

Germans-From-Russia Remember Their Heritage

If you like German food, are interested in German Russian heritage and feel liking stepping back into the close knit family life experienced by German Russians in the early 1900s you are invited to attend the second international convention of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (AHSGR).

The convention will be held at the Villager Thursday through next Sunday, according to Miss Ruth Amen of 601 D, president of the Lincoln local of AHSGR and convention coordinator.

Miss Amen, totally enthused about the international convention, has a 300 strong Lincoln chapter of the organization backing her up.

German Russians, by broad definition, are of German racial stock, descendants of Germans who migrated as early as the 1500s and in greater numbers two centuries later to Russian lands.

To a large extent they maintained their German language, culture, customs, churches and industry in the adopted homeland until after the Bolshevik Revolution that took Russia out of World War I.

However, many of the German Russians left Czarist Russia in the 19th and early 20th centuries, largely to seek freedoms — including freedom from Russian military service — in countries of the Western Hemisphere.

"This is going to be much more than just another convention," Miss Amen said.

"This is going to be a chance for the old timers to retreat into the past for a bit, and for the second and third generations to learn or relearn their fine heritage."

A highlight of the convention will be a dramatic presentation

Continued on Page 6.

One of the scenes to be enacted at the historical pageant depicting the lives, customs and cultures of Lincoln's Germans-from-Russia is the Saturday night bath. This tableau finds Mrs. Jake Sinner scrubbing Paul J. H. Amen, 9; Conrad Froschheiser holds Scott Gannon. Adell Nuss, 12, is the kneeling girl.



Pageant Retells Old Days

Continued from Page 1.

directed by Joe and Beverly Miller of Lincoln depicting some of the customs and activities of the Germans who came from Russia. A program of 12 to 15 scenes — all in German — will be given Friday at 8 p.m. at Millard Lefler Auditorium, according to Miss Amen. It will be open to the public.

Pageant Scenes

The pageant will include scenes of courtship, the marriage, baptism, and the day-to-day life steeped in homeland traditions enjoyed by the settlers, according to Miss Amen.

"I think one of the things that will really be of interest to those attending the convention will be the booklet of folklore we have compiled from the memories of the old timers," Miss Amen said.

The booklet includes the folk stories and jingles, and songs that some of us barely remember from our own childhood."

"We also plan to have a German banquet featuring all of the delicious foods of the old country, and following that everyone will participate in a good old fashioned hop (dance)," Miss Amen said.

Speakers

The four-day convention will also include appearances by three internationally-known authorities on the German Russian heritage field.

Dr. Karl Stumpp of Tuebingen, West Germany.

Mrs. Emma Schwabenland Hayes, a native of Portland, Ore., who is the society's representative in Germany.

Dr. Adam Giesinger professor of chemistry at the University of Manitoba in Canada.

Dr. Stumpp will address the convention on the history of Germans from Russia, their heritage, and emigrations to America. He will also give the final banquet address on the "History of the Soviet Germans since World War I."

Mrs. Hayes, who has done considerable research on Germans from Russia in today's Germany, and has toured Russia several times, will tell of her research and travels.

Dr. Giesinger will present a paper on the Germans from Russia who settled in western Canada.

A paper on the German Russians who migrated to Paraguay will be presented by the Rev. A. W. Friesen of Henderson.

The international convention is expected to draw over 500 delegates from at least a dozen states and Canada, according to Miss Amen. She said other large German Russian settlements are found in western Canada, the Dakotas, Kansas, California and Oregon.

Miss Amen said the convention is open to anyone who wishes to register, regardless of origin.