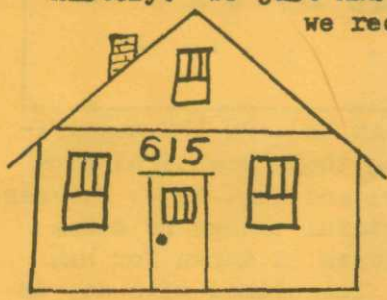
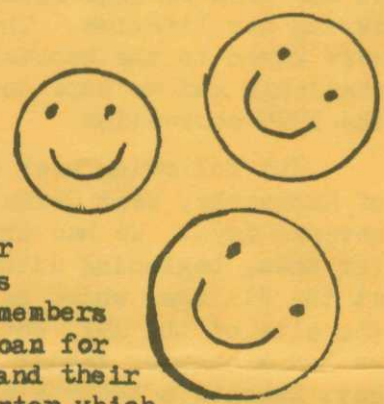


Lincoln, Nebraska Chapter
AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA

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Report to the Fourth International Convention
Portland, Oregon
June 19-24, 1973
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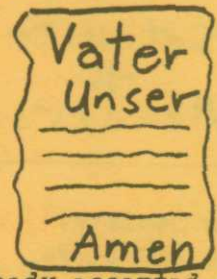
We're all smiles in Lincoln, Nebraska. The reason? We have found a home -- a chapter headquarters, part of which will serve as a repository. We already have a collection of interesting items that have been given to us for safe keeping -- documents, pictures, clothing, hymnals, bibles and other books -- and we expect there will be more when our members see that we have a place to display what they contribute or loan for the benefit of all who are interested in Germans from Russia and their history. We just had to find a place to hang the chapter charter which we received at the Boulder convention.



The five room bungalow which we have rented is at 615 D Street in Lincoln, across from a lovely park. Four of our German Russian churches are close by, one less than a block away. As you can guess our "home" is in the area where many of our people still live. One room will serve as an office and two connecting rooms lend themselves nicely to board and committee meetings as well as being just right for small study groups. There is a large kitchen which can be multi-potlucks for

purpose and very convenient for serving refreshments or smaller groups.

One room will remain as a bedroom with a brass bed pieced "gekнопfed" quilt. On the wall will be the a "Tauf Schein" and some old pictures of our forefathers all so proud. There will even be a crib in one corner. be used to house special guests of the chapter. Mrs. land Haynes who is regrettably missing this convention promised to be in Fresno for the 1974 convention has already accepted the invitation to be our guest after the convention when she will spend some time at the Nebraska State Historical Society.

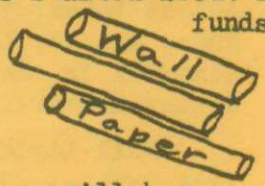


decked with a "Vater Unser", of whom we are This room may Emma Schwaben- but has already

The full basement at 615 D Street has two large storerooms and a large area for work. It could also accommodate some group meetings. We're going to be comfortable all year round with the help of a new furnace and central air conditioning. And when you come to visit you may find someone leisurely swinging in an old fashioned swing that we expect to hang on the front porch.



We think we are Number One in having our own repository and we encourage all other chapters to move ahead with a similar project. We really don't have much money but we do have FAITH. Our Repository Savings Account was started about 15 months ago and every first of the month we place 5% of the funds we have in our checking account into the Repository Fund. We do that before we pay other bills for that makes our receive a cash gift and you can guess where this goes. Only one guess!!



We have all been busy decorating our headquarters and before long we will have a family picnic in the park across the street with Open House afterward. You are all invited to visit and tour our "home" the next time you are in Lincoln. We are planning special tours for school children and will open the small library to students as well as our own members.

We had three distinguished visitors during the past year. First was Mrs. Haynes of Frankfort, West Germany. She spent several days in Lincoln after the convention in Boulder to review some of the materials in the Mrs. Hattie Plum Williams collection. Our board of directors entertained her at a potluck dinner on June 15. During our discussions afterward we were urged by her and Phil Legler who accompanied her to take on the task of organizing the many documents which were assembled by Mrs. Williams during her lifetime. These articles along with her books on the Germans from Russia were given to the Nebraska State Historical Society. Our chapter has accepted the challenge and we hope to report substantial progress by the time we meet in Fresno for the 1974 convention.

The following week Rev. and Mrs. Hermann Zwecker of Karlsruhe, West Germany, arrived in Lincoln for several days. We had arranged a very full program for them, beginning with a dinner meeting on June 19 at the Villager which many of you will remember as the site of the 1971 convention. The next evening we had a chapter family potluck picnic preceding Rev. Zwecker's address at the Zion United Church of Christ Church. Many who heard him on this occasion came again the next evening when he repeated his Boulder address at Friedens Lutheran Church. The rest of that day had been spent with our satellite members in Henderson, Nebraska. It is always a very special treat to tour the magnificent Mennonite Church. Mrs. Zwecker had the privilege of playing their beautiful pipe organ. Included, too, was the usual visit to AHSGR members, Rev. and Mrs. A. W. Friesen,

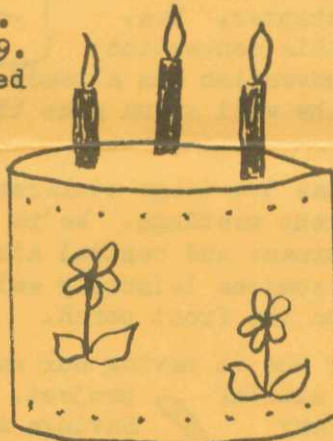
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to see his work shop and all the beautiful things he makes out of native walnut. Rev. Friesen is known for his artistic grandfather clocks. The climax of a day in Henderson is a dinner of authentic Mennonite dishes.



Our other special visitor was Phil B. Legler, president of the Denver Metropolitan Chapter. Phil has spent considerable time in Lincoln working on the manuscript of THE CZAR'S GERMANS, left by Mrs. Williams and soon to be published by our Society. Phil was our speaker at our third birth- day celebration, April 29. Phil's stories about the customs that prevailed during wedding and other celebrations, illustrating his talk with while interviewing old-timers during the past several decades. Also invited to our celebration was Miss Jessie B. Keller who had taught many of us in her kindergarten classes. On this occasion she had the privilege of meeting some of her "grandchildren".

Three additional speakers on this program pledged their intent to carry forward Nuss, age 14, Larry Giebelhaus, age 12, and Paul John Henry Amen, age 11. All were made Admirals in the Lincoln Chapter Marina on this occasion along with Phil and six of our senior members, three women and three men.



Happy Birthday! Happy Birthday!
It's good to be THREE!

Phil Legler was also interviewed for a special article on the folklore of Germans from Russia. This appeared along with his picture in the newspaper the next day.

AHSGR in years to come. They were Adell Nuss, age 14, Larry Giebelhaus, age 12, and Paul John Henry Amen, age 11. All were made Admirals in the Lincoln Chapter Marina on this occasion along with Phil and six of our senior members, three women and three men.

We continue to receive excellent publicity as a chapter and as individual members, as we make our mark in the community. We never overlook an opportunity to give AHSGR an extra "plug". More recognition is "in the works" with several members being featured in special news stories. The Sunday Journal and Star is doing a series of articles on special foods and customs of various ethnic groups. They will be interviewing Mrs. John B. Wertz and daughter, Mrs. Ferdinand Nuss, about the cookery of Germans from Russia. Rumor has it that this will be also a "tasting" occasion.

H. J. Amen, International AHSGR Honorary President, was also interviewed recently for a story in a series on "retired" individuals.

Our pageant, "Folklore of Germans from Russia", continues to receive attention. The 14 scenes are now on slides and with the script were used as the program for another chapter's membership meeting. These were also used in a college class on folklore. The script has also been sent to Laurel, Montana for production at their First Annual German Days in the fall.

To summarize, we submit a few statistics for the year:

- * We have had 5 membership meetings, including our traditional "Broda".
- * We have had 7 meetings of the board of directors.
- * We have mailed out 4 issues of the CHAPTER ONE NEWS to all members and our satellite members who are within driving distance to meetings.
- * We count 300 plus members.
- * We enrolled 25 new members.
- * We have 19 members registered for this convention.
- * We added 12 Admirals to the Lincoln Chapter Volga Marina.
- * We have \$267.99 in our chapter treasury.
- * We have \$423.57 in our repository savings account.
- * We still do not have chapter dues.

As you can see, our good times continue along with our hard work to help International AHSGR grow. Next June we hope to have a large delegation in Fresno. In June 1975 we hope all of you will be heading for NEBRASKA to "Live a Little in Lincoln". Remember 1971?

THE 1975 CONVENTION WILL BE TWICE THE FUN!!

Respectfully submitted,

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA CHAPTER

President - - -	Miss Ruth M. Amen
Vice President - - -	Ralph Giebelhaus
Vice President - - -	Mrs. Delores K. Schwartz
Recording Secretary - - -	Mrs. Magdalene Lebsack Novak
Treasurer - - -	Mrs. Gerald Willis
Corresponding Secretary - - -	Mrs. Katherine B. Weber
Historian - - -	Miss Frances Amen
Finance Chairman - - -	Jake Sinner
Genealogy Chairman - - -	Mrs. Ferdinand Nuss
Membership Chairman - - -	Mrs. John Whittington
Publicity Chairman - - -	Mrs. John Herstein
Social Chairman - - -	Mrs. Henry Ostwald
Directors - - -	Edward Deines
	Reinholdt Dreith
	Conrad Gabelhaus Jr.
	G. Scotty Kaufman
	Ferdinand Nuss
	Edward Schwartzkopf
	Paul Stoehr
	Harry Wagner

Still smiling!

