

Trentoner Donauschwaben Nachrichten

Volume 7 Issue 2

April-June 2007



Points of Interest

- Bratwurst is a sausage made of pork, beef and sometimes veal.
- Brät—is German for finely chopped meats
- Wurst—German for sausage.
- Usually fried or roasted, sometimes grilled (here in the States) or cooked in a stew.
- Thought to originate in the Thuringia region of Germany.
- Smaller bratwursts originated in Nuremberg, Germany.
- Donauschwaben Bratwurst has more spices and contains paprika, borrowed from the Hungarians.
- Wisconsin is considered the U.S. Bratwurst capital.
- Johnsonville Foods is the largest U.S. maker of “Brats”.
- Named “Liberty Sausage” during WWI and WWII.
- Source: Wikipedia.

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The Catskills of NY



Surely one of the most eagerly anticipated dates on our club calendar is the trip to the Donauschwaben-owned mountain resort called “Crystal Brook.” We know lots of members reading this column have fond memories of great ski and dancing weekends undertaken by our club many years ago. Chuck, Gary, Franz, Ray, Barby, Mike G, Monika, the Fisher girls, the Wesleys and so many others were all part of the scene back then. Well the same wonderful folks still run the place and boy did we enjoy ourselves a few weeks back!

Twenty-four merry Donauschwaben members made the 3 ½ hour trip to this very scenic part of New York. They included: Joe, Caroline, Brittaney, Josef, Greta, Mike, Deneese, Nicole, Lyla, Mary, Steve, Melanie, JoAnn, Hans, Anna, Luisa, Christina, Bob, Kim, Sofi, Emma, Nick, Tony and Pat. We were received by Margaret and Hans, the owners, and Wendy, the daughter in law, who’s also a big part of the business. Since this is an all-inclusive type resort, the 160 dollars per person (room, board and tips included) carried you right through to Sunday afternoon without having to pay for anything beyond the occasional adult beverage. Clearly, this is a good deal and we all found the idea of never having to go anywhere but to the ski area quite a plus. The entertainment featured musicians who played both American and good old German standards. Locals of German and Donauschwaben extraction came to the lodge

each night to make things even more festive. What a great time!

We could go on and on with the superlatives, but let’s face it, readers of this newsletter also like a bit of controversy and intrigue. Unfortunately, even the most creative and imaginative interpretations of the weekend yield few problems or negatives. Okay, okay, there was the time Schnitzel, the owner’s Labrador Retriever, went missing right around the time “Schnitzel” was the featured dish. We know this sounds a bit far fetched but it seemed everyone took a special interest in locating the dog prior to entering the dining area!

On a more serious note, one of the other things that stands out in this writer’s mind is the story the matriarch of this resort, Margaret, told a small group of us that weekend. She related how she escaped from the Soviet Army’s onslaught on her Donauschwaben town in Romania in 1944. Apparently her dad was the mayor and had to flee for fear of his and his family’s life (they always shot the leaders first). Along the way west, Margaret became separated from her family and try as she might, couldn’t find any of her relatives. A great deal of time passed before she suddenly saw her family’s horse in the distance. She said to her fellow travelers, “that’s my horse”. “No way”, they said, “you are mistaken”. Sure enough, however, the horse was her’s and, through it, she found her parents. It was quite a riveting story we won’t soon forget.

So now the ski season is winding to a close with better weather just around the corner. Pretty soon we’ll be traveling to the Pines and then heading up the Delaware river for camping and canoeing. Good times are ahead, please plan on joining us!



Club Matters & Members

Donauschwaben Memories Book for Sale Now

We have finished printing our "Donauschwaben Memories" book. It is a collection of past newsletter articles written by members and friends about our heritage. Some of the articles by our Adam Martini and Andy Franz have already been published on the *Donauschwaben Village Helping Hands* web site (www.dvhh.org) and the *Palanka Heimatbrief*. Also thanks goes out to Jim Lieblang for his articles. The cost is \$10.

We will send copies to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, UT and the AKdFF Library in Singelfingen, Germany.

Picnic Tables for Sale

The club is looking into purchasing new, lighter picnic table. Anyone who would like to purchase our existing tables should contact Steve Brandecker at 609-668-3305.

Memorial Garden Renovated

A special thanks to the Schnieder's for their donation to have our Memorial Garden at the Lady of Lourdes Cemetery renovated by their grandnephew of Kuppek Landscaping. Details and photos of the renovations to the memorial will be featured in an upcoming newsletter.

2007 Tag der Donauschwaben in Mansfield, OH

This year's Treffen is in Mansfield, OH again. We are planning to team up with the Philly Donuaschwaben and rent a bus for the trip west. The event will be over Labor Day Weekend.

If you are planning to attend and are interested in utilizing the bus, let any officers know so we can make arrangements.

1st Meet & Greet Session in Atlanta—A Success

The first meeting for the Atlanta Donauschwaben was a decidedly informal affair. It was held in the DVHH (Donauschwaben Village Helping Hands) coordinator's home in Acworth GA, on the northwest side of Atlanta. We had a full house with some 18 plus showing up for the get together. It was a super meet and greet for the many who have worked so hard to research and chronicle their Schwowisch heritage. The areas represented ranged from those whose ancestors hailed from the Banat, Batschka (hey, that's me) and Schwaebisch Turkei, as well as some Volkdeutsche who were originally from the American Aid Society in Chicago and transferred down to the Atlanta area.

The interest seemed to be there from this small but very well versed group. The amount of historical knowledge in the room would fill a library and was a refreshing sight for any who hold our culture in high regard. Unfortunately yours truly is decidedly a bit like the slow student in these affairs, but thanks to cousin, Dennis Bauer, my mom and some late night emails to my

brother, Hans, was able to cram enough info about my own genealogy to at least make some educated sounding small talk. (hey that's how I got through college!). Seriously though, it was an enjoyable evening with plenty of maps showing all the small villages and locales. It was also great to hear the tales of how everyone's ancestors came to this country and where they settled.

In typical Schwowisch fashion, the food offerings would have fed a group much larger than the one present. Ranging from traditional fare to German baked goods from a local bakery, everything tasted just as good as it looked. I know this from personal knowledge (hey, I have to assure the authenticity don't I?). This endeavor will no doubt do damage to my already expanding waistline. It would appear that regardless of the location we Schwobs always eat well.

We did discuss the formation of a new club down here in Atlanta but that was more a side show, the real event was a celebration of the areas and regions of the "old country" and a sharing between those in attendance of the knowledge they possess in this regard. It was truly something I have never experienced. This was all the more surprising since the majority were 2nd and 3rd generation Americans (with some exceptions). These are people, who on their own and with no structure to guide them, formed a web site (*DVHH.org*) to research and help others with lost relatives or who just want to find out where they came from. The South, generally, was not an area where our forefathers came to in the 50's. Rather it is an area where our German culture slowly "migrated" to from the areas of heavy immigration in the northeast and mid-west. So by that very fact the dynamics of a club down here in the South would no doubt be a much more unique organization than what you might expect.

Having said all that, this experience so far has given me a deeper understanding of the Donauschwaben culture and it's simply that our culture comes more from the heart than the head or even pedigree. I had the benefit of experiencing the culture firsthand as both parents and grandparents grew up in the traditions and passed them on to my siblings and I throughout our formative years. Here in Atlanta, this is more the exception than the rule. The majority of the attendees did not have the same experiences but, they seem to hold the same passion for the culture, if not more. The DVHH group has dedicated countless hours in the research and preservation of the culture both collectively as well as individually. I was educated by everyone in the room that day and was asked very pointed questions which indicated a profound knowledge in this regard. It was an uplifting experience.

In closing I would add that I am still at a loss to how the Atlanta DS club will ultimately take shape. However, our first meeting showed that at the very least we were able to come together as a group. I see this as a step in the right direction and a good way to get Southern Schwobs involved in the greater Donauschwaben USA family. There's no doubt we will all be a whole lot better off because of it. - *Ray Martini*

Genealogy, Culture & History Section

The SS America - 1950 to America

by Lena Distl Jefferson



My name is Lena Jefferson but back when I was on the SS America it was Magdalena Distl. I was 10 years old back on March 4, 1950 when my grandparents, my mother, (my father was killed in the war), brother (age 5) and I boarded this ship in La Havre, France to sail to a new life in America. This was by far the best part of my life up to that point. I was born in 1940 in Backi Brestowatz, Yugoslavia, having to leave my homeland back in fall of 1944 during the war and living in Austria as "Displace Persons" until my great-grandparents sponsored our trip to this country. We left Austria on March 1, 1950 via train through Switzerland and spending the last evening in a bombed out train station in Paris before heading for Le Havre. We boarded the SS America on the morning of the 4th. To be able to travel together at the same time, my mother, brother and I were first class passengers with my grandparents being what I now know is tourist class. We were the only civilians in the first class accommodations as the rest of the passengers traveling that way were all military.

I think one of my best recollections is the fact that most of the adults were too sick to enjoy the food and the fine dining. I know in our case, my brother and I were the only ones to see the inside of the dining rooms. I remember that the stewards soon discovered that most of the food they had to offer us, we had never seen. They could not give us enough to eat. Anything and everything they had left over was offered to us. Most of the fruits such as bananas, watermelons, cantaloupes, we had never even seen much less alone tasted. My brother had never tasted ice cream and told them that he did not like it as it made his tongue cold. I had only tasted it once in my lifetime. Little things like that come to mind. Since my mother never came up and since I could not be in the room with her without getting seasick myself, the dining area was our escape. Only problem, we did not speak a word of English. Being children without adult supervision also held some restrictions. Therefore, I never realized all that this beautiful ship had to offer. I did not realize that until the memories came back when going on a Carnival Cruise a few years ago and then it all came back.

As stated above, since most adults were too sick to enjoy everything this ship had to offer.

There were usually only children at our table, my brother and I, another boy and his sister. Most of the people came up on the deck as we passed the Statue of Liberty. We docked in New York on the morning of March 11, seven days after sailing. We were one day late getting into New York due to a storm that basically took us back a full day instead of forward. The United States Immigration Office processed us through Ellis Island and after intense questioning and searching, had our passport stamped as "Approved".

After spending a few days in New York with relatives, we visited Philadelphia again seeing relatives and arrived in Dayton OH (where I live now with my husband) on March 16, 1950 for a grand reunion between my grandmother and her parents whom she had not seen since 1920. Two years later, my mother remarried here in Dayton OH and it turns out that my stepfather is the uncle of the two children sharing our table on the SS America. Small world to say the least.

I cannot wait to show these pictures to my mother who is still alive and doing very well. Will have to tease her about being able to see the ship that she was not able to see when we were on it. I have told her about it and she described our stateroom just as you show it in the pictures. This trip was the beginning of my life in the USA. I have been back to Ellis Island several times since it has reopened as a museum and also the Statue of Liberty as I travel in that area as Regional Sales Manager for a manufacturing company with headquarters here in Dayton.—Lena D. Jefferson, Dayton OH, August 30, 1999 (Permission granted to print)

Donauschwaben Villages Helping Hands Web Site Honored

The February 15, 2007 issue of the Family Tree Magazine On-line Newsletter listed the Donauschwaben Villages Helping Hands web site (www.dvhh.org) as one of three sites on their "Worthwhile Sites" column. It notes "Stop at the Danube Swabian Society site if you're seeking German roots in Hungary, Romania and Yugoslavia".

Source: Linda McKenna—Donauschwaben Villages web list, 15 February 2007.



A Great job to those involved with the web site (including our own, Dennis Bauer, Ray Martini and John Feldenzer). Representatives of the DVHH will also be present at the "Tag der Donauschwaben" over Labor Day. *DJB*

Membership News

2007 Club Officers & Staff

Joseph Brandecker— President
Kim Walter— V.P. for Human Resources
Eva Martini— Recording Secretary
Josefa Brandecker— President Ladies' Auxiliary
Harold Parr— President of German Language School
Dennis J. Bauer & Terry Penrith— Website Committee
Dennis J. Bauer— V.P. for Cultural Affairs, Club Genealogist, Newsletter Editor

Robert Walter— V.P. for Facilities
Hans Martini— Corresponding Secretary
Ludwig Jakober— Treasurer
Terry Huff— AutoKlub Leader
Melanie L. Brandecker— Newsletter Copy Editor
Adam Martini/Andy Franz/Mike Lenyo— Staff Writers



Donauschwaben Vest Orders



The Club is looking into ordering more men's Donauschwaben vests this year. Many new members have expressed an interest in purchasing one and some of us older members can not fit in ours anymore (no names mentioned). Please contact a Club Officer if you are interested in one. The price has not been determined yet. The more we order, the cheaper the cost would be.

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



Congratulations: Congratulations to member **Lyla Lenyo** on her selection as Hamilton High School West 2007 Homecoming Queen! Lyla was crowned on Homecoming Day at HHW football field in November. In addition Lyla was selected as the Hamilton West School Board representative for the school year.

She attends the monthly school board meetings and participates in the discussion, bringing news and viewpoints from a student perspective. Keep up the great work Lyla!

Kudos to **Anna Martini** on placing 1st in the category "business law" in a State-wide competition sponsored by Future Business Leaders of America. The event featured 1800 high school students from around NJ competing in many categories. She will be part of the NJ high school delegation competing at the National Competition in Chicago in June.



Wow: "Neighborhood to be on Extreme Makeover-Home Edition". A single mother of four was recently selected to have her home (71 Colbalt Ridge Drive East) razed and rebuilt by the popular ABC TV show. The home was demolished on 3/9/07 and completely rebuilt (larger) by 3/13/07. The neat part is

that the home is on the next street over from members **Dennis and Donna Bauer**. So the whole Bauer clan got to meet the crew and cast during their stay in Levittown, PA (picture of demolition) and watch the whole project from their back window. Look for the episode to air on channel 6 at 8 pm, Sunday, 6 May 2007 and see if you can pick out the Bauers.

Get Well: to member **Sophie Brandecker**, who is recovering from a broken her arm and member **Kate Helleis** on her continued recovery from a broken foot.

To member **Adam Mattes** on his hip surgery and to **Uli Haller** on recent surgery.

Get well soon and best wishes to **Joseph Wildmann**, long time club member now living in North Carolina, on his recent surgery.

Condolences: to members, **Adam and Maria Mattes**, on the passing of Adam's mother, **Elisabeth Gerich Mattes**, on 23 February 2007. Our prayers go out to the entire Mattes family and their friends.



Also to member **Jim Lieblang** on the passing of his cousin, **Alfred Karlowitsch**, 84, recently of North Port, FL. Alfred was born in Palanka, Yugoslavia and was a member of the German-American Society of Trenton.

To club member **Mitzi Fisher** on the death of her sister **Vera Gianguilla** (geb. Greif), age 77. We extend our sympathy to Mitzi, her daughters, and to the entire family for their loss.

Congratulations: to **Johanna (Wesley) and Frank Magnifico** on the birth of their daughter, **Brooke** on 7 December 2006. Also to **Erich and Estelle Haratsch** on the birth of son, **William Jean Haratsch**, in December 2006.

Two Philadelphia members of our Philly-Trenton dance group are set to marry this April. First to go will be dance group member **Lauren Kauffman to Mr. Brian Veitz**. Just two weeks later dance group member **Patricia Gauss** will marry **Mr. Thomas Kelly**. We wish all the very best to these fine people!

Deutsche Ecke, Seite 1



WARUM ICH EIN NICHT-TRAUCHER BIN! by Ludwig Jakober

Zwei Personen danke ich heute noch warum der Zigarettenteufel mich nicht beherscht hat.

Auf der Flucht von Jugoslawien, unsere Wagenkollone blieb irgendwo in Südost Ungarn stehen für den Abend, meine Arbeit war trockenes Holz zu suchen, damit die Großmutter Nachtmal kochen kann. Mein Freund der auch die selbe Arbeit hatte fand eine Zigarette, anstatt Holz zu suchen, rauchten wir die Zigarette, daß natürlich unsere Suche verlängerte. Meine Mutter wartete schon auf mich mit Fragen wo warst du solange und warum so wenig Holz und zur gleichen Zeit hat sie den Zigarettenrauch an mir gerochen.

1. Frage: hast du geraucht? Natürlich meine Antwort war nein.

Nocheinmal die selbe Frage: hast du geraucht? Wieder die falsche Antwort---nein Mama.

Keine Frage mehr---eine links ans Ohr, eine rechts ans Ohr und drei tüchtige Schläge auf den Hintern und dann die schlimmste Strafe, meine Mutter band mich an das hintere Wagenrad für 2 Stunden, das alle die vorbei gingen mich sehen konnten. Die Erklärung meiner Mutter war: deine Strafe ist nicht nur fürs Rauchen die Strafe ist auch weil du mich angelogen hast.

Die zweite Person war unser Fußball Trainer in Österreich, sein Motto war: entweder du rauchts oder du spielst Fußball, mein Leben war Fußball, so ließ ich das Rauchen.

Ich denke oft an diese Ereignisse und ich danke Beiden heute noch für ihre Hilfe das ich kein Raucher wurde.

WHY I NEVER BECAME A SMOKER!

(English translation of above article by newsletter staff)

I am thankful to two people for not becoming a smoker. The story begins as we were fleeing Yugoslavia in a wagon

train and stopped for the night somewhere in southern Hungary. My job was to find dry wood so that my grandmother could cook supper. My friend and I (he had to the same job I did) set about looking for the wood that would fuel the all-important fire. As fate would have it, my buddy found a cigarette and that's where our problems began. Instead of looking for wood, we just sat and smoked which made us late in getting back.

Right away my mother questioned me as to where I was for so long and at the same time smelled the smoke on my breath. This prompted her to ask: Did you smoke? I answered "no". Again she asked: "Did you smoke a cigarette?" Again I answered "no". That's when the questioning stopped and punishment began! A couple of smacks followed by three good whacks was my reward for not telling the truth.

My punishment was far from over however! I was then tied to the wagon wheel for two hours in full view of everyone. Her explanation for such drastic measures, "You are punished not just for smoking but for not telling the truth". Believe me, this made a lasting impression on me!

In addition to my mom, there was a second person responsible for my choosing not to smoke. This was my soccer coach in Austria. His saying was, "If you smoke you don't play soccer" Since my life at the time revolved around the game of soccer, this had a big influence on my decision to forego the cigarettes.



I often think about these two experiences and am thankful to both my mother and my coach for making the difference.

Thanks to them I have never had to "kick the habit"!



High

Southern Schwobs!

Kicking

Congratulations to Kathleen and Adam Martini on again qualifying for the AAU National Championship for Tae Kwon Do held this year in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Kathleen brought home a silver medal in sparring and placed 5th in forms, and Adam qualified 6th in forms out of a very large field of contestants. The top eight places advance to the national championship and will be invited to Junior Olympics, and the Atlanta Schwobs did it for the second year running. Both will be heading to Nashville, TN. This weekend to compete in the Southeast Regional Tournament and later this summer heading to South Carolina for a warm up before the big National event.

Kathleen also received the student-athlete award for South Forsyth Middle School varsity girl's basketball. Although it was Kathleen's first foray into that sport, she succeeded in balancing both the athletics and the books, maintaining a 4.0 average in her AP (advanced placement) course of study.

Adam finished second in the annual oratorical contest for the South Forsyth MS, and will be the alternate for the regional contest held in Atlanta this year. Congratulations to both, they must take after their mother!! HM



Honorees at our 50th Anniversary Dinner—October 2006

Deutsche Ecke, Seite 2

“Two Brothers from Palanka”

By Andreas Franz

(translation from German by newsletter staff)

I, Andreas Franz, immigrated to this country in December of 1955. Countrymen Josef Wolf and Valentin Beer picked me up in New York City where I had landed and took me to Trenton, NJ. There I met my sponsors, the Berner family, who were neighbors of my grandparents back “home”.

One Saturday, Ferry Berner took me to the former German club in Trenton called “Aurora”. Many of the members there were from Palanka just like me. There I met Herr Josef Spildener who took me under his wing and became a life-long friend. It was through him that I met the Schöns – the two brothers from Palanka.

Back in the 1950’s there were many folks in Trenton who hailed from Palanka. Two such people were Michael Schön, age 98, and his brother, Josef, age 99. They are quite possibly the oldest Palankaers alive today. I found their stories quite interesting... (ed. Note: sadly Michael Schön passed away 15 January 2007).

Michael Schön/Schoen

Michael Schön, a man of considerable height and strength, was a hard-working farmer and family man. His life story is a familiar one to most of us. In 1944 he was conscripted into the German military even as defeat seemed all but inevitable. He survived the maelstrom and he ended up in Russian captivity. He survived this too and was then released and sent to Germany in 1947. His family however stayed at home in Palanka only to be interned in the dreaded camps set aside for the Donauschwaben.

Michael found work on a farm but really wanted to return home to Palanka. He eventually received information about his family and found out that his wife Rosi and her family, as well as his brother Josef, had escaped from a camp and ended up in Austria. Michael then joined his extended family in Austria and lived there for four years before they all decided to go to America. Through a church organization, a sponsor-family, was located and after a

long journey by sea the Schoen’s finally arrived in New York City. Unfortunately the sponsor family - who had guaranteed the US government they would house the Schoen’s and find them employment - was nowhere in sight!

They were then placed in an old hotel, given a subsistence grant of two dollars per person and told to wait and see what would happen. Nothing happened for an entire month! Michael grew impatient and heard from an acquaintance that there were many Germans in Trenton, even folks from Palanka. Without knowing a word of English, Michael boarded a bus headed for Trenton. Once there he managed to board a local bus and began looking for “Haesli”, a name given to him by another acquaintance. Unfortunately, the bus driver couldn’t communicate with him and it wasn’t long before he was forced to get off.

Dropped off in the middle of “nowhere”, Michael had no idea where he was or where he needed to go! As fate would have it, Michael then saw a guy in a nearby crowd that looked familiar. “That looks like a Schwob”, he thought. Sure enough, he called out to him in German and got a friendly reply. It was through this chance meeting, that he met the Haesli’s and other Palankaers. These countrymen found a new sponsor for the Schön’s and that’s how they came to Trenton – nine in all - and began their new life in America.

As with all of our Donauschwaben, each one found work. Michael and his oldest son worked first in a bakery and then in a steel mill. He told me his thoughts about these early years: “You know, Andreas, we worked 62 hours a week and did quite well for ourselves.” His eyes sparkled and he chuckled at the thought - this from a man in his 98th year!

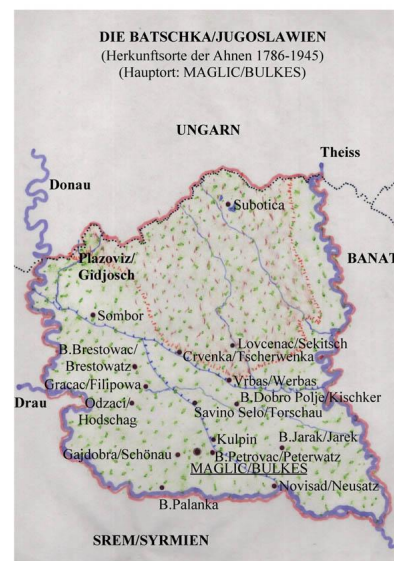
Michael built a good life for himself and his family here in the Trenton area and remained active in his retirement right up until two years ago when his knees finally forced him to rest. His story is one of courage and determination for which I have great admiration.

Josef Schön/Schoen

Josef, the oldest of the two Schön brothers, (is now) 99 years of age. Already at an early age, Josef demonstrated great will power, something that is still in evidence today. As the first son of an established farming family he was expected to take over the fields. Yet much to his father’s chagrin, he had no desire to become a farmer. Rather he decided to learn how to be a businessman (Kaufmann). It was a difficult choice, but one he followed through on with great energy. At the early age of 14, he entered an apprenticeship in an unfamiliar town and proved to be an excellent pupil. In 1932 and at the age of 25, he opened his first business in Palanka. Everything went well up until that fateful year, 1944. It was then that he found himself serving in the Hungarian military. His wife Theresia and his infant son, however, found themselves in the camp at Jarek.

Josef and Theresia were then separated from each other for what surely must have seemed like an eternity. They were apart from 1944 until 1948 during which time they endured hardships and tragedy they would never forget. First and foremost was the death of their son and only child at “Jarek”, one of a number of “internment” camps where many Donauschwaben perished. It is still something they think about today.

(Continued on page 7)



Deutsche Ecke, Seite 3

(Continued from page 6)

“Two Brothers from Palanka”

By Andreas Franz

(translation from German by newsletter staff)

They then began a new life in Germany, but soon decided to immigrate to America. In 1955, having waited quite some time for a visa, Josef and Theresia finally arrived at New York harbor and then went on to Trenton, NJ. The entire trip was painstakingly planned by Josef and went off without a hitch.

Josef came to Trenton because his brother, Michael, was already there as were so many other Palankaer countrymen. His sponsor was Frau Feldenzer who was also from Palanka. He and his wife were quickly employed at a nearby factory as were many other Donauschwaben. Money saved from working in Germany meant that a house could be purchased in a relatively short period of time too. While work in the factory wasn't great, it did give him job security until his retirement 17 years later.

What amazed me about Josef is that he is among the very few people I know who never used a car! It's just about unheard of here in America. He went on foot to work, to the store and wherever else he could go, just as they did in Palanka. His ways were and are the “old ways”. His very real connection to the past helps put things in perspective for all of us.

Josef and Theresia have returned three times to their hometown of Palanka. “How did you like returning there?” I asked. “Very nice” he said, “we went all over the place talking to anyone we remembered.” When I told him I have no intention of ever returning to Palanka he gave me a rather puzzled look. I told him my memories of 1944 made returning “home” too painful.

My last question to Josef: “Was it better here or in Palanka?” He answered, “It was nice back home but it was better here.”

Source: *Palankaer Heimatbrief*, November 2006.

Making Philadelphia a German Town!

Looking forward to German-American Day 2007 and 2008

Irish-Americans have St. Patrick's Day, Mexican-Americans have Cinco de Mayo and Italian-Americans have Columbus Day. Not wanting to be left out, German-Americans will have a retooled and re-energized way to celebrate German-American Day on October 6, 2007 and everyone is invited to participate! We have much to celebrate and this is why!

The 325th anniversary of the arrival of the first German families to America, after which approximately 8,000,000 inhabitants from German-speaking countries followed, will be celebrated next year on October 6. This gives the German-American community the perfect opportunity to showcase 325 years of contributions made by the immigrants and descendants of German-speaking countries to many aspects of American life.

These innumerable contributions to the American mosaic have been well documented. In his 1993 German-American Day Proclamation, President Clinton proclaimed: “All of us can take pride in the accomplishments of German Americans – as soldiers and statesmen, scientists and musicians, artisans and educators. It is fitting that we set aside this special day to remember and celebrate how much German Americans have done to preserve our ideals, enrich our culture, and strengthen our democracy.”

Many may remember the way the German-American Tricentennial was observed in 1983, when the academic, educational, musical, cultural, historical and business sectors collaborated to offer a rich variety of programs and events commemorating these contributions. With the 300th anniversary as a guide, the German American Day Celebration Committee will recreate this model this year, using it as a dress rehearsal for the celebration in 2008. Organizations like the University of Pennsylvania, the German-American Chamber of Commerce – Philadelphia, the German Society of Pennsylvania, the German-American Committee of Philadelphia, Historic RittenhouseTown, the American Association of Teachers of German – Philadelphia Chapter, the Immanuel German School, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Netzwerk Philadelphia and the Concordia Trust have already enthusiastically committed to sponsoring events. To this end, a diverse and innovative calendar of events is being planned for the weekend of October 6, 2007 concentrating in Center City Philadelphia, but also including the neighboring counties. The calendar of events for October 5-7,

2007 is expanding and to date includes:

- “Mayor Street's Reception” at City Hall, sponsored by the German-American Committee of Philadelphia
- “Uwe Kind Concert” for middle and high school students of German, sponsored by the AATG – Philadelphia Chapter. (Uwe Kind is an international communicator who escaped from the former East Germany to the West in 1960. As a German teacher at the New School in New York City, Uwe Kind developed SingLing, a language learning technique based on familiar tunes, which he later refined as a graduate student at Harvard University.)
- “German Fair”, sponsored by the Immanuel German School
- “Restaurant promotion” for German beer products and foods
- “German film events”, sponsored by Netzwerk Philadelphia and the German Society
- “Colonial German Cooking Program”, sponsored by Historic Rittenhouse Town
- “Bier und Wurstfest”, sponsored by the German Society
- “Sing-a-long of German folksongs”, sponsored by the German Society
- “Susanne Linke lecture”, sponsored by the German Society. (The internationally renowned Viennese choreographer will share her background, style and dance philosophy through a moderated discussion, dance video and demonstration by Jeanne Ruddy Dance dancers. Ms. Linke unites in her dance both her origins in the historic German dance tradition and the development of contemporary German dance theatre.)
- “Worship” at Old Zion Lutheran Church
- “Brass Concert”, sponsored by the German Society
- “Ecumenical Worship Service” at the Immanuel Lutheran Church
- “Culinary Event”, sponsored by the German-American Chamber of Commerce – Philadelphia
- “Lecture”, sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania
- “5K Walk/Run”, in collaboration with the Liberty Bell Wanderers and the United German-American Committee to benefit the National Heritage Center in Washington, D.C.

For more current and detailed information, please visit www.GermanAmericanDay.org. Please mark your calendars and hold this weekend open, so you, too, can participate in the celebration.

Benjamin Franklin may well have articulated it best when he observed, “*America cultivates best what Germany brought forth.*”

Marlene Stock

Deutsche Ecke, Seite 4



Flight from Neudorf, Slavonia
20 October 1944

Neudorf *By Luise Jakober*

Es war einmal ein liebes kleines Dorf, Neudorf wurde es genannt, es lebten lauter Schwaben dort, ihr Fleiss war weit bekannt.

Sie waren glücklich und zufrieden, sie hatten keine Not, Dann kam der Krieg, mit ihm Hass und Tod.

Väter und Söhne rückten als Soldaten ein, Viele von ihnen, kehrten nicht mehr heim. Tod, vermisst und unbekannt ruhen viele in einem fremden Land.

Die Front kam immer näher, wir konnten es ja nicht ahnen, wir wurden bedroht von Bomben und Partisanen.

Deutsche Soldaten marschierten in Neudorf ein. Sie wollten uns Schwaben befreien. Angst erfüllte das einst so friedliche Dorf, Wir müssen weg, wir müssen fort.

Die Sirenen heulten, wieder war Fliegeralarm, Mütter nahmen ihre Kinder in den Arm. Sie liefen hinaus, es ging ja ums Leben, Wann wird es wieder Ruhe und Frieden geben?

Schrecklichste Erinnerung an jene Nacht, Eine Bombe hat acht Menschen umgebracht. Grosseltern und Verwandte suchten viele Stunden, Aber sie habe nur Stücke von ihren Lieben gefunden.

Auch vier Kinder wurden dabei in Stücke zerfetzt, das ganze Dorf trauert, alle sind wir entsetzt. Tiefflieger bedrohen den Leichenzug, als man acht Menschen in einem Sarg zu Grabe trug.

Eines Tages ging der Trommler durchs ganze Dorf. Packt eure Sachen, wir müssen fort. Niemand weiss, wielang, wohin, wir haben Angst, wir müssen fliehn.

Am 20. Oktober 1944, zeitig in

der Früh, diesen Tag vergessen wir Neudorfer nie. Pferde und Wagen standen bereit, der Abschied, der fällt uns allen nicht leicht.

Hinaus zum Tor, ein letztes Mal, beladene Wagen standen schon überall. Dann haben wir unser Neudorf verlassen, wir fuhren durch fremde Dörfer, auf endlosen Strassen.

Dann überquerten wir die Drau, bei Dolji Miholjac war es genau. Da hat es schon die ersten Pannen gegeben, Räder brachen an den schwer beladenen Wägen.

Die Pferde zogen mit ihrer ganzen Kraft, viele blieben stecken in dem Morast. durch Ungarn führte der grossen Schwabenzug, diesmal aber in die entgegengesetzte Richtung.

Nach Wochen erreichten wir Österreich, im Burgenland da ging es ja noch leicht. Doch später, die Berge, es wurde schon kalt, von den Strapazen gezeichnet, waren Jung und Alt.

Nach sechs Wochen anstrengender Fahrt im Böhmerwald hiess es dann endlich Halt. Freundlich wurden wir nur selten aufgenommen, geht wieder zurück, woher ihr gekommen.

Heimatlos, es tat so weh, wir konnten vieles nicht verstehn. In den Städten herrschte Hungersnot, nur mit Lebensmittelkarten, bekamen wir Zucker, Fleisch und Brot.

Am 7. Mai 1945 war der Krieg dann endlich aus. Wieder packten wir zusammen, wir wollten ja nach Haus. Doch an der Jugoslawischen Grenze wurde uns klar, dass der Abschied am 20. Oktober von Neudorf für immer war.

Die Einreise hat man uns verwehrt, als Flüchtlinge wurden wir staatenlos erklärt. Heimweh, es war kaum zu ertragen, keine Antwort auf so viele Fragen.

Mehr als sechzig lange Jahre sind seither vergangen, mit viel Fleiss haben wir neu angefangen. Jede Arbeit haben wir mit Freude gemacht, unser Fleiss uns wieder bescheidenen Wohlstand gebracht.

Es geht uns doch gut, wir sind zufrieden, wie ginge es uns jetzt, wären

wir daheim geblieben? Daheim wie wir es auch nach fünfzig Jahren immer noch nennen, unsere Gedanken, jede Gasse und jedes Haus noch kennen.

Neudorf, mit Wehmut denken wir heut an dich, unsere fruchtbaren Felder, volle Scheunen, alles blieb bei dir zurück. Der Krieg hat uns unsere Heimat und alles genommen, nur als Besucher, können wir jetzt zu dir nach Neudorf kommen.

Nur ein Gast bist du jetzt im eigenen Haus, alles schaut so anders, so fremd und traurig aus. Unsere Kirche, wo wir uns versammelten zum Gebet, sie wurde abgerissen, wem stand sie im Weg?

Doch die Zeit, sie heilt die tiefsten Wunden, wir sind dankbar, wir haben eine neue Heimat gefunden. In vielen Ländern und Dörfern sind wir jetzt verstreut, all unseren Toten sei jetzt diese Stille geweiht.

Neudorf, auch nach sechzig Jahren denken wir gern an dich, Heimat, wo wir geboren, ganz vergessen werden wir dich nicht. Ihr Neudorfer, wo immer ihr eine neue Heimat habt gefunden, in Gedanken sind wir heute mit euch allen verbunden.

Wir Neudorfer vertrauen auch weiter auf Gott, wir wünschen der ganzen Welt Frieden, mehr Verständnis und Liebe, weniger Hass und Not.

In diesem Sinne, mach ich mit meinem Gedicht jetzt Schluss und schicke allen Neudorfern einen ganz besonderen Gruss: Bleibt alle noch recht lange gesund, allen Kranken wünsche ich eine gute Besserung !

Euch allen und euren Familien, Gottes Segen und viel Glück, dass wünscht euch.

*Jakober Lowis aus
der Fabrik !*

Editor's Note: Club member Ludwig Jakober, his sister Luise, his mother and his Neuburger grandparents fled their home in the Donauschwaben town of Neudorf, Slavonia toward the end of WWII. Ludwig Jakober's sister, Luise, wrote this account and our newsletter staff translated it to English for the next issue.



Our Autoklub Travels



Its 2007 Euro-American Auto Show Time!!

Keep 7 July 2007 Open and put it on your calendar please. That is the date for the 3rd Annual Trenton Donauschwaben/German-American Euro-American Auto Show.

Last year we had over 120 car entries. This year we hope to top that number. Our AutoKlub committee had it's first event meeting 11 January 2007. We held our second joint meeting with our co-sponsors at the German-American on 22 March 2007 to start planning the event. *See you there.*

Good Food, Great Friends & Awesome Cars! What can be better than that?

AUDI POWER AT LEMANS

The Audi V-8 powered R8 prototype has won five Le Mans victories. It has returned in a 2007 Lola LMP1 race car. It will be entered under the Swiss Spirit flag. Good luck to the Audi team!

BEST DRIVERS?

We know many Trenton Donauschwaben readers have been staying up late at night wondering which group of drivers are the best and which are the worst. While surely all of us have our own personal candidates for this award, a few researchers turned to some "real" science – astrology - to find out the truth. A study in England of some 150,000 accidents revealed that **Gemini's were the worst**, followed by Taurus and Pisces. So, who are the best? **Capricorns**, followed by Sagittarians and Scorpios. There's no doubt that the value of this information plus four quarters will give you a dollar. But, the next time you hand over the keys of your Ferrari to a friend, you just might want to get out that astrological chart!

Source: *Road and Track*, April, 2007)

Remember the VW Scirocco—Lookout in 2008

In 1974 VW introduced the Scirocco sports coupe. It had a 16 valve, 2.0 liter engine and could hold its own against many of the best 2-door cars out there.



Well, VW will introduce a new version in 2008 called the IROC (middle letters from **Scirocco**). The prototype appeared at the Paris Auto Show. A real pocket rocket, it is the length of the VW GTI, but 1.5 inches wider and 3.3 inches lower on 18 inch wheels. It will be powered by one of three power plants, a twincharged 1.4 liter/210 hp four, a turbocharged

2.0 liter/240 hp four or a 3.6 liter, 280 hp V-6. Source: *Autoweek*, August 2006.

THANKS TO OUR FRIENDS AT THE PHILLY CANNSTATTER

On behalf of the Trenton Donauschwaben and the German-Americans of Trenton, we wish to thank our friends at the Cannstatter for advertizing our 7 July Euro-American Auto Show in their Spring 2007 issue of their newsletter. We hope their members stop by for a fun afternoon. I know many of our Trenton Donauschwaben AutoKlub members plan on entering our cars in their show on 11 August 2007. Danke Schön!

BMW MONSTER V10—M6

Have an extra \$106,000 lying around the house? Then this Beamer is for you. The 2006 BMW M6 Coupe is powered by a V10, 5.0L, 500 hp engine with a seven speed manual transmission.

Although it is a coupe and not a true sports car like the Viper, Porsche Turbo or Corvette Z06, it will do 0-60 in 4.4 seconds and 200 mph. Truly a "Tour de Force", Ja?

Source: *Autoweek*, 18 September 2006.

GERMANS SAY NO TO SPEED LIMIT

The European Union wants Germany to set a speed limit on their autobahn in order to help reduce emissions and pollution.

As expected, the Germans kindly refused to place a speed limit on the super highway. Although known for their environmental concerns, a speed limit?

Nein Danke! That is one "right" the Germans will never give up, "The need for Speed"..... Ja?

PORSCHE PANAMERA GOES PUBLIC

Look for the Porsche Panamera to be available in show rooms in 2009.

The Panamera is a four door sedan with a lift back rear hatch. It will be powered by a 3.5 liter, 300 hp Volkswagen V6, or a 4.5 liter, 350 hp Porsche V8. A souped up version will have a 4.5 liter, 560 hp Porsche Turbo.

Source: *Autoweek*, 2 October 2006.

Note: in order to prevent a foreign takeover, reports are out that Porsche has purchased 30% of Volkswagen's stock.**

NEW AUTOKLUB MEMBERS

The Donauschwaben AutoKlub welcomes Rick and Susan Jakober who recently purchased a pristine 540i BMW sport sedan. The svelte, V8 powered Autobahn cruiser was purchased at the DiSomone dealership where another AutoKlub member, Colin Huff, is employed. Word has it that while it's usually Susan who drives the car, Rick is allowed access to it on the weekends IF he keeps it clean and tidy. Nice going Susan!! :-)

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- * *Familie James & Kathleen Lieblang*
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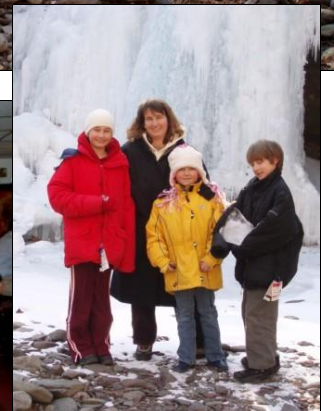


We welcome new member **Joe Vecchione** of Philadelphia, PA. Joe has been a hard worker and an active kitchen helper for our dinners for several years now. Welcome aboard officially now! Also to **Detlev Kempe**, who is originally from Hamburg, Germany.

A big welcome also goes out to the **Yob family** on becoming members. **Bill, his wife, Monika (Kusenko) and daughter Alexandria** recently joined (and in Monika's case, rejoined) the DS family. Many of us know that Monika was an important part of our dance group and school for many years. We are delighted to have Monika and her family back. Prosit!

We are also very pleased to announce that **Tom Goodwin** and his family are now members of the club. Tom is the son of member **Dave Goodwin** and part of their family comes from the Donauschwaben town of Palanka (family name: Haesli). Anyone reading the local newspapers will know that Tom is a hard-working and dedicated Hamilton Township Council member. His efforts to reign in taxes in our club's hometown of Hamilton have frequently made the headlines. While the club supports good and honest politicians whether they are Democrats or Republicans (we are non-partisan, after all), we are pleased that one of the best is now a member of our club. Tom recently announced his candidacy for Assembly and we urge all of our members to look at his record and give him your consideration. Best of luck to club member Tom Goodwin!

Club Pictures - Winter 2007 Making Bratwurst and Skiing—A Great Time by All!



Deutsche Sprach Schule Seite (Adult & Youth)



Adult School Restarts in April & Kinder Schule Continues

We look forward to the return of Andy Franz and the restart of our Adult German School “**Schule fuer Erwachsene**” in the third week of April. Members are invited to attend the one hour Wednesday evening classes (7pm) that feature instruction in German language, history and culture. Don't miss this great opportunity! It is a most fascinating hour all are sure to enjoy. Please call 609-586-6109 for information.

Also, Our German School for young people meets each Friday evening from 6 to 7 PM. Right now they are learning poems and songs in German. They are also practicing their folks dancing. All interested children and young people over the age of 5 are cordially invited to attend.

Wednesday Nights at the Donauschwaben—Gemütlichkeit

We're looking to reinvigorate our weekly club night. Since the very early days, this particular evening has been a time when adult members gather to interact in a friendly - "gemütlich" -environment Whether it's playing ping-pong , talking about cars, the news, up coming events or just relaxing with friends, we invite everyone to stop in between 8 PM and 10 PM each Wednesday.



Monthly Meetings moved to Wednesdays

Please note that our monthly meetings are now held each first **WEDNESDAY starting at 7 PM**. This is partly in keeping with our desire to make this particular night a more important part of our club's schedule. These cordial monthly meetings last perhaps 45 minutes. **All members are welcome.**

Club Offers Hamilton Students a German Scholarship

In an effort to give back to our hometown community the Donauschwaben recently decided to offer a German language scholarship for students at the local high schools. Member Liz Tindall has been brought in to see the program through and will make the details of this award available soon. It's most gratifying that all of Hamilton's student population has the option of learning the language of our ancestors. We're even more delighted to hear that the program is quite popular!

The scholarship is part of our club's ongoing effort to promote Germans language education. We hope all eligible students will enter the scholarship contest and wish them all the best.

Jen Soden Memorial BBQ

Donauschwabens club members may recall Jen Soden at our dinner events sitting with the extended family of the late Otto and Edith Kraus and her uncle, club member Eric Kraus. Indeed she was the granddaughter of Kraus's and was always cheerful and friendly in conversation. Tragically she passed away at a very young age this past October of a heart attack. To commemorate her memory, friends and family are holding a fund raiser at the end of April for the benefit of the American Heart Association (AHA).

The event will be held on Saturday, April 28th at 2 PM at the Tall Cedars Picnic Grove in Crosswicks, NJ. Tickets are \$25 (\$15 for youngsters) and can purchased by contacting RaeAnn Corradetti at 609-252-7183 (raeann.corradetti@bms.com). We encourage all of our members to consider supporting this worthy cause.

Club Events for the Spring 2007

EVENTS— DATES & TIMES

Come out and join us!

- ◆ Osteressen, Sunday, 1 April, 1pm.
- ◆ Adult German Class begins 11 April, Wednesday nights, 7pm.
- ◆ Muttertagessen (Schnitzel), Sunday, 6 May, 1pm.
- ◆ Canoe Trip to Pine Barrens, leave Club Sunday, 20 May at 8am.
- ◆ Father's Day Pig Roast, Sunday, 3 June, 1pm.
- ◆ Wallfahrt to Philly, Sunday, 10 June, leave Club at 8am.
- ◆ Canoe/Camping Trip to NY, 30 June-4 July.

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!



Smuggler's Notch

The club's ski season began officially with a trip to the fabled "Smuggler's Notch" ski area located in the Green Mountains of beautiful Vermont. This is arguably one of the nicest areas in the north eastern region of the country. Mt. Mansfield looms large in this area. At almost 4400 feet, it is the tallest mountain in Vermont and has the distinction of having real arctic tundra in and around its summit. Yeah, it can get pretty cold... which is what our intrepid group discovered on their trip in early March.

Four of the Donauschwaben's best skiers, Ludwig Jakober, Steve Brandecker, Bob Walter and Uwe Hundskopf braved sub zero temps (how's 22 below grab you?!) to get in some rather excellent skiing. One of them said "It was great as long as you ignored the early warning signs of frost bite" or something similar. This was not a trip for the faint of heart. All four said they had a great time, however, and the skiing was *fabulous!*

Perceptive readers will note that the new guy on the block is a fine new club member named Uwe Hundskopf. He recently joined our club and has jumped right into our many activities. Welcome Uwe!

Downhill Racer



How many of our readers remember that great skiing movie "Downhill Racer" starring Robert Redford? Well, forget that. With very few exceptions, none of our club members look like Redford's character on the black diamond slopes. Wait a minute, we did say "veryfew exceptions" right? Well, as it turns out, the club does have its own "downhill racers" and, no, we aren't talking about their condition upon leaving the ski lodge watering hole either. We really do have some fine skiers who have made annual ski outings a wonderful part of our club's schedule. As to whether one of our expert skiers, Herr Jakober, actually looks like Robert Redford we'd rather not say. J