

Trentoner Donauschwaben Nachrichten

Volume 6 Issue 1

January-March 2006



Points of Interest

- A German-American bodyguard was assigned to General George Washington.
- John Sutter, a German immigrant from Baden, unleashed the California Gold Rush on 1848.
- Margarthe von Schurz started the first kindergarten in the U.S. in 1855.
- Henry John Heinz, son of a Bavarian immigrant, introduced ketchup to America in 1876.
- German immigrants started the department stores, Saks, Macy's & Hecht's.
- John Augustus Roebling, a German architect, designed the Brooklyn Bridge.
- Actress Sandra Bullock speaks fluent German.

Source: United German-American Committee web site (www.ugac.org)

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OUR PRESIDENT & 1st LADY
At the Philly Donauschwaben Anniversary

PRESIDENT'S 2005 MESSAGE

On behalf of the Donauschwaben, my wife Caroline and I would like to wish all of our newsletter readers a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. We as a club can be very proud of the success we enjoyed in 2005. I would especially like to mention our growing German language program; the ever-increasing popularity of our regular monthly dinners; our wonderful newsletter (thank you, Dennis!); and a brand new undertaking: our AutoKlub's car show held at the German-Americans. What a great year we had!

And so, allow me to say a great big Danke Schön to everyone who contributed in any way to the club's accomplishments and well being over the past year. It is indeed a group effort to make ours a successful organization and we could not have done it without you. Let me also add that we are grateful to all the many long-distance Mitglieder from across these United States. With the continued and generous support of all our members, next year – our 50th – promises to be even better!

Nochmals, Frohe Weihnachten und Alles Gute im Neuen Jahr. Prosit 2006!

Joe Brandecker



2006 CULTURAL EVENTS

Mark those calendars for the following Donauschwaben cultural events presented by the Trenton Donauschwaben, the Philadelphia Donauschwaben and the United German-Hungarians.

8-9 April (Sat./Sun.) - Cultural Exhibit at the Philly Donauschwaben clubhouse in N.E. Philly. It will focus on the Donauschwaben history and culture of Hungary, Romania and the former Yugoslavia. If you are interested in displaying some of your cultural items, please contact Frau Käthe Marx of the Philly club at 215-342-5427 or our phone at 609-585-1932.

20-21 May (Sat. evening/Sun. morning) - Trachtenfest at the United German-Hungarian clubhouse in Oakford, PA. The three clubs will sponsor an evening of folk dancing, singing and fun. The award winning Cleveland Donauschwaben youth dance group has been invited as a special treat. A brunch is planned for Sunday morning. For information contact Herr Adam Mattes of the Philly club at 215-677-3248 or our phone at 609-585-1932.



Club Matters & Members

HUFF'S ON THE MOVE

Terry and Mary Beth Huff's children certainly have been on the move recently.

Son Patrick graduated from Penn State in 2003 with a BAS degree in Tele-Communications. He works in Newtown, PA.

Daughter Ashley graduated in July 2005 from Jean Madeline Aveda Institute. She is getting ready to take her state boards for her Beautician license in January, 2006.

Son Colin graduated in December 2005 from Wyotech in Blairsville, PA in auto mechanics. He has been accepted into both the Audi and the BMW advanced mechanics schools. He will probably go with BMW, a six month program. Sehr Gut!

We are sure that grandparents Harold and Pat Huff are also proud of the Huff youth.



Deer Camp (Tales of the Great White "Hunters" from the Trenton Donauschwaben)

What happens in deer camp stays in deer camp. So what I am about to tell you **may** or **may not** have really happened. The names have been changed, to protect **me**. They are *Tiny*, *Chef Julia Child*, *Speedy*, *Key Stone Cop*, *One-eye-Jack* and *yours truly*, *The Unknown Comic*.

We arrived at camp after a slow long drive with the final destination being somewhere above Williamsport, PA. We unpacked the trucks and settled in for a bite to eat and some adult beverage. This may or may not have transpired.

Next, I attempted to erect my tree stand, solo. Notice *attempted to erect*? Luckily there was still some adult beverage back at camp to soothe my ego. Key Stone Cop agreed to assist this time out, with nearly the same result. After only one scar on the cranium, the stand was up and waiting for the buck. After some time, most members were present and accounted for. The fun could begin. The evening was filled with good food prepared by our resident camp Chef Julia (always does an excellent job).

After an early night and early rise, we prepared for the grueling hunt that lay ahead of us. The guns were sighted, the adrenaline was flowing and we were ready. We awoke really early (it was still dark!) and waited for first light. After checking my eyelids for holes, I was all set until I heard my first shots. Speedy was in the woods. Bang! Not mine! I heard some more shots, a little closer. TOO CLOSE. Key Stone asked if it was my shot. They were really too close. It was now time to visit the out-house! Obviously my colleague, up field, did not know I was there. He also missed the Big Buck. GOOD!

Tuesday was another early rise, but a bit later. The usual trip into the woods resulted in no deer again. So I decided to take a walk and be one with nature. Something about a horse and water comes to mind at this point. If there is anything about a 220 lbs. man in the woods, quiet is not one of them. Still, nothing!

By this time Chef Julia had gotten the only deer (a doe)

in camp. Nice shot and congratulations were in order. Tiny and One-Eye cleaned the deer while Chef Julia went off to provide us with more nourishment. He did not have the same luck. By that time it was time for Speedy and I to head back to the warm confines of our homes and leave the others to fend for themselves a few more days. The *really* good parts have been omitted in order to protect the guilty.

Remember, what happens at deer camp, stays at deer camp. So did my Deer! The Unknown Comic (Stefan Brandecker)

German-Hungarian Filled Rolled Cookies (Kipferln/Kifli)

5¾ Cups Flour
¼ Cup Sugar
1 lb sweet butter, softened (preferably 2 tubs of Breakstone or Penn Maid)
6 eggs

- *Mix the above ingredients together, like a pie crust.
- *Dissolve .1 package of instant yeast in ¼ cup warm milk. When dissolved add enough cold milk to equal 2/3 cup.
- *Make well in flour mixture and add yeast mixture plus 6 egg yolks.
- *Knead until soft and smooth like a ball of butter. Divide into 4 balls and let stand for 1½ hours, covering them with a towel.
- *Before you use each ball, knead each one until soft and smooth again.
- *Use a little flour on board and using a rolling pin, roll 1/8". Cut strips 1½" wide. Cut the strips to be 2" long. Place filling on the side of each piece and roll. Make sure the flap seals well, placing it on the bottom of an un-greased cookie sheet.
- *Bake in a 350 degree oven for 15-18 minutes, until light brown.
- *Cool and do not cover with powder sugar until ready to serve.

Nut Filling

1 small package of walnuts, ground
2 tablespoons of plain bread crumbs
3 tablespoons of sugar
1/8 teaspoon of ground cloves

Heat ½ cup of milk. Add milk a little at a time to the above mixture until it is thick like oatmeal.

Apricot Filling

2 packages of dried apricots, cut into small pieces.
Cook cut up apricots in a little water on low heat until soft. Add sugar for taste. Mash with potato masher. You can also use prune jelly.

Recipe of Karl Flesch's Grandmother, Apollonia Klein Flesch.

Genealogy & History Section

The estimated population figures of the Danube Swabians by Karl Weber:

In 1918 = 1, 550, 000

In 1941:

In Hungary = 580,000

in Yugoslavia = 510,000

in Romania = 310,000

Survivors as of 1945:

in Hungary = 530,000

in Yugoslavia = 425,000

in Romania = 280,000

Expelled or evacuated before the war ended:

in Hungary = 50,000

in Yugoslavia = 200,000

in Romania = 50,000

Expelled from Hungary in 1946 = 220,000

Escaped from Yugoslavia 1946-1954 = 80,000

DS soldiers killed in action in WWII:

in Hungary = 80,000

in Yugoslavia = 90,000

in Romania = 50,000

Current DS population

in Hungary = 180,000

in old Yugoslavian areas = 10,000

Romania = 80,000 (?) (thousands left in the recent years)



Source: Rosina Schmidt at www.dvhh.org/hrastovac

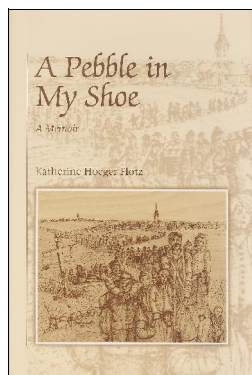
Kula Familienbuch Coming Soon

Look for the release of the *Kula (Batschka) Familienbuch 1760-1944* in the near future. Contact Matthias Klingwarth, Simbacher Str.12, D-84375 Kirchdorf am Inn, Germany. Our member John Feldenzer in MT will keep us updated on its release via his web site (www.feldenzer.com). Thanks John!

Filipowa Ortssippenbuch 2— Update CD

Johann Perschi, (Junkerstr. 78, D-73249 Wernau, Germany) just released the *Filipowa Familienbuch 2* update on CD. It is available from him for 10 Euros. Write him at the above noted address.

Book Sale



We have only have a few copies of the book "A Peeble in My Shoe" by Katherine Flotz left to sell to our membership. This is a most interesting account of one young person's experiences as a Donauschwob in the aftermath of WWII. Cost of the hard cover book is just \$25. Please e-mail, call or talk to someone at the club to reserve your copy soon.

Membership News

2006 Club Officers & Staff

Joseph Brandecker— President

Robert Walter— V.P. for Facilities

Kim Walter— V.P. for Human Resources

Hans Martini— Corresponding Secretary

Eva Martini— Recording Secretary

Ludwig Jakober— Treasurer

Josefa Brandecker— President Ladies' Auxilliary

Terry Huff-AutoKlub Leader

Harold Parr— President of German Language School *Melanie L. Bauer*— Newsletter Copy Editor, Asst. AutoKlub Leader

Dana Miles/Edward Soden/Terry Penrith— Website Committee *Adam Martini/Andy Franz/Mike Lenyo*— Staff Writers

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



Danke Schön Andy!

The whole Adult German Language class would like to thank Andy Franz for being our instructor this past semester. Not only did we learn the German language but we also learned about German, Austrian and Hungarian history and culture. But most of all we learned a lot about our Donauschwaben heritage. *Wir danken unserem Lehrer!* See you next semester in March 2006.

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

Congratulations: Brittany Brandecker celebrated her 16th birthday at the Clubhouse on 26 November 2005.

Jason Bauer recently was appointed to the Bucks County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) (www.bucksares.org) Planning Group as an Assistant Emergency Coordinator. He will be responsible for the Lower Bucks area, lending support to served agencies including the county and township municipalities, the American Red Cross, and charitable events.

Thomas Goodwin was recently elected to the Hamilton Township (Mercer County, NJ) Council. Tom is the son of member **Dave Goodwin** (Palankaer).

Luisa Martini who recently received the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Gregory the Great in Hamilton. The Bishop of Trenton, John Smith, presided over the ceremony and her uncle, club member **Michael Galati**, served as her sponsor.

Have a listen! Not many of us know that club member, **Peter Kernast, Jr.** has been hosting a folk music radio show on WTSR (91.3 FM) for about 15 years now. He does an interesting mix of some very good music that's presented commercial free. His show is on each Monday evening at 6 PM.

Speaking of music, don't forget **Ted Hierl's** German Radio Program on 1540 AM each Sunday from 10 in the morning until 12. He does all of our club announcements and plays the best German hits, past and present.



Get Well: Member **Carol Bauer** on her recovery from Shingles, **Bob Walter** with a sprained ankle and **Ray Martini** on his recovery from surgery in December 2005. Also a get well to **Peter Kernast** and **Dayna Galati**.

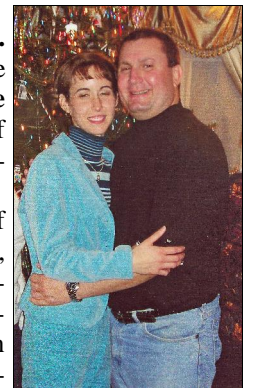
Engagement: Dennis J. and Donna L. Bauer, Levittown, PA, announce the engagement of their daughter, **Melanie L. Bauer**, to **Stefan Brandecker**, son of **Josef and Josefa Brandecker**, Yardville, NJ.

The bride-to-be, a graduate of Neshaminy High School, Langhorne, PA, has several office management certificates from the Bucks County Community College. She is a Construction Contracts Processor at Oldcastle Pre-cast, Inc. in Morrisville, PA.

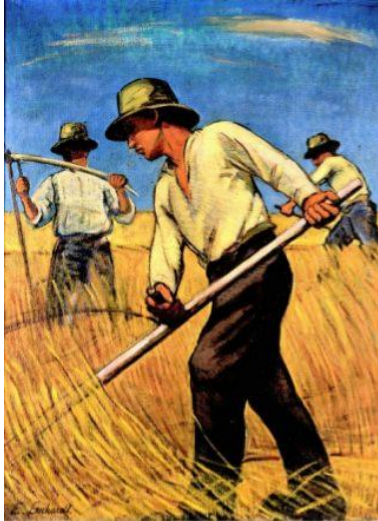
Stefan Brandecker, a graduate of Steinert High School, Hamilton, NJ, is a Facilities Evaluator for the NJ Department of Community Affairs. He also served in the U.S. Air Force.

The couple is planning a 2006 wedding.

Special thanks to: Gordon Myers, father-in-law of member **Dennis Bauer**, for his time and effort on 16 November 2005 for trouble shooting our basement freezer and our bar beer tap. With his help **Steve Brandecker** and Dennis got the beer tap working just in time for our Fall Schlachtfest! The Becks flowed well again. But unfortunately the basement freezer "ist kaput!"



Deutsche Ecke, Seite 1



Ährenklauben (sammeln)
By Adam Martini

Das Ährenklauben (sammeln) war bei uns in Bukin eine Tätigkeit die sich jedes Jahr wiederholte. Meist waren es ärmere Leute die auf diese Weise Frucht (Weizen) verschafften. Man konnte damit das Geflügel füttern, oder auch, wenn jemand viel sammelte Weizen für Mehl eintauschen.

Ich, als Kind, wartete auf die Erntezeit, denn gleich danach kam das Ährenklauben. Die Grossbauern mit ihren grossen Feldern, waren nicht stark interessiert was auf den Stoppelfeldern geschah, obwohl man doch um Erlaubnis fragen musste.

Allein durfte ich nicht aufs Feld gehen, aber jemand in unserer Familie dazu bewegen mitzugehen war überaus schwierig. Für meine Grossmutter war diese Tätigkeit nur für arme Leute da, für meinen Vater so etwas kam gar nicht in Frage. So war es meine Mutter die man überzeugen musste, wie schön es auf den Stoppelfeldern ist und wieviel Ähren dort herumlagen die sonst eingeckert werden, ausser man sammelte sie bevor das Feld geckert wurde. Ich wusste auch das meine Mutter eine Schwäche hatte für das Ährenklauben.

So kam es, dass Mutter und ich für kurze Zeit Ährenklauben gingen. Für mich war das grossartig. Ich hatte eine ganze Liste

von Erlebnisse die dort auf den Felder auf uns warteten. Die Vorfreude wurde nun zum Erlebnis. Das Stoppelfeld wartete auf uns. Ich konnte es fast nicht aushalten bis wir endlich am Feldrand standen und den eigenartigen Geruch einatmeten.

Jetzt musste ein guter Platz auf dem Feld gefund werden wo noch niemand war und dann ging es los. Oft war der Teil des Feldes das am Feldweg angrenzte schon ganz leer und man konnte nichts mehr finden, aber an den weiten Enden da gab es so manche gute Überraschungen. Öfters überraschten wir ein Hase der zick-zack davon lief, auch Rebhühner und verschiedene Vögel konnte man zu sehen bekommen. Alles feierte Erntezeit.

Manchmal wurde der Rand (Feldrand) auch gemäht und da gab es grosse und starke Ähren im Unkraut. Dort eilte ich immer hin und sammelte diese schönen und grossen Ähren. Man hielt den Ährenbündel in einer Hand mit der Ähre oben und das Stroh nach unten, wen man genug hatte, dann wurde der Bündel unter den Ähren gebunden und auf einen Haufen gelegt. Daheim gab es dann Weizen für die Hühner und Stroh für die Haustiere.

Dieser Gebrauch wiederholte sich jeden Sommer, es waren die Erntetage der Armen, für uns Kinder aber war es viel mehr. Die grossen Stoppelfelder mit den Strohhäufen (Haufen). Das Barfusslaufen auf den Stoppeln war für uns Kinder ein Spiel, denn unsere Fusssohlen waren wie Leder bei der Nacherntezeit.

Der schwarze, reiche Boden der Batschka, sowie die heissen Sommertage und kühlen Nächte, das ausserordentliche Können unserer Bauern diese gute Erde zu nützen aber nicht zu runieren, machte die Batschka weit über die Grenzen bekannt. Schon als Kind liebte ich die Erde unserer Heimat. Wir spielten in den Strassengraben, meine Freunde und ich, auf den Feldwegen, den Weingarten, überall wo man Löcher

graben konnte um dann im Staub zu spielen.

Ja so war es in Bukin. Wir lebten mit einem Fuss im Paradies damals. die Verbindung zu unserer Erde war wirklich. Der Kontakt war direkt und die Belohnung war reichlich.

Auch heute gibt es Möglichkeiten sich der Natur zu nähern, sei es durch den Gemüsegarten oder den Blumenbeeten, durch zelteln oder wandern, durch Obstgärtnerei oder Holzarbeit. Dieses naturnahe Leben der Donauschwaben half ihnen ihrem Leben Sinn und Richtung zu geben!



Newsletter German Lesson

Ich habe ein Zimmer reserviert.—I have reserved a room.

Ein Kissen und eine Decke.—A pillow and a blanket.

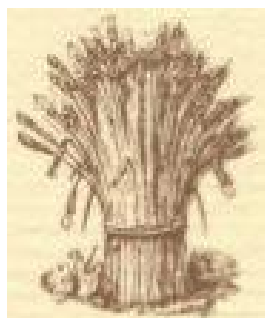
Wo ist mein Gepäck? - Where is my luggage?

Da ist eine Maus in der Küche.—There is a mouse in the kitchen.

Es geht schneller über die Autobahn.—It is faster by the freeway.

Darüber spricht er nie.—He never talks about it.

Deutsche Ecke, Seite 2



Gathering the wheat...

by Adam Martini, translation by staff

Gathering the un-harvested wheat was an activity that occurred every year in Bukin. This was actually a good way for many poorer folk to obtain much-needed grain. It would help feed their chickens, and if they had enough, they could barter it for flour.

As a child, I anxiously awaited harvest time as it was closely followed this activity. The largest farmers in the area weren't much interested in what happened in their fields once the harvest was in (though one still had to ask permission). I wasn't allowed to go into the fields alone, but getting someone from the family interested in accompanying me was almost impossible. For my grandmother this activity was only for poor folks and I wouldn't even get a response from my dad. So that left me with my mother! I needed to convince her that it was a shame so many good wheat stalks were just lying about on the fields... and that we had to get them before the plows buried everything under. I knew too that my mom really did like gathering the wheat.

So it came to pass that my mother and I went to the fields for a short time. I dreamily imagined a whole list of things I would encounter that day. I had only to actually be there for my joy to be complete. The anticipation was almost too much to endure – adventure was waiting for us! Finally we were standing on the edge of the field, breathing in that special aroma.

At this point, it was necessary to find a place no one had yet gone. Often the parts traversed by footpaths were quite empty. More remote areas, however, were filled with surprises. Often we startled rabbits that would then run

zig-zagging away. Other times birds would fly up and scatter at our approach. It felt to me like one big har-



vest celebration!

Sometimes the edges of the fields were cut so that one could find large wheat stalks entangled in the weeds. I usually rushed to these spots and gathered as many of these choice stalks as possible. One held the bundle in one hand with the ear above and the straw part below. When there was enough, the bundle was tied up and laid in a small pile. Back home there would be extra wheat for the chickens and straw for the house pets.

This tradition would repeat itself each summer. While it really was a day of harvest for the less fortunate, for us kids it was much more. The stubble fields with the big piles of harvested wheat lying about always looked so impressive. Walking barefoot on those stubble fields was like a game for us and our soles would be like leather by the end of the harvest time. The rich, black earth of the Batschka, with its hot summer days and cool nights, and the extraordinary skill of farmers who knew just how to get the most from the soil gave our area a great reputation throughout Europe.

Even as a child I loved the earth of our beloved "Heimat". My friend and I played in the street trenches, on the field paths, in the vineyards, and anywhere else we could dig a hole in that wonderful earth. And so it was in Bukin, my hometown. It truly felt as if we had one foot in paradise back then. The connection one felt to the earth was so real. The contact was direct and the reward was immediate.

Today, there are many opportunities to get close to nature, whether it is in the vegetable garden or in flow-

erbeds, whether camping or hiking, whether picking fruit or even... working in wood! This closeness to nature always gave the life of the Donauschwaben meaning and direction. It was something that always served them well.



1828 HUNGARIAN COUNTIES with LARGE GERMAN SETTLEMENTS



Bacs Bodrog (Batschka)
Baranya Swabisch Turkei
Torontal (Western Banat)
Tolna
Temes (Central Banat)
Fejer (Alba)
Szatmar
Komárom
Győr & Moson
Szerem (Syrmia/Srem)
Krassó-Szörény
Veszprém



Our Autoklub Travels



Volkswagen and Porsche, Perfect Together...

Club members who have 10W-40 motor oil running through their veins instead of blood know the historical connection between Porsche and Volkswagen as a celebrated fact. Indeed, it was one of the gods of the automotive pantheon, Prof. Ferdinand Porsche, who designed the "People's Car" in the 1930s. What became known as the "Beetle" over here and "Käfer" over there eventually sold 21.3 million copies before production finally stopped in 2003. Since the earliest days, Porsche and VW have enjoyed a close working relationship in almost every aspect of the car business at one time or another, including production, engineering, marketing and just about any other way one can imagine.

Still, VW has been the big brother and the Porsche the speedy little brother in this pairing of two independent and separate companies. When svelte 911s were selling by the few thousands, popular Beetles were selling by the many hundreds of thousands. Then, in the early 1990s, Volkswagen almost bought the very nearly bankrupt Porsche Company whose sports cars just weren't selling at the time. Despite the problems, however, Porsche stayed afloat – if just barely – and remained independent.

Cut to the year 2005. Volkswagen has had difficulties of late as it goes head to head against ferocious Asian competition. To keep the show on the road while new and better cars emerge from the pipeline and, above all, to keep shareholders happy, the Wolfsburg based company needs some help. Over at Porsche, meanwhile, things have never looked better. Lots of profitable vehicles have rolled out of the showrooms putting plenty of Euros in the corporate piggy bank at Zuffenhausen. Despite having a great "cash position", however, the dilemma is that VW is an essential partner for Porsche, just as it has always been. What to do?

Well, as it turns out, you take out the checkbook and spend 3 1/2 billion dollars for a 20% stake in VW. Small Porsche buying part of big VW is a transaction that would have been absolutely unimaginable not that long ago. In the end, however, VW gets a much needed boost, Porsche avoids any production/development/supply problems, and everyone is happy. And so, fans of the motoring world, it's apparent that the fortunes of these two firms seems destined to remain connected for years to come. What started out as a few good ideas from old Professor Porsche decades ago are still making automotive history today!

Source: Panorama Magazine, Nov '05

GREATEST HIGH PERFORMANCE CAR - PORSCHE 911

Auto Express magazine named the Porsche 911 (2000-2005) the greatest performance car of all time from a pool of 60 cars over the last 50 years. The magazine is based in Great Britain.

PORSCHE TO HELP VW

In order to protect Volkswagen, Europe's largest auto-maker, from a hostile takeover, Porsche will buy 20 % of Volkswagen stocks. Rumor has it that Kirk Kerkorian, a Las Vegas hotel owner, wanted to take advantage of VW's low share price, so Porsche will step in.

Porsche is only the 24th leading auto maker in size but will come to fellow German auto maker VW's rescue.

Source: VWCA Autoist, November/December 2005 issue.

WORLD'S FASTEST & MOST COSTLY AUTO NOW OUT, A VW!

Who would have thought that German Auto maker Volkswagen would hold title to the world's most costly and fastest car. Costing \$1.2 million, with a top speed of over 250 mph, it clocks 62 mph in just 2.5 seconds! (Steve Brandecker, quicker than your Vette, Ja?)

Just released, the Volkswagen Bugatti Veyron will arrive in the U.S.A. early next year. It is a sporty two seater with a 1001 horsepower engine and four turbochargers (Dennis Bauer, three more than your VW!). It has a seven speed transmission and is all-wheel-drive and as expected comes with front diffuser flaps, a tail wing, spoilers and three suspension setting for different speeds (below 130, 130-230 and above 230 mph).

Only one per week will come off the French auto line until 300 are produced. A real collector's item I'll bet. So far 45 have been sold, most in the U.S.A (Jim Brunner are you one?). Only six dealerships in the U.S.A. will sell this rocket, three in California and one in Miami, FL, Greenwich, CT and Troy, MI.

Move over Ford GT & Chrysler Viper! Where is the Autobahn?

Source: AT&T Worldnet News 12/15/05.

AUTOKLUB SHOW COMMITTEE

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

The show will be held Saturday, 8 July 2006 at the German-American Picnic Grove again. The committee plans it's first organizational meeting with our co-sponsors, the German-American Club, in January 2006.

SOME HELP with 2006 MEDICARE COVERAGE

By Mike Lenyo

Big Changes for Healthcare of Senior Citizens are on the Way!

For those Donauschwaben members over the age of 65, big changes to your health insurance are on the way beginning January 1, 2006. The US Healthcare system for Senior Citizens is changing and you may save some money in the process. As with most government programs, it's not a simple process. You will need to learn about your options to make the right decisions. Allow me to provide some background before delving into the details.

In the US we have two National Healthcare programs. (Someone please tell this to Hillary Clinton before she is elected President in 2008 and ruins them....). Our program for those considered low income is Medicaid. We have another program for those over the age of 65, the 'seniors', known as Medicare. An easy way to remember this is "*Aid for the Poor, Care for the Elderly.*"

All health insurance plans consist of two main parts:

- Medical Insurance (which covers doctor visits, outpatient procedures and hospitalization)
- Prescription Drug Coverage (drugs received at the pharmacy or through the mail)

Medicaid (for the poor) covers both medical insurance and prescription drug coverage, while Medicare (for the elderly) only covers medical insurance costs but *not* prescription drug coverage. This is changing with the addition of 'Medicare Part D'. It is the first new national entitlement program in over 30 years. You pay for it with your taxes so you should benefit from it when you pay for your medicines. The upcoming changes affect all senior citizens.

Remember, the most important thing you can do is talk to your family members and find out what's right for you. To help you and your family, the government set up contact numbers and other resources :

- **Toll Free Hotline : 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)**
- **Medicare Website : www.medicare.gov**

By logging onto the website (www.medicare.gov) you can even type in the names of all your medicines and the system will recommend which plans have the best coverage for the medicines you take. You also must understand that you will still need to pay some of these costs – it's not all free!

If you join in 2006, for covered drugs you will pay:

- A monthly premium (varies depending on the plan, but estimated at about \$37 in 2006)
- The first \$250 per year for your prescriptions. This is called your deductible. After you pay the \$250 yearly

deductible, here's how the costs work:

- You pay 25% of your yearly drug costs from \$250 to \$2,250, and your plan pays the other 75% of these costs. After the total cost for the year hits \$2,250 (the sum of what you pay AND what Medicare pays in total), then:
- You pay the next \$2,850 in drug costs. That's right! It's a lot of money, so don't forget that part! This is known as the coverage gap, or the 'doughnut hole'. After you spend \$2,850 and your total costs for the year hit \$5,100 (the sum of what you pay AND what Medicare pays in total), then:
- You pay 5% of your drug costs (or a small co-payment) for the rest of the calendar year.
- You can spend as much as \$3,600 out-of-pocket. Your plan pays the rest. So this plan will cost you a maximum of \$3,600 for the year, plus 5% of anything above that.

Confused? Most people are. That is why you should learn all you can now and make a good decision.

For those over the age of 65, your choices basically come down to this:

- If you currently have a good prescription drug benefit from your health insurance plan from a current or former employer that is better than anything offered by Medicare Part D, you don't need to do anything. Keep what you have. This is the best option if you have good insurance.
- If you do not have any prescription drug coverage, you need to enroll in Medicare Part D to get coverage. It will save you money when you purchase your medications.
- If you are on Medicaid and you are over 65, you will be automatically enrolled by the government into a Medicare Part D prescription Drug Plan.
- You can start enrolling as of November 15, 2005. You have until May 15, 2006 to enroll.
- If you wait until AFTER May 1, 2006, your monthly premium will INCREASE 1% per month and continue to increase each month. Don't wait! Get enrolled now!
- How do you enroll? Call the toll free hotline at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), or get on the computer and go to the website www.medicare.gov

So, all this can be confusing, but it is important for your health AND your wallet. Good luck and stay healthy! We would like to see you all at those great Donauschwaben Dinners and events for many years to come!

Note: Mike Lenyo is Associate Director for Sales Operations at the Bristol Meyers Squibb Pharmaceutical Co. We would like to thank Mike for writing the above article about the new Medicare changes. We hope it will be of a benefit to all the senior members of our club. What a great service. Danke Mike!!

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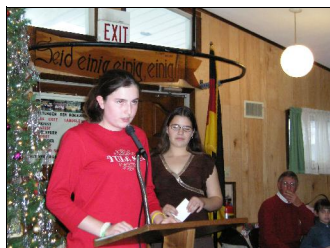
Club Items for Sale

We have great looking shirts, jackets and hats in a variety of colors all with the Trenton Donauschwaben logo. These are important elements of every well-dressed member's ensemble! Start off 2006 by showing the club colors! Please check out our display at the club or contact a club officer for more information. *****

Did You Know? Our club has a long history of woodworkers!

- *Our past president, Adam Martini, was a woodworker for 50 years before retiring. He works with son Hans at the shop.
- *Although he has a degree in History from Rutgers University, our club secretary, Hans Martini, is a woodworker like his father and grandfather (Martini's Woodwork). The Martini's do a lot of work for Princeton University.
- *Our adult German language teacher, Andy Franz, was also a woodworker, turned teacher. He taught at the Princeton Day School for many years before retiring.
- *Our Steve Brandecker was a woodworker during his tour of duty with the U.S. Air Force.
- *Member Georg Majer is an Austrian trained woodworker who works with his son Roland at their company, MK Woodworking.
- *Member Manfred Grotzke is now retired after a long career as a German trained woodworker.
- *Members Mira Nakashima-Yarnall, Kevin Nakashima and Jon Yarnall are principals in the world famous Nakashima furniture making company (it's nice to have celebrity members!). It is interesting to note that club members Adam, Andy, Manfred, Hans, Ray Martini and Steve Mayer all worked at the Nakashima's at one time or another! Thanks for the job.

Club Fall-Winter Pictures (Schlachtfest in November and the Christmas Party in December)



Deutsche Sprach Schule Seite (Adult & Youth)

A St. Nicholas Day Surprise

By Adam H. Martini (age 11), Canton, GA, school report
 Son of Ray & Marie Martini – Georgia Continent

It was the eve of December 6 and the family had gathered to prepare for Saint Nicholas Day. Mom was making traditional cookies in our small white kitchen, Dad was shining Kathleen and my shoes, and Kathleen and I were singing, "We shall soon get rewards or be sacked, depending if we're good or bad." in the bathroom as we got ready for bed. We were also practicing poems to recite if we saw St. Nicholas. You could smell the German chocolate wafting through the house. Our large yellow living room was glowing with the warmth and joy from our lit fireplace. After we were all done with our preparations, we put our shoes outside our rooms and went to sleep. The dreams of goodies, fruits, and nuts were dancing in my head while I slept.

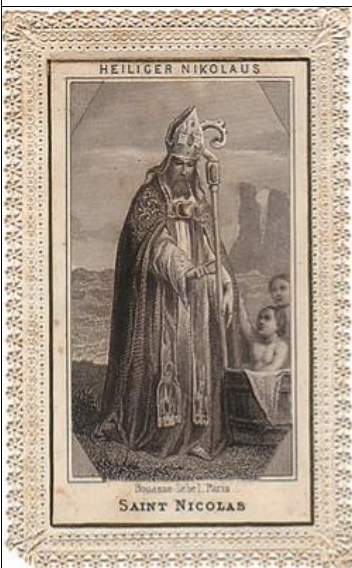
Next thing I knew, I was disturbed and awoken by a strange noise. It was the middle of the night. I thought I heard the sound of chains rattling. At first, I thought I was crazy and started to go back to sleep when I heard it again. I needed to get to the bottom of this. I crept toward the banister and peered over the side. I saw two shadowy figures in the foyer of our house and I knew it wasn't my parents.



One shadow was darker than the other with some red streaks on his body. He wore a mask and was in chains being pulled by small angels. He was carrying a sack that could fit anyone who was bad inside. The second figure was obviously a Bishop with his red and gold robes and hat. He had a long white beard that touched the floor and he carried a tall staff that looked a lot like his hat at the top. "Be quiet Krampus" he said. "You'll wake the whole house." Krampus replied, "But St. Nicholas, I can't help it. These chains will make noise at any movement."

I rubbed my eyes to see if I was seeing things but they were still there. They carried on a whole conversation as I stood in the dark. Then St. Nicholas looked up and saw me. They ran up the stairs to get a better look at me. Star-struck, I recited my poem that I had practiced. "Let's bag him!" Krampus said after the poem had ended. I ran into my room, closed the door with a thud, and fell asleep.

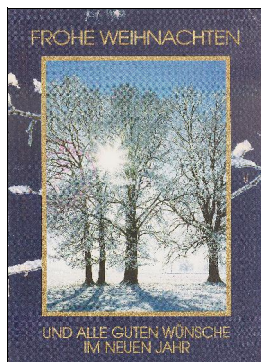
I awoke the next morning still not knowing if it was all a dream. When I opened the door, I found goodies in my shoes but no sign of the two shadowy figures from the night before. The memory of the night stayed in my head as I sang my song throughout the entire day and remembered the good deeds of the real St. Nicholas who lived many decades ago.



YOUTH CHRISTMAS PLAY

Our Youth German Language Class presented a Nativity play in German on 4 December 2005 during the St. Nikolausfeier at the club.

We enjoyed a large turn out of both members and guests for this special annual event. The youth under the direction of Eva Martini and Kim Walter did a fantastic job.



Club Events for the Winter 2006

EVENTS— DATES & TIMES

Come out and join us!

- **Winteressen (Sauerbraten), Sunday, 15 January 2006, 1 pm.**
- **General Versammlung (General Membership meeting), Sunday, 29 January 2006, 1pm.**
- **Schlachtfest, Sunday, 5 February 2006, 1 & 3pm. Come out on Saturday and help us make sausages and sarma (stuffed cabbage).**
- **Schiausflug (Ski trip weekend), Crystal Brook Lodge, Catskills, NY, 24-25 February 2006.**
- **Donauschwabenessen (Gulasch), Sunday, 12 March 2006, 1pm.**

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.

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

PRESIDENT— JOSEPH BRANDECKER
PRESIDENT@TRENTONDONAUSCHWABEN.COM
609-585-9001

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.
trentondonschwaben.com

Vielen Dank !

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



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

Auf Wiedersehen bei den Donauschwaben!

St. Nikolaus Lives!

Yes it's true, dear readers, we saw him with our own eyes. In fact, if it wasn't true, that nefarious creature of gloom, grumpy ol' Krampus, might still be wandering about the clubhouse looking for another unsuspecting coal recipient. Okay, straight to the burning question on everyone's mind: "Who got the coal!?"

This year no less than three not-so-lucky attendees were awarded the dubious honor. The first two were Sofi Walter and Frau Helga Kusenko. Now everyone knows both are well behaved, so at that point some of us began to worry that Krampus might be losing his touch (heck, he didn't even look Herr Jakober's way and we all know how coal-worthy he is!).

Then came the last person to get the infamous little lump of black: a guest of the Tindall family by the name of Chris. (Thanks to the entire Tindall family for pointing Chris out to Krampus so demonstratively.) Unlike the other two above, few of us really knew the polite young gentleman and assumed it was just another Krampus misfire. *However*, later Chris admitted he was not a NY Giants fan and thereby hurt the delicate sensitivities of at least one person and perhaps as many as two people watching the football game on the club's TV. "Krampus was right", the mob (of one person) shouted! J Thanks to everyone who played along with this club-favorite tradition.

After the Krampus drama was over, good old St. Nikolaus came to the rescue. Goodies were then handed out to all of our wonderful children and young people. St. Nick made himself available for pictures, including one with the youngest member present that day, Evan Jacob Bauer - just three months old! Many thanks to both Bob Walter and Steve Brandecker for helping bring Krampus and St. Nick to the clubhouse.

Yes, indeed, good people, the club's 2005 St. Nikolausfeier was another well attended success. Good food, good singing by everyone in the hall, great poem readings and lots of Christmas cheer meant the spirit of the season was everywhere present at the Donauschwaben. We especially enjoyed the Nativity skit presented by the German School. Our youngsters were all dressed in appropriate costumes (thanks Kim) and recited their parts most ably. Let's note the very nice solo singing by Luisa who played the part of Mary, the Mother of Jesus. All in all it was a wonderful way to honor our German *and* our Christian heritage. After all, that's what Christmas is all about! **Frohe Weihnachten!**