

Trentoner Donauschwaben Nachrichten

Volume 4 Issue 2



April-June 2004

Points of Interest

- David G. Yuengling, a German Immigrant, founded the Eagle Brewing Co., Pottsville, PA in 1829. It is the oldest brewing company in the USA.
- Germantown in Philly was founded in 1683 by German immigrants from Krefeld, North Rhine Westphalia.
- German American Day is 6 October and marks the arrival of the Germantown settlers.
- The Declaration of Independence was published in German on 9 July 1776 in the *Pennsylvania Staatsbote* newspaper before it was in English.
- The German Society of PA was founded in 1764, America's oldest German organization.
- Holy Trinity Church in Philadelphia was founded in 1789 & is the oldest German Catholic Church in Philly.
- One of the oldest German Reformed Churches in the USA is the Old First Reformed in Philly (1727).

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JUST ANOTHER DINNER.....

It's just another Sunday dinner at the Donauschwaben. The morning preparations have been underway since 8:00 AM or so. The food has already been purchased during a "road trip" to the local wholesale store a day or two before. There are vegetable dishes to make; meats to prepare; and, tables to set. The anticipation builds as the kitchen crew wonders what type of turnout the club will have and what type of unexpected issues might arise. Will the coffee machine work? Will we have enough or too much? Will Herr Jakober ever get back to the ticket table? (*just kidding*, Herr J!!)

The first of the dinner guests usually arrive a half hour or so prior to the official kick-off time. They sit and talk with each other or with other club members who are happy to see familiar faces or make new acquaintances. For the workers, however, there is always a nervousness associated with the time just before a dinner as no one is really sure of the size of the crowd. Sure, reservations have usually been made, but often the weather or other circumstances can mean fewer or even more dinner guests. Once 1:00 comes around, though, the anxiety vanishes as the work of serving the food begins.

Our servers typically have a set number of tables for which they are responsible. You will normally see our younger members doing the serving with back-up members helping insure that things run smoothly. (The Donauschwaben counts itself lucky to have such hardworking young people!) In the kitchen, the activity is now at its highest level of the day, with hot food being ladled into dishes and taken quickly out to the tables. It's amazing that so much gets done in so small a space! It's very much like a Viennese waltz at times, each helper dancing around the other as the work gets done.

Meanwhile, our ticket takers send arriving dinner guests to pre-assigned tables.

Sometimes, last minute changes are needed and the pressure to make just the right decision can build quickly! Most of the time, however, our guests have been to the club before and know the drill quite well. It's a comfortable and family-like atmosphere that works great for both guests and helpers alike. First-time visitors to the club often comment on the easy-going nature of the Donauschwaben dining experience. The food, of course, remains the "main attraction" and we are proud to say it has been very well received for many, many years.

The beehive of activity continues apace, with a constant flow of workers into and out of the kitchen. The refreshment serving area sees its fair share of activity too. As the end of the dinner approaches and the last of the desserts are finished, there's always a real sense of accomplishment among the kitchen crew members. "It went well", "they really seemed to like this or that especially", "let's try this next time" and so on can be heard as the dishes are cleaned and the tables cleared. The day's proceeds are then counted and bills paid. After most of the guests have left, our helpers too begin wrapping up all of the various odds and ends in the kitchen. One by one, an "auf Wiedersehen" is said and the now somewhat tired workers start their way home.

In a very real sense, dear readers, this is the life-blood and primary activity of the Trenton Donauschwaben year-round. For decades the typical dinner has been and continues to be the way our club maintains itself and how our club members come together as a community. In many ways, our club defines itself by this once a month activity. It's not sexy or glitzy; rather, it's a straight forward and "family values" oriented activity that has served us well for nearly 50 years. Yes, it is "just another dinner" but it is also a large part of what we are all about.

See you next time at the club.

Hans Martini

Club Matters & Members



CLUB MEMBERS PERFORM LOCALLY

Club members Roger James Mauro and Mike "Led" Lenyo make up the two guy acoustic guitar duo "Guitar Junkies". They recently performed locally at Gersh's Place at Liberty & Olden Avenues in Trenton on 7 February 2004.

Fellow club members; Dennis, Donna and Melanie Bauer, Hans Martini, Denese Lenyo, Kim and Bob Walter, Joe and Caroline Brandecker and Steve Brandecker showed up to support the duo and "Rock On!". They did numbers from the Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin, Buddy Holley, Bo Diddley, Kenny Wayne Shepherd and others.

The food was good, the beer was cheap, but best of all, the Guitar Junkies rocked the house! Those of us that attended recommend you stop by and see them perform sometime as they make their tour through Trenton and central NJ.

Mike then played again at Gersh's Place on 27 March 2004 with Doug Bitonti of "The Dawgs". He was supported by his club fans again with JoAnn Martini joining us this time. Mike & Doug brought down the house. GOOD STUFF!

Trenton Donauschwaben

Vereinsvorstand fuer (Club officers & staff) 2004-06

Präsident	Joseph Brandecker
1. Vizepräsident	Dennis J. Bauer
2. Vizepräsident	Robert Walter
3. Vizepräsidentin	Kim Walter
Schatzmeister	Ludwig Jakober, Jr.
1. Stellvertreter	Harold Parr
2. Stellvertreter	Walt Suttman
3. Stellvertreter	Stefan Mayer
Sekretär	Hans Martini
Stellvertreterin	Eva Martini
Protokoll Sekretärin	Eva Martini
Rundschreibenredakteur	Dennis J. Bauer
Finanzprüfer	Richard Jakober, Al Tindall & Michael Lenyo
<u>Frauenschaft:</u>	
Präsidentin	Josefa Brandecker
1. Vizepräsidentin	Helga Kusenko
2. Vizepräsidentin	Caroline Brandecker
Schatzmeisterin	Kim Walter
<u>Schule:</u>	
Präsident	Kurt Müller (on leave)
Lehrkräfte	Kurt Müller (on leave), Brigitte Kleinmann & Andy Franz (substitute)
Hausmeister	Marion Dlubak
Stellvertreter	Joe Dlubak
Wirtschaftsmeister	Stefan Brandecker
Familienforschungsleiter	Dennis J. Bauer
Webleiter	Ed Soden
Stellvertreter	Dana Miles
German Heritage Festival Vertreter	Stefan Brandecker
Donauschwabern USA Vertreter	Joseph Brandecker, Stefan Brandecker & Ludwig Jakober
Totengedenktafelkomitee:	Hans Martini, Harold Parr, Eva Martini & Dennis J. Bauer
AutoKlubleiter	Terry Huff
Stellvertreter	Mike Colacello
<u>Direktoren:</u>	Harold Parr, Josefa Brandecker, Mark Gruzlovic, Harold Million, Frank Herdt, Eva Martini & Ulrich Haller
Ehrendirektorin	Rosa Wildmann

Note: We will be amending and updating our By Laws this year. Look for further details in the next issue.

Genealogy & History Section

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The European edition of the book *Genocide of the Ethnic Germans in Yugoslavia 1944-1948* is now available. It is up to date and in spite of its small size it is a complete documentation of all the crimes committed against the ethnic Germans in Yugoslavia. It might be very useful for many members of your club. It isn't only a document for the family history of Danube Swabians, it could also be used as a tool for informing the world and make it aware of that genocide. We need world consciousness to support the struggle for our rights and rehabilitation.

The following PRESENTATION gives you more information about the contents of the book and its intentions. Ordering data are also included.

Please draw the attention of many people to this book and encourage them to buy it. Buying it for schools and libraries would be a wonderful thing. I trust the information furnished to you will be helpful. The documents PRESENTATION and BUCHBESPRECHUNG are attached.

Yours very cordially,

Helmut Birg, Germany

Genocide of the Ethnic Germans in Yugoslavia 1944-1948 (European English-Language Edition)

The book is based on the four-volume documentation *Leidensweg der Deutschen im kommunistischen Jugoslawien* [The suffering of the ethnic Germans in Communist Yugoslavia], compiled 1990-1995, and the companion pocket book *Verbrechen an den Deutschen in Jugoslawien 1944-1948* [Crimes committed against the ethnic Germans in Yugoslavia 1944-1948] which was published in several editions since May 1989. It is, however, a distinct edition. Due to space limitation, this English-language book dispenses with detailed source references; interested readers can obtain these from the aforementioned documentation series which was compiled in a scientific and responsible manner.

The project committee "*Documentation*", which is responsible for the content of this publication as well as for the entire documentation series has been authorized by the Donauschwäbische Kulturstiftung München and the Federal Danube Swabian Associations of Germany and Austria to document the genocide events.

Finally, the book was created out of respect for the immeasurable suffering of the victims. The solidarity of remembrance, a dominant feature of a new humanity, mandates that the suffering of those innocently killed shall not be forgotten. The book also wants to give those dead victims a voice.

During the last ten years of the 20th century the whole world followed, with horror and detest, the terrible events in multi-ethnic Yugoslavia. However, hardly anybody knows that 50 years earlier, in this very nation, a gruesome genocide, preplanned and directed by its highest leadership, took place. At that time ethnic German citizens of Yugoslavia were the victims, but the civilized world looked the other way.

After 1944, about 500,000 ethnic German citizens of Yugoslavia disappeared from their native land. Since Tito assumed power, and up to the deposition of Milošević, Yugoslavian historical writings with reference to their former ethnic German citizens contained only lies, concealment of crimes and disavowal of the genocide. During more than 50 years the systematic falsification of history was also practiced by Yugoslavian writers. Only now, after they have overcome dictatorship, local people are gradually beginning to ask that the truth be told. One purpose of the book is to help them in this endeavour. It is a terrible, cruel, truth; not a pleasant, but a necessary reading.

The ethnic Germans whose ancestors had been living since 1686 in the area of the middle Danube region, then part of Hungary which in turn was part of the Habsburg Empire and since 1918 was attached to Yugoslavia, are of the opinion that world conscience cannot remain silent about the crimes and atrocities committed against them. But without knowledge, conscience cannot be raised. In order for world consciousness to learn about their fate and bring it to its awareness, the facts of the genocide and committed atrocities have to be recollected: orgies of murder, confiscation of property, disfranchisement, shipment to concentration camps, planned annihilation by starvation, epidemics, and ethnic re-education of children. – For that purpose, this book attempts to fight against suppression, concealment and forgetfulness.

We get informed that over many generations the Danube Swabians, as the majority of the ethnic Germans in Yugoslavia were called, lived peacefully among other nationalities in their native homelands which were incorporated in the newly created Yugoslavia after World War I. For those readers who are not familiar with this area, and to better understand these events, there is a brief explanation of the development of this new nation up to World War II, the first disintegration, the following civil war, and the attainment of power by the Communists. The ethnic Germans were submitted to these historic developments and when the Communists prevailed, their fate was sealed.

In the title and throughout the book the authors have used the term "genocide" for the crimes committed against the ethnic Germans in Yugoslavia. And they present objective proof that the legal facts of genocide within the definition of the UN Convention of December 9, 1948, are clearly established. Furthermore, by publishing this book they want to draw world attention and the attention of the pertinent nations to the fact that the moral and legal rehabilitation and an adequate restitution for the ethnic Germans in Yugoslavia is still an open file. A settlement of this matter will contribute to the peaceful cohabitation in a new Europe.

NOTE: There is quite a difference between the book already published in 2001 under the same title in the United States and the present special European English-language edition published in September 2003 in Munich, Germany.

When ordering this book, you are kindly requested to insist on the European edition. The book may be ordered at bookstores (ISBN 3 – 926276 – 47 – 9) at the price of EUR10.00 plus shipping costs. To avoid unreasonably high mailing costs when the book is obtained from Germany, it is recommended to order it from one of the following distributors (\$26 U.S., includes s/h):

Mr. Peter Erhardt
100 N. Roy Ave
Northlake, IL 60164
USA

Heimat Publishers
Mr. Frank Schmidt
1 Lyme Regis Cres.
Toronto, ON Canada - M1M 1E3

Genealogy & History Section (Continued)

The German-Hungarian Family Calendar Magazine

Subscriber List for Mercer County, NJ 1951-54 (*Deutsch-Ungarischer Familien Kalender*, National Weeklies, Inc., Winona, MN, 1951, 1953 & 1954 Issues) . This is a list of "S" surnames from the Trenton area only. Additional surnames will follow in future issues.

Transcribed by Dennis J. Bauer, 17 December 2002. Surnames appear exactly as spelled in the original text and may not be the actual spelling. The list shows the individual's place of origin and their address in the Trenton area at the time of subscription to the magazine. Some translations of town, county and country names were done. As with any secondary source, you may wish to consult the original magazine. This complete list can also be found on the Club web site under genealogy.



The magazine, written in German, was published in the U.S. from 1932-1954. They contained stories from the German-Hungarian regions of Hungary, Yugoslavia and Romania, pictures of "home", jokes, poems and best of all a list of American and Canadian subscribers, their spouses, their place of origin and their present addresses in the U.S. and Canada. During its publication, the magazines listed between 10-15 thousand North American Donauschwaben.

Trenton, NJ

SCHAUDENECKER, Adam, from Sentleonişfalva, Arad, Romania and Anna MÜLLER, from Billed, Banat, Romania, 203 Genesee Street.
 SCHERER, Jacob, from Dunaceb, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 707 Anderson St.
 SCHERER, Jakob, from Obrowatz and Josefina KALMUS, from Palanka, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 20 Marshall Ave.
 SCHERER, Josef and Maria BOHNERT, from Palanka, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 28 Marshall Ave.
 SCHERER, Nikolaus and Theresia STOCK, from Dunaceb, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 214 Rusling St.
 SCHLAPP, Johann, from Wekerle, Batschka, Yugoslavia and Katharina FLESCHE, from Parabutsch, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 32 Hewitt Street.
 SCHLUNSKY, Max and Eva STILLER, from Bukin, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 1307 S. Broad Street.
 SCHMELTZ, Josef and Katharina BAHM, from Palanka, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 233 Rusling St.
 SCHMELTZ, Josef and Magdalena PENTZ, from Palanka, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 323 Hewitt St.
 SCHMELTZ, Max., from Palanka, Batschka, Yugoslavia and Margaret VOGL, from Kreuzstätten, Banat, Romania, 103 Virginia Ave.
 SCHMIDT, Wilhelm and Sofie SCHMIDT, from Neudorf near Vinkovca, Srem, 81 Marshall Ave.
 SCHMIDT, Konrad, from Miletitsch, Batschka, Yugoslavia and Katharina MARSCHAL, from Hodschag, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 509 Emory Ave.
 SCHMUSKER, Peter and Margartha GUSZ, from Kreuzstätten, Banat, Romania, 116 Hewitt St.
 SCHNEID, Anton, from Paripas, Batschka, Yugoslavia and Mary LACKNER, from Gorjani, Slavonia, 227 Woodland St.
 SCHNEIDER, Julius, from Perles, Banat, Yugoslavia and Rosina ODER, from Eseg, Yugoslavia, 153 Garfield Ave.
 SCHÖN, Michael and Rosina SCHÖN, from Palanka, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 1002 Anderson St.
 SCHÖN, Nikolaus and Anna KAMRAD, from Palanka, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 1053 S. Clinton Ave.
 SCHPREITZER, Anton, from Tschalma, Srem and Elisabeth WENZLER, from Trenton, NJ, 341 Cummings Ave.
 SCHUJKO, Johann, from Modosch, Banat, Yugoslavia and Magdalena HEIDECKER, from Ernesthausen, Banat, Yugoslavia, 634 Liberty St.
 SCHUMACHER, Martin and Mary DUASCHEK, from WEKERLE, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 1050 Franklin St.
 SCHUMACHER, Peter, from Obrowatz, Batschka, Yugoslavia and M. AFFENBACHER, from Brestowatz, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 228 Rushing St.
 SCHWARTZ, Georg, from Palanka, Batschka, Yugoslavia and Theresia SINGLER, from Paripas, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 347 Morris Ave.
 SCHWARTZ, Michael, from Kreuzstätten, Banat and Theresa WOLZ, from Nemet-Tschak, Hungary, 131 Randal St.
 SCHWENDEMANN, widow Anna nee BOHN, from Palanka, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 510 Liberty St.
 SCHWENDT, Jakob, from Palanka, Batschka, Yugoslavia and Lottie STIBITZ, from Rathskirchen, Rheinpfalz, 14 Jersey St.
 SCHWENDT, Peter and Maria REIS, from Palanka, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 630 Washington St.
 SENTIVANSKY, widow Katharina nee MATHES, from Engelsbrunn, Banat Romania, 130 McClellan Ave.
 SHERER, Nikolaus and Theresia STOCK, from Tscheb, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 214 Rusling St.
 SIMON, Johann, from Harom, Almas, Arad and Ana BOLD, from Johannesfeld, Banat, Romania, 651 Franklin St.
 STERN, Stefan, from Palanka, Batschka, Yugoslavia and Maria KELLER, from Paripas, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 215 Rusling St.
 STETNER, Lorenz and Maria STRAKA, from Palanka, Batschka, Yugoslavia, S. Clinton & Chestnut Ave.
 STILLER, Josef and Katharina PFUHL, Bukin, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 425 Morris Ave.
 STRIEGL, John and Maria GEBERT, from Gara, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 176 Jersey St.
 STRITZKI, Peter and Eva ABEL, From Paripas, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 2583 S. Broad St.
 STUMPF, Josef, from Stamera, Banat, Romania and Eva SIMONE, from Bocsar, Banat, Yugoslavia, 810 Lawrence Rd.
 SUPARITZ, Andreas, from Bereg, Arad and Anna ALLAR, from Segenthau, Banat, Romania, 25 Kearney Ave.

Note: Peter Schmidt of Knoxville, TN, has recently created a Deutsch-Ungarischer Familien-Kalender web site that now includes the subscribers' list from these 1932-1954 yearly magazines. He has added information to this site from our club's web site extracted from the magazines by our, Dennis J. Bauer.

Pete's web site is at: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~banatdata/DUK/surnameindex.html>

	Dennis Jacob Bauer, M.S. 49 Conifer Road Levittown, PA 19057-1718 Genealogy & Family History	
<small>Member: Association of Professional Genealogists, National Genealogical Society, Bucks County Genealogical Society, Arbeitskreis donauschwäbischer Familienforscher (AKJFF), Historical Society of Schuylkill County, PA</small>		
<small>Phone: 215-945-9089</small>		
<small>d.bauer@juno.com</small>		<small>d.bauer@worldnet.att.net</small>

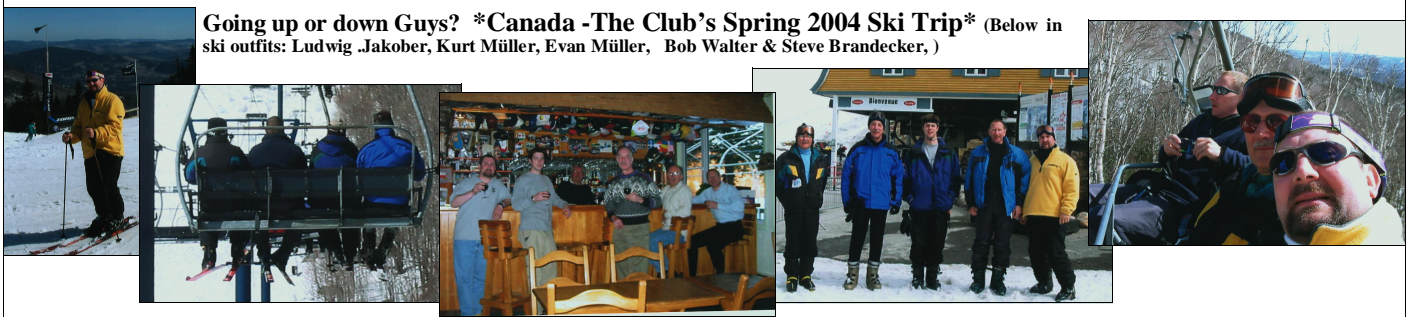
Membership News

2003 Club Officers & Staff

Joseph Brandecker— President *Robert Walter*— V.P. for Facilities
Kim Walter— V.P. for Human Resources *Hans Martini*— Corresponding Secretary
Eva Martini— Recording Secretary *Ludwig Jakober*— Treasurer
Josefa Brandecker— President Ladies' Auxiliary
Harold Parr— President of German Language School
Dennis J. Bauer— V.P. for Cultural Affairs, Genealogist, Newsletter Editor
Dana Miles/Edward Soder— Web Masters *Adam Martini*— Newsletter Staff Writer



Going up or down Guys? *Canada -The Club's Spring 2004 Ski Trip* (Below in ski outfits: Ludwig .Jakober, Kurt Müller, Evan Müller, Bob Walter & Steve Brandecker,)



Membership Happenings (births, engagements, weddings, deaths, anniversaries, vacation trips, graduations, etc.)



Congratulations: to our German Language School teacher, **Kurt Müller, Ph.D.** (left in picture with son, Evan), on a Research Professorship at the University of Maryland, Department of Linguistics!

Danke: To **Andy Franz** for coming to our aid and standing in for Kurt as our Adult Language Instructor on a temporary basis!

Sad Goodbye and Good Luck: to our **Kurt Müller** on having to resign as our adult language instructor. You will be missed.

Geburt: We reported last time on the former Johanna Wesley and her newborn and now we are happy to be able to do the same with her older sister, **Erica!** As most of our older members will remember, Erica (like her sister, Johanna, and brother, Max) was an important part of our dance group in the 1980s. Erica's mom and dad, club members **Pat and Bob Wesley**, have informed us that she just had a baby girl whom they've named Kate Lynn. We wish the entire, extended Wesley family our heartiest congratulations and wish all the Moss Family and little

Kate Lynn and the very best. **S**



Gute Besserung: The Club members wish the following members a speedy recovery on their injuries, surgeries or illnesses; **Mike Lenyo, Toni Walter, Ron Jakober, Peppi Bath, Jacob Bauer, Alex Hepp** and **Adam Mattes.**

A **“Get Well Soon”** to any and all members who have been ill since our last newsletter and we missed hearing about. **h**

Wilkommen: New members; **Jacob A. and Carol Bauer** of Levittown, PA, parents of our V.P. Dennis Bauer. **Melanie Bauer** (new individual membership) of Levittown, PA, daughter of Dennis Bauer. **Katherine Purr Newlon** of Albuquerque, New Mexico

Happy Easter (Frohe Ostern): We wish you all a 2004 Happy Easter!



Please let us know if there are any other such announcements to make, dear members!

Guest Article, Seite 1

OUR JOURNEY TO GAKOWA AND BEZDAN IN THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA YES, YOU CAN GO HOME AGAIN!

It was June 1945 when I left my home in Gakowa, after my mother died of typhoid fever a month before. I also had the fever, but miraculously improved the day my mother died. We were in a concentration camp in Gakowa, guarded by Tito's partisans. Many other people had been brought to Gakowa from the neighboring German towns in the Vojvodina, Yugoslavia. Because the commandant and his partisans wanted to live in our house, located across the street from the train station, my grandparents, sister Erna and I were ordered to leave our home. I was taken in by my mother's sister Barbara, and my sister, stayed with the grandparents at the home of their daughter.

The town of Gakowa had a population of about 2,500 people in 1944. In the Spring of 1945, an influx of other ethnic Donauschwaben (Germans) into Gakowa caused the population to swell to 17,000. Hunger and disease soon took the lives of many camp inhabitants. Those who were able, tried to escape and cross the border into Hungary and then on to Austria and Germany.

I was able to escape the camp with my aunt and uncle. From the time I left my home in 1945 until we escaped in August, 1947 I never saw my home again. We were discouraged from walking the streets. I was afraid to go by myself and my aunt and uncle had to work all day.

I came to America in 1949 with my aunt and uncle, married in 1957 and had three children. My husband George arrived in America in 1951 after having left his home in Bezdán, Yugoslavia in 1944. We raised the children, worked hard and after 46 years of marriage decided that we would like to see our homes again.

All through the years we often talked about our desire to go back one day. I also wanted to see my mother's grave again. There was always a slight homesickness in my heart for the place of my birth. I wanted to walk the streets, see the room where I was born, and where my mother died; the grapevines in the garden, the cherry trees in front of the house, and the chestnut trees towering along the sidewalk.

My dream came true on August 31st, when we boarded the bus in Vienna and arrived in Sombor on September 1, 2003. We checked into the hotel "Sloboda". While having lunch, I greeted my former school friends, Katharina Jaeckl Gutenkunst, Anna Weigand

Lemmler, Eva Nuspl Elmer, Franz Ripp, Michael Tittl and Sebastian Landherr. We enjoyed the afternoon catching up on everyone's news.

The next day, we drove to Gakowa. First stop was the cemetery at the newly erected memorial plaque. We brought flowers and a short service followed. In looking around the cemetery, huge thorn-bushes prevented any search for my mother's grave. We tried to push the bushes aside but were rewarded with severe scratches. We gave up and put flowers on top of the bushes in the direction of my mother's grave. That was my first disappointment. We then drove down the Eisenbahngasse and I saw our house for the first time. The bus did not stop so I only saw the tall grass, the broken door, the overgrown garden, and the missing trees. I was promised we would be back later.

The officials now in charge of Gakowa invited us to the new school for coffee and a tour of the school. We passed the old school building, which is in disrepair, but several families live there. The stucco finish had crumbled, revealing the raw bricks. The windows, however, were washed.

It was a rainy day and matched the mood of our visit. With umbrella in hand, we walked the Main Street north toward my grandparents' and uncles' houses. There are three rows of trees, their branches overlapping, along the houses. It is hard to see the houses and to identify them. We had a map of the town indicating each family's house by name. We tried to count the houses starting from the corner and find what we are looking for. Many houses had been demolished and replaced with new ones.

We finally found my aunt and uncle's house, the Brandt Family, who took me in and brought me to America. Because of the denseness of the trees in front, we could only take a picture from the side. A little boy came out the door and looked at us curiously. He reminded me of my cousin Tobias as a little boy. How many times did I stand at that door and call out to my aunt to open it because I could not reach the handle??

We walked further north towards the place where St. Anthony's Chapel stood. It had been totally demolished. I remember the many times we had to assemble in the empty fields around the chapel during the camp. I hear the voices of the commandant screaming his orders to the people. I remember the long lines of hungry and cold people waiting for the time to be released or taken away to labor camps or for the pleasure of the partisans. Now the vacant land is used for grazing sheep.

We turned and made our way back toward the middle of town. The church, of course, has long been gone. It was wrecked in the early

1970's. A new structure is in the process of going up – the new church of the people of Gakowa – their faith is Muslim. However, it is being built on the site of our old church, right next to the old school.

We left Gakowa later that day and returned to Sombor. We were served a nice dinner at the hotel each day; soup, a meat dish, delicious crusty bread and dessert. We then were entertained by gypsy music.

On Wednesday, a bus trip took us south through many small towns such as Kernei, Brestowatz, Apatin, Sentiwan, Cerwenka, Kula, Vrbas and Doroslo. We ended up in Novi Sad, a city bustling with traffic and business. We visited Peterwardein, a fort high above Novi Sad which overlooks the Danube and the City.

We had lunch at a beautiful hotel and then returned on another route back to Sombor. The towns we passed looked almost all the same. The houses are built in the style that was familiar 60 years ago. Some houses looked better than others, but the area is in better shape than our Gakowa. Because of all the people in our town during the camp, it suffered much damage.

On the way back, we drove into Doroslo and visited the pilgrimage church there in honor of our Lady of Doroslo. The inside of the church is very small and simply decorated. We sat on rough-hewn benches covered with pieces of carpeting, each bench a different color. We prayed and sang some songs. Mr. George Potz read a beautiful poem to our Lady in our dialect. I have enclosed the poem. Around the back of the building are beautiful works of art. In the garden is a statue of Our Lady next to the well which is said to have healing water. I filled two bottles to bring home for my family and friends. My mother and other family members came here many years ago on a pilgrimage, as did George's family. He remembers walking all the way from Bezdán and then sleeping outdoors in the horse-drawn wagon of friends, and walking back the next day. This was to be a penance.

Thursday, we had free time to visit the marketplace in Sombor, have some coffee and good conversation with our friends and just relax. In the afternoon, we visited a cemetery in Sombor, near our hotel, where some people from Gakowa are buried. My grandfather, Sebastian Hoeger is buried there but I could not find his grave either. It is a big cemetery.

Continued on next page....

Guest Article, Seite 2

We were also invited to visit the "Deutsches Haus" – a place where German is being taught to children of German ancestry. It is the home of Herr Beck, the gentleman who is trying to further the German culture in Yugoslavia. He and one of the teachers told us about their ambition, served us coffee and *Bugetschl.* I was surprised to see they had some computers that were donated to teach the children.

That evening, we left by bus for Apatin by the Danube. This place is famous for "fishgulasch" which is an ethnic dish loved by our people. It is prepared in kettles over an open fire and served over homemade noodles. The restaurant is located on the banks of the Danube River and a beautiful sunset was a perfect ending to our day. A metaphor came to mind – *this is the place where our ancestors arrived in wooden boats and landed on the banks of the Danube—our beginning! And then there is the setting of the sun – an ending!*

After dinner, the gypsy music filled the restaurant. We sang and danced and tried to forget the sad memories of our past. The close bond we felt with our townspeople and especially with my school friends will always be a special memory for me.

On Friday morning George and I arranged for a ride to Bezdán. He wanted to see his hometown too. We had passed through Bezdán on our way to Sombor on the first day, but could not stop to see George's house. The town is in good shape, although some things have changed. The house where George was born is still standing and the outside in good condition. His father's blacksmith shop located right next to the house has been bricked up. We did not go inside. The school building lacked upkeep, its walls crumbling and windows broken. We walked around it but could not see anyone inside, so we presumed it was closed. The church on Main Street, the doctor's house, the town hall and several of George's friends' houses were familiar and seemed occupied.

Our guide, Eddie Grollinger, then drove us to the Danube – the place where the ferry used to take people across to Batina (now Croatia). There is no more ferry; bridges now transport vehicles across the Danube. But, we did see the exact spot where George and his family boarded the ferry and then saw the exit on the other side of the river. It brought back very sad memories for George because when they arrived on the other side, the woman who gave them a ride on her wagon abandoned them there. It's a long story!

When we returned to Sombor at noon, everyone decided that we should go back to Gakowa after lunch. Once there, we were dropped off in front of our house and ap-

proached the front door. We had someone with us that spoke Serbian and hoped that the occupants would let us in. A young child rode her bicycle near the house and then went inside to call her mother. We were invited inside through the door that looked weathered and was missing some boards. The tiled gangway in the house had a parked car sitting in front of the door to the living area. The lady motioned us inside and my heart sank when I saw the filth and the terrible condition of the rooms. She apologized in Serbian that had she known we were coming, she would have cleaned up. There was no way in the world anything could be done to a home mistreated and wrecked in the last 55 years. I guess we should not blame this lady for the total wreckage because we don't know how long she has been living there. From all indications, it seems that this house stood empty for some years.

I asked the lady to open the door of the bedroom where my sister Erna and I were born and where our mother died. She reluctantly did so and we could tell from the missing plaster on the ceiling and walls, the filthy floor, clothes and boxes strewn all over the place that she was embarrassed to show us in. I tried to remember how it was when our family lived there. I could see my father working at his desk with my mother at his side to help, my little sister playing on the floor. I could see the bed I slept in with the warm down blanket and the tile oven in the corner keeping us warm in the winter. Was this once my home?

When we walked to the back of house, a literal pigsty greeted us. Among the overgrown weeds and discarded tools and wood, we saw chickens pecking the ground for food. A caged piglet squealed at us from the open slats of his corral. The doors to the kitchen, the pantry and my mother's sewing room hung from their hinges, the boards broken and weathered. There has not been anyone in there for many years. Our well was still standing, but some of the bricks were missing and it was surrounded by grass and weeds. I wonder if it's still in use. I could still see my mother dipping a cup into the bucket for fresh water. This was almost too much for me to bear. I was numb from the heartache of seeing this once beautiful place now turned into total destruction.

We turned around and thanked the lady. She smiled and motioned to George to take a picture of her and me. I took a small pebble from the garden and picked a chestnut from the only tree left. These will be my treasurers to keep. This short visit convinced me that this was no longer my home, it was just a memory.

That evening, thoughts of my visit to my home gave birth to this poem. It flowed out

of me like healing water. It says it all:

EIN STUECK DER HEIMATERDE

Mit Wehmut, traenenreich und herzenschwer
 Standen wir vor unserem Elternhaus.
 Die Mauern verbroekelt, die Fenstern
 verwittert
 Alles zerbrochen, zerstoert, verwues-
 tet und kahl.
 Mein Herz bricht fast entzwei.

Von Fern und Nah
 Ueber Felder und See trug uns das
 Heimweh
 Zum Heimatort
 Die Zeit hat uns die Erinnerung be-
 wahrt
 Es ist aber nicht mehr wie es einst
 war.

Andere Menschen sitzen vor der
 Haustuer
 Kinder spielen auf den Gassen
 Waren wir hier einst daheim?
 Nur unser Herz kann es bezeugen.

This poem could only be written in German because my thoughts and words could only be expressed in this way.

Saturday morning the bus took us back to Gakowa for the ceremony at the memorial plaque and the mass graves. Some of the officials in Gakowa and our people still living in the surrounding areas came to the service. Flowers and candles were brought by many to decorate the graves and speeches in German and Serbian expressed the desire to "never forget those that died here during the concentration camp". Then the procession started for the mass graves. The area is fenced in and locked with an iron gate. We were able to go in and walk over the graves of the many innocent victims. I felt like I was on hallowed ground. For the 8,000 people buried there, only one gravestone sits in the middle. It was put up by the people of Filipowa and bears the name of "Eichinger" on the stone. We also put flowers on the grave, added our prayers and sang a song. Then we were left to wander the old cemetery looking for graves of our ancestors.

Continued on next page...



Guest Article, Seite 3

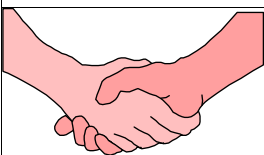
Since most of the cemetery is overgrown with thorn bushes, our search was futile. But just to be there and know that we were close to our loved ones lying among this field of thorns, helped to relieve our need to “do something”.

We were invited to lunch in the new school gym by the officials of Gakowa. It was a friendly atmosphere and we enjoyed the beef goulash and crusty bread. Following the lunch, gifts were presented for the school children and memorial gifts of the old Gakowa were given to the Mayor. Then we had a surprise entertainment. It seems that the youth of the new Gakowa is famous for its folk dancing. Dressed in elaborately embroidered costumes and leather slippers with pointed tips, in typical Serbian tradition, the girls looked fresh and eager to perform. The boys wore traditional Serbian garb and hats, and wore the same pointed slippers. They performed with precision to the fast moving music. We were grateful and pleased with this show of unity between the old and the new Gakowarer.

We then left to walk again in the streets of Gakowa. We took a different route and looked for houses of our relatives. We ended up in the Eisenbahngasse and across the street from my home. We stood and took a last look so that we can take the memory of it back to America. It is no longer ours, but the time I spent there with my family for only 9 years is enough to burn in my heart forever. After all, it is not the brick and mortar that made up this “home”, it was the people in it.

On Sunday we spent a leisurely day shopping in the market place of Sombor. I bought some lamb’s wool socks from a little old Serbian lady to keep my feet warm in the winter. After lunch we looked for a Café where they served “Krembitten”. We found it and enjoyed a relaxing afternoon with the school friends. Later in the afternoon, a German Mass was held in the church nearby.

Our last dinner at the hotel was a bitersweet ending to our journey. We came to see our town, our homes, our cemetery but also to rekindle that eternal bond we have together as Gakowarer. We are living all over the world, yet we found out that once we shook hands, hugged and kissed, it was as if we were once again back in our childhood.



The next morning, a farewell song in the parking lot before boarding the bus, was the final goodbye to our new found friends, the officials of the new Gakowa. The bus pulled out and we knew this would be the last time in this part of the world. We had come to

see, to feel and to touch – we finished our mission.

*By Katherine and George Flotz
September, 2003*

(Permission received to re-print the previous article from Katherine Flotz).



(Photo of 2001 Wallfahrt)

2004 Pilgrimage set for June 6th

Father Herman Joseph Rettig of California is set to lead the ceremonies commemorating the Donauschwaben Genocide, 1944 – 1948. Well known for his passionate homilies and intimate knowledge of Donauschwaben history, Father Rettig is sure to make this year’s “Walfahrt” to St. Peter’s Church in Philadelphia very special. The 40 something year old priest is pastor of the church around which the Los Angeles Donauschwaben club is based. He will be flown in by the Philadelphia Donauschwaben and stay with various club members.

The event’s primary sponsor is our sister club in Philly with its president, Fred Gauss, and the event’s coordinator, Kaethe Marx. Frau Marx is the driving force for this undertaking, insuring each year that the Donauschwaben of our region appropriately honor the memory of that most difficult period in our history. The event will feature a procession around the spectacular cathedral and a Schubert mass sung by Philadelphia choral members. Hundreds of people are expected to attend. All Trenton club members of every religious denomination are highly encouraged to support this event with their attendance. We will “caravan it” from our club at 8:00 AM. Anyone needing information about the event or directions to the church can call *Hans Martini* at 888-2762. See you there!



A Most Productive 2004 Annual Meeting

Attendees at the January meeting of the Trenton Donauschwaben focused their attention on everything from club by-laws to a new governing committee. All of the activities of the club from the past year were reviewed and those planned ahead were previewed. It is quite amazing, really, that our small club does as much as it does! Looking back over the past year really does give you an idea of just how much our wonderful members are able to accomplish.

Headlining this year’s meeting was the election of the new governing committee for 2004. Voted in by popular acclamation for another two year term was Joe Brandecker as the club’s president. A complete listing of our club officers can be found on page 2. As always, the club is very pleased to have the services of such wonderful and dedicated members. Congratulations to everyone re-elected to the 2004-6 committee.

Some of the other newsworthy items: 1) A complete review of the club’s bylaws was voted upon with the intent of bringing everything up to date. 2) A review of the club’s charitable contributions was also enacted; and, 3) further club improvements were discussed to continue our maintenance and beautification program.

You know, decades ago the annual meeting was an event occasionally fraught with all types of stressful and contentious issues. Nowadays, though, the tone and atmosphere is almost always that of cooperation and unity. Who knows, maybe there’s less to fight about?! Whatever the case, we know you will feel welcome. So, if you are interested in attending next year, please do not hesitate. You will not find a better group of individuals involved in a volunteer organization anywhere! See you next January *Hans*



Our Autoklub Travels

☺ CLUB CAR SHOW AT THE JULY SPIESSBRATENESSEN

Come to the 18 July 2004 Pig Roast and see our AutoKlub Members' cars on display. Not only can you enjoy the great food and drink with friends, but also support the car club group by viewing their "prides of joy". Cast your vote for your favorite auto of the day too!

Q TERRY'S TIPS FOR AUTO CARE a

My name is Terry Huff. I have been a Club member for two years now and am now the Trenton Donauschwaben AutoKlub Leiter (Car club leader). I am owner of Terry's Service Center, Inc. in Fallsington, PA and have been in business for the past 25 years servicing VWs and other European cars in the area.

I would like to bring your attention to possibly the most neglected part of your family – your automobile!!! As you know this past winter has been brutal on both our cars and us. Now that spring is here, it is time to spend some time on your car, if you have not already done so. The winter road salt has done a lot of damage to the underside of your car and will continue to do so unless it is removed early. The salt dust from the highways also attacks your car's air filter, engine and car finish. Here are some useful tips:

- Change your engine oil and oil filter if it has not been done since December
- Change your engine air filter and compartment filter, if there is one
- Check all your operating fluid levels
- Check your engine belts for dry rot and wear and hoses for leaks
- Check tires for wear and proper tire pressure
- Power wash the under carriage of your car at a car wash or at home
- Wash and wax your car finish

I own and drive two German cars with over 240,000 miles on them. A little loving care and maintenance can go a long way and help it last a long time! I also would like to thank those members that brought their cars to me for service. I will offer more useful auto tips in future issues of our newsletter.

See you at the Club's July Pig Roast and Auto Show ☺

SOME UP COMING CAR SHOWS FOR 2004



VW Show & Go—Raceway Park, Englishtown, NJ, 4 April 2004

Bucks County Tech School, Fairless Hills, PA—Auto Show, April 19, 2004.

Volksfest Car Show, Campbelltown, PA (near Hersey), 24 April 2004

Neshaminy High School, Langhorne, PA—Car Show, 8 May 2004

VW Super Jam—Maple Grove Raceway, PA, 13 June 2004

Punchbuggy 2004—Atco Dragway, Atco, NJ, 27 June 2004

Cruisin Car Club Car Show, at the Cannestatter, Philadelphia, PA— 14 August 2004

Many of our Club members will be entering their cars and representing the Trenton Donauschwaben AutoKlub.

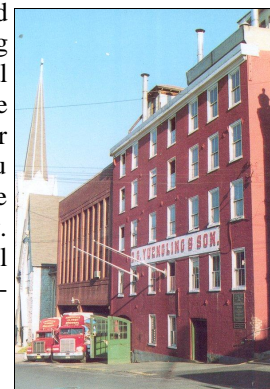
SUMMER ROAD TRIP

Many German immigrants settled in the Lancaster, Berks & Schuylkill Counties of PA during the 1700 & 1800s. They became known as the "PA Dutch" even though they were not Dutch but German.

Those in Berks and the southern and western parts of Schuylkill County usually were farmers, merchants and timber man. After coal was discovered in the central part of Schuylkill County in the early 1800s, many German immigrants would be employed in the coal industry as mine laborers, miners, stable bosses and mine bosses. As time went on the German laborers and miners were replaced by Irish and then Eastern European immigrants.

To help wash down the "coal dust", beer (and other alcoholic liquids) became an important beverage in the area. To answer the demands for this beverage, several German immigrants started breweries in the Schuylkill County area. The oldest brewery in operation today in the USA is the Yuengling Brewery in Pottsville, Schuylkill County, PA (since 1829). It was founded by German immigrant, David G. Yuengling.

The Club is planning a "Field Trip" to the area to tour the Yuengling Brewery in Pottsville, the Pioneer Coal Mine in nearby Ashland in mid or late summer . If time allows some other points of interest may be visited. If you are interested in this proposed trip, please let one of our Club Officers know. Whether a commercial bus is rented will be dependent upon the number of members that would like to attend.



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John posts articles from our newsletter

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In the Limelight: President Joe Brandecker!

The newsletter staff thinks it is about time to give our Club President some well-deserved column space. He is now entering his fourth term in office and has been doing, by all accounts, a most satisfactory job. On top of all this, he is just 40 years old which, by our calculation, means he can remain in office for easily another 20 terms! Okay, before we go into this thorny little issue, let us take a peek at President Joe's biography.

Born in Trenton, Joe attended school here in Hamilton Township and later at Mercer County. He lived with his mom and dad, brother and sister just around the corner from our clubhouse in Yardville. Eventually, he met his wife, Caroline, at a German event (where else?) in Philly and they have been married now for 16 years. In time, they moved just a stone's throw from his parents to a house they purchased from... a German (who else?!).

As often happens in these situations, they then had some wonderful children; three as of this writing: Brittaney, Joseph and, most recently, charming little Greta. Joe works for the State of NJ as a building and personnel manager, a job that sounds strangely similar to the job he holds here at the club!

Joe has been in the Club since birth essentially. His parents were always active and they just went ahead and pulled him along whenever there was a club event. It is fair to say, then, that he knows the club and its history inside and out. He has attended German school at the club; been in the dance group at the club; attended most of the canoe outings with the club; supported the newsletter staff, the Club genealogy program and the AutoKlub members; and, even rode a ski patrol toboggan during a club ski event!

Joe is the seventh president in our club's almost 50-year history. Like each one of them, he has affected the club in many positive ways. His hard work and dedication to our organization has earned him the respect of everyone. We are lucky to him!

Hans & Dennis

Club Activity Pictures this Fall & Winter



After all is said & done, TASTING is the final TEST!

Pictures from the Fall 2003 & Winter 2004 Schlachtfest Preparation day.



Club Events for the Spring 2004

EVENTS— DATES & TIMES

Come out and join us!

- Osteressen, Sunday 4 April 2004, 1pm.
- Muttertagessen, Sunday 2 May 2004, 1pm. Schnitzel or roasted chicken will be served.
- Ausflug (canoe trip) to the Pine Barrens, NJ, 16 May 2004, 8am at Clubhouse.
- Donauschwaben Wallfahrt, Sunday, 6 June 2004, 10am. at St. Peter's Church, Philadelphia, PA.
- Vaterstagessen-Spiessbraten, Sunday, 13 June 2004, 1pm.

Please call Frau Josefa Brandecker (609) 585-8460 or Eva Martini (609) 586-6109 for meal reservations.

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Vielen Dank !

To all of our members who do the work that always needs doing, THANKS!! Whether it's in the kitchen or out by the tables; serving refreshments or baking pastries; selling tickets or cleaning up; it takes many fine people a good many hours to make dinner events a success. We truly have some of the finest club members anywhere. Danke Schön!!

A great big THANKS!! also goes to all of our members and friends who attend the club's activities. We appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you again soon.



Auf Wiedersehen bei den Donauschwaben!

New Donauschwaben Research Website

I am announcing a new website for your research. This website is dedicated to the memory and life works of my Step-Grandfather, Josef Marx. He developed and published the *Deutsch-Ungarischer Familien-Kalenders* (DUK) with the first issue covering the year 1932. This publication contains names, addresses, villages and maiden names of its German-Hungarian subscribers, most of them from the Banat and Batschka, making it a good research tool for linking ancestors back to their village of origin.

David Dreyer's extractions from these publications are well known and have been available on the web since the late 1990's. Now they have been updated and linked to the actual subscription pages (images) using the city names. The website is still be developed and for now only the years 1932, 1933 and 1934 have the direct links to the subscription page images.

The website is best experienced by people who have high-speed internet connections since these images average 250-300K (kilo bytes) in size. People using Microsoft Internet Explorer version 6 or higher show have no trouble, but for those who use a different browser or have an older system, let me know if you have any trouble - I would like to know your operating system and version, as well as your web-browser and version to help me adjust incompatible areas. The site URL is:

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~banatdata/DUK/HomePage.htm>.

I am working on uploading the subscription lists for the years, 1935 thru 1940 and 1947 thru 1954. This will require a few hundred megabytes of space which I hope to obtain thru the current Rootsweb Servers that host the other sites I have posted. If that is not possible, I will have to find an alternative, like putting the entire collection on a DVD-ROM or CD Series.

Please send me your comments and feedback if you have problems or suggestions. Enjoy...Pete Schmidt, Knoxville, TN (04 Mar 2004) <peteralanschmidt@msn.com>

Note: Peter is also working with our Dennis J. Bauer to include our web site DUK lists previously transcribed and posted on our Club site by Dennis.