



THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA

Lincoln Chapter

Volume IV

February 1996

Issue II

Chapter Officers

President - John Stuert

1st Vice President - Dale Dinges

2nd Vice President - Samuel Sinner

Secretary - Gladys Herstein

Treasurer - Lois Sorensen

Corresponding Secretary - Delores Schwartz

Historian - Delores Schwartz

Program Chairman - Dale Dinges

Membership Chairman - Samuel Sinner

Genealogy Chairman - Shirley Robertson

Newsletter Editor - Hugh Dobler

Scheduled Coming Events

February 13, 1996 LLCGS (Lincoln Lancaster County Genealogical Society)

7:00 P.M.

Dick Administration Building (Lower Level) Union College Campus

February 16, 1996 PAF-LUG (Personal Ancestral File-Lincoln User's Group)

7:00 P.M.

Family Service Center 3100 Old Cheney Road

February 20, 1996, 1996 AHSGR Board Meeting

7:00 p.m.

AHSGR Headquarters Building

631 "D" St.

Editor's Notes:

With this letter, we begin a new year for our officers. Your new board officers are listed across the top of this newsletter

In addition to the new officers the following are new board members:

Sidonia Babcock

Sheri Ertl

John Schleicher

Ann Settell

Samuel Sinner

Lillian Weber

Ruth Amen, who has previously served on the Board, decided not to run for another three year term. Because of her dedication to AHSGR almost from its inception, the local Board wished her well and gave her a life time membership on the Board with voting rights.

In the past, we have had good, great and excellent officers. Without a doubt, one officer will stand out. Larry Schenkel has been and will continue to be a great asset to the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia. We have had a dedicated leader these past three years. Larry, took time to be in on every activity that the organization had. Whether it was a dinner, noodle making or just being there when he was needed. Larry was there. You could always depend on him to impart some modicum of wisdom, when it was needed, or give advice even when others felt he shouldn't have been so aggressive. We appreciate what Larry has done, and hope he continues to be as supportive of AHSGR as he has been in the past.

In a tribute to Larry, (knowing how seriously he takes the gun control law), along with his ability as a hunter, I found this bit of humor in one of the local newspapers. I hope you and he enjoy it as much as I!

MAKE BEEF TASTE LIKE VENISON

1. Start one year before the culling date.
2. Feed the steer only on wild berries, slough grass, weeds, sagebrush and tree bark.
3. About two hours before you are ready to "shoot", chase the beef around to get the blood and adrenaline into the meat.
4. Shoot the beef immediately after it has been chased (make sure its a gut shot, and try to do this via the hind quarter). A good shot will tenderize the meat and get as much hair as possible into the impact area.
5. Drag the beef to a slough and field dress it there. Get as much grass, weeds, cattails and debris in as possible.
6. Drag the beef at least one half mile across a summer fallow field
7. Load the beef on a car/truck and first drive down a dirt or gravel road at least five miles, then down a highway. This will get as much highway grime, bugs and rocks embedded into the meat as possible (for extra flavor, do in the rain).
8. Hang the beef in the garage (make sure it is low enough so that the dog can chew on the hind quarter).
9. At least once a day have your wife idle a vehicle for at least five minutes in the garage. Carbon dioxide adds greatly to the flavor.
10. When the carcass smells so bad that you can hardly stand being in the garage, the beef is ready to dress.... then quarter it and take it to your local locker plant.

Properly followed, these steps can insure that your beef is mistaken for venison by even the most avid sportsman. Everyone will marvel at how much venison you have and how good it tastes.... and you won't have to put on that crazy orange outfit, spend days (and nights getting ready for the trip), drive many miles and walk considerably too many aching steps to bag your meal, ever again!

From "Observations" by Don Russell

President's Corner:

The by-laws of our Chapter give us the liberty to have up to 29 persons on the Board of Directors. At the present time there is room for two more people who might come on the board. If you know someone who might be interested in serving a one year term on this Board give John Stuertz a call at 402\421-7416. If you subscribe to E-Mail, he can be reached at SKOLKA@AOL.COM or if you have a Fax machine, the Fax number is 402\421-4659

MY PROMISE TO YOU

I promise to make you feel welcome and comfortable
I promise to be honest. I promise to be caring,
I promise to be helpful. I promise to be patient,
I promise to be professional in helping you and your family
I promise to listen and understand your needs and desires
I promise to appreciate your beliefs and your confidence in me.
Thank you for your vote of faith. I promise to do my best.
JOHN R. STUERTZ

ALLES GUTT!!!

In the old days when train travel was the chief method of getting around, some of them were pretty slow. One of these slow trains came to a dead halt. A passenger who was annoyed at the rate of progress said to the conductor, "Do you mind telling me why we have stopped?" The conductor said, "There's a cow on the tracks." The cow was finally gotten rid of and the train resumed its slow, slow progress over the countryside. Fifteen minutes later it came to a halt again. "Good grief," said the passenger to the conductor, "don't tell me we caught up with that cow again."

On another such slow train a young woman passenger said to the conductor, "See here, conductor, aren't we ever going to reach Chicago? You can see I'm far gone in pregnancy. Well, if we don't get to Chicago soon, you'll have to help deliver the baby." The conductor stared at her in horror. "But madam, you shouldn't have gotten on the train in this condition." And the woman replied, "I didn't."

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UNSER LEUTE GEBURTSTAG (HAPPY BIRTHDAY)

February 1 Edward Loos
February 3 Hilda Schmidt
February 5 Ronald Bauer
February 16 Philomena Lebsock
February 18 John G. Bauer
February 20 Richard Stauffer
February 24 Carl Strasheim
February 26 Diane Butherus

February 3 Victor Gruenemeyer
February 4 Marie Bauer
February 14, Phil Dinges
February 17 Donald Burbach
February 20 Dorothy E. Gruenemeyer
February 24 Irene Gabelhaus
February 25 Alex Kruse
February 27 Esther Stuertz

DER JAHRSTAG (HAPPY ANNIVERSARY)

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

February 2, 1946 Gladys and Edward Herstein
February 14, 1935 Alex and Katherine Strasheim
February 14, 1948 Leata and Adam Schwindt
February 23, 1947 Shirley and Victor Michel
February 23, 1947 Irene and Phil Dinges
February 26, 1948 Jewell and Kenneth Hardt

Don't forget to send in your names for inclusion of the birthdays and anniversary section each month
Send all communications to Hugh Dobler 3747 Woods Ave. Lincoln, NE. 68510

AHSGR FOUNDATION FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT Rod Uhrich, Foundation Trustee

At the Calgary Convention a proposal was made by the investment committee to the membership of AHSGR Foundation regarding funds management. This proposal was approved. The effect is to transfer money from the Foundation General Fund to the Foundation Endowment Fund, which accerates the growth of the Endowment Fund. All income from both the General Fund and the Endowment Fund can be used to pay budgeted expenses and provide any excess to the Society for its funding for research and information acquisition.

Prior to this change, income from the Endowment Fund was not available to be used for any purpose until the fund reached a certain size. Limited use was provided under certain constraints. The reader should be aware that budgeted expenses include only those expenses for building maintenance and shared office costs.

The changes also enable the placing of our liquid resources, or assets (approximately \$570,000) in the portfolio of a qualified respected investment manager whereby broad base risk, yield, and growth can all be achieved.

To further enhance the Endowment Fund's growth toward \$1 Million goal, a dollar for dollar matching offer was made by Arthur Flegel, a California resident and long time AHSGR member. His offer was good for all contributions (cash or pledge) to be received by the end of the convention. The Denver Metro Chapter pledged \$100 which pledge has been paid and was the equivalent to \$200 to the Endowment. The total will be announced at the October Board of Trustees meeting. There were many generous checks..... one for \$1500 and a number of \$500, etc. All of which will be matched by Arthur Flegel. When the \$1,000,000 Endowment Fund is met, this will generate a sustainable annual cash flow to enhance the collection and preservation of our culture and family histories for our members.

RAYMOND J. BECKER

Raymond Becker was born in Grand Island, Nebraska on December 7, 1905 to Emmanuel and Elizabetha Becker, the youngest of five children. The parents were living in Grand Island while his oldest sister was attending college in Grand Island, studying for a teacher's certificate. Soon after his birth the family returned to their farm located 4 miles north and three miles west of Sutton, Nebraska.

Ray grew up on the farm and attended the one room school in School Creek Township through the eighth grade. Going on to high school in Sutton, he either rode his horse on nice days tying the horse in the back yard of his oldest sister and her family during the day, or when weather was too harsh to travel, he lived with his sister in Sutton. Ray relates that his father and mother came to see him and his sister's family weekly, bringing home grown fruit and vegetables from their personal stores, along with different kinds of meat that they had processed.

During his time at Sutton High School, he enjoyed an exciting sports career playing right tackle on the football team. The love of football still stays with Ray, as there is no week that he is not in the stands when the Nebraska Football team is at home.

It was during his early years that the banking business attracted Ray. He on many occasions came into Sutton, going to the local bank, while his father transacted business. He always thought he would like to work in a bank, sitting at a desk, and making loans to the customer.

After graduating from Grand Island Business College, he and his father came to Lincoln to see if he could find some work. They bought a Lincoln paper and scanned the want ads. Here they found an ad for someone to work in the City National Bank. The two of them went to the bank, and Ray got his first job, as a collector. (A collector was a person who went to various business places, to get the cash on returned checks).

In 1928 after working at this job for about two years, the bank merged with the First National Bank. He was then given another position. He worked in the Discount Department until 1937 when he was elected assistant cashier and transferred to the Commercial Loan Department. His work has always been in the Credit and Commercial Loan Department since he became vice president in 1946.

In 1960 the Continental National Bank merged with the First National Bank. At the time of merger, the merged banks located in a new building on the corner of 12th and "N".

In 1969 a new structure on the corner of 13th and "M" was built, and completed in March of 1970. In December of that year, Ray retired from the bank.

Ray was married to Sue Mutchie in 1928. A son Robert was born in December of that year. This marriage ended in divorce in 1938.

Ray then married Sue Marie Scott in September 1940. Sue Marie had attended the same business college at the same time that Ray had, so they were friends prior to their marriage.

Marie Becker was an employee of the State of Nebraska when they were married, and later went to work for the another banking firm. In 1960 she and Ray opened "Gifts by Marc" a gift shop in Meadow Lane Shopping Center. She operated this until 1967, when failing health intervened.

Marie passed away in February, 1987.

Ray's son, Bob, graduated from Lincoln High. He attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, but did not graduate from there. He married a nurse practicing at Lincoln General. The couple left Lincoln soon after this, moving to Wisconsin, where he became an employee in a clothing store. After a few years here, he became a regional salesman for a major national shoe company, selling shoes to retailers throughout the midwest.

Bob passed away in 1988, at the age of 59 in Fort Wayne, Indiana the day before Father's Day. Ray has five grandchildren and 7 great- grandchildren.

Leslie married David Bower, and they are now living in Batavia, Illinois. They have one daughter Allison.

Pamela, is married to Ralph Belke and the family lives in Naperville, Illinois They have two daughters, Danielle and Kaehlene.

Steve Becker is married to Lisa and this couple now live at Superior, Wisconsin. Steve has a doctorate in Psychology, and is administrator for a Medical Health Center in Duluth, Minnesota, which is just across the bridge from where they live. Lisa also works at the Medical Health Center.

Robert Becker is married to Laurie and they live in Green Bay, Wisconsin. They also have two children, Holly and Brandon.

Scott Becker is married to Kris. They live in Valdosta, Georgia. Scott is in a bank there, working in the Credit Analyst Department. Kris is an Obstetric Doctor at the Moody Airforce Base at Valdosta. Scott has told Ray that more than likely they will leave this area, and move to Pennsylvania, after her tour is over, which was her home state.

In May, 1990 he was united in marriage to Doris Schult Gudmunson. Both lived in the same neighborhood of Lincoln, and had become acquainted in the intervening years. They currently live at 1340 Piedmont, in Lincoln.

Ray has been active in banking circles and has held offices in several national organizations. He has served as Secretary of Group I of Nebraska Bankers Association. In 1965 he was president of the Missouri Valley Chapter of the Robert Morris Associates, which represented seven states. In addition to attending several national conventions, he has served on a number of committees for the organization.

He has been active in the Sertoma Club since 1934, and served as president from 1968 through 1969. It was during the time that Ray was president of the Sertoma Club that he became interested in Cedars Home For Children an organization sponsored by the Sertoma Club.

He has been treasurer for Cedars since 1948, resigning just recently in 1992. He is still active on the Board of Directors, of the Foundation.

He is active in his church, Christ Lutheran Church, where he serves as an usher, attends a weekly bible class that meets every Tuesday morning at 7:00 A.M. He also became interested in promoting the church's Foundation, now serving as one of the board members.

In late November, 1995, he celebrated his 90th birthday, with a numerous guests at the Lincoln Country Club. Four of the five grandchildren along with his daughter-in-law, who lives in Fort Wayne, Indiana and one grandchild helped him celebrate the occasion.

Still a very active and virile individual, he appears to be one of the people we hear about once in awhile, being able to reach the year 100 and beyond. He continues to play golf at Hillcrest Country Club, where he has been a member for many years, trying to play at least three times a week, whenever the weather will let him. While interviewing him, he mentioned a couple of incidents that he was inordinately proud of in his golf games.

1. He played on the Antelope Golf Course when it was still a nine hole course. (Today it is an 18 hole course, reserved primarily for teenagers).
2. He made a hole in one - a par three hole.
3. He won the Hillcrest Country Club Sweepstakes in 1954.
4. He doesn't beat any golfing world records, but he still scores low enough so he still counts the strokes.



SET YOUR SIGHTS FOR A GALA EVENING!
AHSGR SOUP SUPPER
WSI HALL 1430 NORTH 10TH
MARCH 29, 1996
4:30 TO 7:00 P.M.
TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM ANY BOARD MEMBER

American Historical Society
of Germans From Russia
631 D Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68502-1199

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