

Trentoner Donauschwaben Nachrichten

Volume 3 Issue 4



October-December 2003

Points of Interest

- A large number of German immigrants served in the Union Army during the Civil War.
- Famous U.S. Generals Black Jack Pershing (World War I) and General & President Dwight David Eisenhower (World War II) were both of German ancestry.
- Otto Haas, founder of Rohm & Haas Chemical Corporation, was a German immigrant of the mid 20th Century.
- 1/3 of all American army soldiers in World War II were of German ancestry according to the late historian Stephen Ambrose.
- Note: the source for the above items was obtained from articles by David Roscoe in the Fall 2002 & Winter 2003 issues of the Cannstatter (Philadelphia, PA) newsletter. Danke David.



The 2003 Mansfield, OH Landestreffen (Trenton Donauschwaben Who Marched in the Opening Parade)

Landestreffen 2003: "A Southern Perspective" by Ray Martini

For the second time in two years (which is to say we are now REGULARS) the Georgia contingent of the Trenton Donauschwaben took to the road in an insane attempt to relive some of the essence of past glory days. Suffice it to say, the traveling of over 11 hours in one direction was just as bad as it ever was. In fact, it was a little worse because I had to do the driving instead of breaking it up with Hans, S-baby, Joe B. and Herr Jakober. On the plus side, no one in my family (except perhaps myself) snores at the extreme decibels that Herr J can (which was at a constant painful level regardless of his placement in the van). However, I soon discovered that the driver can catch a nap between state lines and feel refreshed when going around major cities. Thankfully the driving went without a hitch (I hid the mileage and hour estimation from my wife until we were well on the road) and the 2003 Mansfield Landestreffen turned

out to be an exceptional trip, well worth any discomfort of a multi-state van ride.

Perhaps the first and most notable impression was the fact that we grew! They're far more people this year than last. The Lenyo's, Bauer's, Mayer's (Steve and Kelli won the "Ironman/woman" award by driving through the night on Friday, sleeping only 2 hours and then spending the entire day & night with us on Saturday... kind of puts my whining into perspective), Frau Pfann, Frau Hahn, Herr J & Sue Jakober, Mr. and Mrs. Wesley (great to see them again!), the cool German Guy – Erich - and his nice girlfriend, Estelle, as well as the gang from last year: Onkel Steve Mayer, Andy Franz, the Brandecker's and the Martini's (from north and south of the Mason/Dixon line). We were officially not the smallest group, Wisconsin's new group was much smaller as was New York's and maybe even one or two others. Hey, if the trend continues, look out, I believe in a few years we will be right up there with Toronto!! So, if you ever thought of coming, next year will be a biggy. Come on out and be counted, you are guaranteed a good time.

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Club Matters

ADULT DANCE GROUP

NEWS FLASH!! An effort is now underway to involve the “not so young people” in an adult dance group together with Philadelphia. You know the type: 30, 40 or 50 something and not receiving awards for physical fitness! Recently a group of us had a great time doing a few folks-dances with Philly’s former dance group members. Our contingent showed them one of our old favorites and we learned one of theirs. It was all most enjoyable!

We are looking for more of our older dance group members to join us! Even if you weren’t in the dance group and don’t know a thing about dancing, we still want you! We **KNOW** you have no time so we’re making it as easy on everyone’s schedule as we can. Maximum flexibility, easy to learn dances, and a very low-pressure environment makes this the ideal situation for today’s “active lifestyles”. Please come and check it out!

Please call Joe at 585-9001, Steve at 585-8460 (Ledich@AOL.com) or JoAnn/Hans at 888-2762 (martinisww@AOL.com) for more information.

PHILADELPHIA & TRENTON DONAUSCHWABEN

A word on the expanding relationship with our sister club in Philadelphia. While Trenton and Philadelphia both have successful organizations supported by many wonderful members, it’s been apparent that doing certain things together has been a big plus for both clubs. It is a classic “win-win” situation. The time is right, it seems, for close cooperation in the area of cultural activities. Much has already been done in this area – joint memberships, dancing, commemorating our past, common events, etc. – and much more will be done in the future. Our combined dance groups performed in Mansfield, OH this past August. We are fortunate to have Herr Fred Gauss and Herr Joe Brandecker as Club Presidents leading this relationship building. Danke!

MEMORIAL SOCCER TOURNAMENT

The Danubia Soccer club held a memorial soccer tournament on 17 August 2003 at the Philly Donauschwaben to honor the late Adam Dickmann, Sr. He was both a member of the Philadelphia and Trenton Donauschwaben Clubs. Clubs that participated included; Danubia, United German-Hungarian (2 teams), Erzebirge Over-30 and the Phoenix German Club.

Vereinigung der Donauschwaben Receives Grant for Satellite Dish

The *Verein* has received a grant through the American Association of Teachers of German to cover the cost of a satellite dish with which to receive German TV programming. The club’s

intent is to integrate TV reception into our German language instruction and to find additional ways to offer members the opportunity to see German TV programs from ARD (Germany’s channel 1), ZDF (channel 2), and Deutsche Welle.

From the preliminary information we have, we are anticipating a wide range of programs: cartoons, mysteries, sports, *Volksmusik*, documentaries, newscasts, political commentary, quiz shows. In other words, whatever you see on American TV you may find an equivalent program in German; in fact, some of the programs will be familiar. Programming includes both series that originate in the German TV industry and German editions of American favorites. If you now watch Jennifer Garner on the Sunday evening series *Alias*, imagine seeing episodes in German. Is *Unser Charly* the German version of *Charlie’s Angels*? We’ll have to wait to find out. *Tatort* and *Polizeiruf 110* are police dramas that are authentic German programs. Similarly, *Käpt’n Blaubär* is a German cartoon show. We anticipate some “time shifting” and encourage your comments. To keep young children occupied in winter months during the club’s periodic dinners, we may find it appropriate to run children’s programs in a classroom while the adults are socializing in the dining room.—Kurt Müller, Club German I nstructor

LET’S EAT !! Let’s also wish “good luck” to one of our club’s more well-known entrepreneurs, member Mike Mikkelsen, on his most recent endeavor. Mike is co-owner of the new restaurant, “Amerone’s”, at the site of the former “Heinz’s Gasthaus”. This writer has been there and can attest to the good food and atmosphere (let us add that Frank Herdt’s father-in-law, Mr. Ialacci, performs his piano magic there on the weekend). Check it out!

GREETINGS !! A Special **Hello** to all of our long-distance members all across this great country of ours. Let us not forget our wonderful members in Virginia, Georg and Emmi Hartmann. As all of our veteran members know, Emmi was a German Schoolteacher of here at the club in the 1970’s, teaching her students the der’s, the die’s and the das’s of the language of our ancestors. Hey, maybe some of you will also recall that Georg was a big help in getting the ski trips started, especially those to the “stone hut” at Stowe, Vermont. Georg and Emmi have two grown children, Eric and Lisa. To the entire extended Hartmann family: Servus!

(From left to right: Lori Hanks, Theresia Bohn, Georg & Emmi Hartmann, Ludwig & Susan Jakober, Joe & Rosa Wildmann—1988 picture)



Genealogy & History Section

ARBEITER SICK & DEATH INSURANCE

Arbeiter Kranken- und Sterbe-
Unterstützungs-Verein
von Trenton, N. J.

Mitgliedsbuch
für
Herrn Jacob A. Bauer

Aufgenommen am
Feb. 6 1949
Anton Schepret Sekretar
341 Canning

Quittung – Receipt					
19	Monatliche Abrechnung	Doktor	Strafen	Sterbegeld	Bemerkungen
Jan.	1.00				JA
Febr.	1.00				25
Maerz	1.00				
April	1.00				
Mai	1.00				
Juni	1.00				
Juli	1.00				
Aug.	1.00				
Sept.	1.00				
Oct.	1.00				
Nov.	1.00				
Dec.	1.00				

While cleaning out some old papers recently my father, Jacob A. Bauer came across his 1961-72 *Arbeiter Kranken- und Sterbe- Unterstützungs-Verein von Trenton, NJ* book. He, my grandparents and my other Donauschwaben relatives were all members of the Arbeiter Club. According to my father, who joined in 1949, ethnic groups often created their own health and life “insurance” plans. Each Club member received a payment book and paid \$1.00 a month. If the member became ill or died, then a certain amount was paid out to the sick or their survivor in case of death.

This program was apparently phased out and the assets distributed to those remaining members in the 1970s.

Dennis J. Bauer

WIR ERINNERN UNS!

Frau Marlene Novosel, Tochter des verstorbenen Josef Bohn Vund der Frau Theresia Bohn, zeigte uns einen Brief der das Absterben des Herrn Michael J. Fless (geboren 3-17-1916 – Palanka) übermittelte. Wir fanden den Inhalt dieses Briefes so interessant, dass wir ihn im Rundschreiben des Vereines wiedergeben wollen. Der Brief erweckt eine Zeit und ein Platz was dem Herz nahe steht und die Liebe zu unserer alten Heimat erklärt. Vielen Dank Marlene. Hier ist der Brief:

„Ihr Lieben!

Unser guter, geliebter Gemahl, Vater und Grossvater ist von uns gegangen.

Nach schwerer Krankheit, die er vier Jahre ertrug und bekämpfte – er wollte für seine Irma da sein – hat ihn nun der Herrgott zu sich geholt, obwohl er noch so viel Leben in sich hatte.

Am 19. Juni, 2003 am Nachmittag erhielt er das Kranken Sakrament im Kreise der Familie. Er verschied dann den selben Abend um 9 Uhr 45.

Für seine Enkelkinder war er immer voller Geschichten aus seinem geliebten Palanka welche aus seinen Erinnerungen stammten..... von den Inseln der Kleinen Donau, dem Ansetzteich, die Schleiss, seinem Angelplatz, der Lonti Tante's Wirtschaft, Sonntags und Abendausflüge. Der Deutsche Liederklang der von den Zillen in der Eindämmung herüber tönte zu den Palankaer Spaziergängern auf dem Weg zur Grossen Donau. Die Keller Willi Wirtschaft, der Blick nach Ilok, zur Kirche des Kapistrano, zu dem Schloss welches der Kaiser der Familie Odeskalchi schenkte, und zu der Festung. Der Blick von der Grossen Donau zurück kommend auf die Kalder Donau, seinem Kinderparadies mit der Fischerhütte seines Vaters, sowie den Netzen, Zillen und Kalder. Das Rauschen der Aspen und Weiden im Wind.....Er verwöhnte seine Enkelkinder und war jung mit ihnen. Shangri La, ein kleiner See in Wisconsin, an dem sein Sommerheim stand, war sein Jungbrunnen weil das Panorama ihn an die Kleine Donau erinnerte. Es war ihm ein kleiner Ersatz.

Er liebe seinen Aufenthalt am See, besonders wenn er Gäste hatte, denn da konnte er wieder der Karpfenwirt sein. Er schenkte gerne ein und war auch ein erstklassiger Grillmeister. Ein grosser Anteil von Bildern die wir haben zeigt ihn am Grill. Wenn seine Enkelkinder um ihn rum standen, oft im Rauch, liebte er ihnen zu sagen „der Rauch geht zu die Dummi“. Wir waren froh, dort noch den 60. Hochzeitstag der Eltern im Kreise ihrer Freunde feiern zu können. Im ganzen waren sie 64 Jahre verheiratet. Er war unserer Mutter ergeben bis ans Ende. Er war ihr Pfleger und hatte die Absicht so weitermachen bis ans Ende an dem beide zur gleichen Zeit sterben sollten. Leider wollte es der Herrgott anders. Er wird uns allen sehr fehlen.

In tiefer Trauer, Irma Fless, Gattin und Kinder mit Familien“

The letter above was written to member Marlene Novosel by Irma Fless, a native of Palanka. (Danke, Frau Novosel) Frau Fless writes that the passing of her 88 year old father, Michael, recalls the wonderful stories he related about life in that Donauschwaben town to his family. An intense appreciation for the beautiful geographical features; the views across the Danube; and, the special places which felt like paradise were passed on to his grandchildren. Palanka came alive for this family. Like so many of his generation, the connection to the old hometown was very real, it was a connection everyone around him could feel and be a part of in some small way.

Genealogy & History Section (Continued)

The German-Hungarian Family Calendar Magazine



Subscriber List for Mercer County, NJ 1951-54 (*Deutsch-Ungarischer Familien Kalender*, National Weeklies, Inc., Winona, MN, 1951, 1953 & 1954 Issues) . This is a list of M-O surnames from the Trenton area only. Additional surnames will follow in future issues.

Transcribed by Dennis J. Bauer, 17 December 2002. Surnames appear exactly as spelled in the original text and may not be the actual spelling. The list shows the individual's place of origin and their address in the Trenton area at the time of subscription to the magazine. Some translations of town, county and country names were done. As with any secondary source, you may wish to consult the original magazine. This complete list can also be found on the Club web site under genealogy.

The magazine, written in German, was published in the U.S. from 1932-1954. They contained stories from the German-Hungarian regions of Hungary, Yugoslavia and Romania, pictures of "home", jokes, poems and best of all a list of American and Canadian subscribers, their spouses, their place of origin and their present addresses in the U.S. and Canada. During its publication, the magazines listed between 10-15 thousand North American Donauschwaben.

Trenton, NJ

MAHLER, widow Christine GUSZ, from Kreuzstätten, Banat Romania, 18 West St.
 MAJAROVITZ, Martin, from Ilok, Srem and Maria GANGL, from Palanka, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 305 Newkirk Ave.
 MAJOSKY, Andreas, from Bukin, Batschka, Yugoslavia and Barbara HELLEIS, from Bacs, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 1007 Division St.
 MARAKOVICH, widow Magdalena WASMER, from Palanka, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 7 Howell St.
 MAROSOWITZ, Georg, from Paripas, Batschka, Yugoslavia and Magdalena KLEIN, from Billed, Banat Romania, 522 Miller Ave.
 MÄRZWEILER, Josef and Maria KRESS, from Parabutsch, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 718 Anderson St.
 MATTES, Josef and Eva Schoen, from Palanka, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 309 Ashmore Ave.
 MATTES, Stefan and Rosa WILDMANN, from Filipowa, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 211 Hewitt St.
 MATZER, widow Barbara MELZENBURG, from Engelsbrunn, Banat Romania, 925 Chestnut St.
 MAUS, Josef, from Kreuzstätten, Banat, Romania and Anna Schlächter, from Segenthau, Banat, Romania, 525 Woodland St.
 MAUSZ, Michael and Anna GUZ, from Temes-Keresztes, Banat, Romania, 616 Liberty St.
 MEREKOVICH, John and Magdalena WASMER, from Palanka, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 7 Howell St.
 MERKER, Faldin, from Parabutsch, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 1489 Cedar Lane.
 MERKER, Josef and Eva ZIMMERMANN, from Paripas, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 157 Edmond St.
 MERKER, Valentin, from Parabutsch, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 1889 Cedar Lane.
 MEYER, Nikolaus, from Obrowitz, Batschka, Yugoslavia and Anna OPPERMANN, from Palanka, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 711 Division St.
 MOHL, Johann and Theresia MÜLLER, from Bukin, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 97 West St.
 MOHLER, Josef, from Segenthau, Banat, Romania, and Elisabeth KELLER, from Parabutsch, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 35 Edwin Ave.
 MORRITZ, William, from Parabutsch, Batschka, Yugoslavia and Katharina FLOCK, from Tovarja, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 838 Franklin St.
 MÜHL, Georg, from Jovanovac, Slavonia and Theresia REININGER, from Ernestinovo, Slavonia, 219 Newkirk Ave.
 MÜLLER, Andreas, from Gajdobra, Batschka, Yugoslavia and Katharina SEIDEL, from Lamm, Northern Bavaria, 839 Anderson St.
 MÜLLER, Josef and Anna PENZ, from Palanka, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 731 William St.
 MUTSCH, Georg, from Brestowatz, Batschka, Yugoslavia and Magdalena MAY, from Bukin, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 22 Marshall Ave.
 NEUBURGER, Heinrich and Katharina MEDAR, Neudorf, Srem, 70 Reed Ave.
 OBERDING, Johann and Katharina BLANCHE, from Wiesenwald, Banat, Romania, 17 Randall Ave.
 ODER, Franz and Anna SEE, from Ruma, Srem, Yugoslavia, 153 Garfield Ave.
 OFFENBECKER, Widow Elisabeth, from Brestowatz, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 1471 Cedar Lane.
 OFNER, Josef, from Parabutsch, Batschka, Yugoslavia and Elisabeth BÜHN, from Ernestinovo, Slavonia, 710 Remsen St.
 OFNER, Stefan and Theresia KELLER, from Parabutsch, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 708 Remsen St.
 OFNER, Stefan and Theresia TRISCHLER, from Parabutsch, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 708 Remsen St.
 OPPERMANN, Anna, nee PENTZ, from Palanka, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 237 Hewitt St.
 OTTMANN, Anton and Theresia BURG, from Palanka, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 816 Franklin St.

	Dennis Jacob Bauer, M.S. 49 Conifer Road Levittown, PA 19057-1718 Genealogy & Family History	
<small>Member: Association of Professional Genealogists, National Genealogical Society, Bucks County Genealogical Society, Arbeitskreis donauschwäbischer Familienforscher (AKdFF), Historical Society of Schuylkill County, PA</small>		
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Membership News

2003 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
Harold Parr— President of German Language School
Dennis J. Bauer— V.P. for Cultural Affairs, Genealogist, Newsletter Editor
Dana Miles/Edward Soden— Web Masters *Adam Martini*— Newsletter Staff Writer



NEW MEMBERS & VISITORS WELCOME TO SPIESSBRATENESSEN

Member Dennis Bauer (hat) welcomes new members, (left to right) Pat Huff, Ruth Woelfl, Harold Huff and visitors, Elizabeth Himmelsbach Youngs & daughter from Cranford, NJ to the Club's June Pig Roast. The day was chilly and over cast but a good time was had by all that attended.

July's Pig Roast was also well attended and like June's, the roasted pig was Sehr Gut!! Youth dancers from the Philly & Trenton Clubs performed.

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

Geburtstag: to baby member **Greta Brandecker**, daughter of President **Joe & Carolyn Brandecker**, on her 1st birthday (12 August 2003).

Hochzeit: members **Alex and Frieda Hepp** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on 4 July 2003. They were married in 1953 in Linz, Austria and moved to the USA in 1956. Congratulations!! Y Q

Congratulations: Members **Robert & Shirley Schmidt** began their family research after Rob took the Club's genealogy class in 2001. Since that time Shirley has qualified and joined the; the Swedish Society of Phila., the National Society of Colonial Dames of the XVIIth Century and the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Great going!

Geburt: Congratulations to our webmaster, **Dana Miles** and his wife, **Dee Dee**, on the birth of child #2! It was indeed a pleasant surprise at our July picnic to have their two year old son, **Christian**, AND their new daughter, **Grace**, in attendance. All the very best to the family from all of us!

"Wir gratulieren" the new Opa and Oma, Herr und Frau **Georg Majer**, on the birth of their granddaughter, **Danielle Majer**. Best wishes to the entire family.

Passing: **Josef Georg Bohn**, 98, of Robbinsville, NJ died 26 July 2003. He was one of our founding club members. Originally from Palanka, Austria-Hungary, he came to the U.S. on 4 July 1955. He is survived by wife, **Theresa Hepp Bohn**, children, **Marlena Novosel** and **Joseph Bohn** and grandson, **Markus Novosel**. Our prayers and sorrow go out to his family and friends. V

Gute Besserung: We wish a speedy recovery to all of our members and friends who may not be feeling well or are recovering from illness or injury. We include a special "get well soon" for Herr **Peter Kernast, Sr.**, **Ullie Haller**, Frau **Eva Schlunsky** and Frau **Anna Klespies**.

A "Get Well Soon" to any and all members who have been ill since our last newsletter. h

Good Luck! We have a couple of young people starting high school this year. They include **Lyla Lenyo** at Hamilton High School and **Alex Jakober** at Allentown High School.

Wilkommen: Welcome to new newsletter sponsor, **Brain Kochersperger** of Volkswagen of Langhorne, PA!

Please let us know if there are any other such announcements to make, dear members!

Deutsche Ecke, Seite 1

EIN RÜCKBLICK von Adam Martini

Das Absterben der drei letzten Gründungsmitglieder der Vereinigung der Donauschwaben, Ortsgruppe Trenton, New Jersey, gibt uns die Möglichkeit sich mal wieder auf die Anfangsjahre unseres erfolgreichen Vereines zu erinnern.

Der Anfang kam im Jahre 1956, als eine Gruppe von Männern zusammen kamen und das donauschwäbische Komitee gründeten.

Von den fünfzehn Männern waren am Anfang von 2003 noch drei am Leben, aber sind seither gestorben. Jetzt sind wir alleine und müssen weitermachen. Herr Stefan Reger starb in Deutschland, dann folgte Herr Franz Klespies, und am 26. Juli, 2003 starb Herr Josef G. Bohn. Er war 98 Jahre alt und so der Älteste. Möge der Herrgott diesen Verstorbenen die verdiente ewige Ruhe geben.

Wir werden diese Landsleute, die ja über die Jahre so aktiv im Vereinsleben mitmachten, sehr vermissen. Auch im hohen Alter konnte man, besonders Herr Franz Klespies und Familie, sowie Herr Josef Bohn und Familie, oft bei den Vereinsveranstaltungen sehen, sie gehörten zu dem donauschwäbischen Stammtisch.

Das Absterben dieser Landsleute bedeutet das Ende einer Vereins-Epoche. Mit Stolz und Genugtuung können wir auf die vielen erfolgreichen Unternehmungen hinweisen, auf den Aufbau des Vereinsheimes, sowie der Vereinsanlagen, Tanzgruppen, deutsche Sprachschulen und natürlich ein interessantes Vereinsleben mit Festessen und Picknicks, Schlachtfesten und Spiessbraten, genau so wie daheim.

Wir danken den Gründern für diese Möglichkeiten und ich glaube wenn sie heute hier sein könnten würden sie sich staunen wie gut das Vereinsleben läuft. Darum müssen wir in dem heurigen Jahr dieser Gruppe von Männern, die vor 47

Jahren den Anfang ermöglichten, versichern, dass wir weitermachen, das Ahnenerbe in Ehren halten, die Toten nicht vergessen und unseren Kindern und Enkelkindern über unsere Herkunft und Traditionen unterrichten werden. Die Aufgabe ist gross aber so sind auch die Möglichkeiten.

Ein Aufruf an alle Landsleute und Freunde der Donauschwaben, macht mit, kommt zu den Vereinsessen und Veranstaltungen, die Türen sind offen, die Bedienung ist freundlich und es ist auch sehr gemütlich bei den Donauschwaben, Ortsgruppe, Trenton, New Jersey.

A LOOK BACK...

by Adam Martini (translation by his son, Hans)

The recent passing of the last of our founding members is cause for recalling our club's beginning years.

It all started back in 1956, when a group of Donauschwaben gathered to form a committee. This was the club's official start as an organization.

Of those fifteen original members, three were still alive at the start of 2003, but have since gone to their Eternal Resting Place. Stefan Reger died in Germany, followed by Franz Klespies, and finally, Josef Bohn passed away in July. At 98 years of age, Herr Bohn was also the oldest of the group. May they rest peace.

We will all miss these individuals, all of whom were very active at various times in our club's history. Even at an advanced age, one could often see Franz Klespies and his family as well as Josef Bohn and his family at various club events. Indeed, one could say they belonged to the Donauschwaben "Stammtisch" (a table for honored regulars).

The end of lives of these three countrymen means the end of an era in our club. With pride and a sense of ac-

complishment can we all look back on the many successes of our club during this time. Everything from the building of our clubhouse to our youth/dance group; from our education program to our wonderful club-life, with all of the various dinners and picnics we have come to enjoy. For many of us, the club still has the feel of the good times in the "old country".

We owe a debt of gratitude to our founders for all of the many opportunities their work afforded our organization. I am sure if the group of fifteen were alive today they would all be very pleasantly surprised at how well things are going with our club.

As we begin our club's 47th year let us honor this original group of founders by rededicating ourselves to do what we can to honor our heritage; to honor our dearly departed; and, to insure that our children and grandchildren know the customs and traditions of their ancestors. The undertaking is large, but so are the possibilities!

This is a call to all of our countrymen, friends, and members of the Donauschwaben: participate! Come to the dinners and special events, the doors are open and the people are friendly. A pleasant and enjoyable time awaits you at the Trenton Donauschwaben.



Stefan Brandecker at the 2003 Landestreffen in OH with our Club Flag. Forty members from the Club made the trip this year. See you next year in Windsor, Canada?

Deutsche Ecke, Seite 2

LANDESTREFFEN der DONAUSCHWABEN in Mansfield, Ohio von Andreas Franz



Früh am morgen, Freitag, August, 29, 2003 (Laborday weekend) fing unsere Reise nach Mansfield an. Hans Martini mit seinem grossen Fahrzeug war unser unermüdlicher Fahrer. Anwesend waren seine Frau JoAnn und Kinder, seine Eltern Adam und Eva Martini, sein Onkel Stefan Mayer und Kusine Anna Hahn, Frau Katharina Pfann und ich. Von den Trentoner Donauschwaben waren vierzig Mitglieder auf dem Weg zum Treffen - unser Präsident Joe Brandecker mit Frau Caroline und Familie, seine Eltern Josefa und Sepp Brandecker und Bruder Stefan; auch Ludwig und Sue Jakober, Frau und Herr Robert Wesley, Dennis und Donna Bauer und Tochter Melanie, Erich Haratsch und Freundin, Estelle, Michael Lenyo mit Familie und von Georgia - Ray und Marie Martini und Familie. Unsere Partnergruppe von Philadelphia sollten wir in Mansfield treffen, was auch tatsächlich geschah.

Diese Reise war ziemlich lange (fast zwölf Stunden) für mich aber interessant. Frau Pfann sass vor mir und natürlich sprachen wir über das „Daheim“, den Leuten, Sitten und das Leben. Frau Pfann in ihrem hohen Alter, hat ein aussergewöhnliches Erinnerungsgedächtnis und dazu einen guten Verstand. Vieles was ich schon vergessen hatte wurde mir mit ihrem klaren „schwowischen“ Dialekt erklärt. Unsere Tanzgruppe Trenton-Philadelphia mit den begleitenden Eltern und Bekannten war mit so vielen Leuten nicht leicht zu übersehen.

Am Samstag fing die Festlichkeit im Verein Mansfield Liederkranz an. Zuerst machten wir eine kleine Runde durch die Stadt, sahen ein altes-neues Karussell, schöne Gärtenanlagen, aber keine belebte Strassen oder Geschäfte.

Unsere Gruppe, die Mädchen und Frauen in prächtigen und farbenfrohen Trachten, die Buwe und Männer in ihrem Schwarzweiss, mit glänzenden Knöpfen, sammelten sich unter einer strahlender Sonne auf grünem Rasen des Vereines Liederkranz.

Anwesend auf diesem Platz waren ungefähr 2,500 Leute in Trachten der alten Heimat. Zwanzig Trachtengruppen representierten ihre Vereine, Mansfield, Cleveland, Akron, St. Lois, Milwaukee, Toronto und viele andere waren da.

Alle Gruppen, getrennt, sammelten sich vor einer Bühne (auf dem Fussballplatz) wo uns die bezüglichlichen Vorstände herzlich begrüsst. Während dieser Zeit war es mir möglich alle diese Leute zu betrachten, die mit mir standen. Vorwiegend waren es junge Leute, voll Freude und Erwartung, stolz auf ihre Zusammengehörigkeit, die sich durch ihre prächtigen Trachten erklärten. Ja, da waren auch die Alten (so wie ich) aber das Treffen war für die Jungen und man fühlte es mit Stolz. Die Ansicht aller Gruppen allein belohnte uns für die lange Reise.

Nach dem Aufmarsch fingen die Vorführungen der Tranzgruppen an. Jede Gruppe hatte etwas Originales zum Darbieten aber trotzdem war ein Gefühl für Gemeinsamkeit vorhanden. Für die Jugend war es nicht ein Wettbewerb, sondern sie zeigten was sie gelernt hatten. Was uns Zuschauer beeindruckte, sie tanzten mit Begeisterung und Liebe.

Zwischen den Vorführungen gab es Tanz zu guter Musik, Unterhaltung mit freundlichen Leuten und gutes schwowisches Essen. Am Sonntagmorgen, 10:30, gab es eine deutsche heilige Messe unter einem grossen Zelt. Die Messe wurde von drei Priestern gelesen und gepredigt. Zwei der Priester waren katholisch und einer von der lutheranischen Kirche. Alle sprachen und sangen perfekt Deutsch.

Unsere Leute waren von den Ersten und ich dachte mir „na ja, viele werden nicht kommen“. Auf einmal war das Zelt voll. Junge und Alt waren da. Ein Paar alte Lieder brachten Tränen und dann kam die Predigt, die von den drei Priestern mit Würde vorgetragen wurden. Sie sprachen von unserem Schicksal, Anfang, Not, Erfolg und Leiden. Dann von der Wanderung in die neue Heimat. Was mich und fast alle Anwesenden besonders betraf – sie sprachen von unserem Glauben der uns half in Not und in der Ungewissheit. Es waren unvergessliche Worte die uns alle ergriffen.

Nach dem Gottesdienst gab es eine schlichte Kranzsegnung am Denkmal für vermisste und verstorbene Landsleute.

In der Mittagspause gab es gutes Essen und dann kamen wieder die Vorführungen der Tanzgruppen, unterbrochen mit flotter Stimmungsmusik bis es Zeit war zum heimfahren.

Für uns Trentoner begann die Heimreise am Montag mit viel Regen aber wir kamen gut heim.

Schliesslich muss ich bemerken dass dieses Donauschwabentreffen in Mansfield, Ohio, mich und den Grossteil der Anwesenden sehr beeindruckt hat. Viele der Beteiligten waren begeisterte junge Leute, die unser „schwowisches“ Erbe erhalten wollen. Die Veranstalter des Vereines Liederkranz, gaben durch die Zugabe des Gottesdienstes dem Treffen zuzüglich einen gedankenvollen Beihalt.

Jedenfalls belohnte uns dieses Donauschwabentreffen mit Freude und Hoffnung für die Jugend.

Deutsche Ecke, Seite 3



Gathering of the Donauschwaben in Mansfield, OH by Andrea Franz (translated by Hans Martini)

Our trip to Mansfield began early in the morning on Friday, August 29, 2003. Hans Martini, with his large van, was our tireless driver. Our group consisted of his wife, JoAnn, and children; Adam and Eva Martini; Stefan Mayer; Anna Hahn; Katharina Pfann and me – eleven in all. Altogether, we Trentoner Donauschwaben numbered some 40 members on our way to the Treffen. From the Club: President Joe and Caroline Brandecker with family; Josefa and Sepp Brandecker; Stefan Brandecker; Ludwig and Sue Jakob; Bob and Pat Wesley (now from North

Carolina!); Dennis, Donna and Melanie Bauer; Erich Haratsch & friend, Estelle, Mike Lenyo with family; and, Ray and Marie Martini with family (from Georgia!). Our partners from the Philadelphia Donauschwaben met us at the Mansfield club.

Our trip to Mansfield was a long one - some 12 hours in length - but was nonetheless quite interesting. Frau Pfann sat in seat ahead of me and told of her experiences "back home". She told of the people, customs and everyday life in her hometown of Neudorf. Even in at her more advanced years, Frau Pfann has an extraordinary memory and understanding of her past. With a clear Donauschwaben dialect, she would explain many things I had already forgotten!

On Saturday, festivities began in earnest at the Mansfield Club. Our large, expanded group from Trenton/Philadelphia was very difficult to miss! Just before getting there, though, we made a mini-tour of the town of Mansfield itself. We discovered a refurbished antique carousel, nice flower gardens, but very few people and mostly empty stores.

Our group, with the girls/women dressed in splendidly colorful costume and the boys/men dressed in black and white with shiny buttons, assembled on the green lawn of the Mansfield Liederkranz Club. The crowd around us on that clear day numbered maybe 2,500 people, most in the costume of our ancestors. 20 dance groups represented clubs from Mansfield, Cleveland, Akron, St. Louis, Milwaukee, Toronto and many other cities. Everyone gathered on one stage (in this case a soccer field) to listen to the well-wishes from the dignitaries and Treffen officials.

During this time, it was possible to observe the people around me. Mostly they were young people, full of joy and anticipation. They were proud to "belong" and seemed to announce this with their brilliantly color costumes. Yes, there were, of course, the old-timers (like me!) but the Treffen seemed centered on the youth and we were all proud of that fact. The rewarding image of so many wonderful groups sustained us for the long ride home.

After the parade of individual clubs, the dance performances began. Although everyone seemed to do something different, there was still a feeling of familiarity and togetherness. For the youth, it was not a competitive situation,

What impressed the observer most was the way they danced with enthusiasm and passion.

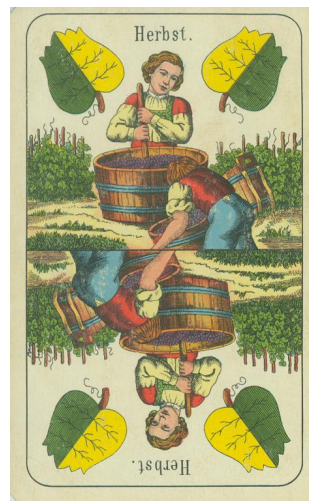
There was also good music to dance and listen to, good conversations with friendly people and, of course, good Donauschwaben food.

Sunday began with a mass at 10:30 under a big tent. The mass was lead by two Catholic priests and a Lutheran pastor, all of whom spoke perfect German. Our Trenton group was among the first there and I thought to myself, "oh well, many will not come". All of a sudden the tent was packed. Young and old were there. The old church songs brought tears to the eyes.. And then came the homily given by the all three clergymen with great dignity. They spoke of our fate, of our early years, our difficulties, successes and sorrows. They spoke of our coming to America. Through it all, they said, it was faith that sustained the Donauschwaben. These were truly memorable words that affected all of us.

After the mass, a short service was held to dedicate a memorial to the tragedy that befell our countrymen. Dance performances, interspersed with great music would entertain us for rest of the day. The ride back to Trenton on Monday was a wet one but we did arrive home safely.

I must note that this Treffen in Mansfield impressed most everyone in attendance. Many of those present were young people, whose enthusiasm for their culture bodes well for the future. One must also credit the Mansfield Liederkranz organization on having such a wonderful and memorable mass. It left an unforgettable impression on the entire Treffen weekend.

In any event, the Treffen gave all of us great joy and a renewed hope for the young people and our future.





Our Autoklub Travels

During the Summer of 2003 a number of our Club members and their friends formed an "Autoklub" (see photo on page 10). The intent of this group of car enthusiasts is to talk shop, represent the Club at car shows, rallies, exchange ideas and have fun.

Their first outing was a GREAT SUCCESS! They entered the Crusin' Classics Car Show held at the Cannstatter Verein in Philadelphia, PA on 16 August 2003. The following individuals entered their cars in the show; Colin Huff, Dave Wood, Dennis Bauer, Frank Herdt, Hans Martini, Jim Brunner, Mary Beth Huff, Melanie Bauer, Mike Lenyo, Patrick Huff, Rick Search, Sean Jakober, Terry Huff and Sam Steinert (photos to the right). Eleven of the members first met that morning at Terry's Service in Fallsington, PA and caravanned through Levittown and Philadelphia to the show. What a thrill it was as onlookers did a "double take" as the Autoklub members went by in a long column.

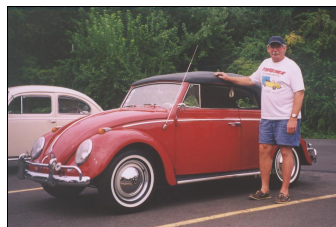
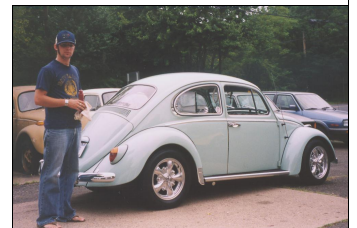
The group was awarded a 4 feet tall trophy (see it at the Clubhouse) and a \$100 for having the most car entries from any one club (14). In addition, Terry Huff (VW Dune Buggy) won 2nd place in the Kit Car class, Melanie Bauer (Olds Aero) won 3rd place in the Import/Compact class, Dennis Bauer (VW New Beetle) won 2nd place in that class and Jim Brunner (Porsche 914) won 2nd place in the Sports Car class (see photo below).



The group was joined by many Trenton DS Club members who showed up in support. The DS Club presented each participant with a framed plaque in appreciation for their entry in the show. The Autoklub, in turn, presented the Trenton Donauschwaben Club with their own appreciation plaque & the trophy for their sponsorship. A real Win-Win situation.

The Autoklub plans to continue to participate in future events such as; the Fall 2003 Raceway Park VW Show & Go at Englishtown, NJ, the 2004 Cannstatter Car Show and the 2004 Philadelphia Steuben Day Parade.

Kurt Müller and Mike Colacello also plan to join the ranks this Fall. If you are interested in joining this informal car club let Hans Martini or Dennis Bauer know. This is just one more way the DS Club continues to expand it's activities and offering its members another special interest group to participate in.



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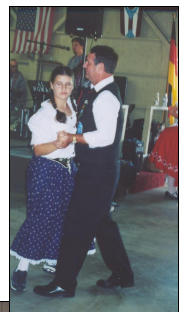
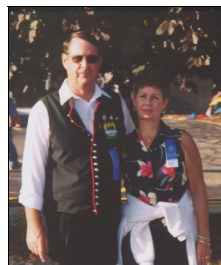
2003 Landestreffen in Ohio
 (at the Liederkranz & a pizza party in the hotel hall)



Club Activity Pictures this Summer



The Autoklub's members at the August 2003 Cannstatter Auto Show in Philadelphia, PA. (missing are Pat Huff, Sean Jakober, & Sam Steinert)



2003 Landestreffen in Mansfield, Ohio



Club Events for the Fall 2003

EVENTS— DATES & TIMES

Come out and join us!

- Stiftungsfest (Annual Dinner) Saturday, 18 October 2003, 6pm.
- Totengedenkfeier, Sunday, 2 November 2003, 1pm.
- Schlachtfest, Sunday, 16 November 2003, 1 & 3pm.
- St. Nikolausfeier, Sunday 7 December 2003, 1pm.
- Silvesterfeier, Wednesday, 31 December 2003, 8pm.
- Winteressen, Sunday, 18 January 2004., 1pm
- Generalversammlung (Annual General Membership Business Meeting), Sunday, 25 January 2004, 1pm.

Please call Frau Josefa Brandecker (609) 585-8460 or Eva Martini (609) 586-6109 for meal reservations.

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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. We appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you again soon.



Auf Wiedersehen bei den Donauschwaben!

Landestreffen 2003: "A Southern Perspective" by Ray Martini (continued from page one)

The dancing was first class, as it always is, it's difficult to describe for those who haven't seen it. It is always -and I do mean always- entertaining. It is impressive to see the large numbers of young and old that do it and do it well. The dancing takes place in two venues and they perform from the afternoon to well into the evening for two full days. I don't mean one or two dance groups coming out with long intermissions, rather as one group stops the next group is lined up ready to go. Never, even with all these dance groups, have I seen two dances that are the same, not even close, and whether you like Schuhplattler, traditional Volksdances, waltzing or any combination thereof, it was all incredibly entertaining.

Our club was well represented and it was great to see the group of our young children who are not so young anymore. Kudos to Brittny and Joe Brandecker, Anna and Luisa Martini, as they mature from step counting and worrying about forgetting something (not that you could ever tell) into entertainers who genuinely seem to enjoy it and work the crowds like old pros. Even our "old" timers (I use old in parenthesis because I too am an old timer) Hans & Joann Martini and Steve and Joe Brandecker, did the old favorite Schwäbische Eisenbahn! It looked great and I was half expecting the rest of the old group and Frau Novosel to suddenly appear.

As far as the dancing goes, it's obvious to an outside observer that the alliance with our friends in Philly has been a great success. The inclusion of the adult dancers is just icing on the cake. The dancing was so impressive that my daughter Kathleen is asking her cousins to videotape the dance steps so she can learn them for the next Trachtenfest, that alone says it all. Dancing was but a part of the weekend, which also included everyone's favorite adult beverage (of course), great food, great desserts, Gemütlichkeit, old friends (Chicago, Toronto, Milwaukee, Windsor, Detroit, LA, Clay-fe-land (Donauschwaben for Cleveland), etc. etc.), new friends, (and did I mention a certain frothy fermented beverage?), and after all isn't that what such weekends should be all about?!

And so, my Yankee Landsleute, that was the weekend that was the Mansfield Treffen, 2003. Not coincidentally, the distance *back* to Georgia was just as long as trip *from* Georgia... but the memories of great times just experienced did help dull some of the pain. Hey, before I knew it I was whistling "Dixie" and remounting the gun rack in the back of the van, right where the Creator Himself intended it to be.

Okay, by my calculations, Windsor, which is in Ontario (I think that is one of those US states we added to the flag in the 1950's), is probably just a stone's throw or two from good ol' Mansfield, Ohio. I figure if I get a reeeearly early morning start, I should be there in good time and the family won't even notice the extra 2, 3, 4, 5 hours.

This is the Georgia contingent of the Trenton Donauschwaben signing off and wishing all of you the very best. *Prosit!*