



Lincoln Chapter
The American Historical Society of Germans From Russia
NEWSLETTER

VOLUME VII, ISSUE 6

DECEMBER 1999

A Message to the Membership

by Larry Schenkel, 489-3213

The second Octoberfest is over and it was a huge success. Well over 400 people passed through the Heritage Center and all seemed to have a great time.

In the last newsletter I told you we were going to try to revive the noodle-making tradition. It has been revived.

A small group of us met at Friedens Church and made a batch of noodles. The amount is really not the important subject. The fellowship we shared, the stories, the laughter, and the love of our people's traditions is the important part of this story. It's too bad we didn't have someone there with an accordion. I think the tradition of the accordion playing at gatherings has become a lost art.

The noodles? Oh, yes. They were sold out in the first half hour of the Octoberfest.

Another old reliable money-maker was resurrected for the Octoberfest, also. That wonderful concoction known as the Volga Boatman. Sausage by Shuster's, kraut by Flanagan, hoagies by Mettler's ... um! um! um! Can't be beat. Sold out before the first hour of the festival was over. Next year, if the weather is good, we will at least double everything.

Another important part of the Octoberfest is the laying of the new bricks by the Immigrants' Statue. This will remain an integral part of the celebration, so if you meant to order a brick for someone in your family but just didn't get around to it, order one for next year. That is what I am going to have to do.

Broda

Another Broda has come and gone and if anyone left hungry, that was their own fault. We served over 230 people and things really went pretty well. As always, there were a few problems, but the volunteer crew seemed to work them out pretty well.

There were a number of door prizes given away at the Broda, with the quilt, made by the Lincoln Quilters, being the main prize. The quilt was won by Virginia Amen.

Other door prizes were furnished by Lillian Weber, Helen Schwartz, Mary Schwartz, Ann Reitz, LeRoy Butherus, Schnieber Foods, Marie Foltz, Phil Dinges, and the turkeys were provided by the Lincoln Chapter. If I missed someone, please let me know and I will put it in the next newsletter.

Convention 2000

Plans are still being worked on and we have had a few people give us some ideas. We could use a lot more. Do you have a program you want presented?

Do you know someone who could be a presenter of a program? No wish or suggestion is too outlandish to be considered. The worst we could do is say no. Call me or Nancy at headquarters and let us know what you think and want. PLEASE!

Anniversary

Henry and Mary Alt celebrated their 60th anniversary on November 19th. If you remember Henry and Mary, you can send them a card at 3927 N. Shadydale Ave, Covina, CA 91722. Henry and Mary were married at Friedens Lutheran Church and still attend services there when they are in town.

Volunteers

I can never say enough about the corps of volunteers the Lincoln Chapter has. In the past month, we have had a mailing, made noodles, worked at the Octoberfest, put on a Broda dinner, quilted up a storm, and performed various tasks at the Heritage Center. I am

(continued on page 2)

	<u>10/28/99</u>	<u>10/29/99</u>	<u>10/30/99</u>
Mary Ellen Behm	9-4:30	8-5	7:30-11, 3-6
Joan Kincaid	9-6	8-5	7:30-11, 3-6
Marge Benson	9-6	8-5	7:30-12, 3-6
Betty Loesch	12-6	8-5	3-6
Esther Harms		8-5	7:30-11, 3-6
Shirley Flack		8-5	3-6
Barb Bretz			7:30-12, 3-6
	34.5 hrs.	54 hrs.	33.5 hrs.,

Volunteer Hours: 1993-5151; 1994-3582; 1995-3425; 1996-2042; 1997-1458; 1998-1201; 1999-3373 (so far and doesn't count those in this report).



Larry's Message (continued)

not going to list all of you here. I have listed you a number of times over the past years. I do wish to thank you all again, from the bottom of my heart. You make me look awfully good in my role as president. As the song says, "You are the wind beneath my wings." You are aging, however, and I wonder where your replacements are coming from. We need some new members to step forward and help with the workload. As the repository of material grows at the Heritage Center, so too does the need for more help. We cannot afford to hire more people at the center, so the slack needs to be picked up by more volunteers.

Now I am going to be in trouble, maybe. I am going to list some volunteers and I hope I get this right. If I don't, please straighten me out. The list that I am going to present asked me to let the Lincoln volunteers know that the work they did was out of respect for what you do (see other side). Rather than going sightseeing, shopping, or relaxing and reading book, playing cards or going to a movie, these ladies sorted, filed, indexed, categorized, and inventoried all parts of records while their spouses conducted the business of the foundation and the society. Just another example of what I have said before, Unser Leute are the best.

Oh, yes, lest I forget: Barb Bretz worked for three days several months earlier when her husband, Nick, president of the society board of directors, had come to Lincoln to help with the problems we had with staff.

Also, Bernice Madden volunteered at the Heritage Center for 5.5 days in September.

Most of these gracious ladies have also volunteered to help at Convention 2000. Those of you who haven't met these ladies, make an extra effort to make them feel at home next year.

An Evening at the Amen Home

By the time you receive this, four literary gatherings will have happened.

The November 23rd gathering featured Rick Rye as the guest speaker, and the November 30th gathering featured John Schleicher from the Nebraska State Historical Society.

There are more planned for December, so you might want to block out Tuesday nights, and come down for an evening of information and gemütlichkeit.

Refreshments will also be served. Use it or lose it!

Christmas Gifts

Remember, we have a lot of books in our bookstore at the Heritage Center that would make excellent gifts. Nancy has also extended the items in the gift shop and now includes an assortment of beautiful, hand-crafted Russian articles, such as nesting dolls, spoons, pens, Christmas ornaments, etc. We will have people here to sell these items during the open house, also. Hopefully, the convention quilt will be on display and the raffle tickets will also be on sale.



German Christmas Sing-Along Friedens Lutheran Church 6th & D Street Sunday, December 12 - 2:00 p.m.

The Children's German Choir is going to perform. Maybe we can get them to perform at our convention. Wouldn't it be great if we could get the German Singers together for a few songs to perform with the Children's Choir at Welcome Night? I will have to enlist some help from the German Singers to work on this.

My daughter, Patty, who lives in Longmont, CO, puts the problem in a way that is easy to understand. When she comes to visit, we always take a long, extended drive around Lincoln. Many landmarks that are important to her memories are gone and she sadly comments that another "brick" is gone. Let's not lose our "bricks."



Salute to Veterans

I hope to feature a picture or two and perhaps a short article about some of our people who have served their God and country faithfully. I got the idea from running the picture of Adam "Curly" Schwindt several newsletters past. I am also still trying to get Harry Kolb to give me more about his three years as a German POW after being shot down over Germany in WWII. Those of you who know Harry, nag him a little, if you see him, to call me.

Now, do you know these two good-looking heart-breakers? Answer in next newsletter.



Lest We Forget

This will be a new feature I am going to try to get in upcoming newsletters. Since we have Christmas and New Year's coming up, what better way to start than with the following pieces submitted by Norma Somerheiser:

Ich bin ein kleiner Koenig,
Gebt mir nicht zu wenig,
Lass mich nicht so lang hier steh'n,
Ich muss ein Heuse weiter geh'n.

(I am a little king,
So don't be cheap,
Don't keep me standing here so long
I have other houses to go to.)

Ich bin ein kleiner Koenig,
Gebt mir nicht zu wenig
Gebt mir Apfel und Nüsse,
Mich frierts an die Füße.

(I am a little king,
So don't be cheap.
Give me apples and nuts,
My feet are freezing.)

Ich wunsche euch ein loch in's Haus,
Her mal gleich ein Taler 'raus.

(May there be a hole in your house
Now quick, hand out a dollar.)

Here is a little Christmas piece Pastor Wolfe gave me. I'm not sure of the translation.

Ich bin ein kleines Kindelein,
Und meine Kraft ist schwach,
Ich mochte gerne selig sein
Und weiss nicht, wie ich's mach.

Ach nimm mein ganzes Herz dir hin,
Nimm's lieber Heiland, an;
Iich weiss, dass ich dein eigen bin,
Und geb dir, was ich kann.

Mein Heiland, du bist mir zugut
Geworden auch ein Kind,
Und hast mich durch dein teures Blut,
Erlöst von aller Sünd.

(Do you have an English translation? Write it down and sent it to me at 2538 So. 53rd Street, 68506.)

Holler boller Rumpelsack

Holler boller Rumpelsack,
Nicklaus tragt ihn Hukkepack,
Weihnachts nüsse rund und braun,
runzlig punzlig anzuschauen.

Knacht die Schale, springt der Kern,
Weihnachtsnüsse ess ich gern.
Komm bald wieder in dies Haus,
guter, alter Nikolaus!

(Can you readers help with this one, too?)

Nancy Holland has one for the next newsletter. If any of you have any kind of remembrance you would like to share with the membership, please, *please*, call me at 489-3213. If you can't bring it, or don't want to mail it, I will pick it up. Let's not let our traditions die. Our German Singers are fading out because no one can pick up the loose ends, but we have the Children's German Choir that they are getting started at Friedens.

Christmas Open House

By now, many of you have realized I don't know how to read a calendar very well. I reported in the last newsletter that the open house would be Sunday, December 18th, 1-4 p.m. Everything is correct except Sunday. The Open House will be **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1-4 P.M.**

We have also decided to start putting up lights on the outside of the Heritage Center now, while the weather is still good. We will put any finishing touches need at the open house.

If you have any questions, call me at 489-3213 or Ruth White at 423-4345. Ruth is the chairperson for the decorating committee and would probably welcome any volunteer help offered.

Does anyone have a cherry-picker truck they would like to donate to help put hangers, etc. on the peaks of the Heritage Center? If so, **CALL!!!**

Santa Jake Sinner is again rounding

SEASON'S GREETINGS

up his wild and crazy assortment of roguish elves to get the traditional Christmas SACK ready for all the good little boys and girls, ages 1-day-old to 110-year-old (or older) kiddies.

The Lincoln Chapter is providing cookies, coffee, hot spiced cider and, if

possible, hot chocolate. (Depends on the weather.)

Remember, if you have a favorite Christmas cookie recipe, bring a dozen or so to share.

If you know any of "Unser Leute" who are in hospitals, nursing homes or just ailing and sick at home, let us know. We will take them any left-over sacks and cookies to help brighten them up a bit.

One more thing, the Open House is open to all. People do not have to be a member.

Perhaps, when they see what you, the membership, have built, they will join.

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