

Trentoner Donauschwaben Nachrichten

Volume 10 Issue 2

April-June 2010



Points of Interest

- As we approach our 6th Euro-American Auto Show, here are the current major German auto makers:
- Audi 1910-1939, 1965-present
- BMW 1928-present
- Mercedes-Benz 1926-present
- Opel 1898-present
- Porsche 1948-present
- Smart 1997-present
- Volkswagen 1936-present
- See you on July 10th at the German-American Picnic Grove.
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2010 Landesverband Meeting in Chicago



This year's annual business meeting was held April 23-25 at the Chicago Donauschwaben in Des Plaines, IL, a suburb of Chicago. Club representatives this year in attendance included: Dennis Bauer, Steve Brandecker and Bob Walter. We flew out of Philly early Friday morning. The flight was just fine.

We arrived Friday morning and took a trip down town to the Navy Pier. Although it was cold and windy, we enjoyed the view of the Chicago skyline. Traffic? And we think Philly traffic is bad, not compared to the Chicago area. Wow! We finally arrived at the club Friday evening for dinner and fellowship with the other early arrivers. Then back to the hotel, a long day in deed.

The clubhouse is a good size and relatively new. The meeting/banquet hall can hold about 400+ people. Our hosts took very good care of all us North American club representatives. The room was packed.

The Verband business meeting started right after lunch on Saturday, followed by a Stiftung meeting on Sunday morning. Each club gave a brief on their 2009 yearly events and accomplishments. Dennis gave our club's 2009 events and activities overview.

At 4pm attendees broke out into committee meetings. Dennis attended the Webmaster and Cultural committee meetings, while Steve attended the President's meeting and Bob the Youth Group meeting. We returned and each

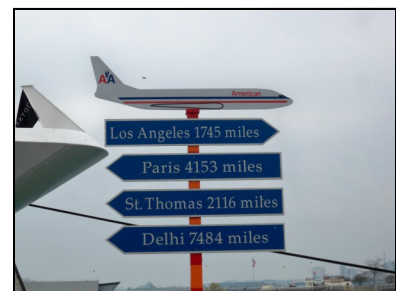
Committee Chair gave highlights of items discussed in committee to the main body.

We then broke for dinner and finished up the meeting agenda about 8pm after a fine Landestreffen 2010 presentation by United German-Hungarian President, Bill Galgon, on the up coming Treffen here in Bucks County in August. It should be a great success having talked to many Verband members who plan to attend. After all, it will be the first Treffen here on the East Coast.

The group was then introduced to Ann Morrison of St. Louis by Verband President Robert Filippi. She gave a brief introduction to her recently released film "The Forgotten Genocide" (on DVD) which was then followed by it's viewing. It was well received by all and she answered questions afterwards. The Verband offered their support of her efforts and wished her good luck on the DVD distribution.

Our club was honored to have three club members, Andy Franz, Adam Martini and Eva Martini included in the film. They were interviewed by Ann at the 2009 Treffen in Detroit last summer. Our own Adam Martini was also invited to speak at the film's initial viewing in February at the ethnic German genocide seminar in St Louis. Adam spoke on his experiences in Tito's camps after WWII and his family's escape to Hungary and onto Austria. Adam's presentation was well received at the seminar.

Our three club representatives returned to Philly Sunday afternoon after a cloudy and bumpy flight. They had a lot to report to our board members and looked forward to seeing many, many fellow Schwobs here at the Treffen this coming summer. *DJB.*



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Club Matters & Members—1



**Health Care Reform:
Obamacare is Here!**
(One member's perspective
on the current healthcare
debate)

On March 23, 2010, President Barack Obama signed into law The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (HR 3590), the biggest expansion of U.S. health care since the inception of Medicare in 1965. This bill will make significant changes in how Americans are covered for health care and how they pay for it. The full impact on the American public, US economy and our overall health remains to be seen. No matter how polarizing an issue it has become, it's now the law. Let's look at some of the general Health Care Reform changes.

Popular Changes – On the surface the bill contains some popular changes to our U.S. Healthcare system, including providing insurance coverage to roughly 32 million uninsured Americans by instituting several new policies:

Beginning in 2014, states will establish exchanges to offer insurance products. Employers with 100 or fewer employees will be eligible to buy insurance through the exchange. Federal tax credits will be available to those making up to \$88,200 for a family of four to help offset the new additional cost of this mandatory insurance. Those who don't purchase coverage will be forced to pay a penalty (up to a maximum of \$2,085 per family).

The new bill implements financial penalties if a company with more than 50 employees does not offer coverage or company employees enter the new exchange.

Also beginning in 2014, Medicaid eligibility is increased to 133% of Federal Poverty Level, and parents and childless adults will be allowed to participate, increasing the number of people in Medicaid and subsequently overall cost to the taxpayers.

Insurers will be prohibited from denying coverage or charging higher premiums because of a person's medical history or health condition. Parents will be allowed to keep children on their health plan until age 26 in most cases.

The new reform law will create minimum benefit standards, such as requiring that policies cover at least 60% of costs, and limiting out-of-pocket costs to \$5,950 per year for an individual and \$11,900 for a family. **Cost of Healthcare** – To pay for all this a

number of new taxes on middle class and wealthy Americans, new fees for corporations, cuts in existing healthcare programs, and the financial penalties on US citizens as described above have been implemented. Estimates are \$500 Billion annually in new taxes will be required to fund this program. It is truly astonishing that while the services described above *begin* in 2014, the tax increases are effective *right now* in 2010. Only in Washington DC can you take peoples' money for 10 years to provide 6 years of service! Never mind that the vast majority of people receiving the benefits pay *zero* federal taxes (over 40% of the population), while those whose money is being taken by the government receive *zero* benefits. Recent media reports have quoted several liberal politicians referring to HR 3590 as a 'redistribution of wealth' type of program, a reference they dared not to mention prior to the approval of the bill. The silver lining is that this plan is still far superior to single-payer universal health coverage plans, which without exception provide worse care for more cost.

The healthcare cuts and additional taxes include:

Medicare Advantage payments will be cut by \$132 billion over 10 years. That's you, senior citizens!

There will be a new tax on "Cadillac" health plans, those that cost more than \$10,200 per year for individuals or \$27,500 for families, starting in 2018.

This one is so far in the future it may not happen.

The Medicare payroll tax will increase by 0.9% for income over \$200,000 for singles and \$250,000 for couples.

The Medicare payroll tax will be applied to capital gains, dividends, and interest, in addition to wages.

Industry Impact – Many industries will fork over additional taxes and fees to the government as a result of this new law. As we know, when publicly traded companies have cost increases they pass them on to the consumer in one way or another (higher costs or reduced services). The pharmaceutical industry, of which I am party to, has actually supported the health care reform efforts. In general, the industry strategy was focused on protecting product innovation by keeping some patent protections in place. This will allow for continued investment in research and development of ground breaking medicines and new technologies. The current projected 'contribution' from the industry as a whole over the next 10 years is approximately \$100 Billion (yes, billion with a 'B'!). In theory the 32 million new patients will allow the industry to recoup some of these additional taxes and fees.

(Continued on page 3)

Club Matters & Members—2

Health Care Reform: Obamacare is Here!

(continued from page 2)

Some significant changes include:

- The bill will begin to close the Medicare part D coverage gap for participating seniors beginning in 2011. Pharmaceutical companies will provide a 50% discount on drugs used in this “doughnut hole” which is very good news for senior citizens. In 2010, seniors who fall into the gap will receive a \$250 rebate from the government to offset some of their costs, some more good news.
- Pharmaceutical companies will begin paying higher rebates to Medicaid on drug sales, going from 15.1% currently to 23.1% this year (that’s a 65% rate increase – ouch!) and rebates on generics will rise from 11% to 13%.
- Pharmaceutical discounts will be extended to certain critical access hospitals, cancer hospitals and other entities under the Public Health Service 340b program. Good news for patients, more cost for industry.
- Pharmaceutical companies will be required to pay a new fee to the government based on each company’s share of sales to programs including Medicare, Medicaid, Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Defense, and TriCare. The gist is these are BIG programs, and these are BIG fees.
- Finally, the new bill creates a pathway for FDA approval of follow-on biologic products, but protects innovation by providing 12 years of marketing exclusivity for ‘innovator’ biologic products. Thank you Uncle Sam – we appreciate your permission to stay in business.....!

Next Steps

The new coverage for individuals won’t be effective for several years so you will see no change in the short term, other than higher taxes for some folks. Many provisions, and there are hundreds of them in the colossal 2,700 page bill, will require additional regulations and guidance from the government before they can be implemented. Rest assured, when a decision needs to be made the government will lean on the side of taking more of our money. So, health care reform is here at last! Let’s all hope the government at least does an efficient job implementing and managing this enormous new bureaucracy and most importantly those without healthcare get the help they need.

By Mike Lenyo. The opinions expressed above are not necessarily those of the club or the newsletter staff



WORK WEEKDAY PLANNED (Tentative)

As most of us know it is not easy to maintain our clubhouse. So we are planning to have a “Work Day” on Saturday May 15th, 9am.

Bring some construction and garden tools for a day of work, fun and fellowship at the club. In order to keep us going, lunch will be provided.

So roll up your sleeves and pitch in. See you then and pray for nice weather.

2010-2012 Club Officers

Here are our officers for the upcoming 2 years;

- Joseph Brandecker—President
- Dennis J. Bauer—1st Vice President
- Robert Walter—2nd Vice President
- Kim Walter—3rd Vice President
- Ludwig Jakober—Treasurer
- Michael Lenyo—Vice Treasurer
- Hans Martini—Secretary
- Eva Martini—Protocol Secretary
- Al Tindall—Financial Trustee
- Richard Jakober—Financial Trustee
- Andrew LaRue—Financial Trustee
- Eva Martini—Ladies Auxiliary President
- Helga Kusenko—Ladies Auxiliary V. President
- Caroline Brandecker—Ladies Auxiliary V. President
- Denese Lenyo—Ladies Auxiliary V. President
- Josefa Brandecker—Ladies Auxiliary Honorary Pres.
- Dennis J. Bauer—Newsletter Editor/Chair
- Liz Tindall—Scholarship Fund Chair
- Christa Tindall—Kulturreferentin
- Terry Huff—AutoKlub Leader/Chair
- Joe Vecchione—House Committee Chair
- Ron Kernast—Adult Dance Group Chair
- Anna Martini—Jugendreferentin
- Brittaney Brandecker—Jugendreferentin
- Robert Walter—Bar Chair
- Tom Rubino—Webmaster
- Dennis J. Bauer—Website Committee Chair
- Hans Martini—Memorial Committee Chair

Genealogy, Culture & History Section

Palankaer-American Genealogy Book Receives National Review

Member Dennis J. Bauer's 2008 book entitled *A Collection of Genealogical Information of Palankaer-Americans and Related Family Memebers—1895 to 2008* was recently reviewed and advertised in the National Genealogical Society's NGS Magazine, Volume 36, Number 1, January-March 2010. As a result of the posting, he has been contacted by a number of public libraries asking that he donate a copy to their collections. He has done so on behalf of our club.

He also donated a copy of his book to the Donauschwaben Landesverband Archives at the April Verband meeting in Chicago on behalf of the club. ****

Landestreffen 2010 at the United German-Hungarians



For the first time ever, the big cultural celebration we have raved about for years - das Landestreffen der Donauschwaben - is arriving in our area this August 6, 7, & 8. Our sister organization just across the river, the United German-Hungarian club, is hosting the weekend long extravaganza of Donauschwaben tradition and culture that will attract an estimated 2000 folks from around the continent. Attendance at this annual event normally requires an 8 to 14 hour drive or plane flight, but the distance this time around for our club members is less than 30 minutes from Yardville.

This is your best opportunity to see the excitement, pageantry, and spirit of camaraderie that have made the Donauschwabentreffen a cultural event without equal.

Our club is committed to supporting the event in every way possible. Above all, your presence and that of your friends and family is positively critical. You will be treated to a packed schedule of performances and special activities throughout the weekend, both inside the UGH hall and outside under the tents. Seven different bands will provide German music for your dancing and listening pleasure and the UGH kitchen staff will be offering great tasting traditional foods and desserts all will enjoy.

For those of you who want to get even closer to the action, there will be opportunities to volunteer for a block of time sometime during the weekend too. You decide what you want to do and when you want to do it. If you choose to volunteer, great, but it's even more important that you just attend the event.

The excitement surrounding this August weekend is positively electric. Youth and dance groups from around North America are actively fund-raising right now to come this way. As reported back from the Verband meeting in April, Dennis Bauer notes that many members from the other clubs are planning family vacations to our area around the Treffen weekend and are excited to come East for the first time and pay us a visit.

Detailed information can be found at the United German Hungarian web site (<http://www.ughclub.us/landestreffen/landesindex.html>) which includes a countdown meter clicking off the days until festivities commence!

Many more details will follow in the weeks ahead but in the meantime PLEASE mark your calendars.

See you at the Treffen!

Trenton Donauschwaben Museum in the Works

We plan to transform one of the rooms upstairs into a micro-museum. There we will tell the story of our German ancestors through photos, maps, and historical artifacts. The timeline will span from the original settlers of the Danube River basin in the 1700's to the immigration to the greater Trenton area in the 20th century, both before and after WWII. Right now, we're asking anyone with interesting items from back home please contact us. We're in the process of seeing what we have and what we still need to make this an educational club feature everyone can enjoy. Also of note is that Dennis Bauer and Hans Martini have recently purchased copies of the Palanka weekly newspaper, *Die Wacht*, for several years in the 1920s and 1930s. Copies will be put on display in the "new" museum.*****

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY RESEARCH TALK

Lester Kish, a professional genealogist, will present a lecture on 11 May 2010 at the Central Jersey Genealogy Club's meeting at the Hamilton Public Library, 1 Justice Samuel Alito Way. The meeting begins at 7pm and the general public is invited. Topic: 'Genealogical Research in the Austro-Hungarian Empire'. Dennis Bauer will distribute flyers about the Treffen to those present.

Membership News

2010 Newsletter Staff



**Joseph Brandecker, Jr. President. Dennis J. Bauer, Vice President/Newsletter Editor.
Melanie Brandecker, Newsletter Copy Editor. Kim Walter, Vice President/Club Photographer.**

Ludwig Jakober, Treasurer .

Hans Martini, Secretary.

Staff Writers: Adam Martini, Andy Franz, Brittaney Brandecker & Michael Lenyo

AutoKlub Leader: Terry Huff

Website Committee: Tom Rubino, Dennis J. Bauer & Terry Penrith

Genealogical & Historical Researcher: Dennis J. Bauer

Mail Room Coordinator: Eva Martini



HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY— UNITED GERMAN HUNGARIANS



The Trenton Donauschwaben wishes our friends at the UGH a Happy 100th anniversary. What an accomplishment in deed.

It all began one hundred years ago with the immigration to Philadelphia of German-Hungarians from the Danube River basin. These immigrants formed the Banater Männerchor and purchased property at 8th & Columbia. This was their "home" until 1922. Soccer was added to the activities and in 1965 the club won the U.S. Amateur Soccer Assn. Open Cup. It was repeated in 1999.

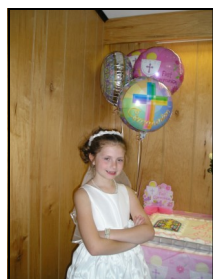
They changed their name to the United German Hungarians of Philadelphia & Vicinity in 1939 and moved to their present "home" in Oakford, Bucks County, PA in 1965.

In addition to holding a 100th Year birthday party in November of this year, they will host the 2010 North American Landestreffen at their club in August of this year. Happy Birthday and Good Luck with both events from your friends here in Trenton.

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

Congratulations to Christa Tindall & Christopher Pullion 's wedding (see details on last page).

Congratulations to Luisa Martini on her acceptance to Rutgers School of Engineering (Dad's Alma Mater).



Congratulations also to **Greta Brandecker** on her first Holy Communion May 1, 2010.

Get Well to Ted Hierl, Joe Dlubak, Tom Rubino, Jennifer Parr, Joe Vecchione and Sepp Brandecker. Speedy recoveries.

Welcome to new member **Richard A. West** of Hamilton Square, NJ and family **Ed, Sue & Nicole Murin** of Clark, NJ.

Thanks to Jacqui Longacre of Grammy's Hugs in Brown's Mill, NJ for taking on the task of making our new men's Trachtenfest vests.

Condolences-The Donauschwaben sadly notes the passing of **Guenther Thiel**. Herr Thiel was well known for an easy to talk to personality and was a friend to many of our members. He was a former president of the Arbeiter Club and a club member here at the Donauschwaben for many years.. Herr Thiel's daughters, Lorraine & Sonya, were both part of our German School in the 60's and 70's. Lorraine was also an important part of our dance group in the 1970's/early 80's. We extend our condolences to the friends and family of Mr. Guenther Thiel. May he rest in Peace, Amen

Special Thanks to Webmaster, **Tom Rubino**, for his constant upgrading of our club web site. Vielen Dank!

Thanks to our friends at the Chicago Donauschwaben for hosting the 2010 Landesverband meeting and for the great facilities, great food and drink.

Stay informed!

**The Donauschwaben supports...
TED HIERL'S GERMAN-AMERICAN
RADIO PROGRAM**

**Sundays from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM on
WNWR 1540 AM Radio.**



DeutscheEcke, Seite 1

EIN JAHR RENTNER

Submitted by Heinz Alperstedt
(brother of Helga Kusenko)
Hanau, Germany

24. Mai

Es ist geschafft. Mein letzter Arbeitstag. Ich bin endlich Rentner. Jetzt geht mein Leben richtig los. Ich will einfach das machen, woran mich diese verdammte Arbeit immer gehindert hat.

25. Mai

Ich stehe früh auf, und weiß gar nicht, was ich zuerst tun soll.

Der Rasen muss gemäht werden, ich will die Dachrinne reparieren, ich muss die Wasserhähne entkalken, ich will ein Vogelhäuschen bauen und endlich mal "Krieg und Frieden" lesen.

Treffe vor dem Haus meinen Nachbarn. Er ist auch Rentner.

Er läuft unrasiert im Jogginganzug rum, sieht aus wie Jörg Kachelmann nach 30 Tequila. Er schaut den ganzen Tag Nachmittagstalkshows oder löst Kreuzwörter. Das wäre nichts für mich. Ich mähe erstmal den Rasen, reinige die Dachrinne und fange mit einem Vogelhäuschen an. Das Leben ist wunderbar.

2. Juni

Der Rasen ist gemäht, die Dachrinne gereinigt und das Vogelhäuschen ist fertig. Die Piepmätze kommen an und tirilieren fröhlich. Ich fahre zu OBI, besorge Entkalker für die Wasserhähne.

OBI ist voll mit Rentnern. Jeden Morgen trifft sich da das Krampfadergeschwader am Holzzuschnitt. Trübe Tassen.

Fahre nach Hause und entkalke die Wasserhähne.

7. Juni

Etwas länger geschlafen.

Dann frühstücke ich, und kontrolliere, ob die Wasserhähne nicht neuen Kalk angesetzt haben.

Danach Rasenmähen und Fahrt zu OBI.

Lasse mir Holz für ein weiteres Vogelhäuschen zuschneiden.

Dann hab ich zwei. Eins für die Vogelmannchen und eins für die Vogelweibchen.

22. Juni

Bis Mittags geschlafen.

Dann noch ein Vogelhäuschen für Behinderte gebaut.

Dann Rasen gedüngt, damit er schneller wächst und häufiger gemäht werden muss.

Danach Tee mit meiner Frau!

Ich gebe ihr Tipps für den Haushalt. Aber manchmal habe ich den Verdacht, ich nerve sie.

Zum Beispiel, wenn wir im Garten zusammen Darts spielen.

Nicht dass wir uns straiten – aber warum klebt sie vor dem Werfen immer mein Foto auf die Dartsscheibe?

30. Juni

Will mal wieder mit einem anderen Menschen reden, und gehe zum Arzt.

Viele Rentner gehen zum Arzt, um mal zu quatschen; ich habe mir Prostatabeschwerden ausgedacht.

Aber er schickt mich nach Hause – Prostata würde bei Kassenpatienten in meinem Alter nicht mehr behandelt – Rentner hätten genügend Zeit zum Pinkeln?

13. Juli

Schlafen bis Zwei.

Danach Rasen mähen und ein Vogelhäuschen basteln.

Im Garten stehen jetzt 28 Stück.

Als ich es aufstellen will, entdecke ich auf dem Rasen einen Brief:

Die Vögel haben ihn geschrieben: "Alter, hör auf mit den Scheiß Vogelhäuschen wir sind satt und es ist uns vor den anderen Tieren peinlich."

Mein Nachbar bietet mir ein Kreuzwörterheft an. Ich schau mal rein.

Russischer Fluss mit 7 Buchstaben.

Ach was denkt den sich der Idiot?

Das ich Zeit habe, mir im Atlas russische Flüsse mit 7 Buchstaben rauszusuchen?

1. August

Es gibt insgesamt 1.376 russische Flüsse mit 7 Buchstaben.

Die bekanntesten sind: BJELAJA, DNJESTR, IRTYSCH, UTSCHUR und WOLCHOW.

Am Abend Krise mit meiner Frau. Unser erotisches Leben ist eingeschlafen.

Passiert vielen Rentnern.

Meine Frau schlägt als Lösung vor, wir sollten mal Sex an ungewöhnlichen Orten probieren.

4. September

Wir haben die Seiten im Bett getauscht. Hilft auch nicht.

Habe gelesen, 50% der Männer über 65 nehmen Viagra. 70% davon können sich allerdings nicht mehr daran erinnern, warum.

30. September

Krieg und Frieden lese ich nicht mehr. Schau jetzt mehr Nachmittagstalkshows. Heut ist das Thema "Ich mach Dich kalt, Du blöde Summse".

Na ja, ein bisschen lehnt sich das ja auch an "Krieg und Frieden an".

26. Oktober

Meine Frau meint, wir sollen etwas für unsere Körper tun... Wellness...

Sobald man Rentner ist, soll alles nur noch Wellness sein.

Man soll die Seele baumeln lassen... Warum?

Wenn man älter wird, baumelt am Körper Sowieso schon so viel.

Da muss die Seele nicht auch noch mit baumeln.

Meine Frau schleppt mich zum Rentner Yoga, zur Rentner Sauna, zum Pilates.

Pilates! Das war für mich bislang der Typ, der Jesus gekreuzigt hat!

12. November

Beim Rentner Yoga soll ich die Figur machen:

"Das Gnu liegt in der Morgensonne".

Ich mache die Figure "Der Arbeitnehmer Betätigt die Stechuhr".

Werde aus dem Kurs geworfen!

3. Januar

Habe mit dem Sport aufgehört.

Nur den Jogginganzug trage ich noch ganz gern.

Rasieren tu ich mich auch nicht mehr.

Wenn ich auf die Straße gehe, fragen mich manchmal die Obdachlosen, ob ich einen Euro brauche.

Meine Frau will mich aktivieren und schafft einen Dackel an.

Das ist das Ende.

Wenn der beste Freund eines Mannes, eine Wurst mit Beinen ist, die Purzel heißt, ist es Zeit für ihn, abzutreten.

Dackel wurden Anfang des 20. Jhds. in England gezüchtet.

Ziel der Züchtung war es, eine Nackenrolle zu haben, die selbstständig in die Waschmaschine gehen kann!

Ich schäme mich.

Aber ich geh mit ihm spazieren.

Sitze dann im Wald auf einer Bank, mein Blick fällt auf die Ameisen am Boden.

Tja, die arbeiten und arbeiten, von denen sagt keine "Ich bin in Rente und mach jetzt Pilates".

(continued on page 7)

Deutsche Ecke, Seite 2



EIN JAHR RENTNER (continued from page 6)

12. Februar
Bin nachts nicht müde.
Wovon auch?
Stehe deshalb auf, setze mich ins Auto und fahre durch die nächtliche Stadt.
Ich lande bei meiner alten Firma, steige aus, streichle das Gebäude.
Auf der Rückfahrt sehe ich, wie an einer Landstraße Türken auf dem illegalen Arbeitsstrich rumstehen und warten, dass sie zur Schwarzarbeit abgeholt werden.
Traurig so was!
3. März
Habe mich dunkel geschminkt, mir einen Schnäuzer angeklebt und reihe mich unter die Türken an der Straße ein.
Serhat, Mehment, ügür und Öczan.
Im Auto stellt sich raus, die heißen eigentlich Franz, Theo, Günther und Willi.
Und sind auch Rentner mit angeklebten Schnäuzern.
Am Nachmittag – Arbeit auf einer Baustelle.
Ich war lange nicht so glücklich!
12. April
Fahre jetzt jeden Morgen mit den andern Rentnern auf die Baustelle.
Nachmittags sitzen wir zusammen und überlegen, was wir noch machen könnten.
Wir wollen eine Firma gründen, einen Konzern erschaffen, wir wollen ackern und malochen.
Auch mit 65 kann man noch viel bewegen.

Eine Geschäftsidee für unseren Konzern haben wir auch schon: Vogelhäuschen.

Transcribed by Melanie Brandecker 15
Jan 2010



Gateway to Remembering the Past

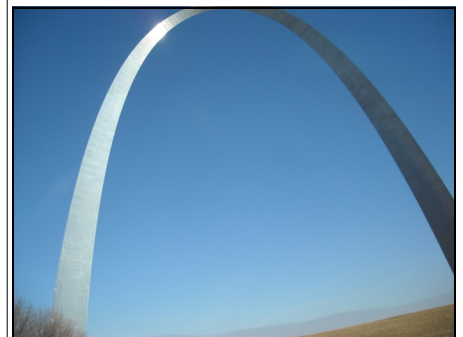
Soaring over 600 feet into the St. Louis, Missouri skyline, the “Gateway to the West” is a monument to the spirit and energy that made America great. For club member Adam Martini, the idea that he was standing on the threshold of the great American West had special significance. Indeed, it was stories of the Wild West written by the author Karl May that inspired him to cross the Atlantic in 1956. Now, 54 years later, Adam stood at the gateway not with the tales of Karl May in mind, but to tell of the memories of his time back home.

How Adam ended up on the banks of the Mississippi River can be traced to last year’s Detroit Landestreffen. It was then that a woman of Polish background named Ann Morrison interviewed Adam along with his wife Eva and Erzschwob Andy Franz. She wanted eyewitness accounts of the tragedy that befell our Donauschwaben in the waning days of WWII and afterwards, and these three Trenton Schwobs fit the bill to a tee. As we’ve noted in a previous newsletter, Ms. Morrison went on to create a documentary of that tragedy she called “The Forgotten Genocide”. As part of

the premiere of this new film, speakers from around the country were asked to participate in a two-day conference focusing on the events in question.

“I won’t do it” Adam said, putting that oh-so-German stubbornness on full display. The reasons and excuses were many and the prospects of getting him to go from New Jersey to Missouri were few. However, his wife Eva sensed the moment was right, that this was to be his fifteen minutes, and urged him to reconsider - as did Ann Morrison, club members and just about anyone else who knew the situation. At long last, Adam relented. The trip was on!

...And then the trip was almost off as one the season’s big storms rolled in, eventually canceling the Martini’s flight. Many anxious moments and two quick ticket changes later the trip was on again. Whew! Upon their arrival Thursday, a representative met them at the airport and whisked them to a college outside St. Louis where the presentations were already underway. Topics spanned the gamut, from the psychological consequences of long-term incarceration to historical analyses as to what happened when.



Picture of the ST. Louis Arch by the Martinis

(Continued on page 8)

Deutsche Ecke, Seite 3



Gateway to Remembering the Past

(Continued from page 7)

Adam & Eva Martini taking a break

Adam's big moment came on Friday after the lunch recess. His story was one of escape and jubilation, despair and salvation. After all the technical discussions, it was a welcome personal look at the story of one family caught in the maelstrom. He declared himself a "proud son of the Voivodina" and then described leaving his hometown of Bukin in the Voivodina region of the former Yugoslavia just ahead of marauding partisans/communists. The roundabout route took him and his family to upper eastern Germany – now Poland – before they ended up in Austria. They had made it and were "safe and sound"... until they tried to return to Yugoslavia that is. The joyous train-ride home turned into a three year long nightmare spent in various concentration camps that were intended to ethnically cleanse the German (Donauschwaben) population from Yugoslavia. As scores died around them, Adam, his mother, sister and grandmother managed to survive one way or another, if just barely.

Salvation came in 1947 when a relative in Hungary paid three young men to facilitate an escape. The details of that escape from a Yugoslav camp to freedom in nearby Hungary are riveting. The happiness in Adam's voice as he described finding freedom at long last is also striking given that the event transpired over 60 years ago. An enthusiastic round of applause accompanied the end of his talk.

Of course the premiere of the film "The Forgotten Genocide" headlined the weekend. In it a number of survivors told the heartrending stories that scarred what should have been their happy and carefree childhoods. As mentioned above, club members Eva, Adam and Andy Franz were among them. The film left one with a very good sense of just how terrible this time period was for our people. (Information

on how you can obtain a copy of the film is available elsewhere in this newsletter). The fact that the film was made right here in America and in the English language is a big plus too. Congratulations to Ann Morrison and her team!

Other activities over the St. Louis weekend included a visit to the giant Anheuser-Busch brewery; an enjoyable reception at the St. Louis Donauschwaben and even a dance performance at the college by the St. Louis Donauschwaben Dance Group. Wherever they went, the Martini's encountered wonderful people and had many good experiences. These included the talented Jody McKim, president of the DVHH, and so many others. The Martini's would like to thank everyone for the warm hospitality!

All good things must come to an end and eventually Adam and Eva had to make their way back to New Jersey. Home to family, friends and the familiar surroundings that have been a part of their lives since coming to these shores in the mid 1950s. It's a wonderful life they both agree and one they wouldn't trade for anything.

And yet... And yet the sights, sounds and even smells of what Adam, Eva and Andy left behind live on in memories that never really go away. The family house they can still walk through, room by room; relatives they can still visit just down the street; friendships that feel as real now as they did in the 1940s – an entire life left behind that is now frozen in time.

In the end, the tragic history of our Donauschwaben is more about living than dying it seems. Those who perished are in God's Hands while those who survived have captivated us with stories like Adam's of how it was back then. Those memories endure, giving the rest of us a bird's eye view of triumphs and travails; sadness and joy, horror and beauty – elements that make the Donauschwaben experience come to life. St. Louis it turns out was a gateway through which Adam was able to go back home again and, in some small way, for us to go with him.

THE FORGOTTEN GENOCIDE DVD

The film gives viewers a glimpse of what it was like for those who lived through the most tragic chapter in the history of the Donauschwaben. The heartrending eyewitness accounts of lives turned upside down in the chaos that followed WWII produce an emotional tapestry of fear, despair, hope and salvation. Indeed, the newsletter staff believes the interviews and personal perspectives offered in this film alone make this a must-have DVD for anyone interested in our past. Reading about what happened is one thing, seeing someone describe the events because he or she was there is quite another.

The film touches upon different areas of the Donauschwaben plight during this time period and includes mention of some other tragedies as well. We would caution those who want to use the film to learn the precise history of these events however. It's strength is in giving witness to the genocide and providing the viewer with the images only survivors can create. To gain a better overall understanding of the genocide of the Donauschwaben we encourage everyone to access the wealth of information available at dvhh.org and elsewhere. There they will find an accurate timeline of what happened to whom and when, as well as the context for these events.

The Trenton Donauschwaben applauds the efforts of Ms. Ann Morrison. Many have long dreamed of doing such a documentary but she's the first on this side of the Atlantic to produce a film of this type. By mobilizing every resource available to her, she produced a quality DVD that gives us a view of our history all can appreciate. We look forward to many more good things from Ms. Morrison in the years ahead! Copies can be purchased from her web site >www.annsfilms.com< HM



Our AutoKlub Travels



New Beetle No Longer



Volkswagen announced at the LA Auto Show that it will stop production of the New Beetle in 2010.

The final Beetle will be the 2010 3000 Final Edition model (1,500 sedans & 1,500 convertibles). These certainly will be a collector item like the past Turbo-S New Beetle (only about 2,000 imported).

However, VW of American spokesman indicates a New Beetle replacement will be offered in 2012 and will be a turbo-charged diesel. Perhaps the convertible “Blue Sport” shown above left? At 50 mpg highway and 0-60 mph in 6.6 seconds or perhaps the “chopped” New Beetle coupe shown on the right?

Going Big with Tires and Wheels

One of the most popular upgrades to make to any car or truck is to install larger wheels and tires. Not only do bigger wheels help update an older car, giving it a more modern look, but they also allow for a wider range of style choices when it comes time to decide on a specific wheel. Larger wheels also offer the opportunity to install wider, lower-profile tires, which can have a positive impact on the handling of a vehicle.

Of course, when looking to install a larger wheel and tire package on your vehicle, there are a number of different factors to consider to help you select an option that gives you both the look and the ride quality that you are looking for. There are a few key concepts you should keep in mind when shopping for a new set of wheels and tires, to make sure that you end up completely happy with your purchase.

One of the most important things to consider is that the overall diameter of your wheels and tires together plays an important role in how your car drives. At the factory, your vehicle’s suspension system was calibrated to function at its peak performance with the stock overall diameter that it rolled off the assembly line with. In addition, the vehicle’s speedometer, and in some cases transmission and ABS systems, rely on calculations that are based on this diameter value. Finally, going with very large wheels can have an impact on the gear ratio in your driveline, potentially slowing down your vehicle’s acceleration.

If you change the overall diameter of your wheels and tires, you might find that your car or truck’s speedometer no

longer offers an accurate reading. You also might notice some odd characteristics during cornering, braking or when moving over rough road. At the most extreme, your automobile might feel a bit sluggish off the line compared to how it drove with the original wheels and tires.

Fortunately, there is a very easy system that can be used in order to upsize your wheels and tires and still maintain the original – or very close to the original – overall diameter. Called Plus Sizing, it involves matching your tires to a larger rim in such a way that the original diameter specifications are not significantly altered, if at all. The root of plus sizing can be traced to the sidewall height of a tire. If you look at the sidewall of a typical vehicle, you will most likely notice that there are several inches of rubber between the rim of the wheel and the start of the tire’s tread. This is especially true on vehicles with wheels between the sizes of 15 and 17 inches. Plus sizing involves subtracting an inch or two from this sidewall in order to maintain the proper diameter when using larger wheels. This is possible thanks to the advent of low-profile rubber, which has made it much easier to produce tires that remain strong despite having narrower sidewalls.

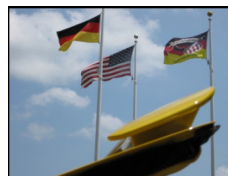
To give an example of how someone could move from a 15-inch wheel to an 18-inch wheel without sacrificing the overall diameter of the tire and wheel package, let’s take a look at a few details. A tire with a size of 195/65/R15 – that is to say, a 15-inch wheel with a section width (tread) of 195 millimeters and a sidewall that is 65 percent of that, or 126.75 millimeters – has an overall diameter of 634.49 millimeters once you add the wheel and tire together. If you were to go to an 18-inch wheel, you would have to subtract that extra 3 inches or so from the sidewall of the tire.

Since tires use metric measurements, converting those 3 inches to millimeters would mean a need to reduce the sidewall by a height of around 76.2 millimeters divided by two – since the sidewall adds height at both the top and the bottom of the tire and wheel package. A tire with a size of 205/45/R18 would do this quite nicely, giving us an overall diameter of 641.6 millimeters – well within the recommended three percent safety margin when moving up in tire size.

This simple formula should have you swapping in a new set of tires and wheels that will not only look great, but will also allow you to maintain the same standard of braking, handling and accelerating that you have come to expect from your car.

Volkswagen of Langhorne eNewsletter March 8, 2010 - permission granted to reprint *****

2010 Euro-American Auto Show



Do not forget to keep open July 10th (9am-3pm) for attendance at our annual car show. The site again this year is at the German-American Picnic Grove. **More cars, more fun, more food!**

As you know this is our biggest fund raiser and proceeds go to our German Language Student Scholarship Fund. Please consider sponsoring a trophy or donating items for our door prizes. We can always use your support in this manner. See a club officer or the AutoKlub Leader, Terry Huff, for an application and details. Regardless, stop by for a great time. Thanks in advance.

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Kurt Muller in Haiti after the quake (3rd from left)

MEMBER HELPS OUT QUAKE VICTIMS

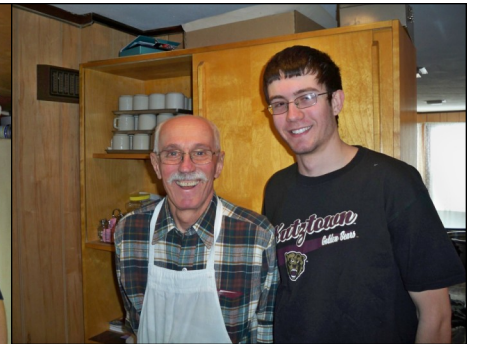
Member and past Adult German School Instructor, Kurt Müller, sent his regards from Port-au-Prince, Haiti. He was there on a relief mission and returned in March.

Kurt reported that one can not imagine the amount of destruction and suffering the residents have to endure.

He is pictured here with a Portuguese colonel, a Sri Lankan major, and staff from the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, and Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General.

Great job Kurt and God Bless your efforts from your friends at the Club.

Club Pictures Winter 2010 - Schlachtfest & the Verband Business Meeting in Chicago





Deutsche Sprach Schule & Tanze Gruppe

Seite (Youth & Adult)

ADULT LANGUAGE SCHOOL

We are currently gauging interest in resuming our adult language class. Club member Andy Franz provides both German language and cultural instruction in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Classes will meet for one hour on a mutually convenient weeknight. Contact us at this e-mail address >school@trentondonauschwabem.com< or 609-586-6109 for more information.

SPECIAL THANKS

The club would like to offer a special to the Lieblang Family for their generous donations to the children's language school, dance group and AutoKlub car show funds (proceeds go to the Student Language Scholarship Fund). ***

THE ADULT DANCE GROUP PRACTICES

Our newly formed adult dance group is hard at work (dance) creating new routines for future performances, including for the Landestreffen in August. You can witness the fun they are having during each Wednesday night's practice session. Some of us are valued spectators, while others wish they were old enough to partake, like Tina.



Club Events for the Spring 2010

EVENTS— DATES & TIMES

Come out and join us!

- ◆ Donauschwabenessen— Sunday, April 11, 1pm
- ◆ Muttertagessen (Mother's Day Dinner)—Sunday, May 2, 1pm
- ◆ Donauschwaben Ausflug (Canoe Trip) at NJ Pine Barrens - Sunday, May 23, meet at club 8am (tentative)
- ◆ Donauschwaben Wallfahrt (Genocide Memorial Service) —Sunday, June 6, meet at club 8am, St. Peter's Church in Philly 0:15am service
- ◆ Vatertagspiessbratenessen (Father's Day Pig Roast) - Sunday, June 13, 1pm

Please call Frau Eva Martini (609) 586-6109 or Frau Kim Walter (609) 585-8752 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.

VEREINIGUNG DER DONAUSCHWABEN
127 ROUTE 156, YARDVILLE, NJ 08620
DSATRENTON@YAHOO.COM
609-585-1932

PRESIDENT— JOSEPH BRANDECKER
PRESIDENT@TRENTONDONAUSCHWABEN.COM

Dennis J. Bauer, V.P., Editor & Club Genealogist
Email: donauschwaben@mail.com
215-945-9089

Hans Martini, Secretary
Email: Dsatrenton@aol.com
609-888-2762

www.trentondonauschwaben
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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!**

HAPPY BELATED EASTER

Happy Easter to all from our own Easter Bunny (Kathleen Lieblang). The kids at our annual Easter Dinner enjoyed the special Easter Egg hunt again this year.



OUR NEWLY WEDS (from page 5)

Congratulations and best wishes to the former Christa Tindall and Christopher Pullion who tied the knot in grand style this past March. Vows were exchanged at St. John's Catholic Church in Allentown, NJ, and a reception followed at the Trenton Country Club afterwards. The honeymoon found the couple in beautiful Hawaii.

Christa is Kulturreferentin at the Donauschwaben and is a German teacher at Pennsbury Middle School. She's often heard during the club's cultural programs reciting poems for the occasion with her sister, Katie. Christa is the daughter of club members Al and Liz Tindall and the granddaughter of club members Alex and Elfrieda Hepp. Her husband, Chris, is just wrapping up his medical school studies. We all look forward to being able to call him "Dr. Pullion" shortly!