



Lincoln Chapter

The American Historical Society of Germans From Russia

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XIII, ISSUE 3

May/June, 2005

FROM YOUR PRES...

Well, the first Lincoln Chapter Easter Egg Hunt is history and I think we have some hard earned lessons! Whooo, boy! Have we!

First, Murphy's law: "If anything can go wrong, it will!" (I don't really know if that's Murphy's Law or not, but it sounds good, doesn't it?)

Gary Parker was going to bring his miniature horse and a buggy to the Heritage Center and give kids rides. Unfortunately, two of his stallions came into season, got into a fight, and the third horse (the only one broke to harness) got the raw end of the deal from the two that were fighting. The little guy was pretty badly beaten up. Gary didn't want to take a chance on causing more damage, so he had to cancel. Hopefully, we can get Gary to come down for a future event.

We had no idea how many children to expect, but we didn't expect as many as we got! Oh, my, there were a lot of them! I've heard there were complaints that we weren't very organized. Gee, who'd a thunk it!

Here's what we know: Bud Dietrich, Nancy Borrell, Norma Schenkel, Norma Somerheiser, Judy Lawson, Barb Schmidt, Phil and Irene Dinges, Judy

Runion, Ruth White, Don Burbach, John Weber, Susan Stoehr, Pam Wurst, Gretchen Kuhr and her fiance, Ron Koinzan worked their tails off to make it work. Ray Richards, Diane White's teenage son was there, too. He helped Paul Loos oversee the hunting area for the eight to eleven year olds.

Gretchen and Ron painted little faces until long after the eggs had all been found. As long as there was a child waiting to be painted, they weren't about to leave.

Lots of inspiring young artists turned the driveway and parking lot into a masterpiece of Art Deco.

I also know we won't schedule it to last for two hours, at least the egg hunt part of it. Fifteen minutes would be more like it, with a few more activities.

Having all the buildings on the campus open for people to roam through was a good thing. Many people stopped in to look around and to visit with the Chapter member who was stationed there.

The coffee, cookies and juice were extremely well received.



So, if you have a complaint, I'm the guy – Larry Schenkel – to call, 438-3814. And while I listen to you, I will add your name, address, and phone number to our volunteer list and to the 2006



Gretchen and Ron

Easter Egg Hunt helper list.

Thank you to all the members who donated cookies, who donated candy for the eggs, who helped fill the eggs, and to all who brought their children and grandchildren and, finally, to all of our guests.



Easter Bunny helpers stuffing eggs



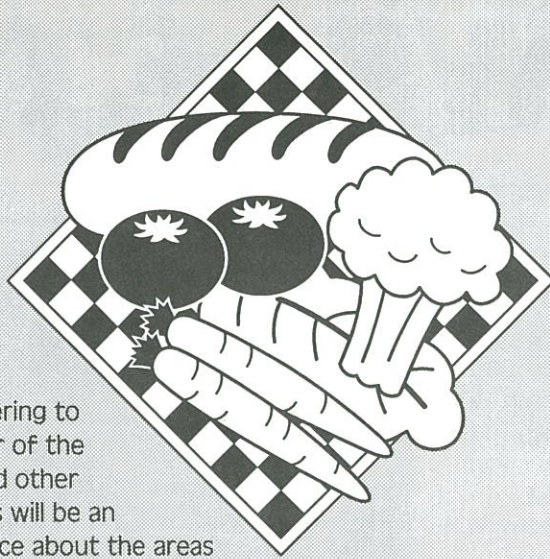
REMINDER: PICNIC AND BUS TOUR SUNDAY, JULY 17 2005

The Lincoln Chapter is offering to our members a FREE bus tour of the North and South Bottoms and other selected areas of Lincoln. This will be an opportunity for us to reminisce about the areas of town we grew up in.

Following the tour, there will be a free picnic to our faithful volunteers and the Lincoln Chapter members. This is our way of saying "thank you".

We will be boarding the bus at the Bethany Park and returning there for the picnic.

Remember, this will be on a "first come, first serve" basis so be sure to call Nancy Borrell at 489-2583 today to make your reservations. Don't miss out on an afternoon of fun and fellowship.



JOURNALS & NEWSLETTERS

How do you get your Journals and your International Newsletters? By magic? Do little elves come down from the North Pole? Nah!

A bunch of North Bottoms and South Bottoms "Rooshens," (namely, Bill & Shannon Abele [Jim Hempel's daughter and son-in-law], Phil & Irene Dinges, and Bud & Virginia Dietrich) get together and put around 3,500 mailing labels on the envelopes.

As of late, this group has been doing this job at home.

When they are done, they return the labeled envelopes to the Heritage Center so a group of volunteers can come in and stuff them with Journals and Newsletters.

The volunteers who did the last stuffing job were Phil & Irene Dinges, Bud & Virginia Dietrich, Bill & Elsa Amen, Roger & Judy Runion, Virginia Amen, Barbara Schmidt, Jerry McInnis, Helen Schwartz, Norma Somerheiser, Bill Leonhardt, Don Burbach, and me and my Norma.

Actually, not all were "Rooshens" and some are not North or South Bottoms *wunderkind*, but all were there to help the organization and also, for the *Gemutlichkeit*. Also helping were the staff members, Yulia, Diane, Pam, Kathy and Janet.

After all of the envelopes were stuffed, a group of the volunteers stayed to help arrange the envelopes by states and Zip Codes, which helps us get a better rate at the post office.

My good friend, Roger Trautwein, came down to load the bags of mail and then went with Diane to the post office to unload the bags. Like many of our volunteers, Roger is not a German from Russia.

And that, dear readers, is the story of the Journals and Newsletters.

WHAT'S IN A NICKNAME?

I think all ethnic groups have nicknames for each other, but GR's seem to be a bit more descriptive.

Where did some of these names come from?

The name "Lefty" is probably self explanatory. "Shep Banesh" is bow-legged or crooked leg. "Sheva" also means crooked leg, so "Sheva" Kaiser probably had a bow or crooked leg.

But then there are the Albrandt boys: "Nibbles," "Pumpkin," "Cherries," and "Brenzigh," and "Shadow" and "Tiny" Spadt. "Tiny" was either very small or very big. But where did "Shadow" come from? Did he follow around like a "shadow"?

"Ducky" Schwartz's name was Donald, Donald Duck was a popular car-

toon, Donald Schwartz became Donald Duck, became "Ducky." But where did "Ducky" Weber come from? His first name is John. I know, do you?

Where did "Diffy" come from, as in "Diffy" Froescheiser?

"Shorty" is guessable. He was either short or tall. But what about "Crutch," "Hip" and "Nooley" Grasmick?

At the Immanuel Church luncheon, I learned about "Tootie," "Honey" "Tootsie," and "Since." And are "Vemmy" and "Mid" nicknames or not?

Not sure all these names are spelled correctly, but I tried to spell them the way they sounded. And I am sure these aren't all the nicknames so if you have some to share, they'll be included in a future newsletter.

*Courage is doing what you're afraid to do.
There can be no courage unless you're scared.
Eddie Rickenbacher*

GARAGE SALE SUCCESS!!!



Norma, Burbs, Kay & Jim getting ready.

The garage sale is over and Norma and I have our basement and garage back. Nancy Borrell let us use her garage again this year. She's pretty happy to have her house and garage back, too, after volunteers were "schlepping" in and out for six days. Not only did Nancy let us use her garage but, of course, she was there every day, selling and merchandising.

Last year I listed the volunteers by the days they worked but I'm just going to list them all together this year. We have to save the trees, you know. Those volunteers were:

- Phil & Irene Dinges
- Dale Dinges
- Jim & Kay Ashley (thanks, too, for the use of their new boat canopy which kept the rain off the sale items on the driveway.)
- Delores Schwartz
- Norma Somerheiser
- Judy Runion
- Barb Schmidt
- Susan Stoehr
- Ruth White
- Don Burbach
- Pam Wurst
- Nancy Borrell
- Larry & Norma Schenkel

And a special tribute to our newest garage sale volunteer, Ruth Mosby. Ruth came over on Tuesday with a lot of Winchester memorabilia, shells, other sports-related items and household goods.

You remember the story of the relatives that came for a few hours and

played them on a little boom box someone had donated. If there is anything a GR likes better than a good argument or a good meal, it's the polka. And there the volunteers were, on the driveway, doing the polka. The next day, Nancy Borrell, not to be outdone, brought out her CD of dance music, and there they went again. Nancy started teaching everyone a line dance, which I believe she called "The Electric Slide". Before the dancing was over, there they were, doing "The Chicken Dance" and "YMCA" complete with arm gestures.

What a hoot! What a good time and what fun.

Also, lest she be forgotten, a special

stayed for a month? That's what happened with Ruth. She had so much fun on Tuesday, she came back every day of the sale.

Ruth had some German music cassettes and we

"thank you" to our best customer, Carol. Carol not only likes to shop our sales, but she adds to the fun.

My heartfelt thanks to all those who donated items, who volunteered and to the buyers.



Ruth



It's up!



Let it rain!

AHSGR AND LINCOLN CHAPTER HISTORY

Submitted by Pam Wurst, Lincoln Chapter Historian
(circa 1969)

Germans From Russia Organize in Lincoln

The American Historical Society of Germans from Russia met for the first time in Lincoln at the National Bank of Commerce.

Founded in Greeley, Colorado, a year ago, the national organization has 600 members in 38 states.

Miss Ruth M. Amen, a member of the national board, heads the group in Lincoln. Assisting are Mrs. Donald Schwartz, Mrs. Gerald Willis, Mrs. Stanley Novak, Miss Frances Amen,

Miss Clara Wertz, Mrs. Ted Collins, Ed Schwartzkopf, Ralph Giebelhaus and Roger Welsch.

The society's purpose is to encourage research and study and to record the history of the members' German forefathers who migrated first to Russia, and then to the United States.

At the meeting, members displayed historical objects brought from Russia including shawls, needlework, a wedding dress, boots, a teapot 100 years

old, passports, pictures and books.

Lincoln Society of Germans from Russia Sets Meet

The newly organized Lincoln Chapter of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia will hold its next meeting in February.

The group, founded a year ago in Greeley, Colo., to encourage research into the history of Germans who settled in Russia after Catherine the Great's appeal for European settlers and later migrated to America, has now established a local branch in Lincoln.

The local group, organized by a committee headed by Miss Ruth Amen of 601 "D", intends to establish a repository for historical objects brought from Russia, recordings of folklore and information on the achievement of Germans from Russia and their descendants.



Names & Memories of Yesterday

Do you remember Sherman Field?
Do you remember the Lincoln A's?
Do you remember ball "shaggers"?

Ball "shaggers" were young boys who would retrieve foul balls popped over the fence during ball games at Sherman Field. They operated in shifts, with four boys on each shift.

Do these names sound familiar? (Okay, okay, some of them are South Bottoms G.R.'s and some may not be G.R.'s at all. BIG DEAL!)

Shift 1:

Larrie Schmidt – Captain
John Lutz – Assistant
Jack Duffek – Shagger
Larry Allen – Shagger

Shift 2:

Roger Hergenrader – Captain
Cliff Hardesty – Assistant
Robert Worster – Shagger
Robert Botts – Shagger

IN PASSING

On Saturday, May 7th, we gave a tour of the museum at 5:00pm. Bless Norma Somerheiser for finding time in her schedule to come down and conduct the tour.

Don Debus of Denver called me about three weeks ago to set up the tour as part of their family reunion. About 20 people were in the group.

Not only did they enjoy the tour but they spent time looking at the obit cards and looking through the museum. They also purchased several items from the Gift Shop/Book Store. Many of them expressed to us, how much they had enjoyed the tour and their appreciation for allowing them to come in at that hour.

There also are tours scheduled for the mornings of May 21st and June 25th.

Unsere Lente Erinnerung – In Memory

Alvin "Boney" Hoffman
Henry Reifschneider
Paul Strauch
Alice Eitel

Kenneth "Kenny" Johns
Jody Lynn Maughan Kos
Lillian Sowers
Fred Schmidt

A NEW FEATURE

Thought we'd try a new feature for the newsletter. The one thing Germans do better than squabbling and arguing with each other, is eating. So let's share our recipes with one another.

The two recipes in this newsletter are provided by Nancy Borrell. Do you

have an old "tried and true" recipe you would like to share? It doesn't have to be a German-Russian recipe. It's up to you. I think it would be nice to have easy-to-make recipes, really different recipes, canning recipes, baking recipes. Almost any kind that taste good. Hope you all think it's a good idea

and will be willing to share yours with us. If you do, send them to:

Larry Schenkel
9439 Benziger Drive
Lincoln, NE 68526
or email them to me at:
lschenkel@rr.ne.com
or call: 438-3814.

From the Kitchen: Guttessen! Good Eating!

GRUN BOHNE SUPPE

25 diced potatoes	13 cans green beans
50 cups water	6 1/4 cups sour cream
Salt to taste	4 1/8 sticks butter
25 slices onion, chopped	12 1/2 T. flour

Cook potatoes in salted water with onion. When done, add the beans. (If fresh green beans are used, cook them with the potatoes.)

Melt butter, add flour, cook until golden. Stir into soup. Stir in sour cream.

Serves 50. (If you want to serve 4, divide by 12.5 or find the answer in the next newsletter.)

RIVVEL KUCHEN/ COFFEE CAKE

Use one loaf frozen bread dough or sweet roll recipe on hot roll mix.

Roll dough to fit 9 X 13 greased and floured pan. Stretch to fit. Let rise while preparing *rivvel* topping.

Topping:

1 1/4 sticks butter (or margarine) softened but not melted.

3/4 cups sugar

1 1/2 cups flour

Mix with a fork until crumbly. Beat two eggs well, spread over the dough. Sprinkle *rivvel* on top.

Bake at 350 degrees for 35-40 minutes.

*Fruit Kuchen

After spreading dough with egg, add 1/2 of *rivvel* topping.

Spread with cherry (or other) pie filling. Sprinkle with remaining *rivvel* and bake as above.

GLUCKSTAG GEBURSTAG/HAPPY BIRTHDAY

It finally happened. I missed someone's birthday! And of all of them to forget, one of the charter members of AHSGR and one of the charter members of the Lincoln Chapter. I am so sorry, Clara. Belated Happy Birthday to Clara Wertz.

May

Victoria O'Neal
William Gettman
Wayne Giebelhaus
LaVerne Heidtbrink
Steven Kahler
Theresa Zitterkopf

June

J. Richard Spellman
Philip "Jimmy" Schenkel
Kenneth Babcock
Delores Kaufman
Marilyn Dering
Elizabeth Hayes



DER JAHRESTABL — HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

May

Don & Helen Burbach

June

Larry & Norma Schenkel
John & Ruby Weber

Lincoln Chapter AHSGR
631 D Street
Lincoln, NE 68502-1199

WHAT'S COMING UP

May 20 – Kraut & Brei Dinner – 5:00-7:00pm –
WSI Hall – 1430 N. 10th St.

KRAUT & BREI

FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2005

5:00 - 7:00 P.M.

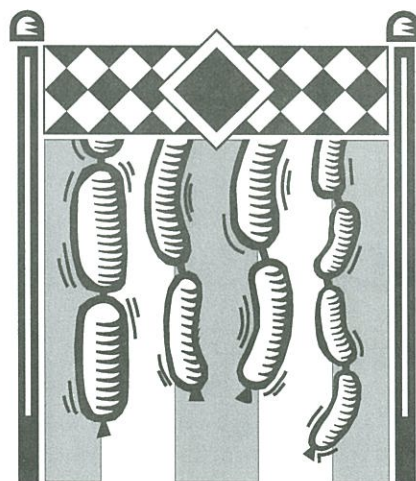
WSI HALL, 1430 N. 10TH STREET

Adults: \$8.00; Children under 12: \$4.00

Menu includes:

**Roast Pork, German Sausage, Sauerkraut,
Mashed Potatoes, Rye Bread, Coffee**

Please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your order and your check to Judy Runion, 2848 Katelyn Cr., Lincoln, NE 68516. 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 – FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2005 – WSI HALL – 1430 N. 10TH STREET
\$8 ADULTS; \$4.00 CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER

NUMBER OF TICKETS: ADULT _____ CHILDREN _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY MAY 16

SEND RESERVATIONS WITH PAYMENT, TO: JUDY RUNION, 2848 KATELYN CR., LINCOLN, NE 68516