



Lincoln Chapter

The American Historical Society of Germans From Russia

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME X, ISSUE 2

APRIL/MAY 2002

Notes from Ruth

by Ruth White, President

Ruth Amen passed away during the month of January. We lost a faithful member of our organization and our board. At the board meeting of January 21st a motion was made and carried that the Lincoln Chapter donate \$1,000 in Ruth's memory to the General Fund of the AHSGR Society. The Lincoln Chapter Board members also donated \$347 to the General Fund of the AHSGR Society in the memory of Ruth Amen.

At our annual meeting in January we elected new officers of the board and welcomed new board members. The new board members are: Nancy Borrell and Paul Loos. Sidonia Babcock did not run for re-election due to other responsibilities. We owe a debt of gratitude to Sid for her years of service. Jerry McInnis resigned from the board due to another meeting falling on the same date as our board meeting. We also say thank you for his years of service. He has consented to continue as our Newsletter editor.

Our volunteers are the mainstay of our group. A big thank you to all volunteers: soup supper, SOAR Project (obituaries), mailings, repairing items, doing what needs to be done whenever, office assistance (membership, research, all other needs). The Lincoln Chapter does do much for the organization behind the scenes many are not aware of the fact!

Upcoming events are the General meeting April 21 at 2:00 p.m. in the Chapel. Norma Somerheiser, Folklore Chair, will present an interesting program. Please come and share your past remembrances of growing up in the North and South Bottoms and your church experiences. The Kraut & Brei dinner on May 24th and the garage sale sometime in August are also on the calendar. The Convention of AHSGR will be in Des Moines June 30 to July 7. The board meets the first few days and tours are scheduled at that time. Information will be mailed shortly.

We do not have a Dinner Chairman as yet. This is a big job! This person arranges for the food preparation and the cooking of the food. If we do not have a fall dinner (Broda), the quilt raffle will be during the Christmas Festival.

Our organization needs us. Let's continue to do our best for the good of the organization. Thank you again for all that you do!

A Tribute to Ruth Amen

I must say these words that I write here
Are mine and mine alone.
I was not asked to do this as a favor,
These words I write are my own.

Since I first became a member of the AHSGR
I'm amazed at what it's become.
It gives our people the recognition
As to how and where they came from.

I think we should be very thankful,
To set a date and call it Ruth Amen Day.
She got our German people the recognition
That we are enjoying today.

I am proud to be called a member,
For our people so much has been done.
To keep the memories and traditions,
That to our German people belong.

To Ruth must go much of the credit,
For the research and work she has done.
She has brought our German people together,
To show them when and where they are from.

She helped bring these different colonies together,
And how she did this is hard to understand.
They all came from different parts of Russia,
But they came from this same hard land.

To our people this was a blessing,
And for them I must proudly say.
It took a lot of courage and praying,
To let go and come to the USA.

And for this we should all be thankful,
That Ruth Amen came our way.
Ruth, I have to say opened the door,
That brought our history and heritage home to stay.

We know our people deserve this,
And we should do all that we can.
To record and keep the memories alive,
And give thanks they came to this land.

—Eddie Loos



Don't Forget: General Meeting

**April 21, 2002 – 2:00 p.m. – Heritage Center Chapel, 631 D
Program: Remembrances of the Past**

We will have two speakers. Eleanor Gillette will take the first ten or fifteen minutes to tell about "Team Mates." This is a volunteer program in the schools and is a great program.

Next, Norma Somerheiser will give a short report about the booklet we printed and how we are coming on adding to it and having it reprinted.

We (Norma and the booklet committee) ask you to please come with stories you have to share about growing up in your churches. Norma will moderate and record the session, then we will transcribe the stories, unless you are nice enough to already have them written out. Getting these stories plays an extremely important part in whether we reprint or not. If we don't get many,

we won't have enough material to justify reprinting, SO HELP! Please?

After the meeting, we will adjourn to the lower level of the headquarters for coffee and dena kuchen (coffee cake). We were going to have cookies until Nancy Borrell (at the last meeting) asked, why bring cookies? Why don't we have something ethnic, like dena (another spelling) kuchen? She said she would make a couple and several other board members spoke up, saying they would make one or two (or their wife would). So, if you don't know what dena (another spelling) kuchen taste like you are in for a treat.

We'll have our own mini Schmeckfest, eh? Hope to see you at the Heritage Center on the 21st.

Lincoln Chapter Board

Harold Bauer
Nancy Borrell
LeRoy Butherus, 1st Vice President
Dale Dinges
Henry Grenemeier
Lucille Hedges, Recording Secretary
Gladys Herstein, Historian
Paul Loos
Ann Reitz, Corresponding Secretary
Henry Sader
Larry Schenkel, Treasurer
John Schneider
Delores Schwartz, 2nd Vice Pres.
Ed Schwartzkopf
Jake Sinner
Ruth White, President

Soup Supper

Thanks to all of you who attended the soup supper. We had a good crowd and no one went away hungry. Or, if they did, it was their own fault. And, we sold a lot of soup in containers for people to take home.

I would like to give special thanks to my cooking crew: Don Burbach, Bud Dietrich, Bruce Frautwein, and Roger Peterson. Bruce and Roger are not GR's, they are old friends of mine and are really good cooks. They helped with the Broda, and are going to help with the Kraut and Brei. My two brothers, Rick and Jim, were going to help, but had some major problems come up that kept them away. Unfortunately, losing those two also cost the surprise I had been cooking up. I had hoped to have green bean soup and chicken-rice with butter balls soup and for take-out. We had also lost Henry Sader, and without those three stalwart grooms (buddies) to help, that would have been asking too much of Bud, Donnie, Bruce, and Roger.

Oh, yes. Lest I forget and never hear the end of it, Henry Sader did

make the chili at home and brought it in on Friday morning of the Soup Supper. Those of you who know Sonny (he likes to spell it Sunny, but I know he's not that bright) know what I mean about never hearing the end of it with him. Those of you who don't know, I pray you never find out.

We had a lot of compliments on the noodle soup and many said the vegetable soup was a welcome addition and was excellent. Thank goodness Henry brought the chili in early and the combined expertise of the "Fab Four" were able to work their magic and present something palatable.

Just joking, Sonny. We had many complaints, uh, er, compliments, yeh, that's it, compliments, on the chili.

Oh, Henry and Judy Sader donated the chili and Norma and I donated the vegetable soup.

Now let me add some more names to the list of volunteers to thank: *Helen Schwartz, Nancy Borrell, *Barb Schmidt, Suzy Stoehr, *Ann Reitz, *Delores Schwartz, *Marion Mueller, *Frieda Dobler, *Lucille Hedges, Paul Loos, *Judy Runion, *Gladys Herstein,

Ferd Nuss, Norma Somerheiser, Phil Sorenson, *Molly and Lefty Grenemeier, *Virginia Dietrich, *Phil and Irene Dinges, Dale Dinges and his son Jeremy, Ruth White.

The people with an asterisk also brought cakes for dessert as did Ann Meier, Dorothy Sinner and myself. I make a mean German chocolate cake. I know there are people I have missed this time who helped work and also who brought cakes. As always I apologize, my number is 438-3814, call me and give me heck. I will get it in the next newsletter.

Again, thank you, Danke, Millegrazie, to the most wonderful volunteers, people, and friends in the world. We couldn't get it done without you. If I ever forget to say thank you or take you for granted, you know where to kick me, and it would be a pretty hard target to miss.

I love you guys—Larry



SCHMECKFEST!!!

"Head 'em up and move 'em north," caravan commander Sinner calls, and the small, intrepid band of hungry voyagers set out to conquer the trails from Lincoln, Nebraska, to Freeman, South Dakota. The reward at the end of the trail? Schmeckfest 2002!

Friday, Norma and I made our first trip to the Schmeckfest, (literally, the festival of tasting). The group included Jake and Dorothy Sinner and their daughter Joyce Eisenman, Dorothy's sister Irene Gabelhaus and her daughter, Mary Rudolph, from Cheyenne. Lefty and Molly Grenemeier, Henry and Esther Heckman, Bud and Virginia Dietrich, me and Norma.

Norma and I got to go with this group because Ed and Gladys Herstein couldn't go. We found out we were to old to run with this "Wild Bunch!"

Seriously, we had a great time. There were many demonstrations going on, such as sausage making, caning, basket weaving, small model engines(?), and quilting, just to name a few.

There were historical presentations, an outstanding museum, a country kitchen where you could buy a variety of baked goods, noodles, sausage, fresh and smoked, jams, jellies, etc., etc., etc. They also had demonstrations on how to make poppy seed rolls, cheese pockets, fruit pockets, and New Year's cookies in another building. You also got the recipes for them.

Needless to say, there were samples for you to schmeck wherever you turned. But you have to be careful about that. I'll explain a bit later. At the end of the day's activities they put on a play, usually a musical. This year it was Carousel, not one of my favorites, and I was prepared for a very long evening. The show lasted till 10:30 and it was two and one-half very fast hours. The cast was very talented with clear resonant voices that would have done justice in most professional theatrical companies. I don't know how much time these folks spent rehearsing, but judging by the quality of their performance, it was a lot. I still like Carousel, but I sure appreciate the professionalism of the production and the way I was entertained.

Now, why shouldn't you spend too much time going around schmecking? It's okay early, but from noon on you should be fasting. From four to seven p.m. supper is served. You sit down at a table set for 16 and you are then served, course by course, family style. Bowl after bowl, platter after platter. Back and forth, to and fro. I am not going to go on and on about how much we ate or what we ate, I am just going to include the menu and let you fantasize.

Oh, we were 13, some alert person counted, and I said we were 16 at the table. Yes, we were. I had the pleasure,

It's Not Too Early!!!

Spring cleaning is upon us. Thinking about downsizing your living space? Remodeling? Redecorating? Know someone doing any of these? What to do with all of those things in the attic? Garage? Basement? Root cellar? Whatever?

Well, we are going to have another garage sale in August. If you would like to contribute your items to the Lincoln Chapter for the garage sale, we would be glad to accept. If you can hold on to them until just before the sale, great. If you can't, I think we have a place we can keep them until the sale.

Can't get them to us? We can pick them up. Call me (Larry Schenkel) 438-3814, or President Ruth or any other board member.

Don't know what to do with old books you have finished reading and

and dear friends I mean that so sincerely, of meeting Bill and Sally Heif and their son, Jim. They sat with us for supper. I have heard so much about Bill and Sally over the years, that I had a pretty pre-conceived notion of what they would be like. I wasn't even close. These are two of the warmest, most gracious people I have ever met and they asked me to say hello to all of their friends in Lincoln. So, from Bill, Sally, and Jim in Freeman, "Hello to all our wonderful friends in Lincoln."

Would some of you be interested in trying to put together a trip up to Freeman next year? We will talk about this some more. It was truly a great time and a lot of fun! Call me, 434-3814.

are collecting dust? (Novels, not old textbooks) I gathered up a lot of books from friends and family last year and we sold a lot of books.

Don't know what to do with those olds records, eight track tapes, video cassettes, cassette tapes your kids used to listen to? I had over one hundred eight track tapes and over one hundred record albums, plus some forty-fives. They all sold and we made pretty good money on them.

College will be starting soon, so we may have a call for some decent furniture for apartments, dorm, and frat rooms.

Remember the motto of the god of garage sales, "One man's junk is another's treasure!"

Members of the AHSGR

To be a member of the AHSGR,
Is to keep the dream alive.

Of where our parents came
from,
And where and when they
arrived.

The hardships they endured for
us,
Would take some time to
explain.

Those long hard days on the
ocean,

And those hot summer days on
the train.

We knew they were a deter-
mined people,
Who kept their faith in the
Lord.

They prayed that He would
guide them,
And by God their prayers
would be heard.

To the members of the AHSGR,

I proudly give them praise.
If the old folks could look
down,
I'm sure they would be
amazed.

So I ask all the members polite-
ly,
Let's keep the dream alive.
And give praise and thanks to
the Lord,
And keep the spirit of the
AHSGR alive.

by Eddie Loos

KRAUT & BREI DINNER

FRIDAY, MAY 24, 2002

5:00 - 7:00 P.M.

WSI HALL, 1430 N. 10TH STREET

Adults: \$8; Children under 12: \$4.00

Menu:

Roast Pork

Mashed Potatoes with Sauerkraut

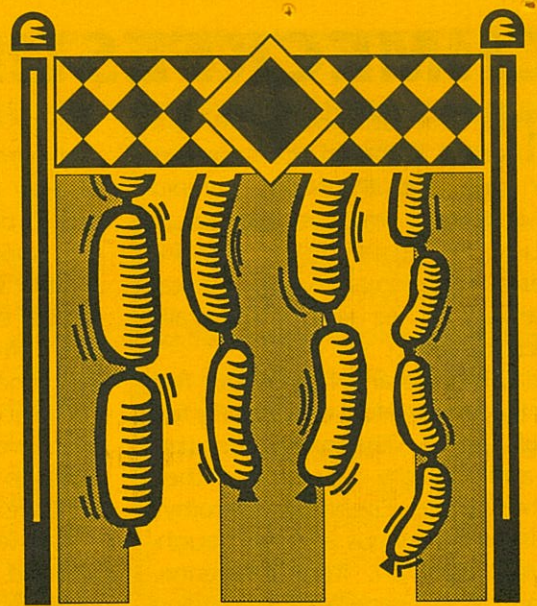
German Sausage

Rye Bread and Butter

Dill Pickles

Beverages

Dessert



You may order tickets from me by using this order form or get one from any of the board members.

(Tear off this reservation slip and mail with payment)

KRAUT & BREI DINNER

FRIDAY, MAY 24, 2002 - WSI HALL - 1430 N. 10TH STREET

\$8 ADULTS; \$4 CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER

NUMBER OF TICKETS: ADULT _____ CHILDREN _____

RESERVATION FOR A TABLE OF 8: NAME _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY MAY 17

SEND RESERVATIONS WITH PAYMENT, TO:

LARRY SCHENKEL, 2111 KINGSWOOD CR., LINCOLN, NE 68521

Lincoln Chapter
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