



Lincoln Chapter

The American Historical Society of Germans From Russia

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME VIII, ISSUE 4

AUGUST 2000

August Notes from Ruth

by Ruth White, President, Lincoln Chapter AHSGR

Well, we did it! We had an exceptional Convention. Many from all parts of the country expressed their appreciation for a job well done by the Lincoln Chapter volunteers.

We should also include all other volunteers and staff. An excerpt of a letter is included elsewhere in this Newsletter. Our part in the Convention, the *Welcome Night* and *Folklore Festival* with all the volunteers and delicious food, were both successful.

At the *Folklore Festival*, the busses came too early and our plans went awry, but our volunteers were ready with a smile and were flexible during the festival.

Welcome Night was a blast. Demonstrations were very well received. Possibly the food line set up could have been more convenient, but, goodness, everyone was happy except possibly a few stragglers. During the convention, there might have been a few volunteers who spent too much time in one location, but no complaints were heard, so we have to assume everything went okay. The garden was of special interest. Many wanted to see the Sugar Beets (the seeds were furnished by the Nebraska Panhandle Chapter). Interesting, too, were the Cucumbers, as those seeds came directly from Russia.

The Tomato plants and the Marigolds (which bordered the plot) were purchased locally, but I must say they came through in shining colors.

Now the next item on the calendar is the Garage Sale. Dates are August 18 and 19. We do not have any storage space, so no donations can be accepted until August 15. The Broda Dinner is set for November 3, with tickets available in September. We all need to help as our members are getting older, and

not quite as agile as a few years past. The heart is willing, but the body is unable to keep up.

Pictures, I purchased from the Picture Man. They are included in this Newsletter, so those of you unable to

attend can share.

Danke Shoen fuer alles!!

P.S. There are no words to express our heartfelt thanks to the Panhandle Chapter. They sponsored the Breakfast and helped in many other ways. Without their assistance, the Convention would not have been successful! — Ruth



Observations of the International Convention of AHSGR

by Henry "Lefty" Grenemeier

I had a great time at the AHSGR Convention, even though I was working most of the time. I helped in the registration area and everybody at the Convention walked by this table at some time or another. I got to visit with many old friends, too numerous to mention, and made many new friends. All the volunteers did a great job and it was a pleasure to work with them.

I did not go of any tours, but I heard a lot of comments about them and it seemed like the people enjoyed them very much, especially the one to Sutton, Nebraska.

I thought the Convention was great and we had a good turnout. It seemed to me that everything moved along fairly smooth. I thought the Folklore Festival was great. We had an almost perfect day along with a good crowd.

I'm sure everyone enjoyed the Volga Boatman sandwiches and the runzas even though those runzas were not like the one's grandmother used to make.

Last but not least, I personally thought the Nebraska Panhandle Chapter did a wonderful job of sponsoring and handling the Recognition Breakfast.

My Observations of the 31st International Convention of AHSGR

by Molly Grenemeier



Sunday before the convention, June 12, volunteers came down to the hotel and put materials in sacks. In no time at all, but they had put together over 700 packets. That was a fun time, with a lot of conversation. There were some conventioners in town, getting together things they wanted to explore in either the genealogical section or looking for new publications.

Monday—At the refreshment center that evening, there were many convention people already in, relaxing and having a nice time.

Tuesday—Some of the Conventioners went on tours or sightseeing trips. Others were buying books and maps. I worked in the Hospitality Room as a greeter and was able to meet many people. I also helped at the raffle table selling tickets. Of course, everyone was hoping they would be the one who would win the grand prize, a hand-sewn quilt. Even though they might not have won the quilt, there were many other prizes and it was all for a good cause.

Wednesday—The Lincoln Chapter had published a booklet, "Passing Down the Memories," which was a Folklore sharing project. It told about the people of Lincoln, who lived in the area, North and South Bottoms, along with some of the stunts they would pull. At least none of them hurt anyone!

From 4 to 9 p.m. we had Welcome Night, with demonstrations of our ethnic foods. We demonstrated how to make sausages, Bierrock's, dill pickles, and also a sample of each. We then had a buffet dinner with plenty of these foods, along with food we use today.

Thursday—Opening day of the busi-

ness for our convention, a wonderful day. This would not have been possible if Ruth White had not done such an excellent job of organizing.

First our Lincoln mayor, Don Wesely, welcomed all. We had the Presentation of our Flags (USA and Canadian), and said the Lord's Prayer in unison and sang "America the Beautiful" and "O' Canada."

That was the beginning of our business meeting. We had lunch with a man-sized sandwich. It really was almost too much for one who really wasn't working very hard, wasn't it? We went over to the University and took our group pictures: all members, those who were born in Russia, and all of our Life Members.

This day I saw a young lady sitting alone, and went over to her and started a conversation. She said she had joined AHSGR about nine months ago, really didn't know too much about the organization, but thought even though she couldn't really afford to come, she was hoping she could find out something about her ancestry. I told her to come to Ancestral Night, which she did, and I took her to the table she could make some contacts. Lo and Behold, that was the table Jake Sinner was at. We had a very happy young lady, who gave me a very big hug the next morning.

Friday—The afternoon was spent at headquarters. This was the day AHSGR had reserved for a fun day, the Folklore Festival. We had a wedding in the Chapel, where Glen and Elizabeth Barker renewed their wedding vows after 25 years. The wedding was an old-fashioned German-Russian wedding with all the trappings of yonder year. We had all kinds of demonstrations, such as fishing in the Volga, playing games with the children, and best of all, a live demonstration of a blacksmith job, and a live blacksmithy, Don Kincade, a member of the International Board, but a student of old time blacksmithing.

Food was plentiful, serving both commercial runzas and homemade Volga Boatman sandwiches. Here I

came dressed in my German-Russian black dress with white apron and carried with me four pounds of mints.

Before the day was over, I had given away all of them.

Saturday—Another day of business, interspersed with such things as getting new life members. At first no one seemed to come forward to declare they would like to be a life member, until I was ready to scream, "Let's get at least one new member!" It turned out okay, as we did sign up quite a number of new life members.

The evening Banquet was a beautiful affair. It was especially fitting that each table's centerpiece had a replica of the statue that is in front of our Headquarters' building.

After the banquet we sold all the centerpieces.

We were also surprised when we had our Lt. Governor Maurstad, who gave the evening dinner talk about his ancestry. We must not forget the dance in the evening. Although neither "Lefty" or I attended, I'm sure many members danced many a Polka that night.

Sunday—The ecumenical services were very inspirational. Anyone who did not attend, really missed a good sermon. After services, one needed to say goodbye to all who remained and, of course, we all had to wish that everyone would be able to return to the next con-



vention, in Denver, next year.

We cannot close this missal without saying something about Jan Roth and the wonderful job she did and also the staff, putting in many hours of overtime!

AHSGR Receives 1720 Bible

Submitted by Tracy Lauritzen Wright, AHSGR Staff

On 21 July, 2000, AHSGR received a gift of two Bibles from the Martin Luther Home Society in conjunction with the Martin Luther Home Society's 75th Anniversary celebration. The Bibles, one printed in 1720 and the other printed ca. 1840, were donated to AHSGR in a ceremony at the All Faiths Chapel. A reception was later held in the Henry J. Amen and Barbara Wacker Amen Museum.

The 1720 Bible was printed in Basel, Switzerland. This is a parish Bible, which would have been commonly used by churches in the Germanic states, particularly the areas from where many Germans from Russia emigrated

in the late 18th century prior to moving to Russia. This Bible is currently on exhibit in the All Faiths Chapel at the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia Cultural Heritage Research Center.

The second Bible printed ca. 1840 in the United States is a typical example of a family bible and has been added to the AHSGR Collections.

Attending the donation ceremony were: Lt. Gov. David Maurstad, Lincoln Mayor Don Wesely, AHSGR Lincoln chapter members, and representatives of the board for Martin Luther Home Society from across the U.S.

Snapshots of the Convention...



BRODA DINNER

November 3, 2000

**Tickets will be
issued in September**

**Welfare Society Hall
1410 N. 10th Street
Lincoln, NE**

**Quilt Raffle
Good Food
Surprises?**

A Special Thank You

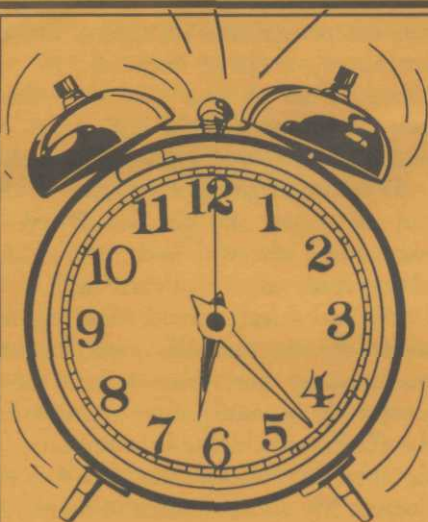
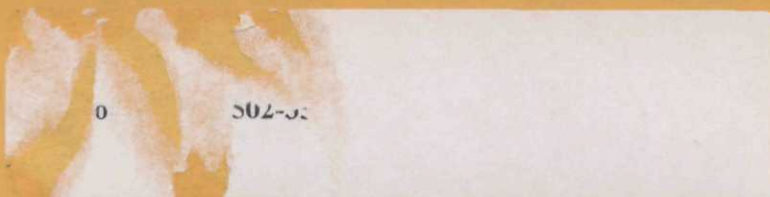
Dear Ruth and all the wonderful volunteers from the Lincoln Chapter:

The AHSGR convention in Lincoln was exceptional and its success can be attributed, in large measure, to the efforts of all of you. You were there morning, noon and far into the night making sure everything went smoothly – or at least making sure none of the rest of us saw any glitches. Everyone was always cheerful and helpful and always ready to go that extra mile.

We had a really grand time, learned so much, renewed old acquaintances, made many new friends, and came away with an even greater appreciation for all that you in the Lincoln Chapter do for our Headquarters and for the Society. My appreciation and thanks go out to you.

Lincoln Chapter
American Historical Society of
Germans from Russia
631 D Street
Lincoln, NE 68502-1199

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Time for this year's
Garage Sale

August 18-19, 2000

8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Henry J. and Barbara (Wacker)

Amen Museum

601 D Street

Donations accepted after August 15

Please mark your price on each item.

(This will help volunteers)