

Trentoner Donauschwaben Nachrichten

Volume 5 Issue 2

April-June 2005



Points of Interest

- Wine is fermented fruit juice.
- Brandy is distilled (concentrated) wine.
- Wines usually have 9-12% alcohol.
- Beers usually have 3-9% alcohol.
- Brandy usually has 35-50% alcohol.



Inside this issue:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Club Matters & Members | 2 |
| Genealogy & History | 3 |
| Members News | 4 |
| Deutsche Ecke | 5-8 |
| AutoKlub Travels | 9 |
| Newsletter Advertisers & Sponsors | 10 |
| Pictures of Club Events | 11 |
| Club Events | 12 |

Club Spotlight on Herr Ludwig Jakober...

Okay, it is time, ladies and gents, to have some fun at someone else's expense. In this regard, perhaps no other club member has a greater capacity for being "in the cross-hairs" than Herr Ludwig Jakober. For decades, he has been affectionately known as "Herr J", "Papa J", and "Mr. J" and, if he's like the rest of us married folk, by his wife Sue in other less endearing terms on occasion. Anecdotes recalling the many hilarious Herr J club moments are plentiful. The only problem is that this writer is limited to just 500 words, and well...

Many "long timers" recall with fondness the early club canoe trips of the 1970s and it was there that the legend of Herr Jakober really gained traction. To set the stage, the reader should know that Herr J was part of a very small number of adults in charge of a large number of youth group members and friends in the great outdoors. Proof of just how difficult this must have been lies in the fact that Herr Jakober had a full head of hair when the canoe trips began in '73, and now.... well, enough said. In any event, he became known for saying things like "big boy at night has to be a big boy in the morning" and waking up our campers at 6:00 AM (and probably most others) with a most disagreeable yodeling type sound. Above all, Herr Jakober had/had an almost comically loud snoring ability. Indeed, most of us would have laughed ourselves to sleep if only we could fall asleep in midst of such a racket.

Obviously, there were no long-lasting scars from those early canoe trips and eventually Herr J took up helping with the dance group. Much has already been written about 1980s era "Tanzgruppe" which at its peak was doing 12 to 15 events per year with requests to do even more. So: busy time, big group, yada, yada, yada. It was here that then club president Jakober distinguished himself again, helping Frau Novosel keep the group functioning and its various members from killing each other. Occasionally, he would really test the limits of good sense and take a large gang of young

dancers to a far away city like Detroit or even Milwaukee. It was thus determined that while his hair follicles were weak, his heart was not. Just imagine going 100 miles down the road and suddenly there is some question as to whether Ray is in another vehicle or was left behind...

These days, Herr Jakober has traded the stress of watching over unruly teenagers with other equally daunting activities: He's our Wurstmeister, Spiessbratenmeister, Schatzmeister and usually our Sitzmeister (man in charge of seating dinner guests). More importantly, he's also in the lead for having received the most coal from Krampus during our annual St. Nikolausfeier. The old adage: "no good deed goes unpunished" certainly applies here!

But seriously now, good people, the club is most fortunate to have a member such as Ludwig Jakober. His great sense of humor, dedication and talents have made our club a better place for many, many years. We look forward to many more years of the same! Prost!!



Children's School News

And the news is good!! It's full steam ahead with our children's school, we are happy to say. We now count a dozen students regularly attending Friday night class. Class work includes singing, talking, arts and crafts, and a whole host of other German related activities. The idea, says Schulleiter Eva Martini, is to make learning about the German language and culture an enjoyable experience. To that end, much effort goes into making the one hour class both engaging on an educational level and fun too.

Upcoming events include a short Mother's Day program as well as a school year closing ceremony during our June picnic. If you have a grammar school aged child, grand child or relative, please consider sending them to our school. For more information, contact Eva Martini at 586-6109 or at Woodworks5@AOL.com.

Club Matters & Members

NEWSLETTER AVAILABILITY

Newsletter Editor Dennis Bauer has recently converted all the past newsletters to an Adobe "PDF format". This will make it easier to send copies of the newsletter to folks and also make them available for download from our club web site. If you wish to receive your copy of the newsletter electronically and save postage for the Club, let Dennis Bauer or Hans Martini know.

If you do not already have Adobe Reader 7.0 software to read *.pdf files, it can be downloaded from www.adobe.com for free. More and more agencies, companies and firms are using this universal format for newsletters, articles, information documents.

GERMAN LANGUAGE SCHOOL UPDATE

The recent return Andy Franz signals the start of classes for those adults interested in learning the language and culture of our ancestors. Classes began on Thursday night the 21st of April, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM, and will continue until the fall. Anyone interested in joining our adult school (or for just sitting in for a session or two) are encouraged to call Herr Franz at 609-737-2811 or can e-mail Dennis Bauer at d.bauer@juno.com for further information. There are still a number of openings available, so please consider attending today!

Instead of a rigid and grammar oriented teaching method, Andy intends to feature a relaxed, conversational approach that will include a heavy emphasis on culture and history. His intention is to make learning interesting and enjoyable. Don't miss out!



NEW PRESIDENT AT PHILLY DONAUSCHWABEN

Congratulations to Rosalie Matico, the newly elected President of the Philadelphia Donauschwaben. She replaces Fred Gauss. Rosalie grew up in the Philly club and has held many offices on the Board. She is the daughter of Adam Mattes who himself was club president for many years.

Fred held the position for eight years and will serve as 1st Vice President. Fred plans on directing his efforts on strengthening the Jugende Gruppe and pursuing the Donauschwaben documentation project and memorial garden at the Philly club.

Also stop by Philly's new web site at;
www.danubeschwabian.com

NATIONAL DONAUSCHWABEN MEETING (Verband)

The Danube Swabian Foundation of the U.S.A. annual meeting will be held this year in Detroit, MI on April 30 and May

1, 2005. Joe Brandecker, Dennis Bauer and Stefan Brandecker will represent the club at the meeting. Rose Matico and Adam Mattes plan on attending from our fellow club in Philly.

Their web site has also been upgraded and can be accessed at www.dsfoundationusa.org.

TRACHENFEST & CULTURAL EXHIBIT 2006



Members of the Trenton Donauschwaben, the Philadelphia Donauschwaben and the United German-Hungarian (UGH) clubs met on 8 February 2005 in order to discuss plans for a joint Trachenfest and Cultural Exhibit next spring. The last event was held in 1997 with great success. Future meetings are planned to further the planning arrangements. Stay tuned for details.

AROUND THE CLUB...

The first few club dinners of 2005 were unqualified successes with the February Schlachtfestessen especially so. *Congratulations* and *Thank You* to all who helped make it happen.

Our Easter dinner in March was especially good too, with an assortment of tasty food available including Helga Kusenko's "Knoedel" or dumplings. Among the many, many fine members and friends in attendance was the Schmidt Family of Joe, Evi and Kathi; the Hepp/Tindall clan with a guest from Universitaet Graz in Austria; Helmut Lingohr and family from the Cannstatter; and Mr. Dan Bertin. We are grateful to these and to everyone who supported our Palm Sunday dinner event

THANK YOU!

A great big Donauschwaben Danke Schön goes to Mr. Hans Herdt and Herdt Fencing for maintaining our fire escape system in good order. For anyone in need of a fence call Herdt Fencing at the number listed toward the back of this newsletter. Company president, club member and former dance group member Mike Galati and his able staff do quality work at a very competitive price.

The Hans Herdt family, like the entire extended Herdt family, has been a part of our club for many years. This goes back to the days when Hans's daughter Maryanne played accordion for us and then with sisters, Kathy and Barby, participated in our German school and our Youth Dance Group. Most recently, Hans's grandchildren, Dayna and Christopher Galati, have become part of the German School – just like their mom, Barby, before them. As Yogi says, it's "Déjà vu all over again" and we are delighted to be able to say so.

Genealogy & History Section

NEW HUNGARIAN RESEARCH BOOK



A new book has just been published titled "Genealogical Gazetteer of the Kingdom of Hungary." It provides information about more than 12,000 towns within the 19th century borders of the Kingdom of Hungary that today comprise regions of Austria, Croatia, Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Slovak Republic and Ukraine.

For each community, information is provided for the population by religion. If there was no local church or synagogue, the town where each congregation worshiped is indicated. This is key to identifying the Roman Catholic diocese, the church of record for the events of all faiths prior to civil registration in the 1850s. It is also useful in searching possible places of burial.

Additional information about each town includes alternate names and its current name if no longer in Hungary. Towns can be searched alphabetically by their current name, former name or alternate name(s).

The author, Jordan Auslander, spent more than five years compiling the information which was based on the 1877 gazetteer, "Magyarország Helységnevtára" (Hungarian Gazetteer), by Janos Dvorzsak.

For additional information, go to <http://www.avotaynu.com/books/hungary.htm>. At the site is the Table of Contents, a sample page from the gazetteer, and a sample page from the appendix which provides contemporary names for towns in the former Kingdom of Hungary.



DEUTSCHE ANSIEDLER IM
UNTEREN DONAURAUM

Der große Schwabenzug
XVIII. JAHRHUNDERT

NACH EINEM ULBILD
VON STEFAN JÄGER

German Settlers to and from Hungary

Hungary's population at the beginning of the 1700s was only about 3.8 million people. The Austrian rulers wanted this area settled and controlled in order to prevent the Turks from re-invading the region. In order to encourage German settlers to come to the frontiers of Hungary, they offered them a homestead, 47 acres and no taxes for three years. This was enough to entice the "German" settlers to leave their war torn home in Bavaria, Alsace-Lorraine, Hesse and Schwabia in order to start a new life in this "promised land".

By 1857 over 1.2 million German settlers had come to Hungary. This represented about 9% of the Hungarian population. Utilizing their farming skills and hard work ethic they toiled, developed the land and made the region the bread basket of Europe to their credit. They would become known as the "Donauschwabern" or "Danube Swabians" in English. German merchants, professionals and craftsmen would also setup businesses in the towns in support of the farming communities. They maintained their native cultures and traditions as they developed friendships with the other ethnic peoples of the area which included the Serbs, Hungarians, Croats and Slavs.

Unfortunately, the Donauschwaben could not realize that their descendants would have to flee this war torn area or perish some two-hundred years later at the close of World War II between 1944-1948. This as a result mainly because they were ethnic Germans by ancestry. Some would eventually end up back in Germany or Austria and others in the U.S.A., Australia, Canada or South America.

Note: visit Felix G. Game's Austro-Hungarian History web site at www.felix-game.ca for more details.

Membership News

2005 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' Auxilliary

Terry Huff-AutoKlub Leader

Harold Parr— President of German Language School

Melanie Bauer— Newsletter Copy Editor, AutoKlub Officer

Dana Miles/Edward Soden— Web Masters

Adam Martini & Mike Lenyo— Newsletter Writers

Dennis J. Bauer— V.P. for Cultural Affairs, Genealogist, Newsletter Editor



New Club Hats

In time for Spring, the club has a new supply of ball caps. They come in black and tan and are of a low profile than the past ball caps. They "Donauschwaben" logo and lettering are on the front and "Trenton, NJ" on the back. See an officer for your hat.

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

Congratulations: Joseph Brandecker, Jr. confirmed at St Rapheal Roman Catholic Church in Yardville on 11 March 2005.

Rosalie Matico elected new President of the Philadelphia Donauschwaben. **Fred Gauss** will be 1st Vice President. Fred has also been giving lectures on our German and Donauschwaben culture to students at some of the Philly local Catholic schools.

Member **Steve Brandecker** on his 40th birthday (Over the Hill now). He was 40 on the 20th of March while on vacation in Orlando, Florida. Tough to take the 75 degree weather and alligators huh, Steve?

To club vice president **Bob Walter** on his recent graduation from the training academy for correction officers in South Jersey. Bob finished at the top of his class. He will continue to work at the prison in Mercer County. Great going

Robert!

Promoted: Member **Chuck Pinkerton** of the Northampton Township Police Department from Patrolman to Detective.

Get Well: To **Dennis Bauer**, he has a fractured right foot.

Continued recovery for **Jim Lieblang** from his accident. He recently returned to work this past month. We also would like to thank Jim for his very generous monetary and kitchen wares donations. The money will be used in support of the newsletter and the web site and the equipment will be used in our kitchen. DANKE SCHÖN!!!!

We wish a speedy recovery to all of our members and friends who may not be feeling well or are recovering from illness, surgery or injury.

Our Sympathy: May these souls and all the souls of the Faithful Departed rest in Peace, Amen.

Club Charter member **Lester Lindenmayer**, Ph.D., 89, of Whiting, NJ died 10 February 2005. Lester was born in Romania.

Elsie Bauer Penrith, sister of member **Jake Bauer**, passed away 5 April 2005 in Newtown, PA. Elsie was a former Arbeiter member. Our condolences to the entire Bauer family.

Congratulations to club member and former Ladies' Auxilliary President **Rosa Wildmann** and her husband Joe on the birth of their great grandson Luke this past March. To the entire Wildmann/Chale clan "down North Carolina way" we extend our sincerest best wishes and a great big Gruess Gott to all!

Did You Know?

One of the regular visitors to our club's dinner events is Mr. **Pete Schroeder**, former Republican councilman and policeman here in Hamilton Township. Mr. Schroeder was not only a fine public servant, he has German roots too! We're very glad to count him among our club's supporters.

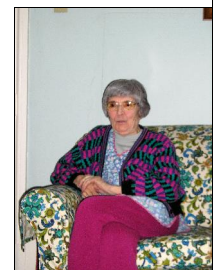


Two Important Happy Birthdays!

Frau Käthe Pfann celebrated her 85th birthday on 17 February 2005.

Also to long time member **Kate Helleis**, who will be 90 years old the 15th of May!! Herzlichen Glückwunsch zum Geburtstag! All

at the Club wish you both many, many more.



Deutsche Ecke, Seite 1

A HELPING HAND

By Andreas Franz from Palanka

(Translation by Newsletter Staff)



In the year 1945 my mother, both grandmothers and I found ourselves in the concentration camp (for ethnic Germans) at Jarek (Yugoslavia). It was February and the weather was frigid. Our sleeping quarters had little more than straw bedding for roughly 20 people, mostly children and old people. There was no heat, no blankets and what little there was to eat was barely edible.

Death came easily in these circumstances, first the old people and then the children. I was a frail eight year old who contracted one of the first cases of typhus. There were no doctors for us and the only thing my mom could do for my fever was to try and keep me cool. There were no medicines, no extra food and really no hope for me and for many others.

Nearby lay an old man named Franz, a beer maker from Palanka and his much younger wife, Wetti-Neni. Somehow, they had received some supplies from a daughter, consisting of ham, bacon, sausages and lard. Everyone else in the room had nothing. After a short time, however, this food began to run out. The old man became weaker and weaker while I too struggled for my life.

Fortunately, my fever broke after a week and suddenly there was some hope I might survive. But my mother could do nothing to help me along the road to recovery as she had no food to give me. As I got weaker, so did the old man next to me. His young wife cared for him as best she could, giving me what little there was of the food she had left. As for myself, my mother could only cry in despair because I could now just barely move.

As it happened, my mother awoke me early one morning and tried feeding me. It was a bit of ham and hard bread with lard that seemed to appear out of nowhere. After a few tiny bites, I quickly tired and fell asleep. Yet eventually my appetite returned and with it, my strength. It took weeks but eventually I was able to stand on my own two feet.

With spring just around the corner, the bitter cold finally began to subside. On one of the first sunny days some surviving children and I played in the courtyard. It was then that Wetti-Neni succumbed to diphtheria. Her husband followed shortly thereafter. I, on the other hand, had luck and absolutely no idea why or how I survived typhus.

Many years later, I complained to my mom about the well-to-do couple at Jarek who had food they didn't share with the rest of us. "They were both bad", I said, "they kept everything for themselves". With that, my mother began recalling our time at Jarek, my near fatal illness and Wetti-Neni. "You know", she said, "she gave you the last of the food so that you might survive". "She did this during the night, quietly and without a word, so that no one else would know. This well-to-do Wetti-Neni gave you the food that may have helped her survive. She did so for no other reason than because you were very weak and helpless."

Although my mother said nothing more I have never forgotten how it is that I survived. To this day, I try to do things for others to honor the memory of what a fine woman did for me so many years ago.

Die gebende Hand (In German)

Im Jahre 1945 war ich als Kind mit meiner Mutter und den zwei Grossmütter im Lager Jarek. Es war Februar und eisig kalt. Unsere Schlafstelle war mit Stroh belegt und im Zimmer lagen ungefähr zwanzig Leute, meist Kinder und alte Leute. Wir konnten nicht heizen, hatten keine Decke und was wir zu essen bekamen war wenig und oft ungeniessbar.

Da fing das Sterben an. Zuerst die Alten und dann die Kinder. Ich war ein schwächlicher acht Jahre alter Bub und ich bekam als einer der Ersten Typhus. Es gab keinen Arzt und das Einzige was meine Mutter für mein Fieber machen konnte, war mich abzukühlen. Wir hatten nichts, keine Medikamente oder Lebensmittel. Es war hoffnungslos für mich und viele andere. Neben uns auf dem Strohlager lag ein alter Mann, der Franz Bierfabrikant von Palanka und seine viel jüngere Frau, Wetti - Neni. Einer seiner Töchter war es möglich ihm Lebensmittel zu bringen, Schinken, Speck, Wurst und Fett. Wir alle andere im Zimmer hatten nichts. Nach einer Weile konnte die Tochter nicht mehr kommen und die Lebensmittel waren fast zu ende. Der alte Mann wurde schwächer und ich kämpfte um mein Leben. Nach einer Woche brach mein Fieber und ich hatte eine Chance für das Weiterleben. Meiner Mutter fehlte es mir diese Chance zu geben, da sie keine Nahrung für mich hatte. Ich wurde schwächer und dem alten Mann neben mir ging es auch nicht gut. Seine Frau sorgte für ihn und gab ihm, was noch vorhanden war von den schwindenden Lebensmittel. Ich erinnere mich noch als meine Mutter weinte als ich mich nicht viel rühren konnte. Früh an einem Morgen weckte mich Mutter und versuchte mich zu füttern. Da war plötzlich etwas Schinken und hartes Brot mit Schmalz. Mit kleinen Bissen fing ich an zu essen bis ich müde wurde und einschlief. Mein Appetit regte sich wieder und meine Stärke wuchs. Nach zwei Wochen stand ich unsicher wieder auf meinen Beinen. Der Frühling war fast da und die grausame Kälte löste sich. Am ersten sonnigen Tag wo ich mit meinen übrig gebliebenen Kameraden im Hof spielte, starb die Wetti - Neni an Diphtherie. Ihr Mann folgte ihr schnell. Ich hatte Glück, kam durch die Lager und vergass wieso ich Typhus überlebte.

Viel später, als ich ein junger Mann war, schimpfte ich über ein wohlhabendes Ehepaar, die ihrem armen kranken Nachbar nicht helfen wollten. "Die sind alle schlecht, die wollen nur alles für sich haben" sagte ich meiner Mutter. Sie fing an vom Jareker Lager zu erzählen, meine fast tödliche Krankheit und von der Wetti - Neni. „Weisst du, sie hat dir ihre letzte Lebensmittel gegeben um dir dein Leben zu retten. Sie hat es weg gespart von ihrem Mann der nicht zu retten war und von sich selbst, um es dir zu geben. Sie gab mir die Lebensmittel in der Nacht, schweigsam und ohne Worte, damit die Nebenliegenden es nicht merkten. Sie tat es ohne Worte und mit offener Hand. Die Wetti - Neni war eine wohlhabende Frau daheim und die Lebensmittel die sie noch damals im Lager hatte, hätten vielleicht ihr Leben bewahren können. Sie gab es dir, weil du ein schwaches hilfloses Kind warst."

Mehr sagte sie nicht aber ich habe es nicht vergessen was mir gegeben wurde und versuche noch heute in meinen alten Jahren etwas zurück zugeben was mir diese gute Frau gab.

Deutsche Ecke, Seite 2

My School Years

by Hilde (Stumpfhauser) Schneiker
born 1925 in Beschka, Yugoslavia.
Edited by Ruth Melcher (4624 Bruce
Ave., Edina, MN

At three years of age I began Kindergarten. Kindergarten was like nursery school in America, except it was only in summer. Not everyone had to go to Kindergarten and if you wanted to go, you had to pay the teacher.

At seven years of age, all children went to first grade in a state school, for which you didn't pay. Because we lived in a small village, there wasn't a central school, but rather three different schools—one for the first and second grades, one for the third and fourth grades and one for the fifth grade. You were done with school after fifth grade.

From the time I was five years old, every summer I had to take one or two younger siblings by the hand, through the three short streets to Kindergarten. My mother said I should take Julie's hand on one side and little Franz's on the other. Because I was older, the Kindergarten teacher assigned me to line up the little chairs in rows and I also had to watch the little children.

In the first grade we spoke only German and learned the Gothic alphabet. In the second grade, we learned the Latin alphabet and also the Serbian language. The teacher told us children that we should learn to knit at home and I went to my grandmother to learn that. Then we continued learning in school. In the third grade we learned the Cyrillic alphabet and from the third grade on the German and Serbian languages were mixed during the school day.

Other subjects that we learned were mathematics, music, hygiene, health and Serbian history and poetry. I memorized two- and three-page long poems and I really enjoyed reciting those poems.

Every day, when school was over, we stood in rows in front of the school, two by two, the girls first and the boys behind. Then we bid the teacher goodbye and went together to the main street, from which each child took their own way home.

At the end of each year, a group picture was taken of the children and the teacher.

When the five years of school were over, those who could afford it went either to Novi Sad, Karlovzi or Zemun, where they lived with a family and went to middle school. I went to a sewing school in Novi Sad, where I learned sewing and also other different subjects.

Copyright (c) 2005 by Ruth Elizabeth Melcher

Meine Schuljahre

Mit drei Jahren fing ich mit dem Kindergarten an. Kindergarten war wie "nursery school" in Amerika, aber es war nur im Sommer. Nicht jeder musste in den Kindergarten gehen und wenn man gehen wollte, musste man die Lehrerin bezahlen.

Mit sieben Jahren gingen alle Kinder in die erste Klasse in einer Staatsschule, wofür man nichts bezahlte. Weil wir in einem kleinen Dorf wohnten, gab es keine Einheitsschule, sondern drei verschiedene Schulen—eine für die erste und zweite Klasse, eine für die dritte und vierte Klasse, und eine für die fünfte Klasse. Mit der fünften Klasse war man mit der Schule fertig.

Von der Zeit, als ich fünf Jahre alt war, musste ich jeden Sommer eine oder zwei jüngere Geschwister bei der Hand nehmen und durch drei kurze Gassen in den Kindergarten

führen. Meine Mutter hat gesagt, ich soll die Julie an die eine Hand und den Fränzchen an die andere nehmen. Weil ich älter war, hat die Kindergartenlehrerin mich angestellt, dass ich die Stühlchen in die Reihe stelle und auch sonst musste ich auf die kleinen Kinder aufpassen.

In der ersten Klasse sprachen wir nur Deutsch und lernten die Gotische Schrift. In der zweiten Klasse lernten wir die Lateinische Schrift und auch die Serbische Sprache. Die Lehrerin sagte uns Kindern, wir müssten daheim Stricken lernen und ich ging zur Grossmutter, um das zu lernen. Dann haben wir in der Schule weitergemacht. In der dritten Klasse lernten wir die Zirilische Schrift und von der dritten Klasse an waren die Sprachen, Deutsch und Serbisch, gemischt während des Schultages.

Andere Fächer, die wir lernten, waren Mathematik, Musik, Hygiene, Gesundheitswesen, und Serbische Geschichte und Gedichte. Ich habe zwei- und drei-Seitenlange Gedichte auswendig gelernt und ich tat' das sehr gern, diese Gedichte aufzusagen.

Jeden Tag, wenn die Schule aus war, standen wir vor der Schule in Reihen, zwei und zwei, die Mädchen zuerst und die Buben hintendran. Dann verabschiedeten wir uns von dem Lehrer und gingen zusammen bis zur Hauptstrasse, wo jede seinen eigenen Weg heim ging.

Ende jeden Jahres wurde ein Gruppenbild von den Kindern und den Lehrern gemacht.

Wenn die fünf Schuljahre herum waren, wer's sich leisten konnte, ging entweder nach Novi Sad, Karlovzi oder Zemun, wo man bei einer Familie wohnte und in die Mittelschule ging. Ich ging nach Novi Sad in eine Nähsschule, wo ich Nähen and auch andere verschiedene Fächer lernte.

Deutsche Ecke, Seite 3



The Big Dog (DER GROSSE HUND)
Andreas Franz

(ed. note: What follows are the childhood reminiscences of club-member Andy Franz, a Donauschwab from town of Palanka)

My first childhood memories of my parents, grandparents and our house are tightly intertwined with our shaggy, bear-like dog named “Nero”. He was both my mild-tempered and patient playmate and my protector. I was a slender boy back then and, among the group of boys in my neighborhood, one of the weakest. However, as long as I was within ear-shot of Nero, no one would bother me. He would come whenever I called and stand by me. His massive and intimidating presence was enough. Naturally, of course, if I was too far away from him, I would “get it”! It goes without saying then that I always tried to take him with me wherever I went. There was this time I took him for a forbidden swim.... but that’s another story!

I came to Trenton in 1956 and ran into many older Palankaers who would ask “and who are you?” “Franz, Andreas” I would answer. “Which Franz?” they would counter. “My father was the butcher”. “The one with the big dog?” they asked. “Yes”, I said, “the one with the dog called Nero”.

It seemed that everyone knew exactly who I was because of this unforgettable dog! How is it that so many fellow Palankaers knew of this dog of mine? The story starts at my parents’ wedding. It was then that Nero was presented as a gift to the newlyweds. He was one of ten puppies and the only one

to survive past the first few months. Nero was a cross between a St. Bernard and a Newfoundland and as such, eventually weighed in at somewhere north of 150 lbs. He had a huge head, a thick, almost waterproof brown coat, and was a beloved and loyal member of our family.

As butcher, my dad had to travel anywhere from 12 to 36 miles for cattle, pigs and lamb. This he did with a quirky horse with a light wagon... and Nero. Where normally it took a couple of drivers to ride herd over the livestock, Nero could accomplish the task alone. When we had a dozen or so swine in a stall, it was often quite difficult and dangerous to pull one out for slaughter. Yet, my father could count on our dog to get the job done.

When there was snow on the ground, Nero would pull my brother – Buwi – and I about on a sled. My dad would sometimes send the dog in the direction of my grandmother’s house and off he would go. If all went well he was there in minutes. However if he saw a cat, look out! We would fall off the sled as Nero took off after the cat. After much yelling and wild barking, the journey would eventually resume.

As house protector, Nero would often stand guard near some freshly hung Bratwurst. My father would make these sausages at three in the morning and let them cool in the courtyard. The overwhelming scent of freshly made Bratwurst brought cats to our property from near and far. For some cats the attempt to steal a Bratwurst did not end well. Cat-owners soon came to dread the sound of our dog and we suspect someone may have tried to poison him. After recovering from this attempt, Nero learned to eat only from the hand of our immediate family.

There was another Bratwurst related story:

My father and a good friend were at a local tavern and had a few drinks. By and by, the friend came up with the idea that he could take away

one of my dad’s well-liked Bratwursts from our home without Nero bothering him. My father warned him that it wouldn’t be possible with the dog standing guard. “Yeah, but Nero knows me” said the friend and off he went. Some time later, my father went to investigate why he had not heard from his friend. When he got home, Nero was sitting inside the house in front of the door... with my dad’s friend sitting in front of him. Seems the dog allowed him in but not out!

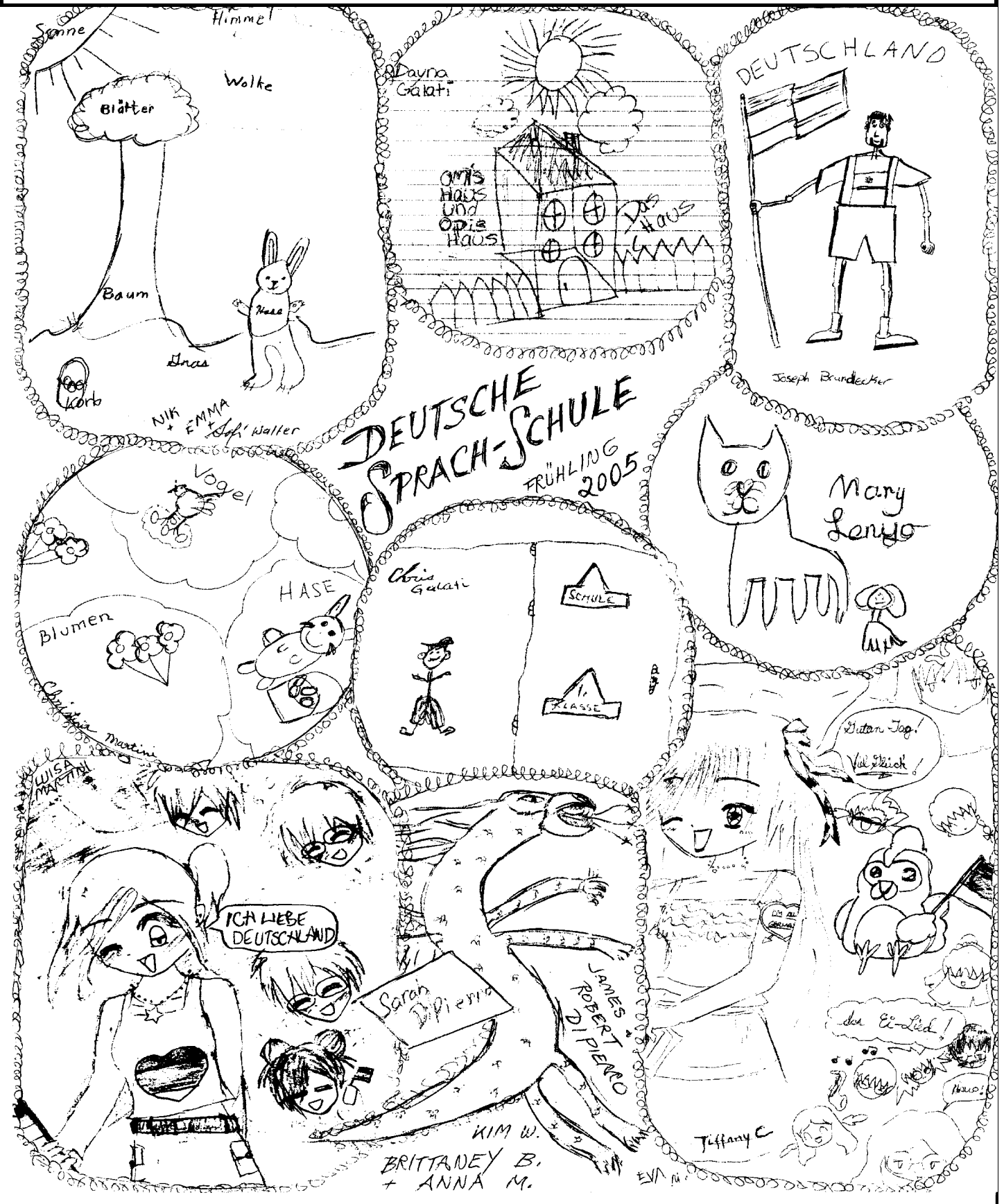
One last memory of my dog, one that taught me a very good lesson. At the age of six, my father gave me the responsibility for feeding Nero. By this time our dog was pretty old and fragile. School would end at midday and of course I came home hungry and looking for something to eat. “Mom give me something to eat, I’m so hungry” I would say. My mother would bring me something to eat right away. One time, however, my father was around at the same time and took me to task. He said something I’ll always remember: “Before taking care of yourself, do your duty and feed the dog who can’t take care of himself. Always remember to help others before helping yourself.” This admonishment and my dog Nero will always be a part of me.

(Translation to English by newsletter staff. German version in the last issue of the newsletter)

Trenton Salutes its Long Distance Members!

A great big Grüss Gott to all of our “out-of-town” members including the **Hartmanns** in Virginia; the **Wesleys** and **Wildmanns** in North Carolina; and **John Feldenzer** out in Montana. From Georgia to New York and all the way out west, the Trenton Donauschwaben appreciates all of its members wherever they might be!

Deutsche Sprach-Schule Seite



Our Autoklub Travels



TERRY'S AUTO TIPS Fuel Saving Tips

With higher gas prices than last issue, we all want to save gasoline. Here are some more tips for your wallet:

- ☀ Use your cruise control when possible.
- ☀ Accelerate gradually & drive smoothly. No jack rabbit starts.
- ☀ Drive at a maximum of 55 mph.
- ☀ Make sure your tires are at the correct tire pressure..
- ☀ Minimize cargo loads. More weight means more gas. Roof luggage racks and containers mean more air resistance.

HAPPY SPRING MOTORING - from TERRY HUFF



JOINT CLUB AUTO SHOW

The Trenton Donauschwaben and the German-American Society of Trenton will co-

host a Euro-American Car Show on Saturday 9 July 2005. The hours will be 10a.m. to 3 p.m. Rain or shine. Pre-registration is \$12 and \$15 day of the show. We are also looking for sponsors for the trophies. Applications for entries and for trophy sponsors can be obtained from club officers or via email (events@trentondonauschwababen.com).

The event will be held at the German-American Society picnic grove at 215 Uncle Pete's Road in Yardville, NJ. There will be lots of German-American food/drink, a D.J. and of course great looking cars.

Our AutoKlub members will judge the entries and trophies will be given out to the top 50 cars. AutoKlub members who want to volunteer to help (be a judge or helpout that day in some way such as registration, directing cars, etc.) should contact Terry Huff (215-736-1915) or Melanie Bauer (215-945-9089).

Please help support this event and stop by. Admission is free to the public. Help make this a great success!

NEW AUTOKLUB MEMBERS

Jim Lieblang joins our group with his 1987 Mercedes Benz 560 SL convertible and Ed Butrym with his S-class Mercedes Benz.

We hope to see you both at our auto events!!! Let's motor!

WOLFSBURG –VW's AUTO CITY

Most people know that Volkswagen's headquarters are in Wolfsburg, Germany. However, did you know that the company built a ultra-modern theme park and car plant there: the Wolfsburg VW-Autocity (Autostadt)? Over 100,000 residents work for Volkswagen. The company not only owns VW but also; Audi, Lamborghini, Bentley, SEAT and Skoda.

Germans can save over \$500 (U.S.) in delivery fees by visiting the city and purchasing their VW direct from the plant. While there they can tour this modern city and its attractions. The old 1930's era VW plant has been transformed into a theme park and museum tracing the complete history of the automobile.

Source: *German Life*—April/May 2005.

NEW PORSCHE MUSEUM

Porsche AG, Stuttgart announced the construction of a new Porsche museum to replace the old one. It will be erected in Zuffenhausen, a suburb of Stuttgart, Germany.

The 50 million Euro project will house 80 vintage Porsches (the present museum has only 20) and include a visitors' restaurant, coffee shop, exclusive restaurant and document the evolution of the Porsche. It is planned to open in 2007 and receive over 200,000 visitors per year.

Source: *Schatten Rappen*, newsletter of the local chapter of the Porsche Club of America. March 2005. www.schattenbaum.org

GERMAN AUTO MUSEUMS

In addition to the VW and the Porsche museums mentioned above, German auto lovers can visit car museums in Stuttgart-Untertürkheim (Mercedes-Benz Museum), Munich (BMW Museum), Munich (Deutsches Auto Museum), Eisenach (Automobile Welt Museum), and in Zwickau (August Horch Museum).

Do the Germans love their autos or what??



Newsletter Advertisers and Sponsors

Membership Sponsors:

- * *Familie Bohn und Marlene Novosel* *
 - * *Frau Anna Hahn in memory of husband Anton* *
 - * *Frau Katie Helleis* *
 - * *Frau Käthe Marx* *
 - * *Herr Otto Kraus* *
 - * *Familie James & Kathleen Lieblang*
 - * *Herr Harold Million* *
 - * *Familie Szmuto in memory of Carl & Eva Frey* *
 - * *Familie Rosa & Peter Kernast* *
 - Familie Hilda & Francis Szmuto* *
- *****



Terry's Service Center
 PA State Inspection | Established 1978
 Service & Parts For Volkswagens & Other Foreign Makes
 9198 New Falls Road, Levittown, PA 19054 (215) 736-1915
 Celebrating Our 20th Anniversary

MEMBER OF NJ & NY BARS

EDWARD J. BUTRYM
 ATTORNEY AT LAW

RUHLMAN & BUTRYM, P.A.

1 WASHINGTON CROSSING ROAD, P.O. BOX 146, PENNINGTON, NJ 08534
 PHONE: (609) 737-9300 FAX: (609) 737-0992
 email: edbutrym@msn.com

STEVE MAYER

LENNOX
 Authorized Dealer

MAYER'S
 Heating and Cooling
 Est. 1958
 Sales • Service • Installation
 Residential • Commercial

1465 Klockner Road Hamilton, NJ 08619 Ph: 609-586-6674 Fax: 609-586-1309
 Email: mayershvac@netzero.net




HERDT FENCING

123 Bordentown-Crosswicks Road
 Crosswicks, New Jersey 08515
 Phone 609-298-2201 • 609-298-3183
 Fax 609-298-3313

www.herdtfencing.com

• Family Owned & Operated • Established in 1959 • AFA Member • Fully Insured

Robert V. Knott
 MANAGER



KNOTT'S
 COLONIAL FUNERAL HOME
 EST. 1909

2946 South Broad Street • Hamilton, NJ 08610
 (609) 888-4723 • Fax: (609) 888-0775
 N.J. Lic. JP04047



CIMIST Inc.
 at **ACRES BLDG.**

- Exclusive Foreign Car Used Parts
- Mechanical & Body Repair
- Foreign & Domestic Car Sales

74 Youngs Road Trenton, NJ 08619 Tel: (609) 586-3225 Fax: (609) 588-8896

Fine Dining & Cocktail Lounge



Amarone's
Windsor Inn

29 Church Street Windsor, NJ 08561 Mike Mikkelsen (609) 448-7144

H.A. Off Motorcars, LP
Volkswagen of Langhorne
 www.vwoflanghorne.com



Brian Kochersperger 1862 E. Lincoln Highway Langhorne, PA 19047
 Telephone: 215-741-4100 Direct: 215-752-6632 Facsimile: 215-752-6626

Martini's Woodwork
 Made to Order Furniture & Cabinetry

HANS & ADAM MARTINI
 112 Smith Avenue Hamilton, NJ 08619-3424 (609) 586-6109 FAX (609) 586-8713



PASSING OF LESTER LINDENMAYER

Both Helene (2nd from the left) and Lester Lindenmayer (1st from the right) are now deceased and it is perhaps a good time to recall their involvement in our club. Starting at the club's founding in 1956, Lester served as the first secretary and recording secretary while Helene would be elected vice president of the club and Ladies' Auxiliary president. Shortly thereafter, Helene Lindenmayer served as secretary, recording secretary and, most prominently, teacher and school director until 1970.

There is no doubt that "Frau Lindenmayer", as almost everyone used to call her, was once a very influential (and sometimes controversial) presence in our club at that time. An intelligent and knowledgeable individual, Helene was involved in countless club Christmas plays and cultural events involving dozens of children and young people. This writer, a mere lad of 6 or 7 at the time, remembers quite clearly her ability to command respect and correct inappropriate behavior! Above all, however, it must be said she was able to accomplish quite a bit with our youngsters and made an impact on all of us.

And so, on the occasion of Lester's passing, the Trenton Donauschwaben remembers the Lindenmayer's. May they rest in Peace, Amen.

Note: also in the 1976 picture above are Mr. & Mrs. Josef Heidenhofer.

Winteressen & the Annual Membership Business Meeting 2005 (bottom) Pictures



Club Events for the Spring 2005

EVENTS— DATES & TIMES

Come out and join us!

- **Donauschwabenessen (Gulasch), Sunday, 10 April 2005, 1pm.**
- **Muttertagessen (Schnitzel), Sunday, 1 May 2005, 1pm.**
- **Wallfahrt (Pilgrimage), Sunday, 5 June 2005.**
- **Vaterstagessen (Pig Roast), Sunday, 12 June 2005, 1pm.**
- **HAPPY SPRING TO ALL!!!!**

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

VEREINIGUNG DER DONAUSCHWABEN
127 ROUTE 156, YARDVILLE, NJ 08620

DSATRENTON@YAHOO.COM

PRESIDENT— JOSEPH BRANDECKER
609-585-9001

Dennis J. Bauer, Editor & Club Genealogist
49 Conifer Road
Levittown, PA 19057-1718
Email: donauschwaben@mail.com
215-945-9089

Hans Martini, Corresponding Secretary
1822 Orchard Ave.
Hamilton, NJ 08610
Email: DSATrenton@aol.com
609-888-2762

www.
trentondonschwaben.com

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 and purchase our Club jackets, shirts, hats, etc. We appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you again soon.

Auf Wiedersehen bei den Donauschwabern!

27th WALLFAHRT 2006 Pilgrimage News

While we are pleased to have Father Engelbert Michel preside at this year's memorial service, next year promises to be even more special. Frau Käthe Marx of the Philadelphia Donauschwaben recently revealed that (barring any unforeseens) none other than Cardinal Rigali of Philadelphina will celebrate the 2006 event. This is a very big deal, good people! Frau Marx has been involved in the ethnic heritage mass in the Philadelphia diocese for a number of years and has been working to make this happen for quite some time. We applaud Kaethe for her efforts and hope you – yes, YOU – will join us for the event.

The Passing of Pope John Paul II

The overwhelming outpouring of emotion on the suffering and death of Pope John Paul II shows the type of impact this holy man had on the world. 4 million people attending his funeral and 2 billion watching on TV is simply breathtaking and few will soon forget the sea of humanity that descended upon Rome for the occasion.

Some will dwell on problems that remain within the church and with some of its "less popular" teachings. Surely controversial issues have always been part of the church's history and few suspect there will ever be a time when everyone everywhere is happy with everything. However, that John Paul was a man committed to his dying breath to the cause in which he firmly believed cannot easily be questioned. He made all of us reflect on what we do as Christians and as human beings, how we treat each other and how we affect those around us.

And so, the Trenton Donauschwaben notes the passing of Pope John Paul II. May he Rest in Peace, Amen.

Germany's Cardinal Ratzinger Elected Pope

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, 78, of Germany was elected Pope on Tuesday 19 April 2005. He is Germany's first Pope since Victor II, bishop of Eichstatt, who reigned from 1055-57. Ratzinger will take the name Benedict XVI. He will be the 265th Roman Catholic pontiff.

The Trenton Donauschwaben welcomes Pope Benedict XVI.