2-3-maligen Umladen des Gepäcks verbunden sind, haben viele Emigranten gar nicht ans Ziel ihrer Wünsche gelangen lassen, diejenigen aber, die es durchsetzten, nicht selten ihrer letzten Mittel beraubt. Diesem großen Uebelstande wird durch directe Fahrt nach Indianola abgeholfen. (Vergl. das Zeugniß von 35 der geachteten deutschen Ansiedler in Texas in N<sup>o</sup> 90 dieß. Ztg.)

Rudolstadt, Ende November 1850.

G. FROEBEL.

## From BREMEN to GALVESTON

(From the "Deutsche Auswanderer Zeitung")

Galveston on board the "NEPTUN", December 10, 1856

(A.W.) Coming from the banks of the Vistula, I arrived on Sept. 29th last fall in Bremen with the feeling of one who had the idea to leave behind the German fatherland for a long time, Perhaps forever, and to find a new home in the far west. The venerable old Hansa city with narrow streets often only as wide as a vestibule, its oriel windows projecting from the upper stories, but above all the City Hall covered all over with wood carving and its colonnade and world famous Rathskeller, made a strong impression on the observer. Especially Pleasant was the kind, friendly and helpful manner of the People in Bremen who still have the sense of freedom which seems to run through them from the first merchant to the most simple craftsman. This is especially appreciated by someone who has for a long time lived in the eastern Part of the Prussian monarchy where a mixed Population of two hostile Peoples have an unedifying, most selfish unGerman character.

After a stay of a few days I left the Hansa city, which I had come to like, on a steamer to go to Bremerhaven to board the bark NEPTUN where I took a Place in the first cabin. There was a lot of Pushing and shoving on the steamer which was completely occupied by emigrants and their baggage. With the rainy uncomfortable weather, the monotonous scene on shore was broken only by the charming almost romantic town of Vegesack. After a seven hour trip we reached Bremerhaven at dusk, and the following noon the Passengers went on board ship where they received a friendly welcome by Captain Devers. The first cabin contained a family from the higher ranks of society that was leaving Germany to live in Texas according to nature and their Pleasure which they had always tried to do without success in their homeland. The travellers in the second cabin were a well to do farmer from Baden with his wife and child; a Bohemian, a singular character who was the object of jokes of the young generation during the whole trip; a little old mother from Pomerania who was travelling alone to her son in Texas and a Dane who was a former officer of the English foreign legion that was going to Mexico. There is no between decks on the NEPTUN because there is 6" less than the legal limit in height in that hold. This was the company of travellers. Then there was the Captain, who was honesty and hospitality itself, who did everything to be helpful to everyone especially the ladies; and, as was the Captain, so were the officers and the crew except for the steward who was always in a bad humor. I never had the opportunity to notice a curse or a vulgar word.

Just as with the leadership and the crew, one could be satisfied with the fare, both in the first as well as the second cabin. However, I would advise later travellers to bring along some raspberry vinegar, lemons, or such to take away the flat taste of the water and for steerage and between decks Passengers to bring along some sugar for their tea and coffee if they are used to it for they will not receive any on board ship. Further, since I am giving advice, bring along soap that will lather in sea water for their bath. The laundry can be done with ordinary soap as it is done with rain water collected for that Purpose.

But back to our trip, which was to last longer than all of us

expected. With the dawning of the morning -the 4th of October- we put out into the high seas. The NEPTUN Proudly cut through the foaming waves of the North Sea and soon we had lost sight of our homeland over which the sun rose in an overcast sky. Wangerooze and Norderney (The Frisian Islands) flew past us and soon we saw nothing but the surface of the heaving sea, the grey northern sky above us and here and there some seagulls which coasted over the waves with their long wings. Such poetic thoughts were soon unpleasantly broken with the breaking out of seasickness. First, it got the ladies and not long after the men. The heaving and rocking of the ship was unbearable and added to it was the unpleasant smell of tar. After being gripped by strong nausea there followed vomiting with much distress and strain. One gets tired and weary with no remedy. One should take care not to worsen ones condition by drinking water or eating fatty food. The best thing is to eat dry zwieback, above all to use will power against it, not to give in to enervation, nor lie down in ones bunk, but remain active on the deck. Some of the Passengers remained completely unaffected, but most of the others had it during the entire trip when the sea ran high.

In the night from the 7th to the 8th of October, we entered the (English) channel. We had a strong storm the night before. In the channel it was a beautiful fog free day: to the left we saw France; to the right the chalk cliffs of old England rose above the waves.

With the Isle of Wight we took leave of Europe forever and steered out into the endless ocean not to see anything for a long time, but land and sea, now and then a sail on the horizon, here and there some seagulls, Porpoises merrily jumping around the ship sometimes by the thousands, or huge whales and, later in southern latitudes, colorful dolphins and flying fish in great numbers. We were delayed for three weeks by unfavorable winds in the stormy bay of Biscay and then at the Azores. Finally on the 2nd of November, we reached the sought after latitude of Madeira and celebrated the happy occasion with the sharp wine of this island and in the evening with dancing on the deck. There was the deep blue sky above the shining sea and the twinkling of stars. It was a lovely evening like most in these latitudes while the heat of the day often went up to 93 degrees Fahrenheit. We gave ourselves over to high hopes as we were near the region of the trade winds and could reckon with good sailing, but in vain. Until the 21st of November we had only three days of trade winds, and weak ones at that, something rare in this region which even puzzled the Captain for he had never had this happen on any of his previous trips. Finally on the night of the 22nd, the desired northeaster arose and now we were off at fast speed for Santo Domingo which gave us a happy feeling when we sighted it on the 25th--like Columbus and his men at Guanahani (San Salvador). At fast speed we went to the coast of Haiti, its blue mountains easily seen on the horizon, past Tortuga, past the coast of Cuba and we left the notorious Cayman Islands to the south. The most beautiful summer weather favored us along the coast of the West Indies. We came as close as a rifle shot to Cape San Antonio across from Yucatan. It was a beautiful long missed view, this hilly tree covered coast. A fresh breeze carried the scent of the land over to us. Oh, how I would have liked to take a walk under the coconut palms and oleander bushes; how much I would have liked to enter the small house which lay in our view on a small bay! A team of oxen drove from it into the near woods and two fishing boats bobbed about in the bay surrounded by the green fields. Farther off, toward the cape, clearly seen on the horizon, the slim white lighthouse rose from the green hill on which several handsome houses stood out. All too fast the beautiful coast vanished from our sight. We passed through the Strait of Yucatan into the Gulf of Mexico

and hoped to reach the longed for Galveston in three days, but how sorely were we to be disappointed!

We hardly had the Caribbean Sea and the Strait of Yucatan behind us when the Texas winter with its icy north wind and its rain showers greeted us. The strong norther (as the Americans call these storms) turned the ship around and around and whipped the wild towering waves which threw the rolling vessel to and fro like a ball. The fury of the storm had hardly laid down when the wind had shifted to the northeast. We had come to about 26 miles from the bar at Galveston when the icy cold storm from the north, with renewed stronger fury, came back and drove us around in the Gulf while so close to the Texas coast. The norther lasted eight days and they were days of fear and expectation. Finally, it was on the 9th of December and a mild foggy morning after a lovely moonlit night, when we arrived at the bar which lies before the harbor at Galveston. It allows entry only to ships with shallow draft. There lay the flat Texas coast washed by the yellow and cloudy waves of the Gulf and there the city spread out with its forest of masts. Our hearts beat higher in our breasts and with happy feelings after the long sea voyage, we greeted the friendly beckoning shore. Only a short time separated us from our desired goal, beautiful Texas, which the natives proudly call a Paradise.

(3) From Allgemeine Auswanderer -Zeitung Aug. 7, 1852  
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TWENTY DAYS IN GALVESTON  
1852  
(From Deutsche Auswanderer-Zeitung)  
Issue of 30 Nov. 1857 Page 375

All the passengers of the "NEPTUN" were assembled on deck to greet the Texas coast after a long hard voyage. What different feelings might beat in their breasts. From the flat bleak coast, which was marked by the foam of the breaking waves forming a line, the eye turned to the long hoped for harbor, which was seen in the pleasant glow of the rising sun. The "NEPTUN" came ever closer toward the wooden wharves that stretched out between the forest of masts, from which there waved, besides the star spangled banner of the union, the flags of many nations. Between the ships, small skiffs bobbed to and fro and splendid steamboats with their high decks, covered galleries and glassed in steering cabins, resembling swimming country houses, sped past us. A ship coming from Houston down the bayou, came the monotonous, almost sad sounding song of the blacks. It came over to us. They were in the open lower deck between the bales of cotton with their overseer and above sat a pale young woman caught in a gaze at the city and at her feet a fantastically clad negress with her gleaming white teeth and coral lips smiling up at her mistress.

It was a colorful, lively picture, full of life and action, and between the masts, skiffs and flags, lay the city in apparent quiet. It is alive in my memory with the shining, colors, mostly however white houses and the many flat roofs from a distance like Italian villas surrounded by greenery, also the stone houses on the seashore, in a pale reflection, reminded one of the proud lagoon washed city of the Doges. The whole picture was filled with the blue sweet-smelling haze that is only found in the south.

The "NEPTUN" had barely tied up when the officer from the Customhouse came aboard, then the passengers received permission to go on land while leaving their baggage on board. I hurried down the swaying gang-plank, to the wharf and into the city. It was on the 10th of December when I first set foot on American soil - an unforgettable day! The sky was covered with dark clouds, a few bolts of lightning flashed on the horizon and distant thunder was heard; but that did not prevent me from continuing my wandering through the city, which did not, in my mind leave the same impression that it gave from a distance. With the exception of a few stone houses, mostly on the shore, and some churches, most of the houses were made of lumber, always of course painted with the most lively colors and often in the most startling shapes with verandas, balconies, covered galleries, etc. added. The streets which the sea often floods with water, are unpaved and pigs squeeze between mulattos, negroes, hurriedly moving craftsmen, businessmen, slowly strolling dandies, high spirited street youths and between all of them roll heavy carriages and light buggies, often driven by elegant ladies. One sees on the streets near the sea, many houses being built according to a new ordinance made in the city, all being put up in stone. The stores are next to each other and the finest luxury items are spread out beside the most trifling goods for ordinary use; among these the fruit of all zones are attractively displayed, the northern apples and the coconuts, oranges and bananas of the south. As you come farther into the city you see the Tremont House, the best hotel, which has a lovely southern character. The streets are planted, in part, with young chinaberry trees now leafless and hanging full of gold brown berries. Houses resembling Italian villas, rise attractively above the green southern shrubs. The bright broadleaved banana plants grow among the darker orange trees, laden with fruit. Between the fruit trees thrive oleander and blooming rose bushes and above them tower the exotic palm in a picturesque manner. Here in the upper part of the city are also the churches of the various confessions; the simple plain

church of the Protestant congregation, those of the Baptists, Methodists etc., and also the tall stone Catholic house of worship, in which I later saw all the pomp of the Roman cult being displayed. A new one was being built; it was in Gothic style and with such grand dimensions that it would have shone in any large city. I believe that I can describe the over-all impression that Galveston made on me if I compare it with a suburb of a capital city of a ruling prince with fine villas and gardens full of rare plants.

In the meantime, the thunderstorm had come closer; the peals of thunder became louder, the bolts of lightning flashed more brightly; - finally the rain poured down in torrents. I fled into a large store, the owner was a German. Here I met the pastor of the German Evangelical-Lutheran community, Preacher W...dt a free, open and cultured man, free of any kind of zealotry. I had a very pleasant conversation with him. He spoke a lot and warmly of Texas, of the climate, which he declared to be one of the finest in the world; but one had to take care about taking a cold and not work too much in the sun. It was the same here as in North Africa, where an Arab once told him - "Frank\*, do you want to know why you get so sick here and die? I will tell you - because here you won't do as we do; on our head we wear the turban and around the body the shawl wrapped around a number of times". One has to keep the head and stomach warm. The Indian also, when he lies down to sleep, wraps his head with a woolen cover to protect it from the effect of the cool of night and the dew; the rest of his body which he curls up is left uncovered. I also thank this man for the following statistic reports, the accuracy of which I convinced myself elsewhere in the following days.

Galveston counts about 8000 inhabitants, among them 4000 Americans, 3000 Germans, 1000 colored. The German element is preponderant. There is a German club and a German turner society that are flourishing, also dances (balls) and a romantic theater. On the first night of my stay "The Robbers"x was presented. Unfortunately it was not possible for me to see this "Robbery of Art". Otherwise, as a rule the posters on the street corners advertised the "unforgettable" Kotzebue. There also appears a German newspaper "Die Union" to represent the interests of Democracy and the Germans. Concerning personal life, there is above all great safety for one's person and property. Merchants wares are left all night long on the streets. Theft is something rare. Beggars who are often a bother in Europe, are not found here at all.

When the winter thunderstorm died down, night had arrived. I set out on my way home through the dark streets. Light only came from the stores, from the hotels and the pastry shops shone lanterns, as street lighting is unknown in this happy Galveston. Wandering through mud and water puddles I went to the shore to spend my last night on the "NEPTUN" in my berth of which I had long had enough. There I found out that the family in whose company I had travelled, had rented a house for us and the next day was set for preparing it. It was one of those houses, already mentioned, in the upper part of the city, a small frame house painted with white oil paint with green jalousies before the doors and windows, in front a small garden was separated from the street by a white fence. Two orange trees and two arbor vitae shaded the entry and before that were a group of rose and oleander bushes. At the one gable side there was a balcony, unfortunately in disrepair, and a honeysuckle bower, which still showed, here and there, a few blossoms, also a fig tree with a few figs. Through a bower one came to the garden in the rear in which there were several vegetable beds, which however were neglected and were covered with rank fig shoots. Here was also the covered cistern shaded by a leafless tree. Wells and springs are not known on

\* "FRANK-FERENGI" - Moslem term for European Christians.

x "The Robbers" - "Die Rauber" - play by Schiller.

Galveston island - here there is only saltwater. We soon had the house arranged, cozy in the German fashion and our days went by swiftly. We used our ample leisure time to go through the island with our guns, this dead bare prairie, on which no tree pleases the eye, only here and there olean-der and rank thorny scrubs grow. Ducks, geese and snipes were our only bag.

Soon Christmas came along, but it didn't seem so to me; I missed the ice and snowfields of the north. Here the breeze blew balmy and mild, as at home in the beginning of summer; the roses bloomed and gave their fragrance, the orange trees and the bayonet palm stood in their foreign dark green and only the plantain was wilted - its leaves were frozen for in the night before, we had a strong norther, which made the thermometer fall from 90' to 29' Fahrenheit.

Toward evening, the anticipating youth in the streets, on the Gulf of Mexico just as on the banks of the Spree, acted with wild enthusiasm and revelry with the passersby; here and there shots were fired to heighten the joy of the feast, when one of the young people from the family from the "NEPTUN" brought the news that the entire city was in a state of alarm, and the ships were preparing to defend themselves because a serious plot by the negroes had been discovered that spread all over Texas. The blacks, angered over the stringent laws passed against them by the legislature, wanted to riot tonight and set the city on fire. Was this humbug, or was this news the truth, or only greatly exaggerated? - we did not know. Unacquainted with the conditions in this country, just recently arrived from Europe, whose reading public had not long ago had its skin made crawl by Beecher-Stowe about the horrors of slavery, we, at first, were thrown into confusion. In our minds we saw all those scenes, once experienced in San Domingo, but the thing to do was to be resolute and act. We loaded our guns and prepared to defend ourselves, and await the things that would come to pass. The evening really had been set aside to visit the church to see the presenting of Christmas presents to the children, which preacher W. had invited us to attend. The Germans have brought this beautiful custom along over the ocean from home and that increases this pleasant illusion; what the heart almost forgets is that the endless ocean washes between here and the shores of the fatherland, and that here one cannot as in the south of Europe or in Naples for instance, use the laurel to replace our northern fir, - no, the same tree also grows in the deep south of the United States, only the local Texas fir (pine) has a softer green like the first buds of spring, a color other than dark green of the north. This visit was called off because of the more important threatening circumstances. But the calm in the streets was conspicuous, ladies promenaded back and forth, all shops were open and here and there the candle lights of a Christmas tree shimmered through the windows of a German family's home. Almost completely calmed down by this observation, we looked up our lodgings, and slept through this ominous night in spite of "Uncle Tom" and the blacks in Haiti. On the next day we learned that this uprising of the negro population was planned, but was already suppressed in its beginning, however it was not a general uprising of revenge against the whites, but the plot, as was the case a year ago in Columbus, Texas, was only against the stores. Namely, the legislature had passed a law that no shot, powder and the like could be sold to a negro. However the merchants disregarded this decision, then came the following law: "The storekeeper who sells a negro anything, no matter what it may be, if he does not have a note from his master that empowers him to buy, shall be punished". Since the negroes now could not buy anything, they became angry against the storekeepers and plotted revenge.

On the 28th. of December, I left Galveston on the very large steamer "Charles Morgan" for Powderhorn, to travel from there into the country. I was glad that I did not land there in those times when the mosquitoes plagued poor mortals and Yellow-Fever celebrates its funerals.

From newspaper acquired by: Albert J. Blaha, Sr. Houston, Texas.

Translated by: Bernard F. Kneuper, San Antonio, Texas

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**Feiner Unterschied**

"Na, geht es Ihnen wieder gut?"  
 "Gut nicht, aber besser."  
 "Ist doch gut, wenn es Ihnen besser geht."  
 "Aber besser wäre es, wenn es mir gutginge!"  
 \* \* \*



Leola Tiedt shows the 100-year-old Samplers she and her husband will give their three grandchildren for Christmas. In the background is their Christmas tree decorated in an unusual manner.

The Banner Press Newspaper, Thursday, December 25, 1986

# Tiedt children to receive 'special gift'

## Parents to give century old samplers

By MARJORIE LAWSON  
 Banner Press Staff

LA GRANGE—Leola and Otto Tiedt, 510 N. Franklin in La Grange, will give a special gift to each of their three grandchildren this year.

They are Mark Tiedt, 27, and Barry, 25, both of Houston and Sharon Tiedt Gabriel, 22, of Nacogdoches.

They will each receive a framed sampler of a quilt block made 100 years ago. On the back of each frame appears the following message.

"Sesquicentennial Christmas 1986. Your great, great grandmother, Mrs. Fritz (Fredericke Helms) Havemann made this quilt block 100 years ago. She was the mother of your great grandmother, Mrs. William (Emilie Havemann) Tiedt.

"The quilt block was given to your grandmother Mrs. Otto (Leola Kiel) Tiedt in 1933. This was during the depression. She dyed white feed sacks red and used them in this block with others to make a cover for a worn out quilt.

"Your father, L. O. Tiedt, used this quilt for a pallet under the farm-wagon put at the end of a field row. Here he stayed while your grandparents, Otto and Leola Tiedt, worked in the field chopping corn and chopping and picking cotton.

"Your grandfather, Otto Tiedt, framed the sampler.

"This on this Sesquicentennial Christmas we are giving you 100 years of Tiedt's working and living as your heritage present. Otto and Leola Tiedt."

Besides the unique Christmas gifts, Mrs. Tiedt also has decorated her Christmas tree this year in a most unique manner.

She used as ornaments, a colorful collection of jewelry she received as gifts from her students during the 53 years she taught school. During her teaching career she taught school in Round Top-Carmine, Rock Hill, Warrenton, Oldenburg and La Grange and she received hundreds of gifts from her students.

One year she received Christmas gifts from 134 school children. By using the jewelry as decorations, she can again enjoy the gifts.

The Tiedts have another unusual Christmas tree in their bedroom. It is an heirloom artificial evergreen Christmas tree. The tree was purchased from a Dallas mail order house (Sears) in 1912 by Otto's parents.

The tree still has the original candle holders that once held real candles. The ornaments originally were little cardboard religious pictures framed in metal frames.

The tree was handed down to Otto and Leola in 1960 with instructions that it must always be wrapped and stored in the original kraft paper in which it was shipped.

The tree is now decorated with plastic roses and every year the Tiedts unwrap the 74 year old Weihnachtsbaum and place it on a table in their bedroom to carry on a family tradition—one which has a special meaning this Sesquicentennial Christmas.



This artificial evergreen Christmas tree was purchased in 1912 and has been a part of Christmas in the Tiedt family through the years. Banner Press Photos by Marjorie Lawson

# SOCIETY NEWS — LOCALS

## Republic of Texas Plaque to Be Placed at Louis Staaden's Grave

A sesquicentennial ceremony placing a Citizen of the Republic of Texas medallion at the grave of Louis Jacob Staaden will be held Sunday, June 8, 1986 at 2 p.m. at historical Spring Hill Cemetery located in Navarro County two and one-half miles northeast of Dawson, off State Highway 31.

Louis Jacob Staaden is the great grandfather of Mrs. James Gallemore, (Doris Bond) Waco Texas, Mrs. A.A. Cosby, Jr. (Mona Bond) Falfurrias, Texas, and Mrs. Raymond Bostick (Betty Bond) San Antonio.

Bronze seals, furnished by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, were cast to be used for citizens who resided in Texas

when Texas was a Republic. Louis Jacob Staaden, citizen of Spring Hill, Texas, is one of these persons.

Staaden was born in Germany Jan. 9, 1817. On one of his census reports, he gave Prussia as his birth place. At the age of nineteen, he left the restricted life of a German student and came to America where he joined his brother, Nicholas, in Chicago.

Eventually, he located in Spring Hill in Navarro County, Texas. On July 8, 1849, he married Christina Hagle (1820-1903) who had been brought to America with her brothers, Joseph and Frank Hagle.

Staaden's character and standing were such that he was able

to apply for and receive his naturalization papers as a citizen of the United States. His citizenship was granted July 27, 1867.

He was an extensive land owner and cultivator, farming acreage in the vicinity of Spring Hill. So abundant were his holdings that at the time of his death, each of his children received a farm as their inheritance. One of the most valuable holdings from the stand point of location was his land on the only road from Corsicana to Waco, in the days following the organization of the Republic of Texas.

Mrs. Gallemore and Mrs. Bostick plan to be in Corsicana on Saturday, June 7 to receive a Louis Jacob Staaden certificate from the Navarro County Historical Society, which will be presenting certificates of recognition to the first families to settle in the County. The following day, Mrs. Gallemore, a member of the Sterling C. Robertson Chapter Daughters of Republic of Texas and Mrs. Bostick, a member of Alamo Mission Chapter Daughters of Republic of Texas, will participate in the dedication ceremony at Spring Hill Cemetery. Staaden and Hagle descendants and all who are interested are invited to attend the dedication ceremony.

Mrs. Raymond Harrison Bostick  
6914 Scotsdale Drive  
San Antonio, Texas 78209  
Area Code (512) 826-5137



DORIS Gallemore and Betty Bostick

## Unnötige Arbeit

"Sag mal, Peter, du bist ja unglaublich schmutzig. Wäschst dich denn deine Mutter nicht?"

"Nein, sie meint, das sei unnötige Arbeit. Sie erkennt mich ja noch an der Stimme!"

## Vorsicht!

"Seien Sie vorsichtig mit der Suppe", sagt der Ober zum Gast, "die ist so heiss, dass ich mir den Daumen verbrannt habe!"

## Gute Frage

"Papa, stimmt es, dass sich der Wal von Sardinien ernährt?"

"Ja, mein Junge."

"Und wie kriegt er die Dosen auf?"

## GTHS Executive Committee Meets In La Grange

The executive committee of the German-Texan Heritage Society met in La Grange on Saturday, Jan. 10, at 10 a.m. at the home of Mrs. Miriam York as co-hostess. Mrs. York is a board member and Mrs. Tiedt is historian and scrapbook editor.

Members of the committee came from Galveston, Houston, Austin, San Antonio and Giddings.

The main purpose of the meeting was to plan the yearly meeting to be held at Galveston on Sept. 11, 12 and 13. Mrs. Francis Knape, the general chairperson of the meeting, was present and gave her report of the plans.

G.T.H.S. was scheduled to have met in Galveston in 1983; but Alicia the hurricane, arrived the weekend before the meeting with all the plans. The program that was planned for that meeting will be given at this year's meeting. A more complete report of the program will be available at a later date.

Due to the economic conditions of the country, the group voted not to give a six-month extension to the expired contract with the film maker of the Early Texas Heritage Film, which was discussed at the New Braunfels meeting in 1984.

Mrs. York and Mrs. Tiedt served refreshments to the group.

If any person wishes to become a member or to renew his or her membership should contact Dr. Dona Reeves Marquardt, Rt. 2 Box 239A, Buda, 78610.

The new membership categories are: student \$5, regular \$8, contributing \$15, institutional \$15, foreign \$12 and patron \$30.

THE FAYETTE COUNTY RECORD Tuesday, January 20, 1987

# West German teachers just want to go to Texas

Compiled from staff and AP wire reports

While the mayor of West Berlin was in San Antonio encouraging Texans to visit his country, hundreds of West German teachers were phoning the West Berlin Ministry of Education, trying to get work in Texas.

"The telephone hasn't stopped ringing since 7:30 this morning," ministry spokesman Guenter Spanier said Friday.

The calls came after the West Berlin Ministry released a statement late Thursday to the news media in Berlin saying that Texas plans to hire hundreds of West German teachers starting in 1987.

However, Texas education officials in Austin said the hirings, part of an exchange program, may not involve hundreds of teachers.

Spanier said that between 200 and 300 teachers from all over West Germany called to say they were interested in the offer.

The statement said, in part, "The state of Texas will hire hundreds of teachers over the next several years."

It added that Texas needed more teachers to work in their schools "to improve its teaching situation."

News of the planned teacher hirings were announced while West Berlin Mayor Eberhard Dieppen was in Texas to promote tourism.

Dieppen told reporters in San Antonio Thursday that his trip to Texas includes a visit to state officials in Austin to discuss a teacher exchange program.

However, the visiting mayor said



*The telephone hasn't stopped ringing since 7:30 this morning.*

— GUENTER SPANIER  
On calls to education ministry



he had no details of the program.

In Austin, an education official said there was "some truth" to the West German announcement because plans call for an expansion of a teacher exchange program.

"Whether or not it will be hundreds remains to be seen," said Jim Clark, assistant to Education Commissioner W.N. Kirby.

Clark said a previous, pilot program had only seven West German teachers working in Texas, all in the Houston School District.

Texas Education Agency spokeswoman Terri Anderson said the agency only approved an exchange program for 30 West German teachers to come to Texas.

A similar number of Texas teachers will go to West Germany next summer, Anderson said.

Kirby announced several months ago that German teachers would be hired as part of a plan to shore up the teaching corps.

Now, however, state education officials say there is no significant shortage of teachers.

SA EXPRESS-NEWS, NOV 29, 1986

## Mayor Mac would have been upset

Sir: Re: The Republican State Executive Committee proposal to make English the official language:

My grandfather, Mayor W.W. McAllister, or Mayor Mac, spoke German until he was 6, when he learned "English as a second language" in a "bilingual education program" at the German-English School before the turn of the century.

He continued to speak German all his long life, making speeches and praying over us at Thanksgiving and Christmas in German.

This is the sort of thing that makes one feel connected, and is an antidote to egocentrism.

If the Republicans had succeeded with their nasty little proposition back when my grandfather was coming up, we would have had a heck of a lot of unassimilated first families in San Antonio — from all language groups.

The insularity and racism inherent in the Republican proposal are shocking indeed. I hope one old Republican is turning over in his grave at the thought of it.

Taddy McAllister

### Probleme

"Warum stöhnen Sie denn so, Herr Kalubke?" — "Ach, meine Schuhe sind zu eng." — "Warum tragen Sie sie dann?" — "Meine Frau ist krank, der Chef ein Ekel, die Gläubiger hetzen mich, meine Töchter sind hässlich und ledig. Wenn ich abends nach Hause komme und die Schuhe ausziehe, dann habe ich wenigstens einmal am Tag ein Glücksgefühl."

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### Deshalb

Ein Nachwuchssänger klopft wieder einmal mit einem neuen Demo-Band bei dem berühmten Produzenten an. "Tut mir leid, der Producer-King ist nicht da." "Aber ich hab ihn doch vorhin am Fenster gesehen!" "Ja, er dich auch!"

### GERMANS TODAY LIVE TWICE AS LONG AS 100 YEARS AGO

The life expectancy of Germans is currently about twice as long as it was 100 years ago, the Institute of German Business reported Wednesday (December 17) in Cologne. According to the institute, the life expectancy of a male born in the Federal Republic is presently 70.8 years, while a female lives on average 77.5 years. Men born in Germany in 1880 lived an average of only 35.6 years, and women 38.5 years. Lower infant mortality is cited by the institute as the main reason for the rise, with improved sanitary conditions and medical care and the virtual elimination of diseases such as tuberculosis, cholera and typhus also playing an important role.

# Austin pulled out the stops for elaborate festival of singers

ry, February 6, 1987

Austin American-Statesman

The Austin Saengerrunde is more than 100 years old. The German singing group was formed in 1879, and was under the leadership of William Besserer. There were other singing groups beside the Saengerrunde in Austin, and there were similar groups in most other Texas cities. They all got together once a year for a Saengerfest.

The Saengerfest convened in Austin several times. The grandest celebration was in April 1889, when thousands of singers and visitors crowded into the city for the week-long celebration. The festivities were inaugurated with a grand torchlight parade up Congress Avenue and a sumptuous banquet at Turner Hall.

According to the *Daily Statesman*. "The procession was an imposing one and the liberal display of pyrotechnics and the brilliant illuminations along the line of procession formed a gorgeous spectacle, rarely ever witnessed.

"The Triumphal Arch over Congress Avenue added to the grandeur of the scene. The handsome arch was brilliantly illuminated with electric lights and the legend "Wilkommen zum Saengerfest" was traced upon the topmost part of the arch. The im-



Austin History Center file photo

A triumphal arch was built across Congress Avenue for the Saengerfest in 1889.



## Waterloo scrapbook

Audrey Bateman

age of a harp surmounted and above all floated the national flag. Suspended across and drooping in graceful loops were garlands of graceful evergreens. The whole structure thus forming a most beautiful conception.

"The illuminations along the Avenue were brilliant, and some of them were very unique in design and artistic effect. On one side of the street a myriad of little lights were so arranged as to picture upon the blackness of the night the symmetrical proportions of a harp, while upon the other a five-pointed star blazed, each individual spray of light standing out like miniature stars. The Capitol grounds were ablaze with a glory of lights and the display of pyrotechnics from this place was elaborate

and strangely beautiful.

"From the time darkness set in until a shower dampened the occasion and the people, Congress Avenue was ablaze with illuminations and the burning of Bengal lights along the sidewalks. Many of the stores were brilliant in their displays. The Capitol Clothing house had a thousand candles burning in the second story windows, while the front and the side of the store were gay with many colored Chinese lanterns. . . . Messrs. Fallenstein & Henrich's, over John Orr's (store), had one of the best displays of all. The interior of their place was brightly lighted up, every gas jet burning and in the windows candles arranged in an artistic manner threw a bright glow over the street. . . .

"Arriving at Turner Hall the Saengers filed into that spacious edifice, which had been beautifully decorated for the occasion. Long tables fairly groaned beneath the hordes of delicatessen, and wit and good cheer were the order of the evening. Indeed, the visitors were sumptuously wine and dined. . . ."

Audrey Bateman is Curator of the Austin History Center of the Austin Public Library.

## Schwieriger Fall

Beschwert sich Frau Mübbel heim Elektriker: "Seit vier Wochen bitte ich Sie, meine Klingel zu reparieren."

"Aber ich war schon fünfmal bei Ihnen, doch niemand hat aufgemacht!" \* \* \*

## Unter Jägern

Im Wald treffen sich zwei Männer. "Auch Jäger?" fragt der eine.

"Ja", nickt der andere, "Schmetterlingsjäger."

Staunt der erste: "Da muss es aber lange dauern, bis Sie eine anständige Mahlzeit beisammen haben!"

## Überführt

Sagt der Patient auf dem Operationstisch: "Nehmen Sie ruhig die Maske ab, Herr Doktor. Ich habe Sie nämlich erkannt!" \* \* \*

## Schlimm

"Wie heisst denn Ihr Hund?" fragt der Fussballer den Schiedsrichter

"Aber ich habe doch gar keinen Hund!"

"Das ist ja schlimm. Blind und keinen Hund!" \* \* \*

## Schüchtern

Ein sehr schüchtern junger Mann wird einem bildhübschen Mädchen vorgestellt. Nach einem langen Schweigen versucht sie, ein Gespräch in Gang zu bringen: "Ich heisse Susi und Sie?"

"Ich nicht", sagt der junge Mann und wird dunkelrot. \* \* \*

## Dummer Nachbar

"Stellen Sie sich vor, mein Nachbar hat mir das Fenster eingeworfen, nur weil ihn mein Klavierspiel störte."

"Der ist aber blöd. Nun hört er's ja noch deutlicher!"

## Präzise Antwort

Der Polizist zückt sein Notizbuch: "Sie heissen?"

"Brcejnskicik."

"Und wie schreiben Sie sich?"

"S-i-c-h!" \* \* \*

## Germanfest Gemutlichkeit

Muenster in North Central Texas invites you to their annual Germanfest, April 24-26, "one of the biggest parties in the state." The small community of 1,500 hosted more than 40,000 people at their festivities last year.

Events include the German Fun Run (5K or 15K run), the Metric Century Bicycle Rally, a barbecue cookoff, dancing, entertainment, and eating, eating (sausage, strudel, fried chicken, and German chocolate cake, among other goodies).

Muenster is 14 miles west of I-35 on US 82. For more information, write to the Chamber of Commerce, Box 479, Muenster 76252, or call 817/759-2227.

## First Texas Almanac

In 1857, Willard Richardson, publisher of *The Galveston News*, printed the first Texas Almanac, a compendium of facts and figures from records of the fledgling Lone Star State.

Last year, as a Sesquicentennial project, the Texas Wagon Train Association reprinted the 1857 Texas Almanac. The authentic replica contains intriguing historical statistics, ads touting everything from pickles to "drugs, medicines, dye-stuffs, and paints," and short biographies of a few Texas pioneers and heroes.

You can purchase a copy for \$10.67 (includes tax and shipping), from Texas Sesquicentennial Wagon Train, 2329 West Rochelle Road, Irving

## Männer...

Im Stau auf der Autobahn: "Herta, jetzt könnte ich eine Ablösung vertragen. Übernimmst du mal für die nächsten zwanzig Meter das Steuer?"

## Texas Highways

APRIL  
1987

75062, or call 800/441-0028 to place a charge card order.

## San Antonio Fun

The San Antonio Conservation Society presents the 40th "A Night in Old San Antonio" April 21-24 during the city's famed Fiesta Week, April 18-26.

"A Night in Old San Antonio" celebrates the city's cultural heritage by dividing a two-block section of historic La Villita into 15 areas, each reflecting a part of San Antonio's ethnic history. Participants can experience the food, atmosphere, and music of each group.

Don't miss opening ceremonies at 5:30 on April 21. The Fifth Army Drum and Fife Corps of Washington, D.C., will lead a parade through La Villita. "A Night in Old San Antonio" is at Alamo and Paseo de La Villita streets. Gates are open 5:30 to 10. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$1 for children. For more information, call Jeanne Albrecht, 512/222-1615.

Also staged during Fiesta is the Fiesta Arts Fair, sponsored by the Southwest Craft Center, 300 Augusta, San Antonio. The fair offers works of art and fine crafts, continuous entertainment, food booths, and exhibitions.

For great fun, travel to the fair on a river taxi from downtown Casa Rio Restaurant, 430 E. Commerce, to the Southwest Craft Center dock. Or,

drive directly to the center, where parking is available. Admission for adults is \$3, no charge for children under 12. Call 512/224-1848, or write to 300 Augusta, San Antonio 78205, for additional information.

## Weisheiten von gestern

Es gibt Leute, die glauben, alles wäre vernünftig, was man mit einem ernsthaften Gesicht tut.

Georg Christoph Lichtenberg

\* \* \*

Jedes Kind ist gewissermassen ein Genie und jedes Genie gewissermassen ein Kind.

Arthur Schopenhauer

\* \* \*

Ich kann nicht finden, dass Gesellschaft fördert; was einem obliegt, muss man selber tun.

Franz Grillparzer

\* \* \*

Wo es Klugheit gilt, da schafft die Gewalt nichts.

Herodot

\* \* \*

Wer den kleinsten Teil eines Geheimnisses hingibt, hat den Rest nicht mehr in der Hand.

Jean Paul

## Günstiger Kauf

"Stell dir vor, letzte Woche war meine Schwester in Paris und hat sich ganz günstig einen Picasso gekauft!"

"Ach, und wieviel Kilometer hat er drauf?"

\* \* \*

## Hochgenuss

"Gnädige Frau", sagt der Gast galant, "Ihr Kaffee ist einfach wundervoll."

"Das freut mich", sagt die Gastgeberin geschmeichelt, "den hat man Mann von seiner Reise aus Brasilien mitgebracht."

"Donnerwetter", staunt da der Gast, "und heiss ist er auch noch!"

\* \* \*

## Flower Photo Tips

Springtime in Texas brings out the cameras, lenses, and tripods that have been on the shelf since Christmas. Before you journey out to photograph the wild flowers, spend a little time reacquainting yourself with your camera equipment. Check the batteries, and chuck outdated film. Review your camera's instruction booklet. Be familiar enough with your camera's operation and idiosyncracies that you won't waste valuable time and miss that once-in-a-lifetime shot.

For those of you who prefer 35 mm photography, *Texas Highways* photo editor Bill Reaves gives the following tips.

- Use as slow a color slide or color print film as possible for the light conditions. In good sunlight, a film with ASA of 64 or 100 produces better pictures than a higher speed film.
- Photograph wild flowers either early or late in the day because it is usually not as windy and the light is not as harsh. Morning light has a cool quality, while afternoon light tends to add warmth.
- Use a tripod or other stable object such as a tree trunk, car door, or fence post to steady the camera, and trip the shutter with a cable release if your camera accepts one.
- A small reflector of white cardboard or aluminum foil will lighten shadow areas for close-ups.
- Want to photograph individual flowers? Add a macro lens or an inexpensive set of closeup lenses to your camera equipment.

Of course, Bill's tips can be adapted for use with any camera format. Take a little time to plan your photographic outing. You will be pleased with the results. *TEXAS HWYS*  
APRIL 1987

## CONSONANT CLUSTER CONTEST COMMENCES

The Society for German Language in Wiesbaden (Hesse) has announced a contest to find the German word with the most consecutive consonants unalleviated by intervening vowels. The society believes the current title holder in the German edition of the Guinness Book of World Records, "Angstschweiß" (cold sweat), with eight consonants, can be beaten. It has already been tied by "Glückwunschsreiben" (congratulatory message), society linguists observe. The group explains that the sequence "sch" counts as three consonants even though it designates only one sound. The victorious vocable must be a single word, meaningful, and without hyphens, the society stated. The contest deadline is December 31. The winner will receive a book prize, mention in the society's periodical *Der Sprachdienst*, and will probably even see his name in Guinness.



**The**  
**Industry-West End Historical Society**  
**wishes to announce**  
**the publication of**  
**HISTORICAL ACCOUNTS**  
**OF**  
**INDUSTRY, TEXAS**  
**1831-1986**

a history of the first permanent German settlement in Texas taken from diaries, memories, documents, courthouse records, personal journals, minute books, and family histories. It contains 107 pages of information on topics of early Industry, businesses, churches, schools, local organizations and customs of the historical community. There is also a 19-page section of past and present family genealogies. The book contains a table of contents, a list of businesses in Industry and a detailed reference guide for each article. The cost of each book is \$12.50 plus \$.90 for postage and handling. To order, fill in the blank below and send it and check or money order to the given address.

Sharon Spiess  
P. O. Box 56  
Industry, Texas 78944

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ copies of HISTORICAL ACCOUNTS OF INDUSTRY, TEXAS, 1831-1986, at \$12.50 + 90c handling and postage for each book. Make checks payable to the Industry-West End Historical Society.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

(Please print)

The Industry-West End Historical Society is having a Heritage Festival on April 4th and 5th in Industry, Texas. There will be a tour with historical displays, speakers, and audio-visual presentations. Food will be served at lunch and dinner on April 4th. The event will begin at 10:00 am and everyone is welcome! For more information write 17914 Nanes Drive, Houston, Texas 77090.

# Group helps trace German ancestry



**MARGARET ANN THEFFORD**  
FAMILY TREE

In 1683, the first organized group of German immigrants arrived in the New World at Philadelphia. Over the next three centuries, 7 million Germans left their homeland to start anew in America. In 1979, the U.S. Bureau of the Census reported that 29 percent of the country's population claimed German ancestry.

Until now, there has been no national organization devoted specifically to helping Americans of German descent trace their ancestry in Europe. The German Genealogical Society of America has recently formed to fill this void and offers its services to everyone wishing to trace their origins.

Benefits of membership are the monthly "Bulletin," containing research tips and suggestions, and the "Quarterly," containing in-depth articles and source records. Research services are offered as well as access to the society's library and surname index.

Charter members receive additional discounts on surname research performed by the society on

requests made before next July 1. Charter memberships for \$25 will be sold until Dec. 31, 1987. A regular membership is \$15 annually. Membership fees may be sent to the German Genealogical Society of America, P.O. Box 291818, Los Angeles, Calif. 90029.

Gary J. Zimmerman and Marion Wolfert have just completed a second volume for those researching German forebears: *German Immigrants: Lists of Passengers Bound from Bremen to New York, 1855-1862*. Their first volume covered 1847 through 1854.

The original lists of emigrants departing from Bremen were destroyed in Allied bombing attacks during World War II. These books attempt to reconstruct the Bremen records by using American sources; specifically, the passenger lists of vessels arriving at New York. Only those Bremen passengers — approximately 35,000 — for whom a specific place of origin is noted in the manifests are included in this volume.

For convenience, immigrants' names are arranged in alphabetical order and family members are grouped together, usually under the name of the head of the household. In addition, details concerning age, place of origin, date of arrival and name of ship are provided, as are specific citations to the original source material.

Both volumes are available from

Genealogical Publishing Co. Inc., 1001 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, Md. 21202, for \$20 each plus \$1.25 shipping and handling for the first book and 50 cents for each additional book.

## Kritisch gesehen

### Texas-Abend

Was immer der Texas-Mythos der Filme und Fernsehserien an Klischees vermittelt hat: einen Samstagabend lang stellte der saarländische Rundfunk den so entstandenen Trug- und Oberflächenbildern texanische Wirklichkeit gegenüber. Es begann wie in der Schule mit einer lehrreichen Reportage über die älteste und geschichtsträchtigste Stadt des amerikanischen Bundesstaates, San Antonio, setzte sich fort bei einer Diskussion mit Texas-Experten, wurde von einem einigermaßen geschichtsgetreu angelegten Western unterbrochen und endete mit einem Film über „die echten Mächtigen von Dallas“.

Als aufschlussreich erwies sich vor allem die von Gerd Iluge moderierte Gesprächsrunde, der außer einer texanischen Germanistin zwei deutschstämmige Wahl- Texaner angehörten. Sie stellten sie heraus, was den heutigen Texaner ausmacht: Anpassungsfähigkeit und Risikofreude beim nach wie vor ungebrochenen Glauben an die eigenen Chancen. Hinzu kommt der Stolz darauf, Texaner zu sein. (Südwest 3) kro

Stuttgarter Zeitung

Montag, 8.12.1986

Dallas Morning News  
Jan. 1987

From  
Betty Bostick  
6915 S. Hildale  
S.A. 78209

## KOHL APPEALS FOR PRESERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

Chancellor Helmut Kohl called on the nation in a Bundestag debate on culture policy last week to preserve the German cultural heritage. Contemporary culture and art must be supported and further developed, the German language promoted abroad and the cultural dialogue with the German Democratic Republic must be encouraged, Kohl said. The chancellor also reaffirmed his government's intention to establish the House of History of the Federal Republic of Germany in Bonn and the German Historical Museum in Berlin (West). The cornerstone for the Berlin museum is to be laid during the city's 750th anniversary celebration, Kohl stated. Kohl characterized culture and history as the "strongest bond of German unity." Neither the Federal Republic nor the GDR has the right to claim for itself only the good things from the common culture and history and to assign the bad parts to its neighbor, the chancellor declared.

## NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Jack A. Dabbs  
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(502) 472-7463

Alternate Contact:  
Edward C. Breitenkamp  
313 Fairway Drive  
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Two retired professors of language at Texas A&M University have completed a translation of the Church Records of Salem Lutheran Church, which is located a few miles outside of Brenham, Washington County, Texas. With the permission of the pastor, Reverend William F. Derrick, Dr. Edward C. Breitenkamp and Dr. Jack Autrey Dabbs translated from the German manuscript books vital information on the pioneer families of that part of the county from the 1850's. The records have been published by the translators in a hardback volume entitled *Church Records of Salem Lutheran Church of Brenham, Texas, 1850-1940*.

German immigrants, who came from such centers as Hanover, Baden, Württemberg, Poznań, Westphalia, West Prignitz, Hesse, and smaller political entities, brought their church along with their families and language to settlements in Washington County. Records of births, confirmations, marriages, and deaths bring an awareness of the rugged life that the colony endured, as these settlers turned the wilderness into a new homeland.

The German community clung to its language, and Salem Church kept its records in German until 1940. Many of the records are written in the older, difficult, German script. This has discouraged many descendants of the pioneers in their search for their roots. With the publication of the 500-page, indexed, *Church Records of Salem Lutheran Church of Brenham, Texas, 1850-1940*, the early church archives become available to all interested parties.

The new volume contains family-history information about over a thousand German immigrant families who settled in Washington County, Texas; among them: Abel, Addicks, Albrecht, Appel, Bastian, Becker, Besserer, Bock, Bockhorn, Bohne, Bosse, Brinkmeyer, Bricker, Brösche, Buck, Buhls, Bunge, Busse, Dannhaus, Dinklage, Drähn, Dübbe, Eickholt, Emshoff, Engling, Fabianke, Fischer, Fritz, Gindorf, Grabow, Grassmuck, Grebe, Grimm, Güldner, Haack, Harms, Hill, Hodde, Hoffmann, Holle, Holt, Hübner, Hurtig, Hüske, Jahnke, Jesse, Käseberg, Kemper, Kiecke, Knüppel, Koch, Kolwes, Köster, Kramer, Krüger, Kunkel, Lange, Lehde, Lehmann, Lorenz, Loesch, Mahlmann, Meyer, Mohr, Mügge, Müller, Neinast, Neumann, Peters, Pflüger, Pieper, Pressler, Priesemeyer, Ratke, Remmert, Richter, Rodenbeck, Rogge, Rosenbaum, Schäffer, Schawe, Schlottmann, Schomberg, etc. Order from J. A. Dabbs, 2806 Cherry Lane, Austin, TX 78703. \$35.00 (Texas sales tax: \$2.19).

# San Jacinto Veteran's Grave Found After Extensive Search

THE FAYETTE COUNTY RECORD Tuesday, February 3, 1987 Page 2

**SMITHVILLE** — Once an investigator, it would appear, always an investigator.

At least that's how it seems in the case of Albert Mach III of Smithville. Before "retiring" to the good life in the Heart of the Megalopolis, Mach was founder and president of the M&M Detective Agency and Patrol Service in Houston.

After he moved to Smithville in 1954, he opened a gunsmith shop, but the urge to investigate wouldn't go away.

Last week Mach decided to go public with his latest detection, the gravestone of a veteran of the Battle of San Jacinto. (As every Texas third grader knows, San Jacinto was the site of the last great battle of the Texas Revolution. On April 21, 1836, Texas troops under the leadership of General Sam Houston defeated General Santa Ana's Mexican army. Santa Ana was captured and signed a treaty of peace.)

The marker is hidden deep in the woods about a mile south of the Smithville city limit. The marker, big, gray and granite, was erected by the State of Texas in the centennial year of 1936. It's inscribed: Henry Mordorff -A San Jacinto Veteran -Born 1817, Died March 20, 1870." Like any good mystery, its discovery raises more questions than it answers.

"Why would he be buried here?" Mach asks. "Who was he and why would they bury him here? I think that's interesting. Even if it was out there in the (Oak Hill)

cemetery, it'd be interesting. There's nothing that old in the cemetery. I don't even know who owned this land here. I've been trying for the longest time to find something out about him."

Mach has been searching for the stone on and off for the past 30 years.

"I'm close to 80 years old and I don't remember things as good as I used to, but I remember my granddaddy telling me about his daddy and how he fought a... Battle of San Jacinto," Mach recalled. "I remember one time he mentioned that his daddy had a friend he fought with at San Jacinto who was buried somewhere in Bastrop County, so I scouted around and scouted around and a few years ago me and Joe Hefner found it."

That was 20 years ago. Then Joe Hefner died.

"After that, I didn't think any more about it—that damned stone out there, a man buried all by himself in the middle of nowhere. But lately it started granwing at me again," Mach said. "Who was he and why would they bury him there?"

Mach started the search all over again, but he'd forgotten exactly where the stone was and the underbrush around the grave had grown thick. It took him two years to find the stone again.

"For awhile I thought I was dreaming about it," he said. "I couldn't find it, so I decided to wait till all the leaves fell."

Donaly Brice, Reference Specialist in the Archives Division

of the Texas State Library, says that the isolated location of the marker makes it a good possibility that the gravestone was placed "right where he (Mordorff) was buried."

"I believe this is erected at his gravesite," Brice said.

In 1971, some controversy arose concerning Mordorff. At a meeting of the Bastrop County Historical Survey Commission a Smithville resident reported that the Revolutionary hero was hanged for horse stealing. Research proved that Mordorff was not a horse thief, did not die by hanging, but no doubt died in bed, a respected and fairly well-to-do citizen.

According to information on Henry Mordorff compiled about 1930 by Kemp in his San Jacinto Notebook Mordorff was born in 1917 and came to Texas from New Orleans in January 1836 after being recruited into the army. He was issued a Bounty Certificate for 1,280 acres of land for having served in the army from February 13, 1836 to October 21, 1837. He was a member of Captain Amasa Turner's Company at San Jacinto and on May 21, 1836 was issued on Donation Certificate for 640 acres of land for having participated in the battle.

In 1851 he purchased a farm south of Smithville and died there March 20, 1870. He was buried near his home and on the headstone at his grave it states that he was about 53 years old. He lived alone on his farm and appears never to have married. He left most of his estate to a sister, Eliza Mordorff. This sister, however, could not be located.

The bare facts of the historical record don't quite satisfy the inquisitive and poetic soul of the former investigator.

"When I lived in Houston, I used to go down to San Jacinto all the time and admire that big statue and, I don't know, it kind of grew on me in a way," Mach says. "I'd like to find out more about the man. It seems kind of lonely out there, all by himself in the woods. Him and my great-grandpa, they probably knew each other." — The Bastrop County Times

## Schulenburg Family On 'Eyes Of Texas'

**SCHULENBURG** — A Schulenburg family will be featured on "The Eyes of Texas" program on KPRC-TV, Channel 2 in Houston on Saturday, Feb. 7, at 6:30 p.m.

Henry Baumgarten and his wife Hattie Marie, will be interviewed on the show, which will cover "life on the farm;" his high school, college, and baseball career; profes-

sional life and retirement; his grandfather, Christian Baumgarten, often called "The Father of Schulenburg;" the Baumgarten-Matula Co.; the old homestead; and the Emil Baumgarten home, where Henry and Hattie Marie Baumgarten now live. — The Schulenburg Sticker

# Oldenburg School Reunion Held At VFW Hall Sunday

Oliver Hengst was elected as the president of the Oldenburg School Reunion at the gathering held at the VFW Hall in La Grange Saturday, Oct. 18.

Other officers elected were Barney Eilers, vice president, and Mrs.

Louiserine Prilop, secretary-treasurer.

The fifth Oldenburg Students School Reunion was attended by 88 persons who were registered by Miss Vallie Schlottmann and Mrs. Mary Gau. The entry hall displayed

many mementos of the school's history. There was much fellowship and picture taking.

Herbert Lange, president, welcomed everyone to the reunion and asked everyone to participate in

the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. He also asked for a moment of silence for all deceased members. Before the basket lunch was served, Leroy Lenert of El Campo gave the table prayer.

During the meeting, Mrs. Iris Manske Jaster, secretary-treasurer, read her reports. The group noted that the old school bell and the old school trophies are still being sought.

It was decided that another reunion will be held in 1988 with the same arrangements as for 1986. Lawrence Treybig of Houston suggested that a plaque and marker to mark the history of Oldenburg be looked into and that the group should search for more information of Oldenburg's heritage. A committee was appointed by Mr. Lange to follow up on this suggestion.

The student body was recognized by naming the oldest gentleman, August Bruns of Blanco; oldest lady, Mrs. Selma Lenert of La Grange; youngest gentlemen, I. D. Schultz of San Antonio, Barnell Lange of Houston and Walter Toll Jr. of Spring; youngest lady, Mrs. Jeanette Seifert Schumann of Austin; traveling the longest distance, Wallace Manske of Louisville, Ky.; traveling the shortest distance, Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Liebacher of La Grange; class with only one member present, Mrs. Irene Keilers Zingelmann, Selma Marburger Lenert, both of La Grange, I. D. Schultz of San Antonio, Esther Seifert McDaniels of Pasadena; largest class present, Alois Schlottmann of La Grange, Lloyd Lenert of Midland, Wallace Manske of Kentucky, Ms. Flossie Nitsche Jacob of Rockdale, Mrs. Bernice Alhorn Wessels of Houston and Mrs. Lillian Zingelmann of La Grange.

Mr. Lange then recognized the faculty members in attendance. Recognized were Leola Kiel Tiedt, Vastine Schultz, Dr. Russel Strandtmann, Vallie Schlottmann and Lillian Keilers Zingelmann.

Oliver Hengst addressed the students and asked that all help the newly elected officers make the next reunion a success.

Following the meeting, Leroy Lenert of El Campo led the group in the singing of old favorite and familiar school songs which he accompanied on his accordion.



Pictured above from left to right, back row are Mrs. August Bruns, Mrs. Dorothy (Weikel) Lange, Mrs. Ettie (Bunjus) Hattermann, Mrs. Lillian (Keilers) Zingelmann, Mrs. Edna (Lange) Havemann, Mrs. Irene (Keilers) Zingelmann, Mrs. Elvera (Keilers) Liebecher, Mrs. Elda (Keilers) Marburger, Mrs. Norma (Lange) Gerdes, Mrs. Mary (Baron) Gau, Miss Vallie Schlottmann, Mrs. Erna (Keilers) Bauer, Mrs. Gladys (Schlottman) Moellenberndt, Mrs. Flossie (Nitsche) Jacob. Front row, same order, Mrs. Lillie (Schwartz) Behrens, Mrs. Selma (Marburger) Lenert, Mrs. Bernice (Ahlhorn) Wessels, Mrs. Ruth Strandtmann, Mrs. Iris (Manske) Jaster, Mrs. Louiserine (Bremer) Prilop, Mrs. Leola (Kiel) Tiedt, Mrs. Florence (Voelkel) Loesch, Mrs. Ella (Keilers) Bartling, Mrs. Ora Nell (Lenert) Lange and Mrs. Rosie (Nitsche) Scholtz. Not pictured are Esther (Seifert) McDaniels and Jeanette (Seifert) Schumann.



Pictured above, left to right, back row, are Herbert Lange, Wallace Manske, Elo Muesse, Edison Manske, Jim Nitsche, Lloyd Wubbenhorst, Barnell Lange, L.F. Eilers, Walter Toll Jr., Aubrey Bremer, I.D. Schultz, Henry Nitsche, Arthur Behrens, Barney Eilers, Lawrence Treybig, Dr. Russell Strandtmann, Alvin Liebecher, Oliver Hengst and Leroy Lenert. Back row, same order, Aubrey Voelkel, Eugene Ahlhorn, Walton Voelkel, August Bruns, Calvin Lange, Forres Ahlhorn, Vastine Schultz, Nolen Havemann and Henry Wied. Not pictured are Alvis Schlottmann and Ivan Wubbenhorst.

## TRACING EUROPEAN ROOTS

Edward C. Breitenkamp  
313 Fairway Drive  
Bryan, Texas 77801

From

**HELP IN HAMBURG.** Americans who want to track down their European genealogy may find the Hamburg Historic Emigration Office in West Germany a wealth of information. The office has comprehensive records of emigration through Hamburg to North America during the 1850-1914 period. On microfilm are files documenting the nearly 5 million people who left Poland, Russia and other Eastern European countries as well as Germany for North America via Hamburg. If inquirers supply an émigré's name and the year of emigration, the office often can provide his or her age, occupation, marital status, number of children, city of origin and the ship's name, destination and date of sailing. The search costs \$30. For visitors, the process takes only an hour. By mail, the wait can be up to six months. For details, write: Historic Emigration Office, Holstenwall 24, 2000 Hamburg 36, West Germany.

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, Nov. 17, 1986

Die Vereinigten Staaten.

Der Staat Texas.

Nachdem Texas sich im Jahre 1888 von Mexico losgerissen hatte, blieb es bis 1845 ein unabhängiger Staat, zu welcher Zeit es sich dem Staatenbunde angeschlossen. Zwischen seinen Bewohnern, welche meistens englisch-amerikanischer Abstammung sind, und denen der Ver. Staaten, hat immer eine gewisse Gefühlsverwandtschaft existiert, welche durch die Nachbarschaft beiderseitiger Gebiete noch mehr genährt und gestärkt wurde.

Texas erstreckt sich von den Flüssen Arkansas und Red (river) im Norden bis an den Meerbusen von Mexico im Süden, und von dem Sabine im Osten nach dem Rio del Norte im Westen; Flächeninhalt 825,000 Q. Meilen, oder etwa sieben Mal so groß als Pennsylvanien.

Es hat einen höchst fruchtbaren Boden und eine sehr günstige Lage zum Pazifik. Texas ist ein höchst fruchtbarer Boden und eine sehr günstige Lage zum Pazifik. Texas ist ein höchst fruchtbarer Boden und eine sehr günstige Lage zum Pazifik. Texas ist ein höchst fruchtbarer Boden und eine sehr günstige Lage zum Pazifik.



Ansicht der Grasbüden in Texas. — Wiedergabe.

Die Flüsse sind zwar sehr zahlreich, aber von geringer Nützlichkeit für die Schifffahrt; denn in der trocknen Jahreszeit sind sie sehr niedrig, und während der Ueberschwemmungen verurteilt das viele Krebsholz eine bedeutende Hemmung. Der Rio del Norte, welcher die Westgrenze von Texas bildet, ist der größte Fluss im Norden, welcher die Westgrenze von Texas bildet, ist der größte Fluss im Norden, welcher die Westgrenze von Texas bildet.

Louis H. Fink  
335 Gettysburg Road  
San Antonio, TX 78228

17cm

Die vorzüglichsten Städte sind: Galveston, Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio, Austin, El Paso, Corpus Christi, Brownsville, Laredo, El Paso, San Antonio, Austin, El Paso, Corpus Christi, Brownsville, Laredo, El Paso, San Antonio, Austin, El Paso, Corpus Christi, Brownsville, Laredo.

Vor dem Jahre 1821 waren nur die spanischen Klänge San Antonio de Bexar, Bahia oder Goliad und Nacogoches, alle zusammen mit etwa 3000 Seelen, von den Westlern bewohnt. Kurz darauf wurde ein Versuch gemacht, eine unabhängige Republik von Texas zu gründen, aber Mexico verweigerte das Gebiet mit der Provinz Coahuila und bildete daraus einen Staat, welcher beide Namen führte. Viele Bewohner der Ver. Staaten, und manche mit ihren Sklaven, wanderten aus und ließen sich hier nieder. Als im Jahre 1832 das Volk von Texas eine besondere Staats-Constitution entworfen und beim mexicanischen Kongresse um die Annahme in den Staatenbund als ein unabhängiger Staat vergeblich angehalten hatte, so nahm man zu den Waffen die Zukunft. Obgleich anfangs die mexicanische Armee, welche unter Anführung des Präses Don Santa Anna in Texas eingedrungen war, einige Vortheile über die geringere Anzahl der Texaner gewann und die Gefangenen, einige Hundert an der Zahl, mit kaltem Blute niedermetzte: so änderte sich doch alles dieses gar bald, denn in der Schlacht bei San Jacinto wurden die Mexicaner total geschlagen und ihr Präsident von den Texanern gefangen genommen. Im März 1836 erklärte sich das Volk von Texas unabhängig von Mexico, entwarf eine Constitution, erwählte eine Hauptmagistratur, und begründete überhaupt die Regierungsmacht eines souveränen Staates. Im Jahre 1841 wurde eine Expedition nach Santa Fe, aus mehr als 300 Texanern bestehend, von den Mexicanern gefangen genommen. Zwar behaupten die Texaner, dies sei nur eine Spionatsperre gewesen; jedoch sie waren alle bewaffnet und hatten eine Kanone bei sich, was die Mexicaner anzunehmen bewog, daß der Zweck der Expedition gewesen sei, in den mexicanischen Provinzen nahe Santa Fe eine Revolution hervorzubringen.

Texas war nicht, wie die Ver. Staaten, eine Federal-Republic, sondern eine integrale. Der Präsident wurde auf drei Jahre erwählt und war nicht wieder wählbar. In andern Punkten war die Constitution wie die der Ver. Staaten. Die Republik war von den Ver. Staaten, Frankreich, England und einigen andern Staaten, aber nicht von Mexico anerkannt. Die Bevölkerung beläuft sich auf ungefähr 30,000, fast gänzlich Amerikanern aus den Ver. Staaten, nebst 25,000 Sklaven. Die Militärmacht bestand hauptsächlich aus Freiwilligen und der Miliz; die Seemacht bestand aus einer Kriegsschiffaluppe, zwei Briggs, einem bewaffneten Dampfschiffe, einigen Schoonern, u. s. w.

Seit länger Zeit war der Anschluß von Texas an die Union ein Lieblingsprojekt des amerikanischen Volkes gewesen, welchem von den ersten Männern des Landes das Wort gesprochen wurde. In der Sitzung von 1844 zu 45 ward die Aufnahme von Texas in beiden Häusern des Ver. Staaten Congresses beschlossen, und obgleich die damalige executive Macht von Texas etwas jauderte, so ward sie durch den einstimmigen Willen des Volkes gleichsam gesaugt, der Plan des Anschlusses zu vollstrecken. Demgemäß volligte der texanische Congress, welcher am 16. Juni 1845 in Washington, am Bragosafluß, zusammenkam, in den Anschluß von Texas an die Union, unter dem von der Ver. Staaten Regierung gestatteten Bedingungen, und schon am 4. Juli 1845 kam eine Convention in Austin zusammen, um für den Staat Texas eine Constitution zu entwerfen.

JACOB BRODBECK "REACHED FOR THE SKY" IN TEXAS

Compiled and Edited by Mrs. Anita Tatsch

\* \* \* \* \*

Jacob Brodbeck invented and flew an "Air Ship" in the Texas Hill Country long before the Wright Brothers flew at Kitty Hawk. In September, 1865, Jacob demonstrated his flying machine in a large meadow on his friend, Dr. Ferdinand Herff's ranch, north of San Antonio. Charles Nimitz of Fredericksburg spoke at this historical occasion. "The take-off was a success and the "Air Ship" soared majestically over the tree tops."

Jacob Brodbeck lived and worked all over the Texas Hill Country: Fredericksburg, Castell, Grape Creek, San Antonio and Luckenbach. He was friends with many of the well-known historical Texas-Germans.

His air ship flew again the summer of 1874. A neighbor, Henry Habenicht, who helped ready it, told his family this story: "The aircraft took off in a straight line and landed in Johann Georg's cornfield."

\* \* \* \* \*

Jacob Brodbeck was born October 13, 1821, in Germany and sailed to Texas on August 25, 1846, landing in Indianola. He was not only an inventor, but a school teacher and musician.

\* \* \* \* \*

"Reached for the Sky" is a testimony to the creative mind of an early Texas-German pioneer. It is illustrated with photographs, maps, paintings, a facsimile of one of the shares sold to finance the expense of inventing the air ship and drawings of the airplane itself.

\* \* \* \* \*

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# Der Weg nach Texas

Auswanderer aus Cochem zog es 1846 in die Neue Welt

Kurt Klotzbach

Am 20. April 1842 versammelten sich im Salon des Schlosses des Herzogs von Nassau in Biebrich am Rhein einige Adelige, um das wohl abenteuerlichste deutsche Kolonialprojekt aus der Taufe zu heben: den »Verein zum Schutz deutscher Einwanderer in Texas«.

Zwei Jahre später, am 25. März 1844, wurde das Unternehmen in eine Aktiengesellschaft umgewandelt. Das Dokument wurde von dem Protektor des Vereins, Herzog von Nassau, von Fürst Karl zu Leiningen, den Grafen Joseph von Boos-Waldeck, Viktor von Leiningen, August von Alt-Leiningen-Westerburg, Karl zu Castell, Christian von Leiningen-Westerburg und Wilhelm von Walderdorff, dem nassauischen Staatsminister, unterzeichnet. Auch Prinz Wilhelm von Preußen, der spätere deutsche Kaiser, war unter den Mitgliedern, ferner mehrere thüringische Fürsten, der Landgraf

von Hessen Homburg, der Fürst zu Neuwied, der Fürst Alexander zu Solms-Braunfels, Graf Edmond Hatzfeld, Graf Knyphausen, Graf Vetter von Lilienfeld und andere.

Der »Mainzer Adelsverein«, auch kurz »Verein« genannt, hatte es sich zur Aufgabe gemacht, in der damaligen Republik Texas Land anzukaufen, auf dem deutsche Auswanderer angesiedelt werden sollten. Gegen Einzahlung von 300 Gulden für eine ledige Person und 600 Gulden für eine Familie versprach der Verein: freie Überfahrt und Weitertransport zur Kolonie, Übergabe eines fertigen Blockhauses, 160 Acre Land (1 Acre = 4 000 Quadratmeter = 40 Ar) für den Ledigen, 320 Acre für die Familie, Überlassung von Vieh und Ackergerät zu billigen Preisen, die Errichtung von Kirchen, Schulen, Apotheke und Krankenhaus. Dafür sollte



der Siedler in drei Jahren fünfzehn Acre Land urbar machen und sein Haus bewohnen. Über den Betrag wurde den Auswanderern ein Schuldschein ausgestellt, den sie später in Texas wieder einlösen konnten.

Die Chancen für die Gründung einer deutschen Kolonie in Texas standen in den vierziger Jahren nicht schlecht. Außenpolitisch wurde der Verein nicht nur durch Mexiko ermutigt, sondern auch durch England und Frankreich. Sie alle waren an einer Stärkung des deutschen Elements in der Republik Texas interessiert. Nur eine kräftige deutsche Einwanderung konnte nach ihrer Meinung verhindern, daß der junge Freistaat von der Union annektiert wurde.

Die Vorstandsmitglieder des Vereins waren aber keine Kaufleute, sondern schlechte Rechner, sonst hätte es ihnen von vornherein klar sein müssen, daß sie mit einem Aktienkapital von 200 000 Gulden (80 000 Dollar) nicht ein Auswanderer-Projekt verwirklichen konnten, das in Wirklichkeit gut anderthalb Millionen Dollar erforderte. Hinzu kam, daß sie blindlings Landkaufverträge abschlossen, die ihnen von betrügerischen Landagenten vorgelegt wurden. Die Verträge waren längst abgelaufen. Nur in einem Fall gelang es, den Vertrag — es war der, der den Fisher-Miller-Grant betraf — zu verlängern.

Noch schlimmer war es, daß sich die Vereinsdirektoren keinerlei Gedanken über die Beschaffenheit des Landes machten, das sie für 9 000 Dollar gekauft hatten. Das Land war von wilden Indianerstämmen bewohnt und lag 500 Kilometer von der Goldküste entfernt. Als Carl Prinz zu Solms-Braunfels, erster Generalbevollmächtigter des Vereins, Anfang Januar 1845 mit 200 Auswanderern von Indian Point, das er in »Carlshafen« umgetauft hatte, zum Fisher-Miller-Grant aufbrach, mußte er sich überzeugen lassen, daß diese gewaltige Strecke ohne eine Zwischenstation nicht zu bewältigen war. In der Nähe von San Antonio kaufte er einen Landstreifen von 8 856 Acre und gründete darauf am Karfreitag, dem 21. März 1845, mit seinen zweihundert Kolonisten die Stadt New Braunfels.

Schon bald ließ sich Prinz Solms von seinem Posten als Generalbevollmächtigter ablösen. Die Schuldenlast des Vereins wurde immer größer; trotzdem schickte man aus Deutschland immer mehr Auswanderertransporte nach Texas. Baron Otfried Hans von Meusebach wurde Nachfolger von Prinz Solms, doch er sollte noch mehr Ärger mit den Vereinsdirektoren bekommen. Von Oktober 1845 bis April 1846 brachten dreißig Schiffe 5 247 Auswanderer nach Galveston; das waren tausend mehr, als Meusebach erwartet hatte und aufnehmen konnte. Leichte Schoner schifften die

Menschen von Galveston nach Carlshafen, wo sie den Winter in Zelten und Schuppen verbringen mußten. Die Kälte war streng, und der Regen wollte nicht aufhören. Krankheiten brachen aus, und etwa 1 200 Auswanderer starben am Fieber.

Aus dieser Zeit sind noch Tagebuch-Aufzeichnungen erhalten, die Franz Selkes und Johannes Merkel verfaßten. Selkes war landwirtschaftlicher Arbeiter und stammte aus Beuren. Johannes Merkel war Buchbinder von Beruf, verheiratet und hatte sechs Kinder. Er wohnte zunächst in St. Aldegund und verzog später nach Cochem. Selkes und die Familie Merkel gehörten zu einem Transport von 172 Auswanderern, die am 17. September 1846 mit der Dreimast-Bark »James Edward« von Antwerpen in See stachen und am 30. November 1846 in Galveston eintrafen.

Franz Selkes schrieb in sein Tagebuch: »Unser Schiff fährt am 17. September von Antwerpen ab, wir müssen aber schon eine Woche früher dort sein, denn es dauert einige Tage, bis unsere Papiere ausgestellt sind, unser Gepäck überprüft und an Bord gebracht worden ist. Es ist heute der 12. August, als wir mit 21 Personen von Koblenz mit einem Boot bis Köln fahren. Von dort wird es mit einem Pferdefuhrwerk bis Antwerpen weitergehen. In Antwerpen werden noch andere Auswanderer mit uns zusammentreffen. Aber wir fiebern schon alle unserer neuen Heimat, Texas, entgegen, auch Herr Merkel und seine Familie, mit der ich mich angefreundet habe. Wir wollen zusammenbleiben; es ist gut, wenn Freunde in der Neuen Welt zusammenstehen.«

Eine Reise mit Pferd und Wagen war zu jener Zeit äußerst beschwerlich und mit vielen Hindernissen und Gefahren verbunden.

Johannes Merkel schreibt: »Mit einer Pferdekutsche, dem Packwagen dahinter, auf dem unsere Habe liegt, und vornweg die beiden Pferde, so ziehen wir von Köln aus durchs Land, Antwerpen entgegen. Am Tag legen wir bis zu vier deutsche Landmeilen (1 Landmeile = 7,5 km) zurück. Die Straßen sind sehr schlecht. Einige Nachtquartiere und Betten in einem Wirtshaus sind nötig, ehe wir in Antwerpen ankommen. Bezahlen müssen wir dafür mit Reichthalern und Groschen.«

Wer in den vierziger Jahren des vorigen Jahrhunderts den Atlantik überqueren wollte, mußte im allgemeinen mit acht bis zehn Wochen rechnen. Eine sehr lange Zeit für seegewohnte Auswanderer, die auf engem Raum zusammengedrängt waren und bei Sturm und hohem Seegang oft tagelang nicht an Deck gehen und frische Luft schöpfen konnten. Durch Stürme, Windstille und starken Gegenwind wurde die Fahrt manchmal sehr verlangsamt. So kam es vor, daß die Menschen elf, zwölf und sogar dreizehn Wochen unterwegs waren.

Zu den weiteren Unannehmlichkeiten gehörten die Seekrankheit mit Schwindel und Übelkeit; Skorbut mangels frischer Nahrung, der Mund- und Magenblutungen, gelegentlich sogar Geschwüre verursachte, und schließlich die mageren Tagesrationen von faulem Wasser und versalzenem, halbverdorbenem Fleisch.

»Wir legten bei gutem Wetter ab«, schreibt Johannes Merkel, »doch bereits am 22. morgens umzog sich der Himmel und Sturm tat sich auf. Zum erstenmal in unserem Leben hatten wir Gelegenheit, das Meer in seiner furchtbarsten Gestalt zu sehen. Es erhob sich fürchterlich und warf unser Schiff wie einen leichten Spielball hin und her.«



Franz Selkes vermerkt: »Plötzlich trifft mit einem entsetzlichen Schlag eine Welle das Schiff und legt über das Verdeck hinweg. Alle, die gerade oben sind, werden durchnäßt. Unsere Latrinen werden von den Wellen zerschmettert. Mein Mantel, der mir auch als Decke dient, trieft vor Nässe. Der Frost, das Ungeziefer, die quälenden Zahnschmerzen, die der

Anfang des Skorbutus sind, das Heulen des Sturmes, das Klirren des Steuerruders und nicht zuletzt das Geschrei und Stöhnen der Frauen und Kinder erfüllen diese unvergeßliche Nacht.«

Erst zwei Tage später beruhigt sich das Wetter. Franz Selkes: »An diesem Morgen haben wir heiteres und stilles Wetter, aber der Skorbut macht mir zu schaffen. Zähne, Zahnfleisch und Zunge sind brandschwarz, die Zähne locker und ganz unbrauchbar. Es gibt nur wenige und schlechte Medikamente und einen noch schlechteren Arzt. Ich beginne am ganzen Körper auszuschlagen, und hier und da zeigen sich Blutgeschwüre.«

Johannes Merkel zeichnet den täglichen »Speiseplan« auf, den er auch seinen Verwandten in Koblenz in einem Brief mitteilt:

»Um Euch einen Begriff von unserer Kost an Bord zu geben, habe ich hier unseren Speisezettel aufgeschrieben. Die ersten vier Wochen wurden an die Passagiere volle Rationen ausgegeben: für die Woche sechs Pfund Zwieback, sonntags ein Pfund Rindfleisch mit Gerste, montags ein Pfund Mehl, dienstags ein halbes Pfund Speck, mittwochs ein Pfund Mehl, donnerstags ein Pfund Rindfleisch und Kartoffeln, freitags ein Pfund Reis, samstags ein halbes Pfund Speck mit Erbsen sowie wöchentlich ein Pfund Butter, ein Pfund Käse, ein Maß Bier, ein Maß Wasser, ein Gläschen Brantwein und etwas Essig pro Tag. Heute wurden die Fleischrationen um die Hälfte gekürzt, weil sich die Reise beträchtlich verlängern wird wegen der anhaltenden Windstille und das Schiff nur für drei Monate Proviant mitführt. Zudem ist ein Faß mit Wasser faul geworden, und der Kapitän ordnete an, verdünnte Weinrationen auszugeben. Nun wechseln täglich Bohnen-, Erbsen-, Linsen- und Krautsuppe — stark verdünnt, so daß wir nachts vor Hunger aufwachen.«

Franz Selkes letzte Eintragung auf See: »Nach der Windstille passieren wir am 14. November St. Domingo oder Haiti und am 15. November Kuba, wo eine fürchterliche Hitze herrscht und uns eine abermalige Windstille fast zur Verzeufung bringt. Im Golf haben wir wieder

Sturm, so daß wir zwar am 30. November morgens 9 Uhr das Festland und Galveston erblicken, aber noch weitere zwei Tage auf dem Schiff ausharren müssen, bis der Sturm abflaut und wir endlich an Land gehen können.«

Zwei Tage später wurden die Auswanderer nach Carlshafen (Indian Point, später Indianola) geschifft. Doch sie waren entsetzt über die Verhältnisse, die sie hier vorfanden.

Der erste Emigrantentransport, der im März 1845 in Galveston angekommen war, hatte noch sicher und unbeschadet die Siedlung New Braunfels erreicht. Auch mit einem zweiten Emigrantenzug ging es leidlich, weil der Verein für dessen Landtransport und ersten Unterhalt noch genügende Geldmittel geschickt hatte. Von da an aber stellte sich die Schwierigkeit ein, die zur Hauptursache des Mißlingens des ganzen Unternehmens wurde.

Die Geldmittel des Vereins gingen nämlich an, spärlicher zu fließen, so daß die kopflose Verwaltung in Texas in noch größere Verlegenheit geriet. Nachdem der Generalbevollmächtigte Prinz Solms die Gelder restlos vertan hatte und keinen Ausweg mehr wußte, legte er sein Amt nieder und reiste nach Europa zurück.

Sein Nachfolger Meusebach versuchte, sparsamer zu wirtschaften, wodurch er sich natürlich unpopulär machte. Drei Tagesreisen von New Braunfels entfernt erwarb er ein weiteres Areal von einigen tausend Acre für den Verein, auf dem er die Stadt Fredericksburg gründete.

Als er von den Kaufverhandlungen zurückkehrte, erwartete ihn die Nachricht, daß mehrere tausend Einwanderer in Kürze im Hafen von Galveston eintreffen würden. Die Einwanderer kamen auch, aber kein Geld für ihre Verpflegung und Weiterbeförderung. Meusebach ritt nach New Orleans, um dort Geld zu borgen, und versuchte, die Neugekommenen nach und nach ins Innere des Landes zu befördern. Das gelang aber nur zum Teil.

Johannes Merkel und Franz Selkes schildern ausführlich die Zustände bei ihrer Ankunft: »In Indian Point (Carlshafen) liegen nur noch einige hundert Personen des letzten Transportes. Der Tod hat ein Drittel der Emigranten hinweggerafft. Viele haben sich im Sommer einzeln oder familienweise auf den Weg nach New Braunfels gemacht. Da nur wenige Wagen vorhanden waren, mußten die meisten zu Fuß aufbrechen und ihr Eigentum zurücklassen. Auf dieser Reise, die mit den schwerfälligen Ochsenwagen mehrere Wochen dauerte, richteten Seuchen und andere Krankheiten wieder fürchterliche Verheerungen an. Auf dem Trail (Pfad) nach New Braunfels lagen Menschenknochen, Kleidungsstücke, ganze Betten und Handwerkszeug, Kisten und Koffer verstreut umher. An einzelnen Stellen stieß man auf klein gehauenes Holz, man fand eine Axt, aber keinen Menschen mehr. Dann stieß man auf ein ganzes Lager von Deutschen, die am Fieber litten und halbtot, stöhnend, um ein nieder-

gebranntes Feuer herumlagen. Sie hatten keinen Wasservorrat mehr, keinen frischen Trunk für ihre lechzenden Zungen, während rundherum sich sonnendurchglühte Prärie ausbreitete. Zahlreiche Gräber mit kleinen, rohgezimmerten Holzkreuzen kennzeichneten den Weg der Todeskarawane.

Viele starben auf dem Weg, andere erst, nachdem sie ihren siechen Körper bis nach New Braunfels geschleppt hatten. Wieder andere zogen ins Innere des Landes und vermischten sich mit den amerikanischen Siedlern. Eine verschwindend kleine Zahl, deren Mittel es erlaubten, kehrte gebrochenen Herzens nach Deutschland zurück.

Sicher ist, daß in den wenigen Sommermonaten des Jahres 1846 mehr als tausend von den etwa viertausend deutschen Einwanderern, die seit Herbst 1845 unter dem Schutz des Mainzer Adelsvereins nach Texas gekommen waren, gestorben sind und daß nicht mehr als höchstens zwölfhundert wirklich auf Ländereien des Vereins angesiedelt verblieben. Zu den wenigen gehören auch wir.«

Franz Selkes und die Familie Johannes Merkel hatten Glück: Sie blieben vom Fieber verschont. Doch dann traf die Merkel ein harter Schicksalsschlag. Franz Selkes schreibt in sein Tagebuch: »Heute, zwei Tage vor unserer Abfahrt mit dem Planwagen nach New Braunfels, muß die Familie Merkel einen schweren Verlust

hinnehmen. Ihr Töchterchen Antonie, sechs Jahre alt, hat die Strapazen nicht überstanden und stirbt. Schweren Herzens müssen die Eltern ihr Kind in der Prärie zurücklassen. Ein kleines Holzkreuz steht auf dem einsamen Grabhügel. Der Mutter bricht es fast das Herz.« Zusammen mit vierzehn anderen Auswandererfamilien und zwanzig Ochsen gespannen brachen Franz Selkes und die Familie Merkel nach New Braunfels auf. Die Fahrt verlief ohne Zwischenfälle. Meusebach hatte inzwischen mit den Comanchen-Indianern einen Friedens- und Freundschaftsvertrag ausgehandelt, so daß es innerhalb des begrenzten deutschen Siedlungsgebietes zu keinen Überfällen mehr kam. Die Indianer hielten sich an den Vertrag, den ihre Häuptlinge mit den Weißen unterzeichnet hatten und respektierten die deutschen Einwanderer, die sie jetzt als ihre Freunde betrachteten.

Franz Selkes und auch die Merkel blieben in New Braunfels wohnen. Sie bebauten das ihnen zugewiesene Land und wurden angesehen Farmer. Noch heute leben Nachkommen der Merkel in New Braunfels und Fredericksburg.

In den Jahren 1844 bis 1847 brachten 75 Schiffe etwa 8 000 Auswanderer nach Texas, die in den Städten New Braunfels und Fredericksburg und auf dem 3 800 Acre großen Fisher-Miller-Grant angesiedelt wurden. Die genaue Zahl der Auswanderer ist nicht mehr festzustellen, da mehrere Schiffslisten verloren gingen. Die Finanzsituation des Vereins aber spitzte sich immer mehr zu. 1847 war es dann soweit, daß der Adelsverein den Bankrott erklären mußte. Ein Jahr später folgte die Auflösung, und die »Deutsche Auswanderer-Gesellschaft«, die man danach gründete, wurde mit der »Abwicklung der Restgeschäfte des Vereins« betraut.

Während seiner Amtszeit hatte Meusebach 729 Land-Zertifikate über 324 160 Acre an Kolonisten ausgegeben. Insgesamt waren den deutschen Einwanderern bis dahin 1 735 200 Acre Land bewilligt worden.

Wie stark das deutsche Element noch heute in Texas ist, beweisen die Bevölkerungszahlen. Von den zur Zeit dreizehn Millionen Einwohnern sind rund eine Million deutschstämmig. Bis heute hat sich das Deutschtum in den texanischen Kolonien erhalten. Besucht man Städte wie New Braunfels (20 500 Einwohner) oder Fredericksburg (6 000), so glaubt man sich in alte deutsche Kleinstädte versetzt. Ihre Einwohner geben sich deutscher, als wir es in Deutschland tun, bilden aber keine geschlossene Gruppen wie beispielsweise die Wolga- und Balkendeutschen oder die Deutschen in Polen. Die Deutschstämmigen in Texas haben enge Kontakte zur Umwelt; sie sind bewußte Staatsbürger der USA geworden und doch »Deutsche« geblieben

Quellenhinweis:  
Staatsarchiv und General Land Office, Austin, Texas Institute of Texan Cultures, San Antonio, Texas, Archive der Stadt New Braunfels und Fredericksburg, Texas

From

Ochs  
D-4018 Langenfeld  
An Den Irlen  
West Germany

*Germans in America: Restrospect and Prospect. Tricentennial Lectures Delivered at the German Society of Pennsylvania in 1983.* Edited by Randall M. Miller. Philadelphia: German Society of Pennsylvania, 1984. viii + 132 pp. Illustrations, and bibliographical notes. \$5.00.

The diversity of Germans in America is a theme running through this well-edited collection of eight essays by scholars prominent in German-American studies. Although attributing much of this diversity to differences among Germans in Europe, the authors find that many differences developed in America. Klaus Wust goes so far as to suggest, perhaps with tongue in cheek, that German diversity has been so great in America that there has been no German impact on America, only as the subtitle of his essay asserts, "Eight Million Individual Transplants."

Several of the contributors point out that German diversity was so great that a German ethnic group developed in America only gradually. Forged by the standardization of the German language, by a perception of things German by other Americans, and by threats of cultural, economic, and physical harm to Germans in America, this ethnicity disintegrated in the twentieth century. The contributors agree that the disappearance of German America is now largely and irreversibly complete.

With the exception of John A. Hostetler's sensitive discussion of the Old Order Amish, they grapple directly with the issue of this disappearance of what was perhaps the largest ethnic minority in American history. There is a

substantial measure of agreement among them about the reasons for this dissolution. Implying that we cannot extrapolate from German experiences to draw conclusions about the future of other ethnic groups, they tend to accentuate the dissimilarity between Germans and other groups. Several of the contributors are perhaps unduly impressed by the apparent depth and vitality of the new emphasis on ethnicity in America during the past two decades.

The most systematic and detailed analysis of the disappearance of German ethnicity is offered by Kathleen Neils Conzen. Pointing up the divisions among Germans in America—the numerous cultural and linguistic differences they brought with them from the many areas of German Europe, the religious differences that multiplied in America, the class differences that separated them both in Europe and America—she argues that the distinctiveness of Germans in America was bound to fade rapidly once immigration from Germany diminished greatly in the late nineteenth century. Although she mentions the vast campaign against German America during World War I, she believes that this campaign simply accelerated a development already well under way. Some of the essays attribute even less importance to the experiences of World War I, but these experiences hover like a ghost over the pages of this book: The devastating impact of World War I on German Americans is attested to by the perplexity even today of German America's historians who contemplate the significance of that brief period. They are still agitated by it, as if it were a spirit they can never exorcise.

The other essays, although stimulating, are less comprehensive than Conzen's. James M. Bergquist suggests that Germans were, from the colonial period forward, so much a part of urban America that they left an indelible imprint on American cities without ever making one city (not even Milwaukee, Cincinnati, or Saint Louis) their ethnic capital. Miller emphasizes not simply the diversity among Germans in America, but also the discontinuities in German emigration that intermittently led people of different regions, religions, and occupations to America. As a result, German unity in America was always fragile: Germans became "lost in the America they helped to found" (p. 1).

Frederick C. Luebke adds an arresting subtheme. He finds that for Germans real political success in America has required them to submerge their ethnic identifications. His *pièce de résistance* is the career of Senator Robert F. Wagner, Sr., of New York. Although Luebke's essay flashes with insights, I wonder whether Wagner's situation in New York is not atypical. But it is hard to dispute Luebke's belief that German Americans were united politically as German Americans only in opposition—whether to the Temperance Movement or to the entry of the United States into World War I—and that there were notable exceptions to unity even on these issues.

Reinhard R. Doerries, the only German among the contributors, explores religious differences dividing Germans in America. Although it is easy to

agree with Doerries that the differences among "church" Germans (Lutherans, Catholics, Reformed) and the many sects were more pervasive and divisive than the religious differences among most other immigrant groups, I am skeptical about his claim that the English were less divided. If one surveys merely Anglicans (or Episcopalians), Catholics, Congregationalists, Quakers, Baptists, and Methodists, the range of differences seems to be comparable if not greater, especially when the social composition of these religious groups is taken into account. The debatable if stimulating generalizations employed by Doerries confront us with some of the limits of ethnic history when pursued without adequate attention to another historical dimension: social class.

Another way of avoiding dubious propositions about a large, socially heterogeneous group is to study a distinctive group within it, a subgroup with a cohesion lacking in larger ethnic groups. A good example is Don Yoder's vivid essay on the Palatine origins of Pennsylvania German culture. Yoder explores the question of what the Pennsylvania-Germans-to-be brought with them, and what they acquired or developed in America. Since he is focusing on Germans from a single region, and in view of the overwhelmingly peasant origins of the German settlers of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, we might expect him to emphasize the uniformity of the American Palatines. And yet he too stresses the diversity of his Germans, calling attention to the splits between the many sects, and between them and the "churchly" Germans.

Scholars may someday return to the search for unity among Germans in America, but the present preoccupation with diversity has been a fruitful stimulus to research, as can be seen in these excellent and nicely illustrated essays.

Walter Struve  
City College of New York  
City University of New York

**Wo ist die 'Gazette' in Philadelphia zu kaufen?**  
Im Stadtgebiet von Philadelphia ist die "Gazette" jeden Donnerstag, Freitag und Samstag an folgenden Verkaufsstellen zum Einzelpreis von 40 cent erhältlich.

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Articles of Interest to German Texans

"Historic Homes," by Nancy Goebel, Texas Homes, April, 1987, p. 37 (10th anniversary issue).

"A Monument to the Loyal," Southern Living, February, 1987, p. 11x (about Treue der Union monument at Comfort).

"Monumental Studio," by Susan Freudenheim, Texas Homes, February, 1987, p. 68 (about Elisabeth Ney Museum in Austin).

"Kreische's Bluff Beer: A Texas Brew from the Past," by A. Gayland Moore, Texas Parks & Wildlife, September, 1986.

"The Comfort Connection," by Susan Monday, San Antonio Monthly, July, 1986, p. 36 (about Ernst Altgelt).

"What Happens When a Cemetery Dies?" by Christi Phelps, San Antonio Monthly, October, 1986, p. 61 (about San Antonio's eastside cemetery district).

Did You Know?

The first proposal for a Union Catalog of Libraries, not only in Texas, but in the entire U.S., was made among the libraries of the German singing societies in Texas on May 16, 1854, in order to facilitate the interlibrary loan of music for performance.

from: The Tomlinson Lone Star Book of Texas Records, Third Edition, 1979, p. 163.

The Industry-West End Historical Society can boast of having had a most rewarding first year and a half, especially, because of a competent and enthusiastic group of leaders. In order to boost their efforts for continued success the entire membership needs to show support of the group. You can do this by renewing your membership for another year. If you plan to do this, you may renew in person when you attend the meetings or you may mail your dues of \$5.00 per person to either:

Mrs. Florence Raeke

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Mrs Rosalyn Marik, Membership Chairman

Box 283

Bellville, Texas 77418

In return you will receive your membership card for 1987

GERMAN TEXANS' GENEALOGY SECTION

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

## BITS AND PIECES AND NEWS

Translations from German The staff of the Sophienburg Memorial Association, Inc., is able to do a limited number of translations. The fee for translating is \$10.00 per hour. Correspond with the Sophienburg Memorial Association, Inc., Attn: Archives, 401 West Coll, New Braunfels TX 78130.

Another German Translator In the Fall 1985 issue, we announced that Rosel Reyes was willing to assist GTHS members in deciphering old German handwriting. A retired nurse, she has lived in the U.S. over 20 years and in Killeen over three years. Although Rosel said she feels her knowledge of English is not perfect, your genealogy editor has had glowing reports from other members on her ability, helpfulness, and speed. Write to her at 2312 N. W.S. Young Dr., Killeen TX 76541.

German Language Forms Your genealogy editor thanks Elizabeth Lehmann of Brenham for an ancestor chart printed in German. It was found in the June, 1975, issue of The German-American Genealogist.

Information on Pommern The last three issues of the German Genealogical Digest have carried a series on Pommern. The issues are Vol. II, No. 2 (2nd quarter 1986), Vol. II, No. 3 (3rd quarter 1986), and Vol. II, No. 4 (4th quarter 1986). Look in one of the larger libraries or order from: German Genealogical Digest, P O Box 980, Pleasant Grove UT 84062. A subscription is \$22.00 for four issues, or the single issue price is \$6.50.

They're at it again Your genealogy editor received a post card advertisement for the "Gold Family Album" offering a book listing "almost every Gold home in the U.S." although the name is found "to be rare." Although this pitch sounds very much like Beatrice Bayley's and Sharon Taylor's, this person calls herself Elizabeth Gold Ross. A coworker received the identical offer for the "Farris Family Album" from Elizabeth Farris Ross! Be warned that you are actually being offered a book of names collected from public sources such as telephone directories plus general information on the origin of names and how to research your family's history yourself. If that's what you want, go ahead and order. If you are expecting a documented family genealogy, you will be sorely disappointed.

Colorado County Book The Sesquicentennial Committee of Colorado County has published a 96-page softcover book with a brief history of each of the towns of the county, including many very small settlements. Historic photographs enhance the text. Order the Colorado County Sesquicentennial Commemorative Book from the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce, P O Box 343, Columbus TX 78934. Price is \$3.00 plus \$1.00 for postage and handling.

Ellinger Church History The history of St. Mary's Church near Ellinger is now ready. The 53-page softcover book details the history of "The oldest Catholic Church in Fayette County" complete with photographs and names of current parish members. Shortly, the congregation will dedicate a state historic marker. The history is available from Mrs. Georgia Hrachovy, Box 1540, Columbus TX 78934, for \$5.00 plus \$1.00 for postage and handling.

Fayette County History The reprint of Lotto's 1902 Fayette County, Her History and Her People is now available from the Fayette Heritage Museum and Archives, 855 S. Jefferson, La Grange TX 78945. Price is \$15.00 plus \$2.00 for postage and handling.

De Witt County Cemeteries Mr. & Mrs. Robert D. Goebel, 1213 McArthur St., Cuero TX 77954 are recording the cemeteries in DeWitt County. They have already finished Volume I.

Texas State Genealogical Society The 25-year index to the TSGS's quarterly Stirpes is now ready. It covers over 2,000 topics from 1961 through 1985. The TSGS can furnish copies of articles if you find something interesting. The price \$10.00 includes shipping. Make checks payable to "Tejas Publications" and send to Texas State Genealogical Society, 2507 Tannehill, Houston TX 77008. Membership is \$15.00 per year for individuals or \$18.00 for individual and spouse; send to same address above.

National Genealogical Society The 1987 Conference in the States will be held May 13-16 in Raleigh NC, hosted by the North Carolina Genealogical Society. The theme is "Celebrating America's 400th Anniversary 'Where It All Began.'" For information, write NGS Conference, 4527 17th Street North, Arlington VA 22207.

Historic Galveston Homes The 13th Annual Historic Homes Tour in Galveston will run May 2, 3, 9, and 10. For information or for advance tickets (which must be ordered before April 28) write: Galveston Historical Foundation, 2016 Strand, Galveston TX 77550. In addition to continuous tours of eight outstanding homes, there will be other attractions, primarily arts and eats.

New Publication Your genealogy editor received a sample copy of Volume 1, 1986 German Queries. All German-related queries are free, but should be not more than 50 words with no abbreviations. The publication will be produced on an irregular basis, when enough queries are received to fill at least 25 pages. Subscription price is \$5.00 per issue, with postage and handling of \$1.00 for one to three issues. Contact: Bette Butcher Topp, W.1304 Clifford Court, Spokane WA 99218.

Ancestry Articles Recent issues of Ancestry Newsletter have carried articles of interest to our German Texan researchers. Look up these:  
 "A Genealogical Interview: Asking the Right Questions," March-April, 1987.  
 "The Search for German Emigrants," Nov.-Dec., 1986.  
 "An Introduction to Texas Research," Jan.-Feb., 1987.  
 "Researching U.S. Passenger Arrival REcords," July-August, 1986.  
 The Ancestry Newsletter is published bimonthly for \$12 per year by Ancestry, Inc., P O Box 476, Salt Lake City UT 84110. Ancestry also offers many reference works on genealogy plus a membership service for \$24.95 which includes many publications and discounts on books and services. Request a catalog.

#### FROM OUR MEMBERS

The following section was compiled by your Genealogy Editor from information received from our members. If you have an interest in any of the families mentioned, write directly to the member. To have your story appear in a future issue, write to your Genealogy Editor, Theresa Gold, 106 Ranchland, San Antonio TX 78213. Items are published free of charge for members. For non-members, there is a \$3.00 query fee. Please submit a concise paragraph or two, or simply a list of the surnames you are researching along with the

Texas counties the families settled and the religion they practiced.

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

Inquiry from Germany Hubert Frank of Ehringhausen says that German people from Gusternhain are interested in the history of their village and its former inhabitants. In 1845-53, about 50 of them emigrated to the United States, Herr Frank supposes with the help of the "Texas Verein." He is looking for information on certain emigrants from that city. E. Canion of the Comal County Genealogical Society has sent him some information which was shared with your genealogy editor. The families they are looking for are: 1. Jost Heinrich Haas jun., widower, left Dec. 4, 1849; 2. Karl Zeiler and Wilhelmine Henrietta Haas, married May 2, 1844, left Dec 4, 1849; 3. August Michel, unmarried, left Apr. 14, 1849; 5. Johann Jost Haas, jun., and Johanne Wilhelmine Kreuter, married 1839. Their sons were Wilhelm Reinhard, born 1843, and Gustav Arnold, born 1845; 6. Heinrich Haas left with his family Mar. 3, 1853, possibly the father of the next person; 7. Johann Jost Kreuter and wife Margarete Wilhelmine Haas, left May 4, 1853; 8. Johann Heinrich Peter with family left March 14, 1853; 9. Jacob Henrich Frank and Anna Elisabeth Kolb from Breitscheid/Amt Herborn/Herzogtum Nassau. The first eight were all former inhabitants fom Gusternhain/Amt Herborn/Herzogtum Nassau. E. Canion of the Comal County Genealogical Society has sent him some information, but anyone having additional information on these persons may write to: Hubert Frank, Richard Wagner Ring 6, D-6332 Ehringhausen, West Germany.

Edwin Makowski P O Box 4516, Waco TX 76705 is interested in information about two families who lived in the Bastrop area beginning in 1850. Frederick Westphal and William Herms/Harms both married Grussendorf/ Grusendorf girls and both were converted to Methodism by Eduard Schneider. Deed and tax records indicate that both families lived at Piney Creek, north of Bastrop near what is the present north shore of Lake Bastrop. Westphal was a partner of C. Ploeger in a sawmill venture. The children of Westphal were Caroline, William, Mary, Mina, Adelaide, Henry, Johanna, and Emma. William died without having been married. Henry married Bertha Kattner and later moved to Wharton County. Mina married August Brademan and moved to Lee County. Emma married Henry W. Ebers. William Herms arrived in Texas in 1850 from Pausin (possibly Posen) and moved from Bastrop to Industry about 1862. A Rev. William Harms served German Methodist churches at Victoria, Industry, and Beeville during the period 1860-1870. Possibly the Rev. Harms and the William Herms that Edwin is looking for are the same person. Please write to Edwin if you have any information about these families.

Edgar Nolte 375 E. Camp St., New Braunfels TX 78130 wants to know the names of the parents of Ludwig Fisher and Mina Nolte who were married April 24, 1859, at Horton Town Church in New Braunfels by Pastor Kypfer. Was Ludwig also known as Ernst and Herman? Was Mina also known as Matilda? Was his son Ernst Fisher who married a Strey or Hinze living in the Fratt area? Were Alfred, Herman, Oscar, Otto, Minnie children of Ernst Fisher? These siblings married into the Kramme, Wesch, and Zimmermann families. Edgar also sent a

typed abstract of a generation chart with some lines back to his sixth great grandparents on the Nolte side.

Marylen Kroesche Dunk 421 Bronzeglo Dr., San Antonio TX 78239 needs information on Fred W. Wilke, Sr., and his family of San Antonio. He married Ella Guilmino in 1908 and both are buried in St. John's Lutheran Cemetery. His mother was Caroline (Lena) Jung of Comal County, but Marylen needs to know what her husband's given name was, his birth and death dates, and their marriage date. She thinks Fred Wilke Sr.'s children were Sammy, Gilbert, Ruth and Ethel. She also needs to know of anyone who may have researched the Glenwinkel family. Her great-great grandmother was Carolina, (Jan 2, 1811-June 18, 1884). She was buried in the Hortontown St. Martin's Cemetery in New Braunfels. She married Christian Kroesche I in Germany. Was her father's name Konrad? and who was her mother? According to the book The Bremers and Their Kin in Germany and in Texas by GTHS special consultant Robert Robinson-Zwahr, her brothers and sisters were Fredericke, Whihelmina, Carl, Heinrich, and Justine. Marylen also wants to know if any descendant of Johann Andreas Lindemann and his wife Eva Ockner (early settlers of Blanco County) knows where they are buried. She needs their exact birth and death dates. As far as she knows, Johann was born April 13 1797, in Konczewitz, Prussia, married to Eva, his third wife, in 1830, and died in Blanco County in 1880. Eva was born in 1810 in Klein-Czuste. There were 12 known children; most of them settled in the Blanco County area. Marylen's great grandfather was Adam August Lindemann, a son of Johann and Eva. Any information on any of these three situations will be appreciated.

Elsie Gessling P O Box 883, Alice TX 78333 writes that some of her ancestors came from Pomerania in 1846 and she has been to Poland to try to get information. Although she now knows the name of their town is Drawsko, she did not know the correct name at the time of her visit. It turns out that she was within 45 miles of the town and did not realize it! Besides limitations on time, there were language barriers, since she does not know any Polish and only a few people she encountered could speak German.

Marie Neuman Gottfried P O Box 1279, Waller TX 77484 reports that she is writing a history of the descendants of Freidericke Beckendorff Kobs for the 50th Kobs Reunion in 1988. Research is being compiled on her three children: Wilhelm Kobs (Rosehill), Fritz Kobs (Addicks), and Friedericke Kobs Metzler Kleb (Rosehill). This family settled in north Harris County in 1848. She is having difficulty gathering information on the daughter's Metzler descendants: Dr. J.F.W. Metzler, Marie Louise (Mrs. George) Voebel, Jacob Henry Metzler (married Julia Rudel), Martha (Mrs. John Peter) Christen, and Charles Gus Metzler (married Augusta Fritz). Since this book is to cover all the descendants, anyone knowing of a descendant (no matter how remote) is asked to contact Marie.

Daniel J. Hayes 103 1/2 W. Alabama, Apt. 1, Houston TX 77002 is seeking information on the family of his great aunt Otelia (Tillie) L. Fink, who was born in La Grange about 1856 and died at Elgin on Sept. 5, 1898. She was married to Dr. David C. Lea, a dentist who practiced in Bastrop County. Their children were: Julia (born about 1883), Isabel (born about 1885), Howard (born about 1891), and Otelia L. (born Sept. 5, 1899). Tillie died in childbirth with Otelia. Daniel thinks the family may have been Episcopalian, and he thanks our members for any information they can send.

Hilda Pulhmann Rt 1, Box 284, La Vernia TX 78121 is looking for the grave of Samuel Shultz who died in 1882 somewhere in the La Vernia area of Wilson County. Samuel was married to Maria Jung, and they brought their seven

children from Indiana in 1879. They had a daughter in Texas. The wife Maria died in 1880 at New Braunfels. Samuel and the little daughter both died in 1882 and are supposedly buried next to each other. Hilda would appreciate any help on Wilson County burial places.

Lera Witt Javor P O Box 195, Smithville TX 78957 asks for help in finding more information regarding the voyage on which her maternal great grandparents and their three younger children came to Texas. They were Carl Ernst Wilhelm Krüger, wife Wilhelmina (Rosamka), sons Friederic (Fritz) and Johann, and a daughter Berta. They left Bremen on Oct. 17 or 25, 1869, and landed at Galveston on Jan. 10 or 20, 1870. The Krügers actually came ashore at Indianola. During the voyage, the sailing vessel ran into a terrible storm and was blown far off course. Many provisions were ruined and they did not know where they were. The ship lay becalmed for several days. The trip took approximately 90 days. The existing Galveston Passenger Lists have been searched, but the first quarter of 1870 is missing. The National Archives Index to Ship Passengers who arrived at various Atlantic and other Gulf ports between 1820 and 1874 has been searched without success. Does anyone have information regarding this voyage or the name of the vessel? Perhaps one of our readers had ancestors on the same ship.

Mrs. Charles Nash Rt 2, Box 30, Lampasas TX 76550 wrote a Hasse family history and genealogy in 1986 which was published for family members. Also included is a Bickenbach genealogy. These families resided in Mason County.

Barbara Kelsey Boese 207 East Market, Dodge City KS 67801 has been fortunate to locate a cousin that still resides in East Germany. This helps her with her Moeckel and Uhlig lines from Frelsburg in Colorado County. She has been able to get certified copies of birth and marriage records back to the 1600s on some of these lines. If anyone is interested to see copies of them, Barbara will send photocopies. The records have not been translated yet, and Barbara admits her knowledge of German is "almost nil." She remarks, "Too bad I didn't listen to my grandparents more." She also is willing to assist should any of our members need research in Kansas. She has a good collection of material on the Mennonites and offers to search it for needed information. She is currently abstracting genealogical material from Mennonite newspapers and setting up a card file for easier reference.

Eugenia R. Miller 1632 Norfolk St., Houston TX 77098 has created The Luck & Loessin Collection Trust to purchase history, biography, and Texana materials at the Fayette Heritage Museum and Archives in La Grange. She has also published "Johann Philip Luck, Colonist of Texas."

Franklyn K. Zinn 2501 Great Oaks Pkwy, Austin TX 78756 is interested in the Zinn, Kipp, and Probst families, although they were not from Texas. Most of these families were from Wisconsin.

Sharon A. Yeisley 4419 79th St., Lubbock TX 79424 has just started working on the Balko and Loessien families. She knows there are some people who have already a lot of work on these lines.

Sharon Delaney Shafer P O Box 391, Willis TX 77378 wishes to correspond and exchange information regarding DeWitt County families: Boldt, Binz, Boehl, Meyer, Metting, Moore, Rangnow, Afflerbach, Peters, and Eckert.

Mel Steger 12514 Riva Ridge, Houston TX 77071 is working on a history of the German settlement, the Richland Community, in northeast Travis County. The community is bounded approximately by Pflugerville, New Sweden, Cele, and



Manor. It was originally settled in the early 1850s by the Henry Pfluger, Sr., family. Mel is searching for historical background about this area prior to 1850, along with photographs and information concerning the founding and early history of the Cele Store, Cele Cotton Gin, Cele Saloon, Richland Hall, Richland School, and the St. John Church at Richland. He is also requesting information and photographs dealing with the migration and settlement of these early families of the community: Ganzenbach, Prinz, Meyer, Sakewitz, Fuchs, Schmidt, Hamann, Weiss, Meuller, Hees, Melber, Wiruscheske, Vorwerk, Hodde, Hohertz, Mahlow, Dossmann, Wenzel, Kinkel, Brachenwitz, Preiss, Jaecks, Henkes, and Rust. This project is being done in conjunction with the upcoming celebration of the 110th anniversary of the Richland Church in 1988.

Dennis & Marjorie (Lutringer) Baumbach 427 Spence, Crosby TX 77532 are working on histories of the Baumbach and Lutringer families with the assistance of Lorraine Brunson. Note by your genealogy editor: Marjorie is the daughter of Walter and Frances (Drastata) Lutringer and the granddaughter of Willie Karl and Annie Frances (Hoelscher) Lutringer; she is a sixth-generation descendant of the Hoelscher- Buxkemper Family.

Gay E. Langerhans 12106 Dakar, Houston Tx 77065 has traced one of her family lines to her great great grandfather, Johann Winkler, but his name is all she has been able to discover about him. His wife was Josepha (Josephine) Pauler Winkler, and his two daughters were Josepha Winkler Gleckler and Marie Helen Winkler Dieckert (Gay's great grandmother). She has found that his two daughters immigrated to Texas Sept. 10, 1873, at ages 9 and 7. They came alone on the ship Strassburg but she has not discovered when Johann and Josepha arrived. Gay feels that Josepha arrived before the children, since she found a record of her second marriage, to Ernst Otto on June 20, 1874, in Fayette County. So, Gay wonders what happened to Johann Winkler. She has found no gravesite for him in all of Fayette County, nor has she found a death certificate. Gay speculates on the possibilities that perhaps he never came to Texas, that he died in the homeland, or that he died aboard the ship. If Josepha came alone, who awaited her in Texas? Gay is hoping that some Winkler family has her great grandfather Johann ~~Winkler~~ in its history also, or possibly that there are Pauler families that can help her with more information on Josepha.

GTGS MEMBERS' GENEALOGICAL EXCHANGE

Members are encouraged to use this column format in sending information for the Newsletter. It gives readers the names, areas, and other facts "at a glance." Also, it is quicker for you to submit--and easier for your Genealogy Editor to compile! Let's have more for this section.

Member	Researching Families	Tex. County Settled	Religion
Myrtle McNiece 1623 S E Malden St Portland OR 97202	Imhoff Broichee Nigabaur Spect	Bexar, Comal Guadalupe Bexar, Comal Comal	Catholic Lutheran Catholic ?

Genealogical Exchange, continued

Member	Researching Families	Tex. County Settled	Religion
Barbara K Boese 207 East Market Dodge City KS 67801	Brandt	Fayette, Austin	Lutheran
	Giesecke	Fayette, Austin	Lutheran
	Korff	Austin	Lutheran
	Moeckel	Colorado	Lutheran
	Witte	Austin	Lutheran
	Worhler	Austin	Lutheran
	Uhlig	Colorado	Lutheran
-----			
Dorothy N Busby Rt 2, Box 2070 Boerne TX 78006	Naumann	Fayette, Bastrop	
	Korn	Fayette	
	Kuehn	Fayette, Bastrop	
	Brabant(t)	Fayette, Bastrop	
	Carby	Fayette	
	Harryman	DeWitt, Goliad	
-----			
M/M Kenneth Crenwelge 206 Goehmann La Fredericksburg TX 78624	Crenwelge	Gillespie	Lutheran
	Gold	Gillespie	Lutheran?
	Dietrich	Gillespie	?
	Kallenberg	Gillespie	?
	Lochte	Gillespie	Lutheran
	Reinbach	Bexar, Gillespie	Catholic
	Weingartz	Bexar, Gillespie	?
	Meyer	Gillespie	?
	Zimmer	Gillespie	?
	Rahe	Gillespie	?
	Wisner	Gillespie	?
	Moellering	Gillespie	Lutheran
	Moeller	Gillespie	?
	Siegmund	Gillespie	?
	Schlentz/Schlunns/ Schlunz	Medina	Lutheran
	Oefinger	Medina	Lutheran
	Helmke	Guadalupe, Comal, Medina	?
	Fous/Fuss	Medina	?
	Buss	Comal, Medina	?
	Muennink	Medina	?
	Saathoff	Medina	?
	Friedenschoen	Medina	?
	Besch/Boesch	Colorado, Comal	?
	Bick	Colorado	?
	Prysbilla	Comal	Protestant
	Weisensee	Comal	?
	Meckel	Comal	Protestant
	Pruesser	Comal	Protestant
	Busch	Comal	?
	Wahl	Comal	?
Hogenhauer	Denton, Comal, Bexar	?	

Continued

Genealogical Exchange, continued

Member	Researching Families	Tex. County Settled	Religion
<b>M/M Kenneth Crenwelge (continued)</b>			
	Jung	Comal	Protestant
	Doerr/Dörr	Comal, Bexar	?
	Fesch	Comal	Catholic?
	Diehl	Comal	?
	Brandenberg	Comal	?
	Moehl/Möhl	Comal	?
	Witt	Comal	?
-----			
Jocelyn Shannon Rt 1, Box 158 Maxwell TX 78656	Ench Laechelin Schumann Krueger Foerster Bliedler Spatz	Guadalupe Guadalupe Guadalupe Gaudalupe, Comal Comal Comal Comal	
-----			

22—Thursday, March 26, 1987—Recorder-Times  
San Antonio, TX

# Save past by preserving photo

**The biggest threats to your photo collection are extremes in humidity and temperature, and exposure to light and air pollution which can alter the chemical nature of the image.**

your photographs. Try to avoid touching the image itself.

Photographs also need to be protected from excess pressure, dust, smoke and abrasion, and even from other photographs. Poor quality photo albums, tape and glue also accelerate deterioration.

Archivists recommend you purchase archival quality albums and store your prints in archival storage containers.

These materials are free of acids and other chemicals which could damage the paper on which the photographs are printed. Local photo supply stores may carry the items or be able to order them for you.

Your photo album does not have to contain every picture in your collection, only those you have selected as the best or most important to your family.

Store the prints that are used, as well as the negatives you want to save, separately and in archival quality envelopes made for this purpose. With a pencil, write on the envelope the name, date and place the image was captured.

When identifying prints, write lightly on the back, on a hard surface, and use a soft pencil. Identifying photographs as soon as they are printed will provide valuable clues to your descendants.

The library may have some publications with further guidelines, and a photo archivist may be able to help.

Important family documents are not limited to just marriage certificates, wills and insurance policies.

They also include family photographs, whether they are of baby's first birthday, Christmas morning, Big Bend vacation or wedding portraits and other images of your ancestors.

Photo archivists at the Institute of Texan Cultures stress that it is important to preserve and protect these images for future generations.

When caring for and handling your photos, remember they are chemically and physically very complex. Almost as soon as a photograph is developed, it begins to deteriorate.

The biggest threats to your photo collection are extremes in humidity and temperature, and exposure to light and air pollution which can alter the chemical nature of the image.

If your collection contains 19th-century prints, relative humidity is probably the single most important environmental factor and the key to the preservation — or destruction — of these treasured photographs.

Store your photographs where the climate is relatively stable, not in an attic or garage. The ideal environment is dry enough to inhibit chemical biological deterioration and moist enough to keep the materials flexible.

The recommended level of relative humidity is 30-50 percent with temperatures below 65 degrees Fahrenheit.

Direct sunlight, and even artificial light, may cause images to fade. Avoid placing valuable original photographs in frames for display, except for brief exhibitions. Black and white copy prints should be made for lengthy displays.

Harmful oils on your skin also can affect the chemical balance of

**graphs** Family Photo Exhibit  
Institute of Texan Cultures  
San Antonio, April 7-26

## SERENDIPITY

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The first issue of the GTHS Newsletter that I ever saw had a request for information from Donaly Brice of Lockhart about the Rhode (Rohde) family. This was just fabulous for me because we find that he and I have a common great-great grandmother who came to Frelsburg in Colorado County in 1841. Mr. Brice sent me copies of the early Lutheran Church records from Frelsburg and after much eye-straining examining of the records my daughter was able to read the indistinct German script entry giving the grandmother's place of birth. Next, again after more eye strain, one day last summer at 2 a.m. she found the village, Ormesheim, on a very detailed Michelin map. It turns out to be a very small village not far from the Saarbrucken airport.

So off went a letter to the Lutheran pastor of the village. They have none, but by the greatest good fortune my inquiry about the lady, Elisabeth Theis, was referred to a very kind and knowledgeable gentleman who did great research into the family, tracing them in the area back to 1650 and sending beautiful genealogical charts.

We have corresponded, and I thought readers would be interested in hearing more about this gentleman. Herewith an abridged letter (translated from German) from him dated December 9, 1986.

"Many thanks for your card with the information regarding the life of your relative, Elisabeth Theis. It is unfortunate that you were not able to stop in Ormesheim (in October). The community would have given you a small\* reception in the town hall. (\* 'small' is not necessarily an indication of the number of people comprising the reception committee, but more a phrase of etiquette and not to make it sound like a brag.) . . .

"Allow me to tell you briefly about myself. I was born in 1906 in Ormesheim and worked there as a teacher. My last position was 'Principal of the Elementary School of Ormesheim'. . . . My first family, my wife, three children, and my mother-in-law, died in an air raid in December 1944.

"I've been in the war in France (Normandy) and in Russia and spent the final days of the war in a Russian prisoner-of-war camp from which I was released in 1944 as disabled.

"Afterwards I made my home with my parents and married a second time and from this marriage I have four children. . . . We do not have children living at home any longer and my wife and I live all alone in our large house with the beautiful garden.

"In 1979 I was Chief Magistrate of our community, was director of the church choir, and am still helping out playing the organ. I also conduct tours through a former cloister in Gräfinstal, approximately 5 km from here, a very popular place. . . . "

All this wonderful information and introduction to such a fine gentleman from one little entry in the GTHS Newsletter.

MARION FREEMAN  
2163 SWIFT  
HOUSTON, TX 77030

**MASS IN GERMAN IN SAN ANTONIO**

In honor of St. Joseph The Worker, at St. Joseph Church, 623 E. Commerce St., San Antonio, on Friday, May 1, 1987, at 7:00 P.M. Music by San Antonio Liederkrantz. Social afterward on church parking lot. For information: (512) 227-0126.

The following article from the Jan 14, 1987, Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post was sent by Joyce Behr of Boerne. It has information similar to the "Inquiry from Germany" item in the "From Our Members" Section.

## AROUND

THE



## SQUARE

With Art Kowert

Interest in Genealogy has always been great and probably no one realizes the interest in tracing family history better than those engaged in the newspaper business.

Hardly a week passes that someone doesn't drop by the Standard-Radio Post office and seek information from our newspaper archives of relatives or friends who once lived here or who are thought to have once lived here.

Newspaper archives are a prime source for such information, especially in their obituary pages. In the early days these obituaries contained information on people who immigrated to the United States from Germany, telling from where they came and listing their survivors.

Today these old papers are in such fragile condition that they are not open to public view and we send people to the Pioneer Memorial Library where copies of the paper are on microfilm.

Many local people make trips to Germany to trace their ancestors and some of them have met with success in their quest for knowledge of their forebearers.

Church records in Germany have been meticulously kept through the years and are probably the best source of information on the many early settlers of our area who came from there.

Now The Situation is being reversed with people in Germany writing to see whether we can help them find out what happened to people who came here from Germany when Fredericksburg was first founded.

During the Christmas holidays we had such an inquiry from Hubert Frank, who lists his address as Richard Wagner-Ring 6332 Ehringhausen, West Germany.

Frank wrote: "German people from Gusternhain are interested in the history of their village and its former inhabitants. In 1849-53 about 50 of them emigrated to the United States, I suppose to Texas with the help of the Texas Verein.

"Please would you be so kind," his letter continued, "to help us find out something about their fate. Maybe in your town are people with the same history consciousness that we have in our town.

"We would like to have (if possible) information on these people and are giving you the year in which they left Germany."

Jost Henrich Haas jun, widower, 1849.

Carl Zeiler and Wilhelmine Henrietta Haas-1849.

August Michel-1849.

Philip Heinrich Wesel with family-1850.

Johann Jost Haas jun, and Johanne Wilhelmine Kreuter, and sons Wilhelm Reinhard and Gustav Arnold-1865.

Henrich Haas (father of Jost)-1853.

Johann Jost Kreuter and family and Margaretha Wilhelmine Haas-1853.

Johann Heinrich Peter with family-1953.

Jacob Henrich Frank and Anna Elizabeth Kolb-1846.

All of these were former inhabitants of Gusternhain, Amt Herborn, Herzogtum Nassau, which is now 6348 Breiteheid-Gusternhain.

Anyone having information on any of these people can forward it to Hubert Frank, Richard-Wagner-Ring 6, 6332 Ehringhausen, West Germany.

Getting Back To local people seeking to check out their ancestry there are any number of sources of information.

One of these is the County Clerk's office where vital statistics records are kept. It wasn't until 1903 that registering of the statistics was required. However, during the years since the Social Security System had been in operation many of the birth records dating back to the late 1800's have been updated.

Old ship lists that contained the names of those arriving on the first ships from Germany, along with early census records, are likewise important.

Old church records are a valuable source, especially the Kirchen Buch, a church record book of the Vereins Kirche from 1849-1870 that was translated from German to the English by the late Ella A. Gold.

All of these materials are available at the Pioneer Memorial Library which is literally a one-stop location for those seeking information.

Genealogical Society of Kendall Co. announces: Genealogical Abstractions from Kendall County, Texas, Probate Records. 236 cases, 1862-1900, over 2,000 indexed names. Price: \$10.00, plus \$2.00 postage, plus \$.63 tax for Texas residents. Order from: Genealogical Abstractions P. O. Box 623 Boerne TX 78006

6 • THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION • February 25, 1987

## Footnotes

A large number of the some 2.5 billion pages of historical records held by U.S. state archives are deteriorating, and measures to deal with the situation are urgently needed, according to a new report.

*Preservation Needs in State Archives* presents the findings of a study conducted by Howard P. Lowell, administrator of the Oklahoma State Archives and Records Program, for the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators.

The study determined that the deterioration of the records had resulted from such things as substandard storage conditions and insufficient funds.

Reevaluation of preservation practices and expanded use of microfilming are among the remedies the report recommends.

*Preservation Needs in State Archives* is available free from the Council of State Governments, P.O. Box 11910, Lexington, Ky. 40578. *We Are Losing Our Past*, a brochure summarizing the 56-page report, is also available free from the council.

# Temple Church Celebrates 100th Anniversary

Sunday, November 9, 1986

First Lutheran Church of Temple will celebrate its 100th anniversary today with special programs beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the church.

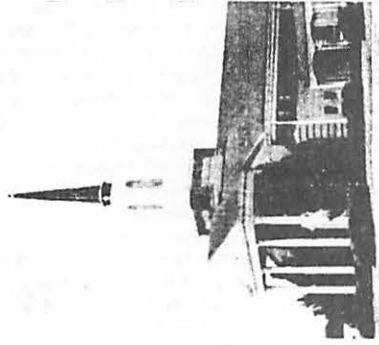
The celebration will begin with a concert by the Temple Junior College Choral, under the direction of Dr. James Murphy, dean of the college's music department, followed by a concert by Ann Abercrombie, church organist.

The regular service, conducted by the Dr. Douglas Stolleis, will get under way at 10 a.m. Stolleis will be assisted by the Rev. Timothy Scheffel, associate pastor.

There will be just one service and no Sunday school. A catered luncheon will take place at the Frank W. Mayborn Civic and Convention Center at 1 p.m. Special guests will be recognized during the luncheon.

The church was organized in the spring of 1866 when a missionary of the old Texas Synod, C. Kreutzenstein, came to the village of Temple to organize a church for German-speaking Lutherans.

The church began with 13 individuals from eight families who conducted worship services in their homes and at the Presbyterians church on Sunday afternoons. The church members called themselves Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church.



**1st Lutheran Church**

The original 13 were Mr. and Mrs. Christian Schmidt, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Paulus, Ida Scholz, Ottillie Kock, Mrs. Matt Bost, Mr. and Mrs. August Jahnke, Mr. and Mrs. John Rhein and Mr. and Mrs. August Haedge.

Construction of the Temple's first Lutheran church began in the summer that year on an unpaved corner of Avenue F and South 4th Street, and the white frame building was dedicated on the second

Sunday of November.

Of the original 13 members, three families still are represented in First Lutheran Church's congregation: Tillie Blum, granddaughter of Ottillie Kock; August Lange, Edna Hughes and Albert, Walter and Gertrude Eberhardt, grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. August Haedge; and Agnes Morgan and Otto Wirth, grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. Christian Schmidt. Ms. Morgan's son, Richard, great-grandson of the Schmidts, also is a member of the congregation.

The original congregation grew and, after Kreutzenstein left, a succession of seven pastors and traveling missionaries led the church's devotionals through 1910, when the Rev. Robert C. Albert came to lead the church.

By 1913, the congregation had grown to 328 members in 66 families and had outgrown its facilities. The decision was made to buy a lot and house at the corner of Avenue G and South 1st Street, and work soon began on a brick facility. The project was completed in 1914 for \$8,000.

When the Rev. I.J. Haig came in 1925 to lead the congregation, the church had a morning service in German and an evening service in English, but with the beginning of

World War II that practice ended; services were conducted only in English.

By 1946, the congregation was re-named First Lutheran Church, and in 1948 the Rev. Raymond Schlieser began his 14-year tenure as pastor. It was under his guidance in 1951 that a half-lot was purchased at West Adams Avenue and 31st Street and, seven years later, the present colonial structure was dedicated.

The church was tended by the Rev. James B. Essinger from 1962 to 1969; the Rev. Rudy Kelling came in 1970, and a second minister, the Rev. Dennis Dirks, was installed in 1971.

Stolleis was installed in 1980, and the Scheffel was installed Oct. 26.

Throughout its growth, First Lutheran Church has been active in community matters. It was one of the first churches in Temple to have a blood assurance program, and it sponsored Cambodian refugees living in the United States. In the fall of 1984, a health care team spent several days in the Rio Grande Valley assisting the poor with medical care.

The First Lutheran Church is a member of the Board of the Lutheran Sunset Home for the elderly in Clifton.

The church also helps support Texas Lutheran College in Seguin and contributes to national mission projects around the world.



Chronicle of Higher Education, Oct. 22, 1986, p. 27.

**Saint Vincent College** this month celebrated its 140th anniversary as well as the 200th birthday of its first benefactor—King Ludwig I of Bavaria.

The college, in western Pennsylvania, was originally established to educate the children of German immigrants and to train clergy for the German-speaking people of the United States.

In its first years the college received significant financial support from King Ludwig, who also gave it more than 300 works of art. While most of the paintings are by lesser-known artists, the value of the 197 works that remain in the college's collection has been estimated to be more than \$1-million. Its primary value today, however, is historic. An official of Saint Vincent said the collection "represents the influence of Benedictine spirituality on Germany since the Eighth Century."

To celebrate the anniversaries, the college assembled a special exhibition of 30 of the paintings, which are being shown publicly for the first time. The exhibition, called "Gifts of a King—The Treasured Art of Saint Vincent Archabbey," will be open until early December.

Prince Luitpold of Bavaria, a great-great-great grandson of King Ludwig I, attended the opening of the show.

Dear Editor:

After 6 years of researching my Verein ancestor through available records in this country, I finally decided to do it --- to visit the German village from which he and his family had emigrated to Texas in 1845. The Tour Group on our previous trip to Germany had not gone to that area, so on the 16th of September of last year (1986) my husband and I flew to Germany for a week's stay in my ancestor's point of origin, with our son acting as driver. 67

To my relief, the village of Herbornseelbach, in the Dillkreis district of northern Hesse, and its jurisdictional parent Herborn, were not industrial centers but beautiful country hamlets of half-timbered houses and friendly citizens. Herborn had undergone extensive restoration recently for its 1000th Birthday celebration, and still possessed the landmarks which my ancestor would have known since childhood, including the 16th Century "Rathaus" from which some of his emigration papers had originated. Drives through the outlying towns and village brought us to the very doorsteps of the churches in which he had been christened and married. The lay of the farmlands, where he would have lived, was very much like our own Ozarks.

As impressive as the old buildings and countryside were, the people almost conspired to impress us with their hospitality. In fact, many special moments were contributed by individuals: the old lady who saw us taking pictures and came out to tell us about her freshly dug potatoes; the girl in the "Verkehrsamts" who got tickled every time she heard our English; the storekeeper with the ancestral surname who gifted us with souvenirs from his store; the strangers who let us know they were leaving when we were trying to find places to park; our landlady, who straightened our rooms each day above and beyond the call of duty, even to ironing our pajamas; and our landlady's family, who played for us their own videotape of the Herborn celebration.

They were so interested in us and our reason for being there that we were twice given celebrity treatment. Returning to our lodging one evening, we were met by our landlady, who wanted to tell us that a reporter from the Herborner Tageblatt had called requesting an interview! Hardly had we gotten over this unexpected dividend when we were informed that a reporter from the Dillenburg Dill-Zeitung, a newspaper with an even larger circulation, also had called. According to our landlady, this girl actually had begged to see us on learning that we would be leaving the next day!

We never learned who had told them about us, but we have suspected the Herborn town archivist, as only he had known where we were staying. Apparently, they were fascinated by the fact that an American family would come all the way from Texas to visit their community, so far off the tourist lanes. Either that, or they thought us a trifle mad!

I am enclosing a copy of the article about us from the Tageblatt, which the reporter, Andrea Seeger, was gracious enough to send us. I think your readers might find the story of our reception in rural Germany interesting.

If there is one thing we have learned from our adventure, it is that the common folk of Germany, away from the big cities, have got to be the friendliest in the world.

Mrs. Viola Gilley (member)

218 Emporia Lane  
Duncanville, Texas  
75116

Viola Gilleys Ururgroßvater Johannes Kring siedelte 1845 in Texas

Sa, 27.4.86

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# Die Gilleys suchten in Seelbach nach den Spuren ihrer Vorfahren

Den alten Dillkreis fanden sie schön – bis auf die engen Straßen



Casy und Viola Gilleys haben in den vergangenen Tagen viele ihrer Verwandten in der Heimat ihrer Urahnen besucht. Mit von der Partie war ihr Sohn Mikel (links), der seine Eltern über die »engen deutschen Straßen« chauffierte. (Foto: aas)

Herborn-Uckersdorf (as). »Good Old Germany« hat es ihnen angetan. Ihre erste Reise in die Alte Welt führte Viola und Casy Gilleys aus Duncanville in Texas vor zwei Jahren schon einmal nach Deutschland. Damals waren es selbstverständlich der Schwarzwald, Bayern, das Schloß Neuschwanstein und Heidelberg, die auf dem Rundreiseprogramm standen. Als sie vor zwei Wochen in Fort Worth zusammen mit ihrem Sohn Mikel ins Flugzeug via Germany stiegen, hatten sie anderes im Sinn: Sie wollten ein wenig in ihrer eigenen Vergangenheit kramen, etwas mehr über die eigene Herkunft erfahren. Eine Beschäftigung übrigens, die bei vielen deutschstämmigen Amerikanern neuerdings sehr beliebt ist.

Viola Gilleys Ururgroßvater Johannes Heinrich Kring stammte aus Herbornseelbach. 1845 wanderte er mit seiner Ehefrau und fünf Kindern aus. Mit dem Segelschiff war die Familie zwei Monate lang unterwegs, bis sie in Texas an Land ging. In der Nähe der Küste, bei Indianola, ließen sich die Krings nieder.

Viele andere Einwanderer zogen weiter bis nach New Braunfels, einer Siedlung, die seinerzeit der Fürst zu Solms-Braunfels gegründet hatte und heute Partnerstadt von Braunfels ist.

Ihre deutsche Abstammung können die Bürger von New Braunfels nicht verleugnen. Schon die Straßennamen verrä-

ten, wer die Stadt einst gegründet hatte. An den Eingangstüren der Geschäfte steht vereinzelt noch statt »Welcome« ein freundliches »Willkommen« geschrieben. Die Schilder, die an den Straßen auf die verstreut liegenden Ranches hinweisen, tragen Namen wie Müller, Fischer, Bork, Meyer oder Schmidt. Die Zeitung heißt »New Braunfels Herald Zeitung«.

Vom Staatsarchiv in Wiesbaden bekam die amerikanische Familie umfangreiche Aufzeichnungen über ihren Stammbaum. Von ihrer Herberge aus, der Pension Peter in Uckersdorf, besuchten sie jetzt ihre Verwandten. Das allerdings schafften sie nur teilweise, da allein im Haigerer Telefonbuch 52 Krings verzeichnet sind. Unter anderem statteten sie Hans-Jürgen Kring vom Herbornseelbacher Kaufhaus Kring einen Besuch ab. Auch für Gerd Kring von der gleichnamigen Spirituosenfabrik reichte die Zeit.

Nach ihren Eindrücken vom alten Dillkreis befragt, antworteten die Gilleys übereinstimmend: »Die Leute hier sind sehr freundlich zu uns. Das Autofahren bereitet uns etwas Schwierigkeiten, weil die Straßen so eng sind. Dafür ist die Landschaft wunderschön. Oft erinnert sie uns an zu Hause.«

Die Gilleys wollen bald wieder nach Deutschland kommen, nicht nur, um weitere Ahnenforschung zu betreiben.

Herborner Tagesblatt  
by Andreas Seeger



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ANN LINDEMANN

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Needed

*Index Editors  
For The 1987  
issues - Both  
For Topics And  
SURNAMEs!  
If interested,  
Contact MARY  
EL-Beheri.*

## Wer war Bertha von Suttner wirklich? Erste umfassende Biographie aus München

München - (INP). Ihr Antikriegsroman "Die Waffen nieder" erregte 1889 großes Aufsehen und wurde rasch in alle europäischen Sprachen übersetzt. Berühmt wurde Bertha von Suttner 1905, als sie den Friedensnobelpreis erhielt. Über ihre Person und ihre politischen Ambitionen war bisher jedoch wenig bekannt. Die erste umfassende Darstellung von Leben und Werk dieser mutigen Frau hat in diesem Jahr der Piper Verlag in München veröffentlicht: "Bertha von Suttner. Ein Leben für den Frieden." Brigitte Hamann hat die europäische Pazifistin, die 1843 in Prag zur Welt kam, väterlicherseits von der Wiener Hocharistokratie abstammte und längere Zeit in Paris lebte, in ihrer gesellschaftlichen Orientierung dargestellt und Parallelen zu den heutigen Kriegsgefahren gezogen.

Dieses Bemühen kommt einer Mahnung gleich, denn Bertha von Suttners Proteste gegen Krieg und Aufrüstung richteten nichts Entscheidendes aus; sie starb kurz vor Ausbruch des Ersten Weltkrieges. Ihre mutigen Schriften haben jedoch Aktualität behalten. Auf die Romane der auch in der Emanzipation engagierten Pazifistin macht die Suttner-Biographie aus München neugierig.

Bereits mit 16 Jahren schrieb Bertha mehrere Novellen, von denen sie jedoch zunächst nur eine einzige gedruckt sah. Nachdem sie bald darauf das Heiratswerben des Bruders von Heinrich Heine, Gustav von Geldern-Heine, ausgeschlagen hatte, setzte die poly-

glotte junge Dame das Studium der Weltliteratur fort. Erst 1875 begann sie sich mit dem Menschheitsproblem Krieg zu befassen. Sie lernte damals in Paris den millionenschweren Dynamit-Erfinder Alfred Nobel kennen, der sie gern geheiratet hätte. Ihre Wahl fiel jedoch auf den verarmten Wiener Romancier Arthur von Suttner. Beide entdeckten den Journalismus als Geldquelle.

Berthas erster Roman erschien in Fortsetzungen in einer Familienrevue und trug den Titel "Hanna". Es folgten zwei weitere Gesellschaftsromane, bevor "Die Waffen nieder" erschien. 1899, zehn Jahre später also, folgte das andere zeitkritische Buch "Das Maschinenzeitalter". Alle weiteren Schriften sind dann Zeugnisse "aufklärerischen" Einsatzes für die Sache des Friedens.

Als Fortsetzung zu "Die Waffen nieder" erschien 1903 der Roman "Marthas Kinder". 1906 kamen ihre Randglossen heraus und drei Jahre später ihre Memoiren.

Als Alfred Nobel 1883 entschied, einen Teil seines Vermögens für diejenigen auszugeben, die "den größten Schritt in Richtung auf eine Befriedung Europas getan haben", mußte dies als sympathische Geste gegenüber der stets von ihm geschätzten und verehrten Bertha von Suttner erscheinen, die er als Gräfin Kinsky kennengelernt hatte. Den somit gestifteten Friedensnobelpreis erhielt sie selbst erst bei der fünften Verleihung.

Horst Kollmann  
(IN-Press)

Re: Lornette Dukes, Chairman of Farms and Ranches,  
GTHS Registry

Lornette died of cancer this past fall, and her death was a real loss to not only her family and friends, but to all Texans interested in preserving history, especially the German Texans. She read about the Registry in the Cuero newspaper and promptly sent in some material. She also joined as a Contributing Member, and volunteered as Chr. for Farms and Ranches. She did a very thorough job, writing many letters and contacting people to encourage them to submit material. Her category has one of the largest files.

At the same time, she was serving as Cookbook Chr. for the "Dewitt County Heritage Cookbook", and again she did a bang-up job. Lornette fought cancer for many years, but this battle did not keep her from making a significant contribution to the preservation of the German-Texan heritage.

*From  
Daphne  
Garrett*

Sister MARLENE FRITZ

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# South Texas camp workers blame wartime

By Joe Vargo  
American-Statesman Staff

The guard towers and 10-foot-high wire mesh fence that surrounded the Crystal City Internment Camp are gone, replaced by a sprawling new housing project that is home to dozens of poor people.

A simple marker stands to commemorate the camp that was home to Japanese and Japanese American, German, South American, and Indonesian citizens held at Crystal City from 1943 to 1945.

Rene and R.W. Rossington remember the camp.

The brothers, who still live nearby, worked at the Crystal City facility, talked to the internees and mingled freely in their homes.

R.W. Rossington worked as an armed guard, while his brother was part of the construction team that installed the plumbing.

Both agree the camp was necessary to protect local residents and foreign citizens.

"I don't know if it was right," said Rene Rossington, 79. "During the war, people did a lot of things they didn't normally do."

R.W. Rossington, 80, said: "It was all right. They had nice houses, and they didn't want for anything. They were picked up for their own protection."

Located in the heart of Zavala County about 200 miles southwest of Austin, the Crystal City camp was built in the 1930s for transients who worked for the Civilian Conservation Corps. The 240-acre site had 50 houses of California redwood when World War II broke out.

Austin American-Statesman Feb 19, 1987 p. 1

The camp was used exclusively to house families. The Rossington brothers say they remember lines of local residents staring at trainloads of internees when their train stopped in town en route to the camp.

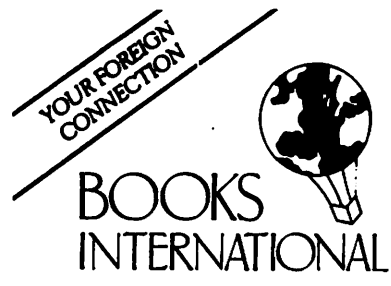
Both men said they got to know many of the people inside the camp. They said they never feared for their safety.

"None of the guards ever had to fire a gun," R.W. Rossington said. "It was a nice place. The people treated us real nice. They weren't looking for trouble. The only thing we weren't supposed to do was get too friendly with the Japanese or Germans. We couldn't accept anything they offered us."

Rene Rossington said some of the internees helped build portions of the camp. He said many of those detained wanted as much security as possible from angry Americans.

"I think some of those Japanese thought it was necessary to have a fence around the camp," he said. "Without it, there might have been a lot of people going inside who had no business there."

Neither man could recall any serious disturbance inside the camp, which remained open until after the end of World War II. Several Japanese families purchased land in nearby Uvalde and began farming. On Nov. 16, 1985, a historical marker reading "World War II Concentration Camp" was unveiled at the site.



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# Two rural gems shine amid the madding city

**Express-News**  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Sunday, February 1, 1987

By **MARINA PISANO**  
Express-News Staff Writer

It's by no means the worst-looking stretch of asphalt in the city — yet. But, these days, a drive east along Wurzbach Road, down the steep hill from Fredericksburg Road and under Interstate 10, is a swift descent into acute sensory overload.

Jobs and growth come at a price, and the tab runs high along this bustling commercial row. The quiet, two-lane country road of 15 years ago, or even 10, has become a frantic, congested, four-lane nightmare — a must-to-avoid mess at rush hour.

Yet amid all the cars, gas pumps, convenience stores, office centers, bars, strip clubs, pizza and taco palaces, stands a peaceful, green patch of what was once one of the city's prettiest rural scapes.

Tucked back in the woods, unseen from the road, are two unspoiled San Antonio gems, survivors of the way it was — the 72-year-old Wurzbach house and its owner, Emily Wurzbach Mickler, who turned 87 on New Year's Day.

With the pressure of people and development closing in, Mickler reluctantly has sold off or ground-leased some of the 20 acres she inherited with the two-story, native-stone house. A brother and sister were left another 180 acres remaining from the original 1,400-acre property.

"Taxes are killing me. Why, just on that one acre over there," she points across the lawn, "the taxes are \$10,000." A less committed soul would have sold it all long ago for a handsome price.

Depending on location, property along this part of Wurzbach runs from \$3 to \$16 per foot — much more than that before the current real estate slump.

Yet, like many older, native Texans with a deep sense of name and place, this blue-eyed, white-haired octogenarian is passionate in her attachment to the land.

"I won't move. Why should I? I was here before any of this," she says of the shopping center hidden by the wooded perimeter round her front lawn.

"Besides, nowhere else would feel like home. With the exception of the (14) years after I first married, this has been my home since I was a girl. I moved back in 1940, after my father died."

Mickler's husband, Robert, a retired furniture dealer, died four years ago. Now, she shares the old house with Bama, a big, wiry Airedale, who sometimes loses the warm spot at the hearth to dachshund Fritz.

Fritz really belongs to Mickler's daughter, Bebe Kinder, who lives in a newer home on the property. "I'm glad Bebe's here. I don't feel so alone that way," says Mickler, who also has two sons.

Her eight grandchildren — especially Robert Augustus Wurzbach — visit regularly. "Robert changed his last name from Kinder, so the family name won't die out," Mickler says, smiling. "I

really appreciated his doing that."

Sitting in one of the leather chairs in the living room, warmed by a freshly laid fire, it's easy to forget the frenetic activity beyond the venerable live oaks. Especially with Mickler serving freshly baked, German potato cake and painting old family portraits in her pleasing, rural South Texas accent.

Not that this trim, still-vibrant woman lives in the past. "She's up at 4:30 or 5 every morning," says son Calvin Mickler. "Then she drives herself 10 miles, each way, to go swimming at the San Antonio Country Club — winter or summer."

"It's good exercise, keeps you fit," says Mickler, who doesn't think a 20-minute swim in 40-degree weather is any big deal.

### Wurzbach farm

But, back to the family chronicles. "Papa first bought this land in 1904," she begins — "Papa" being William Augustus Wurzbach, son of German-born Charles Louis Wurzbach, a distinguished local attorney and county judge.

Both William and his brother, Harry, followed in their father's footsteps, becoming attorneys and county judges — for Bexar and Guadalupe counties, respectively.

In 1893, William married Emily Schmeitler, daughter of prosperous, German-born businessman Gustav Schmeitler. Hugo & Schmeitler, wholesale grocers, occupied a building adjoining the walls of the Alamo, no less.

Mickler herself was born in a house on Water Street, torn down for HemisFair. "Later we moved out here to the country," she says. "Papa's land went from Vance Jackson to Fredericksburg Road. In pasture alone, there were 750 acres. We had our first house in what is now Colonias North."

"Mind you, this was never a ranch. Nowadays, people call anything, one or two acres a ranch," says Mickler, impatient with such rank misnomers. "To me, a ranch is thousands of acres. This was a farm."

### Commuting

Wurzbach was a gentleman farmer who kept a few cattle, but mainly enjoyed living out in the country, despite a 10-mile, morning commute into town — by buggy, at first.

"I remember we had a beautiful, very fast little trotter that flew like the wind. She could make it from the pasture gate to Papa's office in the Alamo National Bank in 45 minutes" — using Fredericksburg Road.

It was Mickler's father who, in 1912, gave the county the farm road (Wurzbach) that started at Vance Jackson and ended at Fredericksburg Road.

"I think some people might con-

fuse this road with the other one named after Uncle Harry (Harry Wurzbach Highway)," Mickler adds. "Uncle Harry was the politician in the family, a Republican. He served three terms in the (U.S.) congress."

The years haven't dulled Mickler's sharp insight. "Papa served in the state legislature for a while and was well thought-of. But, he never was a politician. He was too straight-forward, almost blunt. He always said what was on his mind, not what people wanted to hear."

In 1915 a fire destroyed the Wurzbach Colonias North house. "I remember Mama was running around trying to save things — like the grand piano," she laughs. "My little brother had the presence of mind to carry out grandfather's portrait" — now hanging over Mickler's fireplace.

So the present Wurzbach home was built high on the hill, near Fredericksburg Road. "Papa designed it himself," Mickler says, "even though one of his very best friends was a famous architect. He said Allee (B. Ayres) wouldn't have let him build what he wanted."

The non-professional didn't do badly, thinks Leonard Lane, who heads the architecture department at the University of Texas at San Antonio. The Wurzbach design is a departure from the familiar limestone, metal-roof ranch houses built in the Hill Country and foothills.

### Nature's air conditioning

"It's a very simple response to the climate and terrain and the materials at hand. Yet, it's a very sensitive, very elegant solution. I can see, in some of the finishing details inside, the influence of the arts and crafts movement which originated in England in the late 19th century," explains Lane.

The exterior walls are thick, native stone — quarried where the former Turtle Creek Country Club complex now stands. A red-tile roof extends over the gracious porte-cochere on one side.

The front entrance is an unusual double-glass door with sliding screens — boldly modern for its day. Today, Mickler uses a second set of doors off the porch as the main entry.

"Papa wanted a house where every room, almost, would open to the outdoors," recalls Mickler. "He always said these big trees out here, were nature's air conditioning."

The house, in fact, is only one or two rooms deep in most places. A long, columned porch provides shelter from the sun. Inside, large windows and 12-foot-high, coffered wood ceilings encourage cool breezes.

Certain extravaganzas were vetoed. The floors are dark-stained pine, not the "richer-looking oak Mama wanted," Mickler says. "She so much wanted a grand, Georgian-style door for the front, but Papa said that would be too expensive."

Between the kitchen and one of the two downstairs bedrooms, an intimate little patio surprises the visitor. A trellis woven with flowering wisteria once covered it.

Two more bedrooms are on the second floor, where Mickler's father did allow one flight of extravagant fancy. "You see, Mama was afraid nobody would ever want to come up out here from town. Her daughters would never meet any eligible young men."

So Wurzbach built a roof garden up top for parties. "In any case, he was sure we'd never have any fly-by-night dates. A boy had to be serious to drive this far," she laughs.

### Merry Hupmobile

One important mecca of society and culture was the German community's Casino Club on Market Street (long gone), where operas, concerts, a commodious bar and gala, holiday balls always drew fashionably dressed crowds.

Mickler, by her own accounts, was a strong-willed young woman, not about to sit waiting in the backseats for beans. "Papa was strict, but he knew if he didn't give me my head on some matters, I'd bolt."

Like driving, she practiced first on the family Stoddard-Dayton, later driving the Model-T Ford and Hupmobile. In those days, "Lucy Seeliger, Daughter (Elhel) Tobin and I were the most adventurous young girls in all San Antonio — the only ones driving by themselves."

"I'd take Papa to his office and then drive to school" — the Mulholland School, a private girls' academy for more affluent families.

"Although I never felt I was particularly privileged," she says, "I don't think people felt the same way about wealth in those days — not in a materialistic way like now."

It took some convincing, but Mickler finally was allowed to go "up to Austin, to the University," as generations of Texans called it. "Papa tried to talk me into going to (Texas) A&M, but I wouldn't hear of it."

"He had his bachelor's degree from A&M. And, although he earned his law degree at the University, he remained fiercely loyal and was even a director at A&M. Once they (the Aggies) capture your mind, they've got you forever," she says archly.

Mickler majored in history and psychology. "Which prepared me for nothing, of course. I really wanted to go on for my master's in psychology, but back then, young women didn't

do that. Papa thought I just wanted to stay up in Austin and have fun.

"There was teaching, but I found education courses so boring." That left marriage to a young man-about-town from Alabama. "The first time I met Robert, I thought he was the handsomest man I'd ever seen," she recalls.

A visitor wonders what the gentleman farmer would say if he could see Wurzbach Road and environs today. The rolling farms, ranches and country estates are now the giant South Texas Medical Center, USAA, Datapoint Corp., shopping centers, supermarkets and subdivisions.

Las Cimas, the stately, Spanish-style stucco home Joe Frost Sr. built in the 1920s across Fredericksburg Road as a weekend country retreat is now the leasing office for an apartment complex — one of a zillion complexes hereabouts.

A big country home on the edge of the medical center is now Addo's, an Italian restaurant. "The Bruins lived

there first. Then Mr. (W.W.) Wolfe, who owned the inn, moved his family in," Mickler recalls. The Wolfe's inn restaurant site, after several crops of restaurants, has sprouted self-serve gas pumps.

**Fast-food pasture**

Where cows grazed and Mickler's father hunted, a neoned, fast-food city glows. "Who would have thought little San Antonio would grow this big," says Mickler.

"One day, after all those apartments down the hill were built, I went out back, sat down and said, 'This is a shame.' Once I could look all the way to Lockhill Selma Road and see nothing but beautiful trees. Now I see nothing but roofs.

"I suppose it was foolish of me to think it would never change," she says a little wistfully.

Inside the house, little has changed. Family portraits — several of high-born, 18th-century German ancestors — treasured china and much of the furniture designed

by Mickler's husband fill the rooms.

"My husband always wanted me to sell this old dining room table." She rubs its worn surface, standing in the sunlit breakfast room. "But, I can't part with it. Too many people I love have sat around it over the years."

Still, she's too busy to become maudlin about all this. "She's amazing," says Kinder. "She carries in all her own firewood, does all the cooking, bakes cakes, cleans the house." For Christmas Eve, she prepared a traditional buffet for the whole family — ham, sausage, salads, home-baked bread and three kinds of coffeecake.

**Icebergs and snakes**

She's impatient with the fuss about her age. After all, "my sister in Gonzales — Eleanor Kennard — is 90." She agrees she should start talking into a tape recorder, setting down for future generations family history and some personal reminiscences.

Like the time World War I broke out while she and her family were on holiday at a spa in Austria. "Papa finally was able to book passage for us on a Cunard liner. At night, you couldn't light a match on deck, for fear of the submarines. One morning we counted 42 icebergs."

Or, a more recent recollection of the time she was bitten by a deadly copperhead snake in front of her house. "We still had those around here back then." Mickler, then 60, calmly searched the brush until she found the reptile. It was dispatched with a shovel.

Why not just rush to a hospital for an antidote? "Because I knew if I didn't produce that snake, they'd think I was some dotty old lady, imagining things."

Then or now, only fools — or possibly some Aggies — could make that mistake.



PHOTO BY BOB OWEN

Emily Wurzbach Mickler has lived in this native stone house for almost all of her life. She stays passionately attached to the land and house, despite encroachment of Northwest commercial development.



PHOTO BY BOB OWEN

Emily Wurzbach Mickler, 87, relaxes in her family home designed by her attorney father in 1915.

# German-Texan Heritage Society

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Founded in 1978, the German-Texan Heritage Society is a non-profit organization devoted to building pride in the heritage of the German-speaking settlers who brought an important cultural ingredient to Texas. The Society is united in its effort to disseminate information about archives, research projects, cultural events, folklore, publications, and meetings related to German-Texan topics.

The Society seeks members from the general public....descendents of all German-speaking peoples, researchers, genealogists, history enthusiasts, folklorists, preservationists, and those interested in the German-Texan experience.

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

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

Membership categories are:	Student	\$ 5
	Regular	\$ 8
	Contributing	\$15
	Institutional	\$15
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Projects of the Society are: 1) The reprint of ROEMER'S TEXAS, which may be purchased through the Society. 2) Sponsorship of the reprint of THE CABIN BOOK (DAS KAJUTENBUCH) by Charles Sealsfield which may be ordered from Eakin Press. 3) The creation of a German-Texan Registry, and 4) The reprint of Rudolph Biesele's THE HISTORY OF THE GERMAN SETTLEMENTS IN TEXAS 1831-1861. To be available at the 1987 meeting in Galveston. Approximate cost: \$15.95 plus tax. Forward by Hubert Heinen.

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

## GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

Southwest Texas State University

For more information contact:

Dept. of Modern Languages

San Marcos, TX 78666

# German-Texan.



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Announcements, articles, genealogical inquiries, reunion dates, news of events, etc., are always welcome from members. Send to the appropriate editor or to the editor-in-chief on or before the deadlines listed above. All articles should be typed, SINGLE SPACED on 8 1/2" by 11 paper, with a 1/4" margin on all edges. For sharpness and clarity, try to use film or a new cloth ribbon. And do not forget to clean your typewriter keys!!

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GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

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1988... SEPT. 9-11  
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1989...SEPT. 8-10  
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