

Trentoner Donauschwaben Nachrichten



Volume 6 Issue 2

April-June 2006

Points of Interest

- The Philadelphia, New York & Boston symphony orchestras were all established by German immigrants.
- John Philip Sousa, of German ancestry, was famous for his "Stars & Stripes Forever" march.
- "The Sound of Music" Movie and play was about the Austrian von Trapp family.
- Lawrence Welk, from a German-speaking community in North Dakota lead his popular TV band from the 1950s to the 1970s.
- John Steinbeck, of German ancestry, wrote *Grapes of Wrath*, *Of Mice & Men*, *East of Eden* and *Cannery Row*.
- German-American, Theodore Geisel (Dr. Seuss) wrote many children's books.
- German immigrant, John Peter Zenger, was partner in the *New York Gazette* in 1725.

Source: *The German-American Answer Book*. Ellen Shnidman. 1999.

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Inside this issue:

Club Matters & Members	2-3
Genealogy & History	4
Members News	5
Deutsche Ecke	6-8
AutoKlub Travels	9
Sponsors	11
Pictures of Club Events	12 &
School News	13
Club Events	14

** LET IT SNOW! **

Skiing has been a popular club tradition since the 1970s. Indeed, the Donauschwaben has undertaken dozens of ski trips over the years, from humble Belle Mountain (yes, we miss it too) to great skiing destinations like Stowe Mt. in Vermont. Often led by our resident expert skiers, Ludwig "Bode" Jakober and Steve Brandecker, members of all ages have made this sport the club's favorite outdoor activity. Recent trips to Shawnee, Mt. Tremblanc and the Catskills underscore the point

Why are there, in fact, so many "Schwobs on the slopes"? To get the answer to this burning (err, freezing?) question, we have to examine a bit of our club's history. Cut to the 1970s and what many regard as a heyday for the Trenton Donauschwaben. In those years, we had a big German School (up to 60 students) and a big Youth Dance Group (up to 24 dancers) that created the need for more activities aimed at our young members. Ludwig Jakober and others thought it a good idea to just "put 'em on ski's and let 'em go". And so, a Donauschwaben tradition was born!

Memorable anecdotes of ski trips past are plentiful. Here are just a few... Chuck Pinkerton's mammoth "Country Squire" station wagon having to be left up in the Catskills following "severe duty" testing. Joe Brandecker having to be left in a doctor's care following a very convincing "Wide World of Sports/Agony of Defeat" type skiing maneuver. "Bode" Jakober, Gary Bartmann and others being left to freeze in a stalled Snow-Cat transport vehicle on Stowe Mountain (at 60 degrees below zero it gets very cold very quickly!). These stories and so many others create a wonderful collage of memorable ski trip experiences few participants will soon forget.

Ski trips aren't just about great skiing, of course, they are probably even more about socializing with fellow members and friends. Such was the case this past February when a group of 12 club members made their way up to the Catskill Mountains of New York. Their destination: "Crystal Brook" lodge, owned and operated by a family of *Donauschwaben* immigrants. How appropriate! This place is what you would expect of an Alpine retreat: rustic, charming, clean and very inviting, all with a

heavy German flavoring (just as we like it!). In the Donauschwaben travel guide, Crystal Brook gets the five-beer stein rating.

The matriarch of the family, Frau Hasenkopf-Dukarm, and her daughter in law, Wendy, are excellent hostesses and run a tight ship, ably assisted by other members of their family. For our listening and dancing pleasure, a local musician (a young twenty-something in fact) played German music on the two nights of our stay. Steve, Joe, and Hans also had very few complaints about the adult refreshment center and were said to have made extensive use of its resources. However, all three members claim it was only the interesting stories about the old country told by the Dukarms that kept them there for long periods of time (Melanie, Caroline and JoAnn remain skeptical).

Having rolled in on Friday night, the group got up early the next morning and drove to nearby Windham Mountain. This is a good, intermediate-ability ski area with some steep, black diamond courses for the daredevils too. The long, leisurely runs down the mountain made for a great ski day. Brittaney, Joe, Steve and Melanie enjoyed their time on the slopes while newcomers Anna, Luisa and Christina found that skiing can involve quite a bit of "down time". They all did very well however and had a great time – as did little Greta who watched the action from the ski lodge and who seems about ready to take up the sport herself!

Actually, Saturday's weather was not that good but the rains did hold off until mid afternoon. We then returned to the inn and spent the rest of the day socializing, dancing, dining and just plain having a good time. Sunday's activities included a short walk to a local waterfalls and a game of bowling (hey, it's not always about skiing!). All too soon, it was time to say *Hasta LaVista* to our hosts and head back home.

The club's trip to the Catskills continues a decades' long tradition of ski adventures. It's not surprising, then, that preliminary plans are already being made to return there next winter with an even bigger group of Donauschwaben members and friends. Whether you are a big-time skier or no skier at all, these weekends are most enjoyable for everyone involved. Please consider joining us next year when we "head for the hills!"



Club Matters & Members

DONAUSCHWABEN CULTURAL AFFAIRS FOR 2006 (AUSSTELLUNG & TRACHTENFEST)

Mark that calendar! Kulturausstellung on April 8-9, 2006, noon at the Philly Donauschwaben, 1277 Southampton Road, Philadelphia, Pa. There will be cultural exhibits of the Donauschwaben, including trachts, household articles, books, genealogy and personal interviews of older members.

A Trachtenfest will be held May 20, 2006, 5pm, at the UGH, 4666 Bristol Road, Oakford, PA. There will be food, drink, dancing, skits and great fun. They are the joint efforts of the Philly Donauschwaben, the United German-Hungarians (UGH) of Oakford, Pa and our club. **DO NOT MISS EITHER ONE!**

It was great to see the events advertised in the 4th Quarter 2005 issue of *The German Connection*, the newsletter of the German Research Association, San Diego, CA. Our Dennis Bauer is a member of this German genealogical research group.

GERMAN HERITAGE FEST 2006

It's getting to that time of year again that we start planning for the German Heritage Festival. I would like to take this opportunity to ask everyone to think about coming out this year. As always, the club will be selling our wunderbar pastries, always a Great Hit!

While the performers have not been announced as of this printing they will be known shortly. This year, as in past, will again be a rousing success with top-notch entertainers. We will have dancer groups of different types and wide variety of food vendors.

This year there will be something new, a site set aside for show cars. Our AutoKlub was recently asked to attend and we plan to have our cars there in support of the event. So, if you have a neat car bring it for show and enjoy the Fest!

Check out their web site at www.ghf-nj.org. There you will also find information regarding scholarships for high school seniors.—*Steve Brandecker*

AUTOKLUB SHOW COMMITTEE

Under the leadership of Terry Huff, the following members will serve on the 2nd Annual Euro-American Auto Show committee, Dennis Bauer, Melanie Bauer, Jim Lieblang, Jim Brunner, Gary McGhee and Dan Penrith. Joe Brandecker, Hans Martini and Steve Brandecker also offered to help out as needed.

The show will be held Saturday, 8 July 2006 at the German-American Picnic Grove again. The committee had it's first organizational meeting with our co-sponsors, the German-American Club, on 9 February 2006 at their clubhouse.

We are again looking for Trophy sponsors (\$30) and for grab bag/door prize donations.

2nd Annual Euro-American Auto Show

Presented by the Trenton Donauschwaben (DSA) & the German-American Society (GAK)

Saturday, July 8, 2006 (downpour date 9 July 2006), at the German-American Society Picnic Grove, 215 Uncle Pete's Road, Yardville, NJ 08691 (Just outside Trenton, NJ), 609-585-1932 (DSA), 609-585-5200 (GAK). www.trentondonauschwabens.com or www.gakclub.org

Pre-Registration \$12, Day of Show \$15, Covered Pavilions, D.J., Great Food & Drinks, 50 Trophies to be awarded including, Best Euro, Best American & Peoples' Choice.

If you or your company are interested in sponsoring a trophy (\$30) please contact any officer for an application. A great way to advertise! In addition, we are looking for items for our gift bags that are given out to all that enter their cars.

MANY THANKS TO JIM LIEBLANG

We all would like to express our heartfelt thanks to member Jim Lieblang for his recent monetary donation to the club. The money will be used to help fund this year's Euro-American Auto Show and other projects in the works.

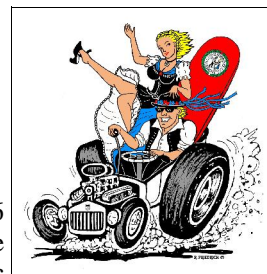
Vielen Dank, Herr Lieblang!!!

"Interviews Begin to Document Local Donauschwaben History"

For a number of years, Fred Gauss of the Philadelphia Donauschwaben (and Trenton too, by the way) has been planning and organizing a way to record the stories of local Donauschwaben to insure their history is not forgotten. Time is of the essence for this particular undertaking as the population of native-born Donauschwaben is getting older. So, with a "there's no time like the present" attitude, Fred recently started the process by filming/interviewing 18 individuals, among them Adam Martini, Käthe Marx and others.

Plans for this project include getting as many interviews as possible on film to create an archive of personal stories. Eventually a film documentary of the 1930s/1940s and post WWII history of the Donauschwaben will be made using excerpts from these interviews to personalize the story. A local filmmaker - one who is married to the son of Donauschwaben immigrants - is already part of the project to insure things are done in a professional manner.

The value of having film archives and perhaps even a documentary for our grandchildren and beyond can't be overstated. How wonderful it will be that decades from now our descendants will be able to watch TV and see stories of the "old country" as told by *their* ancestors!



Vereinigung der Donauschwaben, Trenton, New Jersey
Vereinsvorstand für 2006 – 2008
(Our Club Officers and Staff)



Präsident	Joseph Brandecker Dennis Bauer Robert Walter Kim Walter
1. Vizepräsident	
2. Vizepräsident	
3. Vizepräsident	
Schatzmeister	Ludwig Jakober, Jr. Harold Parr Harold Huff
1. Stellvertreter	
2. Stellvertreter	
Sekretär/Mitgliedsekretär	Hans Martini Eva Martini Eva Martini
Stellvertreterin	
Protokoll Sekretärin	
Finanzprüfer:	Richard Jakober, Al Tindall, Michael Lenyo
Frauenschaft:	
Präsidentin	Josefa Brandecker
1. Vizepräsidentin	Helga Kusenko
2. Vizepräsidentin	Caroline Brandecker
Schatzmeisterin	Melanie Bauer
Schule:	
Präsident	Harold Parr
Lehrkräfte	Andreas Franz Eva Martini
Assitantinnen	Kim Walter, Brittaney Brandecker, Anna Martini
Hausmeister	Marion Dlubak Bob Walter, Ron Jakober
Hauskomitee	
Wirtschaftsmeister	Stefan Brandecker
Familienforschungsleiter	Dennis Bauer
Websitekomitee	Dennis Bauer, Terry Penrith
Rundschreibenkomitee:	Dennis Bauer (Redakteur) Melanie Bauer, Adam Martini, Mike Lenyo, Andreas Franz, Ray Martini
German Heritage Festival Vertreter	Stefan Brandecker
Donauschwaben USA Vertreter	Joseph Brandecker, Stefan Brandecker, Hans Martini
Totengedenkkomitee:	Hans Martini, Harold Parr, Eva Martini, Dennis Bauer
AutoKlubkomitee	Terry Huff (AutoKlubleiter) Melanie Bauer, Jim Lieblang, Jim Brunner, Gary McGhee, Dennis Bauer, Daniel Penrith
Direktoren:	Harold Parr, Josefa Brandecker, Mark Gruzlovic, Harold Million, Frank Herdt, Eva Martini, Ulrich Haller
Ehrendirektorin	Rosa Wildmann

Genealogy & History Section



Familienbuch Batsch & CD-Rom Just Released

The *Familienbuch Batsch in der Batschka, 1830-1943* was just released this Winter. Batsch (Bacs, Bač) is located northwest of Palanka. The cost of the two volume book is 25 euros plus postage or 10 euros plus postage for the book on Cd-Rom (pdf format).

It is over 800 pages and contains over 18,000 individuals and some pictures of Batsch. Works was written by the late Josef Stefan, Lorenz Orth and Klaus Kempf and published by the Heimatortsgemeinschaft Batsch. Order your copy from; Klaus Kempf, Falkenstrasse 5, 85521 Ottobrunn, Germany.

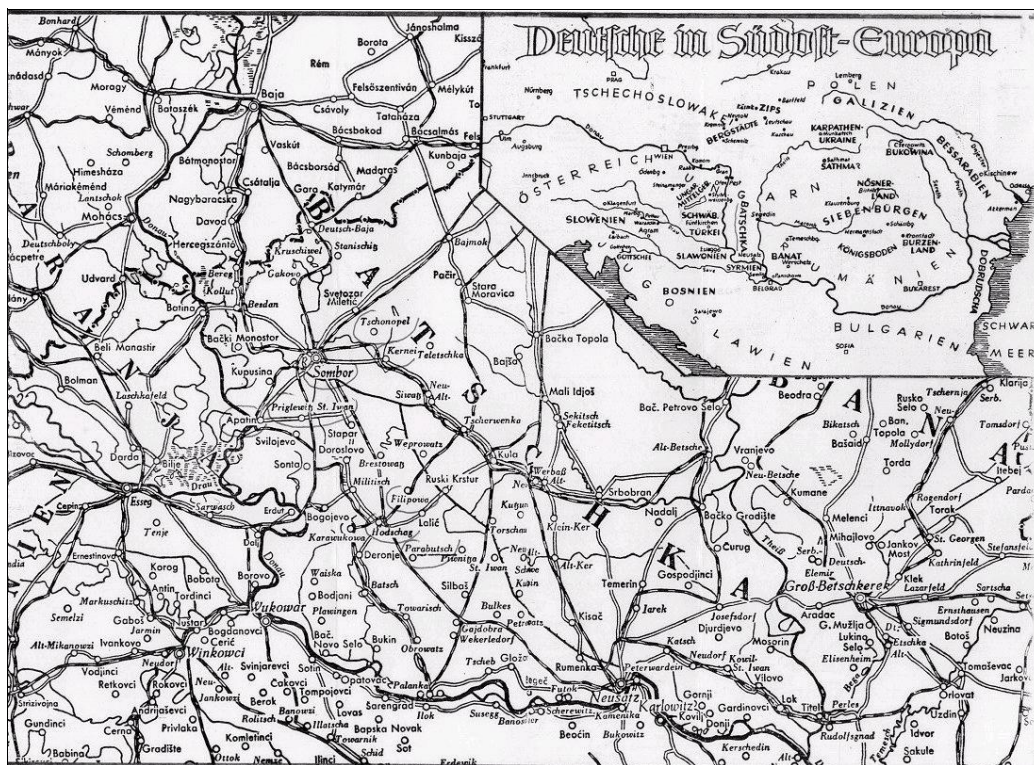
Note: Our Dennis Bauer's late grandmother, Theresa Bauer, nee Helleis, was born in Batsch and came to Trenton with her parents, Lorenz Helleis & Barbara Blank Helleis and siblings in July 1913. Her late brother, Frank Helleis, was a member here at the club. His wife, Katie Maas Helleis, has been a long time and valued member here at the club.

Microfilm of These Batschka Towns

Did you know that the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints (Mormons) have microfilm records for these Batschka towns (1828 Census, birth, marriage and/or deaths 1828-1895)? The town spellings are in Hungarian.

Ada , Apatin, Bacs/Batsch , Bacs Ujfalu, Bacsalmás, Baja, Bajmak, Bajsa, Baratska, Bathmonostor , Becse , Begecs, Beregh, Bez-dany, Bikity, Bodgyan, Bogojeva, Brestovatz, Bukin, Bulkesz, Csantaver, Csatalia, Csavoly, Cseb, Cservenka, Csonoplya, Daut-ova, Derony, Deszpot Szentivan, Feketehegy , Foldvar, Futtok, Gajdobra, Gakova, Gara, Glozan, Hegyes, Hodsag , Istvanmegye, Jankovatz, Jarek, Kanizsa, Karavukova , Katymar, Keresztur, Kernei/Kernyaja, Kis-Ker, Kis-Szallas, Kiszacs, Kolluth, Krusevlye, Kuczura, Kula, Kulpin, Kunbaja, Kupuszina, Laity, Legyen, Madras, Martonyos , Melykut, Militics, Moholy, Monostorszeg, No-vozsello, Obrovatz, Oker, Omoravica, Pacser, Palanka, Parabutsch/Parabuty, Paraga, Petrovacz, Petrovo-Szello, Philipova/Filipowa, Piross, Pivnitza, Plavna, Praeioium, Priglevitza Szent Ivan/Bacsstentivan, Ratz Militics, Rem, Rigyicza, Sandor, Szivacz, Szantova, Szeghegy, Szent Thomas, Szentá, Szilbas, Szonta, Sztanisits, Sztapar, Tatahaza, Temerin, Topolya, Torzsa, Tovarisoava, Turza, Vaiszka, Veprovatz/Weprowatz, Verbasz, Waskuth and Zenta .

You can order these films from your local LDS Family History Center. We have one in Princeton, NJ and Morrisville, PA locally. You do not have to be a member of the Church.



Membership News

2006 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 L. Bauer— Newsletter Copy Editor, Asst. AutoKlub Leader

Dennis Bauer/Terry Penrith— Website Committee

Adam Martini/Andy Franz/Mike Lenyo— Staff Writers

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



EAT CABBAGE

Cruciferous vegetables (broccoli, brussels sprouts and cabbage) have been known for their anti-cancer properties for years. Now recent studies indicate that cabbage has an added value for women. It was found that Polish women who ate cabbage and sauerkraut four or more times a week were 74% less likely to develop breast cancer. It was found also to protect against lung, stomach and colon cancers. Sehr Gut!

Source: AARP Magazine, March/April 2006.

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

Congratulations: **Anna Martini** celebrated her 16th birthday on 7 January 2006.

Monika Kusenko and **Bill Yob** will be married on 26 August 2006 in Bethlehem, PA.

Melanie Bauer and **Steve Brandecker** will be married 21 October 2006 in Hamilton, NJ.

Jason Bauer recently passed his FCC Amateur Radio General Class examination, an upgrade from the Technician Plus class he held for many years. He continues to be active in the Bucks County Emergency Management Team as a Bucks County Amateur Radio Emergency Service member. The team took part in a statewide weather emergency exercise on 16 March 2006. He also accepted a Research Associate position recently at the Drug Delivery Division of Elan Corporation.

Steve Brandecker just completed a 10 week building inspector course at Mercer County Community College and received his certificate on 21 March 2006. This will prepare Steve for taking the NJ building inspector licensing exam this Spring. Good Luck Steve!

Special thanks to: Mike Lenyo on last issues article on the Senior prescription plan. We received many positive comments on his article. Great job Mike!.



Deepest Sympathy: to **Chuck** and **Tess Pinkerton** on the passing of Tess' mother, **Doris Bratz Hall** on 3 February 2006. She was 69 years old. She is also survived by daughter and son-in-law Mary and Patrick Fowler; son, William Hall and brother and sister-in-law, Fred and Dolores Bratz. Our condolences to the entire family and friends.



Get Well: **Carolyn Brandecker** (surgery), **Sepp Brandecker** (surgery), **Jake Bauer** (surgery) and **Dennis Bauer** (herniated disk), **Danese Lenyo** (knee surgery) and **Wilma Schmidt** after a recent hospitalization. Also a *Get Well* to those club members and friends with illnesses and injuries about whom our newsletter staff is not aware.)Please let us know for our next issue, thank you.).

Welcome New Members: Willkommen to new members, **Wilhelm & Roswitha Gilaeser** of Warrington, PA. **Jim Brunner** was their sponsor.

We also welcome **Barbara and Frederick Schock** to the Trenton Donauschwaben family of members. They were sponsored by **Robert Walter**.

We are delighted to note that several additional membership applications are now pending. The newsletter will publish the names in our next edition. The club is grateful for all its members' support!

Deutsche Ecke, Seite 1

FROM NEUSATZ TO CANADA by Rose Zentner Vetter

Thank you for your interest in my journey from the Batschka to Germany and eventually to Canada. In Neusatz (Novi Sad) we lived in peaceful co-existence with Serbs, Croats, Hungarians, Slovaks, etc., sadly, that was soon to change. From friends and neighbors I learned to speak Serbian and Hungarian (which I've unfortunately forgotten) beside my German mother tongue.

We lived only about a block from the Danube, between two bridges, across from the famous Peterwardein fortress. These bridges were main targets of Allied bombers. Almost every night we were awakened by air raid sirens and had to rush to an air raid shelter, only to return one night to find our home destroyed by bombs. In August 1944, as the German army was retreating out of Yugoslavia, we were urged to pack our bags and board the refugee train---they told us we would be back in about three weeks!

My father had been drafted into the army shortly before, so my mother, my older sister and I followed suit. We pleaded with my grandparents in Palanka to come with us, but they were in frail health and would not leave their home, insisting that no one would harm them. Little did they know of the cruelty awaiting them on that fateful 29th of November, when Tito's Partisans drove them out of their homes into the streets, where they had to spend the night in the rain and bitter cold.

On the following day they were forced to walk 60 km to the Pasicevo camp. My grandfather collapsed and was



thrown on a wagon like a sack; he died nine days later, my grandmother two years after him. Old people were starved, neglected and lived in squalid, filthy

conditions not fit for animals. My aunt who was with them was forced to hard labor. She managed to escape to Austria in 1948 and lived to tell about their ordeal. A number of my relatives died in the concentration camps and two of my cousins were taken to Russia to work in the mines.

As for my family, we survived our flight to war-ravaged Germany, sometimes in open cattle cars, after being shot at with machine guns by dive bombers.

We spent the next two years in about twenty refugee camps, occasionally being placed in private homes. People died of dysentery, typhoid fever and other diseases and were buried daily in mass graves, it's a miracle we survived.

Years later when I had children of my own I came to appreciate how brave and stoic my mother had been during that time---I only saw her break down once. It was Christmas Eve 1944. We lived with a family in Thüringen, who, when being told that they were to accommodate a refugee family from Yugoslavia, feared they were going to get a family of gypsies. When they saw our blond hair and fair complexions and heard us speaking German, they were puzzled until my mother told them we were German.

Nonetheless, they were not too happy having to give up one of their rooms for us. The unfriendly treatment, not knowing whether my father was alive or dead, and being far from home finally was too much for my mother and she dissolved into bitter tears---I was eight years old, but that was one Christmas Eve I will never forget.

In June 1945 we were reunited with my father. He showed up in a ragged uniform, the only clothes he had. He had to lie naked in bed all day while my mother washed and dried his clothes---all of us, including my father, thought it was funny at the time.

We were in the Russian Zone in eastern Germany, and I remember drunken Russian soldiers going on rampages at night looking for young

women to rape. This was in 1946 and my parents decided to move west into the English Zone, which was a wise move because the Communists had not built the Iron Curtain yet.

From then on our life improved relatively. We were placed on a farm in Niedersachsen near Bremen, where we lived until we emigrated to Canada. We settled in the prairie city of Winnipeg. That's where I met and married my husband and we had our three children. In 1968 we moved to Vancouver, BC and we now make our home in nearby Richmond.

I could go on and on, but I tried to condense my story as much as possible I thank God that He spared us after all the danger, starvation and suffering and gave us a new life of freedom and peace in our adopted country.

Footnote: Rose posted this story on the Donauschwaben Village Helping Hand mail list on 28 February 2006. She was contacted by our Dennis Bauer for permission to re-print it in our newsletter. She graciously agreed. After comparing ancestries it was discovered that they are distant cousins through the Spieldenner line from Palanka! She had many relatives (Zentners, Esserts and Pilgers) settle in the Trenton area. It is a small world for us Donauschwaben.



Novi Sad/Neustadt today

Deutsche Ecke, Seite 2

CAMMIN

Submitted by Manfred Grotzke

(Below is club member Manfred Grotzke's contribution. It is a fascinating letter from one of his brothers (Heinz, age 16) to another (Helmut) regarding the time when the Russians attacked their eastern German hometown – Cammin, now in Poland - and what happened afterwards. The newsletter staff will translate this article for the next issue).



Der folgende Brief wurde von Mitglied Manfred Grotzke freigegeben für unsere Vereinsnachrichten. Es ist ein Brief von seinem älteren Bruder Heinz an den jüngeren Bruder Helmut. Der Platz ist Cammin, das heute zu Polen gehört und an der Ostsee liegt. Das Schreiben gibt einen Einblick was in den letzten Tagen des Krieges dort vorgeing.

“Lieber Helmut,

Nachdem ich neulich von Dir erfahren habe, dass Du meinen letzten Brief nicht bekommen hast, will ich nochmals kurz meine Flucht aus Cammin aufschreiben.

Ich bin Jahrgang 1929 und wurde im März 1945 mit der ganzen Klasse der Aufbauschule mit Gewehre und Panzerfausten versorgt. Wir mussten in Cammin bleiben, zusammen mit den dort stationierten Marine-Artilleristen.

Ich weiss nicht mehr das genaue Datum, doch die Russen begannen etwa gegen 14:00 Uhr in die Stadt zu schiessen. Wir wurden in der Hindenburgstrasse eingesetzt. Es wurde Nacht ohne dass die Russen durch die Sperre brechen konnten, doch in der Stadt sah man grosse Brände. Alle Strassen aus der Stadt waren nach

Mitternacht unpassierbar und ich plante, den Deich entlang zur Zugbrücke nach Dievenow zu nehmen. Die Zugbrücke war hochgezogen, doch am Camminer Ufer war ein Kahn in den ich stieg und ihm einen guten Stoss gab, so dass er ans andere Ufer kam.

Der Himmel über Cammin war blutrot, nur die Kirchen konnte man als dunkle Finger in der Glut erkennen, wie Warnzeichen. Ein unvergesslicher Eindruck, schön und grausam zugleich.

In Dievenow wurde ich dann wieder mit einer Gruppe von Lansern mit einem Boot zur Insel Gristow gebracht. Die Bauernhäuser zur Seite nach Cammin waren alle mit Soldaten belegt, und weiter zum Wasser hin waren Schutzengraben ausgehoben. Die Russen standen mit Panzern am gegenüberliegenden Ufer und beschossen die Insel bei Tag und Nacht. In der Nacht im dunklen Haus lagen wir alle auf Stroh. Es gab ja kein Licht, nur Taschenlampen. Trotz des Beschusses schliefen alle, die nicht gerade Dienst im Graben hatten, wie Murmeltiere.

Nach zwei Tagen wurden wir auf Befehl abgeholt, um uns erneut zur Zusammenfassung nach Heringsdorf zu begeben. Wir sollten weiter ausgebildet werden und dann wieder zum Einsatz kommen. Vor dem Einsatz kam jedoch ein uniformierter Sturmführer und zeichnete viele von uns wegen Tapferkeit vor dem Feind aus. Ich erhielt das Eiserne Kreuz erster Klasse und das Infanterie-Sturmabzeichen, allerdings nur als Urkunde, denn die Kreuze und Abzeichen waren erst nach dem Sieg lieferbar. Wie es dann kam war: kein Sieg, kein Kreuz.

Dann wurden wir zum Einsatz vor Stralsund gebracht. Es war inzwischen Mai geworden. Wir sollten verhindern, dass der Feind nach Stralsund nicht einbrechen konnte. Der Einsatz begann in der Nacht. Unsere Gruppe wurde von einem Feldwebel befehligt und als Rückendeckung wurde uns ein Panzer zugeteilt. Dann ging der Angriff los. Es fing mit

Gewehrfeuer an, dann trafen scheinbar Panzerfäuste die ersten Fahrzeuge, Brände und Explosionen entstanden und unser Panzer begann auch zu schiessen. In kurzer Zeit war auf der Strasse die Hölle los. Dann klang das Geschiesse auf der Strasse allmählich ab und die Leute vom Panzer meinten wir sollten uns absetzen, es war inzwischen auch Tag geworden.

Wir suchten die Wasserseite von Stralsund, um nach Rügen überzusetzen, denn in Heringsdorf hatte uns ein Obersturmbannführer gesagt, falls Stralsund nicht gehalten werden konnte, sollten wir uns nach Rügen begeben und uns im nördlichen Wiek treffen. Er würde ein Boot bereitstellen, das uns nach dem Westen bringen würde. Wie aber zum Hafen kommen? Die Russen waren inzwischen in der Stadt und wir kannten nicht die Strassen wie in Cammin.

Endlich kamen wir auch an eine Art Segelhafen an. Nach hastigem Suchen fanden wir auch ein Ruderboot. Mit fünf Leuten ging es rasch hinein und dann ab. Wir waren kaum hundert Meter vom Ufer, als wir einen Panzer am Kai auftauchen sahen, der uns scheinbar erspäht hatte. Jedenfalls wurde das Rohr gesenkt, geschossen, und eine Wasserfontäne schäumte etwa zwanzig Meter vor uns auf. Die zwei Leute legten sich kräftig ins Ruder. Plötzlich, wie ein Wunder, fing es an zu schneien, mit so grossen und dicken Flocken, dass wir keine fünf Meter sehen konnten. Wir atmeten auf, denn nach einem weiteren Schuss blieb es still und wir kamen unversehrt am Rügenufer an.

Wir sahen dann nach dem Schnee, dass die Strasse weiter nach Osten lag. So liefen wir hin und fanden hunderte von Menschen und aller Art Fahrzeuge, die nach Norden strebten. Jeder war jetzt für sich. Eine Flucht im Chaos. Nachzügler wussten auch schon zu berichten, dass die Russen mit Panzern auf der Insel gelandet seien und nachkamen. Es war also keine Zeit zu verlieren.

Continued on next page.....

Deutsche Ecke, Seite 3

CAMMIN

Submitted by Manfred Grotzke
(Continued from page 8)

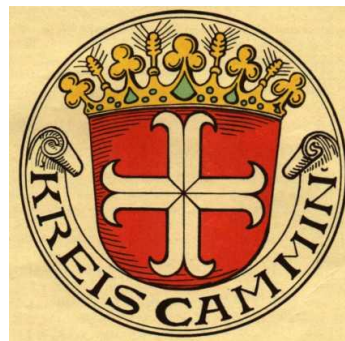
Wir erreichten den kleinen Ort Wiek. Da war auch der Kahn, der auf uns wartete, wir konnten an Bord gehen und uns hinlegen. Mehr und mehr Jungens in meinem Alter trafen ein, doch alle fanden einen Platz unten im Kahn auf dem Stroh. Das in See stechen gab dann noch Schwierigkeiten. Dieser Kahn musste von einem Schlepper gezogen werden, der zwar da war, doch der Kapitän weigert sich auszulaufen, weil die Russen mit Panzern schon das gegenüberliegende Ufer erreicht hatten und eine enge Wasserstrasse durchfahren werden musste, um auf die freie Ostsee zu kommen. Der verantwortliche Obersturmbannführer musste schliesslich dem Kapitän mit der Pistole im Rücken befehlen, sofort abzulegen und mit Volldampf den Wiek Bodden zu verlassen und durch den Rassower Strom in die Ostsee kommen. Alle mussten unter Deck bleiben, und auf dem Deck war alles mit Planen abgedeckt worden. Bevor wir dann in den Vitter Bodden kamen, wurden wir tatsächlich beschossen. Kein Mensch unter Deck sprach ein Wort, es herrschte Todesstille. Gott sei Dank waren die Panzerschützen keine Scharfschützen. Wir kamen in die offene See. Es dauerte jedoch nicht lange, da hörten wir unten im Kahn über uns ein Flugzeug kreisen. Nach etwa fünfzehn Minuten verschwand es wieder. Man sagte uns dann, dass vorweislich auf dem Kahn und dem Mast des Schleppers die dänische Flagge angebracht war. So entkamen wir endgültig dem russischen Ansturm.

Am nächsten Morgen kamen wir auf der Insel Fehmarn an, wo noch voller Frieden herrschte. Der Ortsgruppenleiter liess alle Bauern anfahren, die uns als Helfer aufnehmen wollten. So landeten alle von uns auf den Bauernhöfen, wo wir blieben, bis uns Eltern oder Verwandten durch

Suchkarten fanden. Vater war in Lauenburg/Elbe gelandet und Mutter mit Geschwistern in Mecklenburg. Nachdem der Vater die Mutter und Geschwister aus der russischen Zone holte, lebten wir vorerst in Lauenburg, wo ich auch meinen Schulabschluss machte.

Das wars. Ich hoffe es geht dir gut. Schreib mal wieder.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,
Heinz“



Note: Cammin was located in the old region of Pommern on the Baltic Sea. It is now called Kamien Pomorski.

2006 WINTER OLYMPIC CONGRATULATIONS

We wish all those that participated in the recent 2006 Winter Olympic a congratulations.

A special congratulations to Germany for top honors (29 metals), followed by the U.S.A. (25), Canada (24), Austria (23) and Russia (22). Germany took 11 gold, 12 silver and 6 bronze metals. The U.S.A. took 9 gold, 9 silver and 7 bronze metals. This is a "Hat Trick" for Germany, having taken the most metals in 1998 and 2002 also.

The next Winter Games are in 2010 in Vancouver, Canada.

MEMBER ARTICLE PUBLISHED

On 28 February 2006, our own Kurt Müller, Ph.D., had his "Notes on German as a World Language" article published on the Cazoo.org web site. Kurt was our former German Language Teacher here at our club before he moved to Maryland.

His original article first appeared in our January 2004 club newsletter. Kurt has held appointments at six colleges and universities, taught in four military language schools, and served 31 years in the military, representing the U.S. government in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Caribbean. He was civil affairs advisor to NATO's Supreme Commander, Europe, for implementation of the Dayton Peace Accords.

We are certainly proud to have Kurt as a member and hope to see him more often around the club when he comes north for a visit. The club "ski team" misses your company!

Note: Look for more Member Profiles in future issues.



Our Autoklub Travels



AUTOKLUB MEMBER ATTEND INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOW IN PHILLY

Many of our AutoKlub members attended the car show in Philly during the week of 6 February 2006. What great cars. As expected, most liked the German cars, the new Shelby Mustang GT500, the Ford GT and the new Corvette Z06.



First Car Stories—Part One by Mike Lenyo

As the club begins embracing the 2nd Annual Euro-American Auto Show, I started to think back on all the cars I have owned over the years. Each of us has a story about our first, worst, or favorite auto. After soliciting input from some members I have collected many stories that I will share each quarter in our newsletter. Hence, Willkommen to the first installment of "Favorite Car Stories"!

Growing up here in New Jersey in the 1970's many of us "...found the key to the universe in the engine of old parked car..." to quote Jersey-boy Bruce Springsteen. Across the river, our AutoKlub enthusiast, Dennis Bauer, apparently found another set of those same keys. Dennis submitted this regarding his first car:

"In 1967 I bought my first car, a 1961 Chevy Impala (see picture below). Like all motor heads at the time, chrome



wheels (Astros) were the first thing I bought. My parents were not in favor of this but the money was already spent! It looked real good. I even put lug locks on the wheels. Despite the locks, I awoke one morning to find my car, which had been

parked on the street, up on blocks, with no front wheels or tires!!! The thieves removed my wheels, tires and complete break drums!" Unfortunately that's not the worst of Dennis' experiences: "I then bought new mag wheels (Cragers S/S) that had the dust caps covered to prevent future wheel theft. After several years and much more money spent "souping" up the Chevy (racing engine, trans, custom interior and paint), they stole my WHOLE CAR! It was a sweet machine."

Let's keep it in the family and hear from Dennis' daugh-

ter, Melanie Bauer: "As a teenager, you always think your first car is the coolest thing (a white 2-door Olds Calais Supreme). I would ask if there were any errands to be done just to be able to get behind the wheel and cruise." Melanie has a hobby of detailing cars. "In addition to cleaning the inside of the car, I also would wash it every weekend. To my neighbors, my household is known for having the cleanest cars on the street. One weekend I was waxing my car and a neighbor commented that I was going to wax the paint off! That first car was how I discovered my enjoyment of detailing cars."

(Note: Contact Melanie for car detailing work if you are a club member participating in the show this year – it will be one clean machine!).

And Dennis' father, Jake Bauer: In 1946 I bought my first car after I got out of the U.S. Army, it was a 1937 Ford 4-door Phaton convertible. It lacked wide up door windows and had eisenglass side curtains that were held in place by two insert rods fitted to top of each door. The inside body panels and floor were rusted out so I fitted cardboard in the bottom frames and poured concrete into the interior. I made it smooth and after drying, painted it black. It looked like new and now rode like a Cadillac with the extra weight! It really was good in snow too. The exterior was black with a red stripe down the side and white painted wheels and 50 horse power V-8. A real cool cat!

So as you think back, I am sure you have great memories of your first car as well. Bring back those memories with a trip to our 2nd Annual Euro-American Auto Show. Terry Huff, Gary McGhee, Dennis Bauer and the rest of the committee have really put their hearts and souls into developing this year's car show that we hold at the German-American Club in Yardville NJ. The first show last year was a great success with many participants committed to return this summer and bring even more friends. So we'll see you at the show! Until next time, Happy Spring, and Safe Driving!

More Memories of our Cars to follow in future issues. Submit yours to Mike.

FIRST AUTO RACE WON in 1894

Auto racing began almost immediately after the construction of the first successful petrol-fueled autos. On 21 June 1894, the first contest was organized by Paris magazine *Le Petit Journal*, a reliability test to determine best performance.

The first auto race was held in France and won by Mercedes Benz.. The following year America held its first auto car outside Chicago. Although a steam-powered auto race was held in Green Bay, Wisconsin in July 1878.



Our Club's History— 50 Great Years



History of the Vereinigung der Donauschwaben, Trenton, NJ

We are delighted that 2006 will mark the 50th anniversary of the Trenton Donauschwaben. Begun as a committee to help newly arriving immigrants, our club quickly evolved into the social and cultural institution that it is today. Indeed our very first Trachtenfest was held in January of 1957 and by the end of that same year, the Trenton Donauschwaben became a member of the Dachverband der Donauschwaben. Since then, our club has served as both a gathering place for friends, family und "Landsleute" as well as an organization that seeks to promote and preserve our cherished heritage.

In the early years, we conducted our meetings and events in a variety of places ranging from a church hall in the city of Trenton to individual members' homes throughout the area. Then, in 1973 our members self-financed the purchase and renovation/expansion of a 100 + year old farmhouse that came with a shaded picnic area and a caretaker's house. Though modest in size, the facilities have served our needs very well over the years - though we always seem to be remodeling or improving something!

Yet, while our "Vereinsheim" traces to a bygone era, our efforts to communicate with our membership and friends do not. In 1999 our club joined the high tech age and began its popular and full-featured web site, www.trentondonauschwaben.com. Tens of thousands of web-visitors have checked us out to date and the number keeps growing! An even more important communication tool is our newsletter, *Trentoner Donauschwaben Nachrichten*. The popular publication features genealogical and historical articles, automotive news, editorials, the latest "goings on" at the club, and, among other things, fascinating stories written by the older generation about the time "back home".

Speaking of "back home", our club is also committed to honoring the memory of those who died during and after WWII. We have two memorials, the largest of which is located at Our Lady of Lourdes cemetery in Trenton where we have held annual prayer services since 1979. The 18 feet long by 5 feet tall monument is one of the largest of its kind and remains a powerful reminder of what our people had to endure.

As important as it is to remember our past, clearly our club's survival depends on what we have done and are doing for our future. Like our friends at the Philadelphia Donauschwaben and the United German Hungarians, our club can be proud of its strong commitment to the younger generations. We formed our first Kindergruppe in September, 1957, which gave way to a German School for children shortly thereafter. Throughout the 1960's and 1970's, up to 60 students were enrolled in 5 grades

covering everything from *der, die, das* to the works of Nicholas Lenau and Adam Mueller-Gutenbrunn. Currently, our German School meets each Friday evening and all elementary and middle school youngsters are invited to attend.

Besides the school, our dance group has been an important element in keeping our youth involved at the club. Our *Jugend Tanzgruppe* was enormously successful throughout the 1970s and 1980s with up to 12 couples performing in places such as Milwaukee, Washington, D.C. and the Catskill Mountains. In the last few years, our dance group combined with that of the Philadelphia Donauschwaben in a joint venture that has been a big plus for both clubs. In addition, frequent canoeing, camping, hiking and skiing trips have been and remain an exciting part of the club's schedule of events geared toward the young (and the young at heart!).

Some of our activities have been aimed specifically at our older members too. Since 1980, our club has had an adult German language program. Many active members have come from the ranks of the adult student population and the school remains vital to our club's mission. The semester runs from April through October and anyone interested in attending can contact the club for more information.

More recently, we started an "AutoKlub" for the car aficionados among us. Since its inception in 2003, the group has grown steadily in size – and really does have some great looking cars! Last year, we joined with our neighbors at the German American Society to host a successful car show that attracted one hundred cars and many hundreds of spectators. This year, the car show will be held on July 8th and all are cordially invited.

Indeed, it has been a busy 50 years for the Trenton Donauschwaben. We are grateful to the many dedicated and hard working members who have made it possible. Thanks to them, our club is doing well and looking to the future with optimism. Because of them, we remain committed to being a meeting place for all to enjoy... and a place where the spirit of our ancestors lives on.

Prosit Trachtenfest, 2006!



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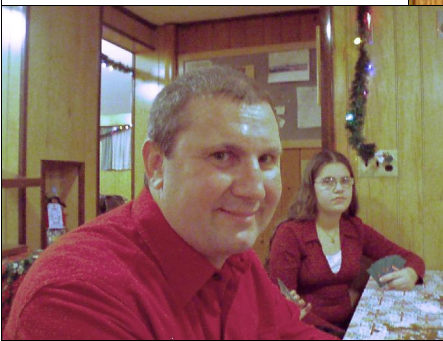
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German Fun (seen on a T-Shirt). Poking fun at ourselves...

“ You must be German if...
*you go to school in a gymnasium,
 you drive the Autobahn at the speed of sound,
 you know Volkswagen means "the people's car",
 you check your shoes for candy on December 6th,
 you know football is really soccer,
 you drink warm beer out of a stein,
 sauerkraut and sausage is your favorite meal,
 you have real candles on your Christmas tree,
 you know that a Frankfurter is a citizen
 of Frankfurt, not a hot dog,
 you party the entire month of October.”*

Bumper Sticker: “We are all Happy Germans, there are no Sour Krauts!”

Club Winter Pictures (New Years 2006, AutoKlub meeting, Crystal Brook, Donauschwabenessen, Tri-club Ausstellung meeting)



Deutsche Sprach Schule Seite (Adult & Youth)

ADULT SCHOOL TO RESUME FOR 2006

Our Adult German Language School will resume on Wednesday 5 April 2006 at 6:30 p.m. We welcome back our teacher Andy Franz from his vacation. Please stop out and see what a good time we have while learning about the German language and German/Donauschwabens culture. (See our Quarterly German lesson below)**

Schulleiterin, Eva Martini, writes:

Our young people's German school is meeting every Friday evening from 6 to 7 o'clock. We are happy to note that we have 13 students at this time ranging in age from 7 to 14 years of age. We are busy reading, writing, singing and drawing and learning a bit of our German culture too. Upcoming events include a Mother's Day performance of poems and song on May 7, 2006 at the club's regularly scheduled monthly dinner. The program will honor mothers and grandmothers and has always been a big hit with our members.

For information about our German School, please contact me at 609-586-6109 or at woodworks5@AOL.com. We wish everyone a wonderful spring and a Happy Easter! **

PA GERMAN SAYINGS

Here are some PA German sayings from the kitchen. These sayings were found on my grandmother's old dish towel (my mother's Hinkel line from Schuylkill County, PA). Anything sound familiar? *Dennis J. Bauer*

Kuum unn Grick Dess—Come & Get it
Hinkle Bot Boi mit Noodla—Chicken Pot Pie with Noodles
Shoonka Flaish un Greena Bona—Ham & Green Beans
Hinkle Shtew mit Gnepp—Stewed Chicken & Dumplings
Kelver Flaish Boi mit Noodla—Veal Pie with Noodles
Sye Fiesa un Sower Grout—Pigs Knuckles & Sauer Kraut
Shoonka Flaish mit Schnitz un Gnepp—Boiled Ham, Dried Apples & Dumplings
Boova Shenkel mit Shtuffed Gnepp—Beef Stew with Stuffed Dumplings

Schwowisch vs. German vs. English

<i>Eckgerät</i>	<i>Nebengebäude</i>	<i>Outhouse</i>
<i>Gatsch</i>	<i>Ente</i>	<i>Duck</i>
<i>Gatyahos</i>	<i>Unterhosen</i>	<i>Male Underwear</i>
<i>Grumbiere</i>	<i>Kartoffel</i>	<i>Potatoe</i>
<i>Hingel</i>	<i>Henne</i>	<i>Chicken</i>
<i>Hingeli</i>	<i>Hähnchen</i>	<i>Chick</i>
<i>Holztoffel</i>	<i>Holz Pantoffel</i>	<i>Wooden-soled overshoe</i>
<i>Huschuh</i>	<i>Winter Schuh</i>	<i>Winter shoe</i>
<i>Klumppe</i>	<i>Holzschuh</i>	<i>Wooden shoe</i>
<i>Kukurutz</i>	<i>Meis</i>	<i>Corn</i>
<i>Paradeis</i>	<i>Tomaten</i>	<i>Tomato</i>
<i>Stanitzel</i>	<i>Tüfte</i>	<i>Paper bag</i>
<i>Tschischma</i>	<i>Stiefel</i>	<i>Boots</i>
<i>Ziweva</i>	<i>Rosinnen</i>	<i>Raisins</i>

Donauschwabens Foods

Henne Paprikasch—chicken stew
Kipfel—crescent bun
Küchel—deep fried donut
Linzertieg—sugar cookie
Nusskipfel—nut-filled cookie
Sauerkraut mit Dicke Knödel—sauerkraut with large dumplings
Spätzle—noodles
Süsskraut—sweet cooked cabbage
Rindsuppe mit Soß—beef soup with vegetables

Club Events for the Spring 2006

EVENTS— DATES & TIMES.

Come out and join us!

- **Osteressen (Roast Pork), Sunday, 2 April 2006, 1 pm.**
- **Ausstellung (Cultural Exhibit), Sat., 12 pm-8pm & Sun., 12pm -5pm. on 8 & 9 April 2006 at Philly Donauschwaben.**
- **Mutterstagesen (Mother's Day—Schnitzel), Sunday, 7 May 2006, 1 pm.**
- **Trachtenfest (DS dancing, music, skits, poems, FUN), Sat. 5pm., 20 May 2006 at the United German-Hungarians. Brunch on Sunday at the UGH.**
- **Kanufahrt (Pine Barrens Canoe Trip) South Jersey, Leave the Club at 8am., Sunday, 28 May 2006.**
- **Spießbratenessen (Pig Roast), Sunday 4 June 2006, 1pm.**
- **Wallfahrt (Memorial Service in Philly), meet at club 8am., Sunday June 2006.**

Please call Frau Josefa Brandecker (609) 585-8460 or Frau Eva Martini (609) 586-6109 for meal reservations. Chicken is always available as an alternative to the featured dish (except at the Schlachtfest). Please let us know your preference in advance.

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

**Auf Wiedersehen bei den
Donauschwaben!**

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