

Trentoner Donauschwaben Nachrichten

Volume 7 Issue 1

January-March 2007



Points of Interest

- The Brothers Grimm were Jacob & Wilhelm Grimm.
- They were Hessian professors known for their collection of German folk and fairy tales.
- Jacob was born in 1785 and died in 1863, while Wilhelm was born in 1786 and died in 1859. They attended Friedrichs Gymnasium in Kadseel and the University of Marburg.
- They were professors at the University of Göttingen.
- They collected over 200 of these tales, including, Cinderella, The Frog Prince, Hansel & Gretel, Little Red Riding Hood, the Pied Piper, Rumpelstiltskin, Rapunzel, Sleeping Beauty and Tom Thumb.
- They also helped standardize the German language through their work on a German dictionary, the Deutsches Wörterbuch.
- Source: Andy Franz & Wikipedia.

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Our Club Celebrates 50 Years!

A Golden Evening. We can think of no better way to describe our club's 50th anniversary banquet. Nearly 200 members and friends took part in the celebration at the Arbeiter club this past October. It turned out to be one of the most enjoyable and unforgettable club events in recent memory. What an honor for our organization!

The event began in the customary manner, with prayers and national anthems leading the way. A moment of silence followed for the many loved ones no longer with us. As the Arbeiter catered dinner started, the Tony Walter Combo began playing what turned out to be an evening of fine music. Members and guests were also able to visit our "culture corner" featuring a club history slide show, an AutoKlub display, genealogical information and much more. What a treat!

The program started in earnest with the introduction of the Kindergruppe of the United German Hungarians. With the boys clad in traditional black vests and the girls in a most attractive long, Austrian style dirndel, the group danced and sang their way right into the hearts of all in attendance. Kudos to all!

An appearance by our own Kinderschule was also a big hit. The youngsters played a skit with each having to say a few lines in German. Singing rounded up our youngsters' enjoyable and fun-filled presentation. What a fine group of youngsters we have!

Poems and essays featuring Donauschwaben themes were also presented at various points throughout the evening. They helped show just how much we value and celebrate our German culture and heritage.

Between the various cultural performances, the club took the opportunity to recognize a number of wonderful Donauschwaben members for their service to the organization. Among those awarded that evening was one of the club's most cherished members, Frau Käte Pfann. She received a "lifetime achievement" plaque for all of her efforts over the decades (though it was made clear that this was NOT a retirement award!). She and the other awards' recipients have the heartfelt thanks of a grateful Donauschwaben

club.

Toward the end of the program, our own Philly-Trenton dance group took to the dance floor. The young ladies and gents whirled and twirled to the rhythms of the balalaika, the accordion and other traditional music. The group's grand finale was the "Schau Zu" or "Watch this" Polka. Halfway through the number, dancers went into the audience and "recruited" new dance partners. They all had to "Schau Zu" to pick up the dance steps which all succeeded in doing... to varying degrees! Everyone had a great time and the dance group's performance was enthusiastically applauded.

A bit more about the nearly 200 folks who turned out for the event that evening. Much has been said about "inter-club cooperation" being a key to the future well-being of the greater German community. Well, if that's the case then the large number of guests from neighboring clubs should make even the cynics happy! Thanks go to the Philly Donauschwaben, the German American Society and the Arbeiters and especially the United German Hungarians for the large group they brought to the event. We were truly delighted with the turnout and hope this is a harbinger of even better things to come.

Among the guests who spoke at the event was honorary club member Ted Hierl, long-time German radio host and German Heritage Festival chairman. Ted commented on the multi-generational character of the three area Donauschwaben clubs in general and ours in particular. "Where" he said, "can you go to an anniversary banquet and see so many children in attendance?" We all appreciated Ted's very complimentary remarks... and had a good laugh at Fred Gauss's rejoinder that it's "only because we're too cheap to hire babysitters!" Such was the friendly tone and tenor of this great evening for our club.

And so, dear readers, the club's 50th Anniversary Banquet was a great success by every measure. It was a fitting salute to an organization for which so many have worked so hard over the past half century. The Donauschwaben is honored so many turned out to salute the club and thankful for all who helped make the event possible. Prosit and 50 More!

Club Matters & Members

Batschka Coordinator Position Filled!!

The Donauschwaben Village Helping Hands Administration Team (DONAUSCHWABEN-VILLAGES@rootsweb.com) is very pleased to announce that Dennis J. Bauer has volunteered to serve as our DVHH Batschka Regional Coordinator. Most of you Batschka researchers are familiar with Dennis' contributions of photos and extractions on John Feldenzer's Palanka site.

For the Trenton Donauschwaben, which just celebrated its 50th year in October, Dennis serves as the V.P. of Cultural Affairs, the Club Genealogist, and Editor of the group's quarterly newsletter, which is extremely informative of Donauschwaben matters in general as well as in the Trenton area.

Dennis is a researcher, compiler & instructor and his credentials and professional affiliations include: Association of Professional Genealogists, National Genealogy Society, Genealogy Society of Pennsylvania, AkdFF (Arbeitskreis donauschwäbischer Familienforscher), Bucks County Genealogy Society, Historical Society of Schuylkill County, PA, Berks County Genealogy Society (PA) & the German Research Association. Needless to say, we are very happy Dennis has agreed to help us organize and interpret our ever-expanding Batschka material. Our list subscribers will greatly benefit from his expertise - we have a lot of questions! Welcome to the project, Dennis. (<http://www.dvhh.org/batschka/>).

With kind regards,

Nancy Fredenberg, Asst. Coord. & The DVHH Administration Team . 10 November 2006.

Donauschwaben Memories Book for Sale Soon

We are just finishing and printing out a "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 will be about \$10, so see an officer to reserve your copy. It will be a great keepsake.

Our Donauschwaben Is Spreading South!

Kathleen Martini

After this last Tag der Donauschwaben in Lake Villa, IL, I was more determined than ever to take a more active role in my Donauschwaben heritage, especially the dancing aspect. The problem remained that every thing originated out of New Jersey/Philadelphia, and being seven states away in Georgia I couldn't readily participate. That's when it occurred to me that we should

start a Donauschwaben Club right here in the Atlanta, GA. A friend told me how she'd made a website on freewebs.com, and I thought that a website would be a perfect way to spread the word about us "Schwobs" who reside south of the Mason-Dixon line. I set up the site with high hopes that I would soon get responses from other Georgians who would like to be a part of the club. The site has the history of the Donauschwaben, a links page, a contact page, a guestbook, a Tanzgruppe page, and two events' pages. I've been adding to it since its creation in early September, making it more complex and informative. I have since made fliers, a logo, a design for a dance dirndl, a design for the backs of the Leibels, an e-mail, and a *myspace.com* account for the club, all of which are available for viewing on the website. Our URL is www.freewebs.com/atlantadonauschwaben, so please come and sign our guestbook!

Stepping up to the Plate



We would be remiss if we didn't offer a special word of thanks to all those who came to the club's rescue at the 50th anniversary banquet. Evidently, the caterers at the Arbeiter Club experienced manpower problems in the week leading up to our event. Hence, what was planned to be a sit-down dinner became a buffet style dinner (and we apologize for the change). It also became apparent during the event itself that our help would be needed to facilitate the feeding of our guests, etc. No sooner did the word get out about the situation than up jumped a number of our members to help everything run smoothly. MANY THANKS! We really do have some of the finest members a club could ask for.

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.

Note: The monthly Tuesday night business meetings have been moved to the first Wednesday night of the month.

Genealogy, Culture & History Section

News From the Banat List 29 October 2006—About the AKdFF

Richard Jäger has been elected as the new chairman of the AKdFF. He replaces Anton Wirth who steps down after 7 years of service to the society. Jürgen Schütz replaces Jakob Schuly as treasurer. Ditmar Giel replaces Richard Jäger as the Romanian Banat regional coordinator. Paul Scherer continues to coordinate research for the Serbian Banat. The active leadership of the organization is largely passing into the hands of the next generation.

Jakob Schuy has published his Apatin Family book. It covers the time period 1750-1825. Copies can be ordered from; Jakob Schuy, Breslauer-Str 12, 67659 Kaiserslautern, Germany. The price is \$80 plus postage.

The family book, "Segenthau im Banat, 1771-1880 by Nicolaus Kopf and Hilde Mueller-Hoff has been published by the AKdFF. Copies can be ordered from the AKdFF---price 30 Euro plus postage.

Michael and Elfriede Adelhardt have published a family book for Startschowa/Banat 1767-1877, Price 30 Euro plus postage. Order from; Michael and Elfriede Adelhardt, Veilschenstr. 18, 76131 Karlsruhe, Germany.

The AKdFF now has over 700 members but the North American section is down to an embarrassing low number. It is reaching the point that it will not be practical to continue to undertake the translations of the DFF journal for such a small number. There is a considerable effort being made, by volunteers, principally Monika and Günter, to make the AKdFF activities and resources more available to those with non-German language skills. Only limited use seems to be made to take advantage of these efforts. Dolores Barber has recently posted a some of the arguments for belonging to the AKdFF. Although it is not always apparent, everyone who undertakes Banat research benefits, directly or indirectly, from the resources and activities of the AKdFF. As a member, one can publish queries in the DFF journal which can lead to useful one-to-one contact with German researchers. *Dave Dreyer*

Donauschwaben Discussed in Genealogy Magazine

The Donauschwaben are just one of the many ethnic German groups discussed in the December 2006 issue of *Family Tree Magazine*. The article entitled "Out of Bounds" by James M. Beidler discusses genealogical research of the millions of Germans from Slovakia, Romania, Russia, Poland, Austria-Hungary. As we know, the author states "Just because your relatives spoke German doesn't mean they came from Germany" (also known as Volksdeutsche).

James gives a brief overview of the following ethnic German groups, Baltic Germans, Bukovinans, Karpatendeutsche, Donauschwaben, Gottscheer, Siebenbürger Sachsen, Volga Germans and Germans from Russia. The magazine is available at most book stores, or see the club bulletin board for a copy to read.

Soccer Anyone? So, how many of those appearing in this 1952 photograph of the Trenton based Liederkrantz soccer team are

Donauschwaben? Almost all of them!

This "blast from the past" printed recently in *The Trentonian* shows a number of former and current Trenton Donauschwaben Club members. It was recently given to the paper to publish by Joe Schoen.

Who do you recognize any of these players and where they are from?

Kneeling from the left: Dave Goodwin, Jr. - mother from Palanka (nee Häseli), Tony Walter-Bukin, Paul Walter-Bukin, Herb Sieling-Deutschland, Hans Huck-Bukin, Goalie Frank Herdt-Palanka, Joe Schön-Palanka, Hans Kornfeld-Palanka, Karl Paul-Yugoslavia.

Standing from the left; President Joe Dinger-Deutschland, John Annasenz-Palanka, George Schmidt-Neudorf, Günter Junkuhn-Deutschland, Adam Gauss-Filipowa, Nick Weber-Srem, Nick Wiener-Rumania, Paul Wiener-Tschalma.

By the way, the Liederkrantz and the Aurora club in Trenton eventually became the German-American Society (and the Trenton Donauschwaben, but that is a story for another time!).

Permission to publish picture granted by The Trentonian

S 6 - Sunday, December 24, 2006

The Trentonian

MEMORY LANE



Trenton's German American Kickers are carrying on a great local soccer tradition these days, one that dates back over 50 years to this Trenton Liederkrantz soccer team that was the first of the great German clubs to play on the local scene. This is the 1952-53 Liederkrantz team that played in the Philadelphia and New Jersey amateur ranks, winning numerous titles. It included (kneeling, from left) Dave Goodwin Jr., Tony Walter, Paul Walter, Herb Sieling, John Huck, goalie Frank Herdt, Joe Schoen, Hans Kornfeld and Karl Paul; (standing, from left) president Joe Dinger, John Annasenz, George Schmidt, Adam Gauss, Nick Weber, Nick Wiener and Paul Wiener.

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' Auxiliary

Terry Huff-AutoKlub Leader

Harold Parr— President of German Language School

Melanie L. Brandecker— Newsletter Copy Editor

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



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: to **Melanie and Steve Brandecker** on moving into their new home in Mt. Holly, NJ. They want to thank Hans, Joe Jr., Joe, Jason, Dennis and Mike for the help on the move. A big thanks to their families also for the help on getting the house ready for the move in.

Job Well Done: **Dennis & Jason Bauer** participated in the first Bucks County Pandemic Flu Drill on 18 November 2006. It was held at three sites in the County and over 3,300 residents received flu shots that day (average of 554 shots given per hour). Dennis was Assistant Site Manager at the Levittown location for the Health Department and Jason coordinated the emergency Ham radio operators (part of the County's Emergency Management Team) at the Levittown site. All those who volunteered make this drill a great success received special thank you from the three Bucks County Commissioners.

Thanks: The Philly-Trenton Dance Group wants to thank all those that donated monies last year for the purchase of new dance outfits. They look great and were worn at the 2006 Trachtenfest in Chicago over the Labor Day weekend.

Great Job: to the 50th Anniversary Committee members, **Joe Brandecker, Stefan Brandecker, Liz Tindall, Eva Martini, Hans Martini, Ludwig Jakober and Dennis Bauer.** Also to **our women**, who stepped in at the last minute to help out at the dinner.

Get Well: to member **Jake Bauer** and **Gordon Myers**, fathers of members **Dennis & Donna Bauer** on recent surgeries.

Also member **Kate Helleis** on her recovery from a broken foot.

Also to club memorial supporter, Herr **Julius Schneider**, on his recent surgery.

Condolences: to the **Kusenko family** on the passing of Helga's mother, **Elli Alperstedt** of Germany. She died 7 November 2006. She was 87 years old. Helga flew to Germany for the funeral.

Our condolences also to club member **Käthe Schen** and her family on the passing of her father-in-law, **Michael Schen**. Herr Schen, age 98, was a native of the Donauschwaben town of Palanka. May he rest in peace.

Wilkommen: New members, **Stefan, Dorothy, Susan, Shirley, Sandra & Elizabeth Kolarovic** of Mt. Laurel, NJ. Stefan is from Novi Sad, Serbia.

Also, to **Uwe Hundskopf** of Yardley, PA. Uwe is from Hamburg, Germany.

Congratulations: to **Erica Suttman** on her November confirmation. Also to parents, **Walt and Ann Suttman** for their distinguished service at the Philadelphia Kolping Society and to **Chuck Pinkerton** for 21 years of service.

Thanks: to **Robert Gaug** for donating a copy of Hans Kopp's "The Last Generation Forgotten & Left to Die" book to the Hamilton Township Public Library. The book is donated in memory of his Donauschwaben parents who came to the States in 1925.

Deutsche Ecke, Seite 1



Chicago Trachtenfest 2006

by Andy Franz (English Translation from last issue)

After a long, 16 hour drive from Trenton, our group of 12 finally arrived in Chicago. Hans and his big van had brought us safely to our destination. My goodness, the Pennsylvania Turnpike sure did seem endless!

Without missing a beat, we exited the van and wandered about the famous "Navy Pier" situated on Lake Michigan. Looking at this vast body of water seemed like we were looking at an endless ocean. Naturally, we were all pretty tired after such a long ride and, following two hours of walking about, finally ended up at our hotel.

We all enjoyed a restful night and then intended to travel over to the American Aid Society (A.A.S)/Donauschwaben clubhouse... but not before a hearty breakfast. While we were sitting there, a few folks passed by our table and I said to my neighbor, "these are Donauschwaben". "How do you know?" he asked. "Well", I said, "look how they're built: prominent noses, short statures, round faces and honest eyes." "You're crazy", I was told. Well, yes, I am a bit crazy, but these were in fact Schwowe from California and Toronto. It was indeed a pleasure to converse with them in our wonderful dialect. But on to the fest...

It was a most pleasant day with blue skies and big, puffy white clouds. The vast picnic area was packed with many friendly people who greeted us as we passed by. After a while, everyone eventually ended up on the big soccer field where dignitaries and individual clubs were officially welcomed. Now to the parade of clubs...

As I observed the many participants clad in their colorful Trachts milling noisily about, tears came to my eyes. There, before me, stood some 1,500 festive

people glowing with pride. These were mostly young women and men who wore their Tracht in a manner that said "I'm proud of my heritage". This was indeed the impression one got all through the weekend.

Every group had two chances to perform their dance routines. Between these dance performances, various bands would play and one had a chance to sample the many Schwowisch delicacies being offered. Our Trenton/Philadelphia dance group did an outstanding job, as did groups from California, Canada, Wisconsin, Illinois, and everywhere else.

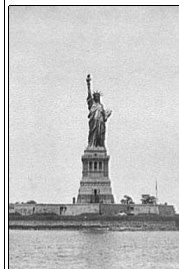
The two days were most memorable and went off without a hitch. The Sunday morning German mass was very emotional. So beautiful was the service, in fact, that it wasn't long before many of us had tears in our eyes (again!).

The American Aid Society of Chicago in Lake Villa presented an extraordinary Fest we won't soon forget. Our heartfelt thanks to all involved! For me and I think everyone else, the enthusiastic young people left a melancholy, but proud and lasting impression.

We Schwowe will live on in our children who showed such pride in their heritage!

My Big Adventure: America

by Adam Martini
(English translation
from last issue)



The year was 1956, eleven years since WWII had ended and 12 years since I left my hometown of Bukin in Yugoslavia. I was having very mixed emotions about leaving my home, my relatives and friends for a new life in America. As a student and even afterwards, books by the author Karl May and his wonderful depictions of the "Wild West" created a tantalizing image in my mind as to what America was like. My formal schooling as well as woodworker's training

had ended and so did my patience for the locals always telling the Donauschwaben who lived among them they were "outsiders". So, I decided to leave and talked my good friend Andreas Kovatsch into "seeing the world" with me.

Once we decided to go, everything started to happen rather quickly. In August, 1956, Andreas and I boarded a train for Bremerhafen (northern Germany) and eventually entered a collection station in that area. There we encountered throngs of people from every corner of the map. It wasn't long before we ran into a couple of guys and formed something of a clique. At 19, I was the youngest of the four and was looked upon as a country bumpkin by the one of the guys who happened to come from Linz, Austria. Indeed, he seemed to fancy himself as something of a Casanova. With his quick wit and charm, he endeared himself to more than a few of the ladies. On the other hand, I was shy and reserved, quite content to watch as the others "operated". As we waited for our departure, we celebrated a "bon voyage" every day with wine and beer. The date of our sailing seemed to arrive quickly. The time of our big adventure was about to begin.

A big ship called the "General Langfitt" would bring us to America. Family and friends waved and cried words of goodbye to those seeing them off, promising a prompt return and a speedy reunion. Noone, however, was there to see the four of us off that day.

We left Germany and our "old" lives that day, walking up that gangplank to our new lives. The ship gently rocked back and forth as we came aboard. Suddenly our dashing Casanova from Linz quickened his pace, walked on to the ship and directly to the other side... and threw up. He turned toward us, looking quite pale and so very unsteady. He stumbled toward his bunk, laid himself down and barely got up thereafter.

Our area in the ship was set up with four bunks one on top of each other with a capacity of some 300 people. My two friends took the bottom two beds, I took the third and our luggage went in the top bunk. As it turned out, being above my seasick cohorts was a good thing.

(continued on page 6)

Deutsche Ecke, Seite 2

(Continued from page 5)



For sure, travel by sea had its romantic moments, but there was also the flip side: seasickness. The ship was really a troop transport – actually one of the well-known “Liberty Ships” – and it was manned by navy personnel who were totally unaffected by the rocking motion of the sea. The sailors were friendly folks, always willing to help, but there was little they could do for my friends and so many of the other passengers who did not have “sea legs”. In fact, we all carried around a bag for those moments when seasickness would get the best of us. The smell was just awful!. Stormy days just amplified the distress. You can well imagine the scene of misery in our big room with 300 moaning people!

Showering and going to the bathroom was a learned art. It was difficult business! Despite hand-grips, one could easily be flung right into someone else’s shower stall since there were no walls to stop you. Though I did feel a bit queasy at times, I really did have a much better time at sea than most. When we could venture on to the deck, I spent many hours just looking toward the horizon and wondering how this grand adventure would finally turn out.

The journey lasted nine days from Bremerhafen to New York. On the ninth day we neared the “Big Apple” and laid anchor just outside the harbor around four in the morning. My friend Andreas woke me and told me to come with him topside. Looking around, we were suddenly awestruck by the huge number of headlights shining in the darkness. There were automobiles as far as the eye could see and we had never seen anything like it in our lives. Where could they all be going? As I contemplated this thought, a ship’s officer tapped me on the shoulder, pointed, and said “Statue of Liberty”. This, I knew, was the welcome sign for immigrants. We had

arrived.

I was very excited and waited impatiently for daylight to make a few photos with my Agfa camera. Soon a tugboat positioned itself next to our ship and began pushing us toward our pier and to America, more specifically Manhattan, New York. It was then that, after nine days, we were able to touch “terra firma” for the first time. My state of mind combined a bit of curiosity with fear and anxiety since I was so far from home, my mom and my relatives. I had to grow up fast and become a man without losing my nerve.



The pier in that great harbor was such a noisy place. In the midst of all of it, immigration officials scurried back and forth, making sure everyone’s papers were in order and organizing us into groups. Many fellow passengers had relatives and friends come and take them away at this time. The rest of us piled into express buses and headed for the train station.

The bus drove through lower Manhattan and into the Bowery. All along, whenever the bus stopped for a red light, it caused the doors to open automatically although no one actually came aboard. During our drive through the Bowery a drunken man with a backpack attempted to jump aboard at one of the red lights. He was already on the first step of the bus when the light turned green. The driver then stepped hard on the gas causing the doors to close as he drove off. The would-be rider was thrown from the bus, tumbling off to the side for a short distance with his backpack not far behind. This made me very anxious and all of my dreams for a better life seemed to evaporate quickly. I wanted to turn right around and go back to Austria. I was deep in thought over what just happened when yet *another* down-his-luck type tried to get aboard and was tossed to the wayside. I concluded then and there that life in America was unforgiving and I would have to rise to meet the challenge if I was to succeed.

So we finally came to the train station and assembled in the big hall.

Local students, eager to practice their German skills, helped us with our tickets and made sure we got on the right trains. I then discovered that I had a big problem. My job and my sponsors, the family of Jakob Eppli from my hometown of Bukin, were in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. But, my student-helper gave me a travel document that said “Trenton, New Jersey”. I knew Wisconsin was a thousand or so miles away and yet this fellow said I was to travel just 45. My friend Andreas and the others could not help me either as they had already departed. And, so, I resigned myself to my fate and just waited to see what would happen next.

It was in fact a very hot day, unlike anything I experienced before. The temperatures were in the 90s and I was soaked with sweat. It did not help that I was warmly dressed and even had my new raincoat on. Our student-helpers had hung various papers on our jackets telling us that people would help when they saw the documents. So, despite the heat, I felt I had to keep my rain jacket on in order that all the papers were properly visible! Back “in the day” there was no such thing as air-conditioned railway cars either so you can imagine how hot it got. So I sat, rain jacket on and sweating, while the train took me to this place called “Trenton”.

As you may suspect, no one helped me despite the documents hanging visibly from my jacket. People saw me, saw the papers, and laughed. The conductor just ignored them, punched my ticket and let me sit there. It’s not hard to imagine that soon I became nervous about missing my stop and going right past Trenton. So, I bravely ventured over to the conductor, pushing my chest out as far as I could so that the documents were most visible. After some hesitation, I finally asked the whereabouts of Trenton in my school-taught Oxford English. He looked me up and down and said in a machine gun like fashion, “Tren-in”, “Tren-in”, and walked away. I then decided to just look out the window and hope to see the station sign. It was a great relief when I finally spotted the sign and got off the train.

(continued on page 7)

Deutsche Ecke, Seite 3

(Continued from page 6)



Many people got off at Trenton Station. Very quickly however they all disappeared from the platform. I stood alone, looking around to see if anyone could help me. I finally spotted what turned out to be a soldier but he just shook his head "no". So now what? Far from Wisconsin and quite at a loss as to what would become of me, I was not a happy camper!

With suitcase in hand and still sweating most profusely, I slowly went up the stairway to the waiting area. I walked along with my head down trying to figure out a plan of action. What should I do? Suddenly and to my complete surprise, I looked up and spotted a group of four guys by the exit door. One of them had a black hat on and looked very much like a Schwob. He looked at me and said, "that's him, he looks just like his dad". And so it was that Mr. Josef Stiller from my hometown of Bukin identified me based on how he remembered my late father. He was accompanied by Franz and Paul Walter, as well as Rudi Wilhelmi. Salvation at last! I felt immediately better about everything.

I then found out that my sponsors, the Eppli's, had moved from Wisconsin to Trenton but couldn't inform me in time. This, then, was the reason why I ended up in Trenton.



I then had a great tasting dinner at the Walter household. My hostess, Apolonia Walter, told me we would all be going to the "Liederkrantz" club in Trenton for a dance event. This was not what I had in mind to do after such an exhausting day. All I wanted to do was go to bed! But, I felt I needed to go and meet the "Landsleute" so off I went.

This then was my first day in America. It was the most important day of my life. Since then, fifty years have

passed and I have learned to love my adopted home. The possibilities here are limitless and I'm thankful to have ended up in such a great place!

"Palankaer Heimatbrief" Newsletter Shines Spotlight on Trenton

Some of you know that the Trenton area is a "hot bed" of Donauschwaben from Palanka. Recently, the hometown newsletter of that once largely German town, the "Palankaer Heimatbrief", ran photographs and several articles *written by or written about* our own club members. Editor Richard Slama is a hard-working and dedicated Palankaer located up in Windsor, Canada, and has established a good rapport

with members in our area. One of them, Andy Franz, wrote a couple of fine pieces for the November issue, one on our 50th anniversary and one on Mr. and Mrs. Josef Schoen. Another article featured a biography of our own Dennis Bauer.

Dennis, as many know, is our club's Vice President and newsletter editor, as well as a leading expert in Donauschwaben genealogy. He is currently involved in a number of Donauschwaben research organizations where he has made many valuable contributions. We are delighted that his efforts have been recognized throughout the world. It not only reflects very positively on Dennis, but on our club as well. Congratulations Dennis!

Hans Martini

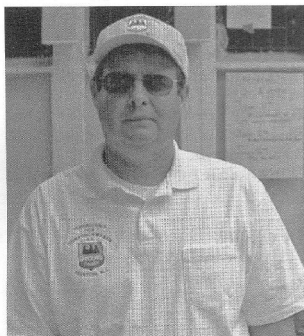
The German language article to the left is reprinted with permission from Richard Slama.

RÜCKSPIEGEL

Dennis J. Bauer
Genealogie und im Herzen
Palankaer

Obleich er nicht mit Donauwasser getauft wurde, hat Dennis Bauer doch Palankaer Blut in seinen Adern und fühlt sich den Palankaern sehr verbunden.

Geboren wurde er 1949 in den USA, in Trenton, NJ, in der Stadt die man eigentlich „New Palanka“ nennen könnte, denn es gibt kaum einen anderen Ort in der Welt, außer dem eigentlichen Palanka, in dem mehr Palankaer leben oder lebten als in Trenton.



Dennis J. Bauer

Seine väterlichen Grosseltern waren der in Palanka geborene Jakob Bauer und die aus Batsch stammende Theresia Helleis. Beide Grosseltern kamen mit ihren Eltern vor dem ersten Weltkrieg in die USA und ließen sich in Trenton nieder. Später zogen sie nach Falls Township in Pennsylvania. Beide waren aktive Mitglieder im damaligen „Arbeiter Club“. Seine mütterlichen Grosseltern stammen aus Irland und Wales.

Schon früh interessierte sich Dennis für Familiengeschichte und war stets eifriger Zuhörer wenn sich die ältere Generation bei geselligen Zusammenkünften über vergangene Ereignisse und die alte Heimat unterhielt. Bereits als Schuljunge begann er Stammbäume zu zeichnen und verstärkte sein Interesse bis er in den 1980 ziger Jahren begann, sich intensiv mit Familienforschung zu befassen.

Auf die Bezeichnung „Donauschwaben“ kam er als er begann die Bauer/Helleis Linie zu erforschen, dabei lernte er unseren zu früh verstorbenen Landsmann Peter Kiss kennen, der damals Vize-Präsident bei den Trentoner Donauschwaben war. Peter betrieb ebenfalls Ahnenforschung und wurde Dennis's Mentor und die Beiden bildeten eine erfolgreiche Arbeitsgemeinschaft. Unter anderem arbeitete Peter Kiss an der Sammlung von Sterbedaten der in der Trentoner Gegend verstorbenen Donauschwaben. Vor seinem Tode 1997 im Alter von 66 Jahren hinterließ Peter Kiss diese Daten Dennis Bauer, sowie seine gesamten Ortssippenbücher. Dennis hat die Sterbedatensammlung weiter geführt und ist dabei noch in diesem Jahr ein Buch mit den Palankaer Namen zu veröffentlichen. Die jeweiligen Personen werden mit der entsprechenden Nummer wie im Palankaer Ortssippenbuch vermerkt sein. Interessenten können sich direkt an Dennis Bauer wenden. Das Buch ist der Erinnerung an Peter Kisch gewidmet.

Dennis Bauer ist verheiratet und hat zwei Kinder. Seit kurzem ist er stolzer Großvater eines Enkelsohnes. Er besitzt ein Masters Degree (Magister) für Umwelt-Gesundheitswesen und hat eine Anstellung im Kreisgesundheitsamt. Nebenbei erteilt er Unterricht in Genealogie und schreibt Artikel über dieses Thema. Bei der "Vereinigung der Donauschwaben e.V." in Trenton ist er Vize-Präsident für kulturelle Angelegenheiten, Vereins Genealogie und Schriftleiter der Vereinsnachrichten.
/iris/

Zu erreichen ist Dennis Bauer wie folgt:
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LEVITTOWN, PA 19057-1718
USA
e-mail: Donauschwaben@mail.com

Source: Palankaer Heimatbrief
Nr.10 - November 2006



Our Autoklub Travels



Favorite Car Stories - Volume 3

By Mike Lenyo

As the New Year begins, some of us have children about that age when they start driving and will be looking for that 'First Car' for the kids. For this third installment of "Favorite Car Stories" I will share club newlywed Stefan Brandecker's story of his first car, with editorial comments in parenthesis:

"My first car was my parents old *Datsun* (Nissan) 710. It was the two door sport version! They bought it new in 1974 and it had a 4-cylinder engine. It already had many miles on it but I was just grateful to have a car. (*Do you hear that, all you 17-year olds out there? He was grateful for an old 4-cylinder car...!*) The radio was changed and "better" speakers were installed. The only down side was that it was slow! (*How slow was it, Steve?*)

- Instead of a speedometer it had a *calendar!* (*Ba-dum-bump!*)

- It felt like it went 0-60 in *two days!* (*Knee-slapper!*)

But all kidding aside, it got me to where I wanted to go and the price was right. Thanks again Mom and Dad. Perhaps I am making up for that slow speed now later in life." Steve is referring to the speed of his 1996 Chevy Corvette, a regular entry at our car show.

Steve's brother and Club President Joseph Brandecker also has some fond memories.... "I had a 1969 Chevy Belair. One morning at 2am I got a call from fellow club member Chuck Pinkerton that his car broke down on Route 295 in Marlton NJ. I drove down to pick him up. We hooked his car to mine with a chain I had in my trunk and I towed him 15 miles back to a garage where I worked on the NJ turnpike. They told him he had seized the engine! We left the car and I drove him home to Philly where he had to tell his father why he didn't come home with the car." (It is always a pleasant conversation when we need to explain to our parents what happened to *their* car...!)

So as you think back, I am sure you have great memories of your first car as well. If you wish to share them, please send an e-mail to me at ledlenyo@aol.com and remember to drive safely !

2007 Euro-American Auto Show

Keep July 7, 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 to compete with a large show in Merchantville, NJ, this year we have changed our weekend to avoid the same date. The AutoKlub had it's first event meeting 11 January 2007. We will be meeting with our co-sponsors at the German-American to start planning the event. **See you there.**

Food & Cars, the Good Life



Member Colin Huff recently graduated from BMW mechanical technical school in north Jersey in December 2006. He immediately was offered employment at DeSimone BMW , 120 Rt. 73, Marlton, NJ and started there before Christmas. One of our club members just purchased a new BMW from the dealership. So stop by and get your "Beamer".

Brother Pat Huff also started a new job. He is an Account Executive with the Bucks County Courier Times' *Philly Edge*. The magazine (www.phillyedge.com) deals with entertainment around the Delaware Valley including: food, night clubs, sports, music, art, theater, movies, and cars! Each issue features a local's car or cycle in the "Gear Head" section. Pat is a graduate of Penn State.

As we all know, the apple does not fall far from the tree as both are avid auto enthusiasts, like father, Terry Huff. We now know where to get a great car, so Pat, where do we get a great meal? Congratulations and Good Luck to both the Huffs on their new jobs.

Beware—Brandecker & Martini on the Road

Our congratulations to Brittany Brandecker and Anna Martini on obtaining their driver's licenses.

Maybe we have some future female AutoKlub members to join Melanie Brandecker? Girl's lets start bugging those dads for that VW, BMW, Porsche or Corvette!

VW ROD



Look familiar? Our own Gary McGhee's VW Rod was featured in the July 1997 issue of *VW Custom & Classic* magazine. This was just before Gary purchased the car from the previous owner. Gary has done a lot of work on the car since then and it looks even better than shown here.

Who Says HOT RODS Can't Be German?

By David Felton
PHOTOGRAPH BY SAUL NEWMAN
It isn't the most bitchin'-looking, street-driven, custom VW conversion you have ever seen. I will burn my Continental tires flat.
The roadster appeared at the recent Lead East custom car show in Parsippany, New Jersey, cranking around the parking lot. There were 2,500 heavyweight, Detroit-built American cruisers scattered about five parking lots, and there was Philip Pissillo in the only foreign car at the event.
What makes the top on what could have been a "Clat that Kraut-wagon" extra special? Well, it's the roadster's style. The crowd went wild.
Philip Pissillo puts his rare-'63 roadster straight back to the dawn of the modern American street rod—a prime example of the outer edge of VW customization. What a guy!

The interior treatment is American and all the way with touches like the custom-made seat panels, the piston back tray, the mirror holder, and the flat head, wood-trimmed steering wheel. The look was never all out to be like a new truck.



VW Custom & Classic, July 1997

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Wedding Celebration... Two Schwob Families Unite

On 21 October 2006 Stefan Brandecker and Melanie Bauer were united in matrimony by Father Hermann Rettig. The blessed event took place at St. Raphael's Roman Catholic Church in Hamilton Twp., NJ. Refreshments were served after the service at the club, followed by a reception at Westby Hall in Fairless Hills, PA.

Steve is the son of members Josef and Josefa Brandecker. Melanie is the daughter of members Dennis and Donna Bauer and the grand-daughter of members Jacob and Carol Bauer.

The Brandeckers came to Trenton in 1956 from Yugoslavia, while Melanie's great-grandparents, Jacob and Theresa Helleis Bauer came to Trenton in 1901 and 1913, respectively from the Batschka.

The couple spent their honeymoon in Aruba and now live in Mt. Holly, NJ.

Congratulations and Good Luck to the couple from all

the Club members and friends of the Trenton Donauschwaben.

Club 50th Anniversary Pictures (14 October 2006) A Great Time by All!



Deutsche Sprach Schule Seite (Adult & Youth)

Schlachtfest Visitors Welcomed

High property taxes notwithstanding, most would agree that Hamilton is a great community in which to live. Our club has been a part of this suburban township for the past 33 years and we couldn't agree more. We're always looking for ways to "give back" to the community and recently began an initiative with the local high schools. In November we hosted nearly 25 students, teachers and some of the parents from the three Hamilton high schools' German classes. What better way to show the students a bit of real German culinary tradition than introduce them to the great food of the Schlachtfest?

We're happy to say that the students of Frau Charlesworth and Frau Smith seemed to like the Bratwurst, Sarma, and Roast Pork very much. The liverwurst? Well, not many were brave enough to try what we know to be a great tasting Schlachtfest specialty. Let's face it, most people run in the opposite direction whenever the word "liver" is mentioned. Maybe next time! Whatever the case, we were pleased so many attended our club event and hope everyone found it to be a worthwhile experience. Plans are being made for even more outreach efforts in the future. Stay tuned!

It may interest our readers to know that this past November's Schlachtfest was one of the best attended in quite some time. Seems our well-earned reputation for good food and good hospitality is getting around. Kudos to everyone who make our Schlachtfests so successful. **Thank you!**



"Trouble" at the St. Nikolausfeier

By now most of our loyal readers are well acquainted with the club's annual St. Nikolausfeier. It's always been a great way to start the Christmas season, with great food and dessert, singing, cultural presentations and, not to be forgotten, St. Nick and Krampus. While Steve Brandecker does a great job each year with St. Nick, the club tries to change the person doing Krampus to keep everyone a bit off guard. This year's Krampus was made possible through the good offices of our very own Ron Jakober. The unpleasantness began just as we finished singing "Silent Night, Holy Night". Krampus knocked loudly on the front door of our club in a manner that was clearly neither silent nor holy. He stormed in with small coal briquettes in hand and began looking for suitable recipients.

Now we all know there are no coal-deserving folks at the Donauschwaben... well, not that many anyway. Krampus knew better and made a bee-line to the back of the club where the likely candidates sat. Funny thing is that despite the fact that everyone knows this much loved tradition has all the validity of, say, an all-star wrestling match, no one wants to be the one who actually gets the coal. Be that as it may, Ludwig Jakober and Adam Martini "got the coal" and the assembled audience had a good laugh. Great job Ron, errr Krampus! It was the finale of yet another wonderful St. Nikolausfeier. Special thanks to Liz Tindall and her family, as well as the kitchen staff, the Kindergruppe and everyone else who made this a most enjoyable event.

SCHULE UPDATE

Our "**Kinder/Jugendschule**" has had a busy few months since the last club newsletter. In October we presented a skit and several songs at our club's 50th anniversary. Later on in December, the group presented a "Nativity" during our St. Nikolausfeier. The group recited poems and sang Christmas songs for everyone's enjoyment. We all liked Krampus and St. Nick's visit too!

Thanks to all our young people for giving it their best effort: Mary, Robert, Sarah, James, Nick, Sofi, Emma, Kristin, Greta, and Christina, as well as Luisa, Joseph, Brittaney and Anna. We get lots of help from Frau Kim Walter throughout the year for which we are always grateful.

Looking ahead to the new year: We plan to start learning a few folk dances during our weekly sessions. We hope to present at least one of the dances either in May or June of this year. Class will start again on Friday, January 12th at 6 PM.

And so, ladies and gentlemen, the school seems to be doing very well and we look forward to another year of fun activities while learning the language and culture of our German ancestors. Please let us know if you know of any interested youngsters, we would love to have them (they can join the group at any time throughout the year). Contact Frau Eva Martini at 609-586-6109 or at Woodworks5@AOL.com for more information. Danke Schoen!

Since late November our "**Schule fuer Erwachsene**" has been on hiatus. Class will resume on March 28th at 7:00 PM at the clubhouse. Instructor Andy Franz looks forward to seeing all interested members and friends as he covers aspects of the German language, culture and history (see page one, "Points of Interest" about the Brothers Grimm). It is a most fascinating hour all are sure to enjoy. Please let us know if you are considering joining the class.

Club Events for the Winter 2007

EVENTS— DATES & TIMES

Come out and join us!

- ◆ Children German Class starts, Friday, 7pm, 12 January
- ◆ Winteressen, Sunday, 21 January, 1pm.
- ◆ Annual Business Meeting, Sunday, 28 January, 1pm
- ◆ Schlachtfest, (a SUPER DINNER) Sunday, 4 February, 1pm. And 3pm. Also the Super Bowl in Miami.
- ◆ Annual Club Ski Trip to Catskills, NY, 9-11 February.
- ◆ Donauschwabenessen, 11 March, 1pm.
- ◆ Adult German Class begins, 28 March, Wednesday nights, 7pm.
- ◆ Osteressen, Sunday, 1 April, 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.

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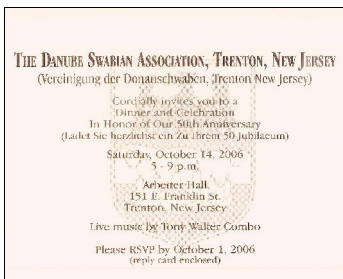
To all of our members who do the work that always needs doing, THANKS!! Whether it's in the kitchen or out by the tables; serving refreshments or baking pastries; selling tickets or cleaning up; it takes many fine people a good many hours to make dinner events a success. We truly have some of the finest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



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

Auf Wiedersehen bei den Donauschwabern!

A Most Enjoyable Undertaking



The 50th anniversary celebration this past October proved to be far more of an undertaking than most of us imagined. The event came at the tail end of probably one of the busiest years we've had in a long time. Recall that last spring we co-sponsored the Kulturausstellung and Trachtenfest; then came our AutoKlub's car show followed by the German Heritage Festival. Oh yes, then there was also the small matter of 45 of us going to Chicago! In between all of that we had our regular dinners, pig roasts, Schlachtfest, camping trip and goodness knows what else. 2006 was indeed a busy year!

Where were we? That's right, the Anniversary banquet. Well, it seems someone had the great idea that we needed to "think big" and "do it right". But, as we found out, that required lots of meetings, e-mails, telephone calls, mailings, late night computer sessions and *more* meetings. What the Anniversary Committee discovered, however, is that no one seemed to mind. Clearly everyone involved thought our club deserved a proper tribute and that feeling was strengthened by the tremendous response we received to the ad booklet and the large number of reservations. We had little problem getting people to help when needed too. What a super experience! Like so many of our activities over the last 50 years, our club members gladly accepted the challenge and made it happen. Isn't that how it always has been at our club?

And so, the Anniversary Committee would like to thank everyone who made the event possible though we don't dare name names! Thanks to those who helped with the set-up of the hall; the artwork and decorations; the ad booklet; dessert preparation; and the "culture corner". Also, the many fine performers; food and beverage organizers; food servers and clean up people; computer folks; mailing people; financial record keepers; party favor people; photography experts; musicians; etc, etc, etc. A fine job by everyone! Above all, the committee would like to thank each and every person for attending the event and/or supporting the program booklet.

You helped make the Donauschwaben's 50th Anniversary a success few will soon forget. Vergelt's Gott!