



Lincoln Chapter The American Historical Society of Germans From Russia NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XIV, ISSUE 1

January/February 2006

Looking Back...

As I write this, the year is rapidly coming to an end. It has been a busy year with many happenings.

The bungalows were sold, torn down, and a new building put on that site. The Amen Museum House has been sold and the new owners have moved in. Bids were taken and the concrete work on the sidewalks and driveway has been about 90 percent completed.

We have talked with Campbell's Nursery and have pretty much agreed to a plan that will meet the requirements of the City Planning Commission.

Diane managed to get some free help, using Boy Scouts who needed a project to work on for their Eagle Scout award. The Scouts have painted two of the outbuildings, the General Store and the Summer Kitchen.

The Heritage Center staff, consisting of two full-time and four part-time staff members, has done a great deal of hard work to keep all of the requests that come in, current. And there are volunteers, who are invaluable assets, such as Leslie Bill.

You have seen the list of volunteers who have spent hundreds of hours at the Heritage Center. In fact, I will list some of them now. They were just there for the mailing of the winter Newsletter and Journal. Those working were:

Phil & Irene Dinges
Bud & Virginia Dietrich
Bill & Elsa Amen
Larry & Norma Schenkel
John Weber
Nancy Borrell



Norma Somerheiser
Annie Settell
Leslie Bill
Don Burbach
Will, Ray, & Nancy Richards (as you probably already know by now, these are Diane White's teen-age children) plus the following members of the staff:

Gail Gingrich
Pam Wurst
Yulia Tysmbal
Diane White

Kathy Shepard was busy upstairs answering the telephone and greeting visitors, as well as her usual duties.

Erwin Ulmer was also there, working on the "mania bucks." Erwin has put in many hours on this project, to try to win a prize for the Chapter that might help with Convention expenses. If you see Erwin, or any of the other volunteers, give them a pat on the back, or a "well done" or a simple "thank you." I'm sure they would all appreciate it.

LET'S HEAR IT FOR...

Another volunteer who often gets no recognition is Jane Nickolaus. I mentioned, in the last newsletter, that First-Plymouth Church had recognized Jane as a "Notable Woman."

Looks like the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. With an Academic Decathlon season well underway, Lincoln Northeast sent a team. Among the team medalists was Cara Nickolaus, Jan and Lowell's daughter, who received first-place medals for math and language and literature (novice divisions) and third place, art. Cara was Northeast's top scorer, and was also the top freshman student at the competition. Way to go, Cara! Congratulations! (This story was in the Lincoln Journal-Star newspaper and was given to me by Norma Somerheiser. Thanks, Norm.)

Do you have a story about one of your children or grandchildren doing well? Call me, 438-3814, and I will be glad to include it in an upcoming newsletter.

DUES DUE

Dues were discussed at the annual business meeting of the Lincoln Chapter on January 8, 2006 and a vote was taken. It was decided that Chapter dues would continue to be \$12.00 per year and run from January 1-December 31. It was also agreed that those who could not afford \$12.00, could send what they could afford. If you cannot or do not want to pay any amount, you MUST call the treasurer, Norma Somerheiser, so your name will be kept on the mailing list for the newsletter, etc.

Also, REMEMBER this has nothing to do with your national dues. This is for membership in the Lincoln Chapter. Your national dues are for the National AHSGR membership only! In the next newsletter I will give you a better picture of the Lincoln Chapter's use of and projected use of the money collected from dues.

For now, send your \$12.00 or make your call to: Norma Somerheiser, 2675 S. 11th Street, Lincoln, NE 68502, Phone: 476-8976



Christmas Festival – A Big Success

It looked pretty bleak on the morning of December 3rd, 2005. It was snowing and wind was gusting up to 30 and 40 MPH and it was bitter cold.

My Norma and I went down to the Heritage Center about 9:30 AM to open for the Saturday coffee and rolls group and to start preparations for the Christmas Festival which was to start at 12:00.

We found some cookies that had been delivered on Friday and the guys who came for coffee had brought cookies that their wives had baked. But we were all wondering the same thing, "Is anyone going to show up for the Christmas Festival or are we going to have to eat all these cookies ourselves?" Hee, hee, hee!

But, about that time Bud and Virginia Dietrich arrived with the rolls and more cookies. Norma and Virginia began getting things laid out for our guests, if, in fact, we had any. Soon, Judy Lawson arrived and before long there were more people with cookies and they began helping get everything ready.

Diane White was there along with two of her three children, Will and Nancy. Will kept

himself busy by helping anyone who needed his assistance and Nancy got into her *Christkindje* outfit. Then there was a hulla-baloo when the *Belznickel*, aka: Norma Somerheiser, arrived!

Nancy Bouwens was in the Summer Kitchen portraying Mrs. Claus, just as her mother, Molly Grenemeier, had done. Paul Loos held sway in the Chapel where the German Girl Singers from Friedens Church sang Christmas songs.

John Weber and Bill Amen accepted the challenge of keeping the very cold General Store open. They were equipped with a small heater but it was no match for the temperature inside the store. To our relief, neither of them suffered frostbite.

Phil Dinges, Bud and Virginia Dietrich and Judy Lawson served the ever-popular Volga Boatman sandwiches to the hungry crowd of visitors.

Gladys Herstein and Delores Schwartz were kept busy serving our many guests hot spiced cider, coffee, and cookies.

Don Burbach and I sat inside the foyer by the front door greeting our visitors and giving

them *zucker kandis* (sucking candy) like we used to get on Christmas Eve.

Lillian Loos passed out the traditional sacks of fruit, hard candy, and peanuts. My Norma did her usual job of "go fer" – finding extension cords, heaters, etc. and checking to see if anyone stationed in the out-buildings needed a break.

The Smith Family Band was awesome. They kept everyone entertained and happy for nearly three hours. They played a variety of different music and the hammer dulcimer player was great.

The band encouraged participants in the crowd to join them, playing a variety of instruments, including a washtub bass.

Despite the weather a surprising number of people attended the Festival! Thank you to all of our guests, all of our great volunteers and the Smith Family Band for making it so successful!

Now that quite a few of you have heard both the Skalak Polka Band and the Smith Family Band, what would you think of having one, or even both, of them entertain us at the Convention?



SWAN SONG

To all of you that I missed, a most heartfelt *Froehliche Weihnacht und un Gluckliches Neues Jahr!*

To all of you, *Danke Schon!* This is the end of my third year as president of the Lincoln Chapter, and, in accordance with our by-laws; I cannot run for a fourth term.

I didn't know how much work and time it was going to take being on the Int'l Board of Directors, so I am glad I couldn't be president again! I might have been dumb enough to try. NOT!!! My Norma would have "kicked out my windshield, hit me over the head, cussed and cried and said I lied, and wished that I was dead." (For those of you old enough to remember, these were lines in the song, "Pistol Packin' Momma".) And then she would have really gotten mean!

Those of you, who know my Norma, know she supports me every day, in every way, when it comes to my involvement with AHSGR. I'm just having a little fun, trying to make this very difficult column a little easier to write.

TO OUR WONDERFUL, UNSUNG BOARD MEMBERS.....

Those who have gone off the Board:

Jake Sinner
LeRoy Butherus
Judy Runion

Pam Wurst
Delores Schwartz
Ed Schwartzkopf

I can never thank these friends enough for all the help and support they have given me and, especially, AHSGR.

Those remaining on the Board:

Don Burbach
Henry Sader
Ruth White
Nancy Borrell
Lefty Grenemeier (94 years young and sharp as a tack.)
Lucille Hedges
Gladys Herstein
Paul Loos
Ann Reitz

The same thing is true here. These wonderful friends keep running interference and then carrying the ball as well. Lefty was on the Board, along with Ed and Jake, when he talked me into running for the Board. Thanks, Lefty! I believe Gladys and Ann were on the Board then, too.

Needless to say, the friends coming back on the Board after a short rest, and those coming on for the first time, will be put to work right away. I know all of you will make Paul's job as president easier because of your devotion and dedication to AHSGR.

Herzliche danke - Larry



Yes, it's nearly springtime and a young man's fancy lightly turns to love. Ahh, but a young girl's fancy turns to abounding treasures that are waiting to be found at GARAGE SALES!

To do our civic duty, and help fill the gap in the shortage of spring garage sales, the Lincoln Chapter will be having one again this year. The date, time and place will be announced in the next newsletter. Nancy Borrell has volunteered to have it at her house once again. Thanks, Nancy.

Okay, all of you folks out there that are itching to start cleaning....don't throw that good stuff away!!! Remember, one person's "junk" is another person's treasure. If you can't store it until the garage sale, I have room and will even pick it up. There are others who might have room to store things as well and I will have their names in the next newsletter.

MILLIONAIRE MANIA



Thanks to all of the members who saved and donated their "mania bucks" to the Lincoln Chapter.

As you know, Erwin Ulmer volunteered to

take on the task of compiling the "bucks" and bidding for items, hoping to win something the Chapter could use, possibly for the convention.

The Lincoln Chapter members donated \$245 million in "bucks" and Erwin collected \$900 million in "bucks" and added most of that to the Chapter's amount.

We won two bids, one for a four-some of golf and the other was for a set of CDs, "Visions Along the Platte River Valley" by Phil Walker.

Erwin also won, for himself, a pair of tickets to the Lied Center. Congratulations, Erwin, and thank you for all of your time and effort.

Erwin also wanted to thank everyone who saved their "bucks" and donated them. He also asks everyone to be ready for next year!

**SOME PEOPLE SEE
THINGS AS THEY ARE
AND SAY,
"WHY."
I DREAM THINGS THAT
NEVER WERE AND SAY,
"WHY NOT?"**

—George Bernard Shaw—



HERZLICHEN GLUCKWUNSCH ZUM GEBURSTAGL HAPPY BIRTHDAY

January

Bill Svoboda
Duane Olson
Ruth Schafer
Mary Frost
Robert Hietbrink
Mary Hessler
Ed Klein
Pam Wurst
Ray Richards

February

William Paxton
Martha Schleicher
Ronald F. Bauer
Phil Dinges
Jack Frost
Irene Gabelhouse
Ruby Weber
Don Burbach
Lenny Schneider

DER JAHRESTABL/ HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

January

Kathy & Randy Tichota

February

Phil & Irene Dinges
Ed & Gladys Herstein

FYI (For your information)

The pronunciation for *Herzlichen Gluckwunsch Zum Geburstagl* is: Hairts-linkhen gluhk-vunshtsoom guh-boorts-tahk. This information was stolen, oops, I mean borrowed, from the New Mexico Chapter Newsletter.

WOHLSEIN / GET WELL

Mary Froscheiser

UNSERE LEUTE ERINNRYNG/ OUR PEOPLE IN MEMORY

Lydia (Yakel) Allgaier
Marie B. (Gettman) Bauer (Born in Frank, Russia)
Mary Elizabeth (Filbert) Blake
Anna Katherine (Kahler) Brehm
Theresa "Rose" (Kahm) Derr
Mary (Luft) Foltz
Henry Gerlach
Marie Hill
Victor Henry Kahm
Harvey Kropp
Stanley Loos
Roger C. Runion

2006 Board Member Directory Lincoln Chapter – AHSGR

488-3746	AMEN, Bill	4737 South 52nd Street	Lincoln, NE 68516
792-2175	BABCOCK, Sidonia	403 Stagecoach Avenue	Hickman, NE 68372
486-0596	BILL, Leslie	3338 Glenhaven Place	Lincoln, NE 68506
489-2583	BORRELL, Nancy	2221 Devonshire Dr.	Lincoln, NE 68506
435-3052	BOUWENS, Nancy	541 West Beal	Lincoln, NE 68521
476-3600	BURBACH, Donald	3600 Hartley Cr.	Lincoln, NE 68521
488-5154	DINGES, Dale	1609 So. Cotner Blvd.	Lincoln, NE 68506
486-1673	GRENAMEIER, Henry	7200 Van Dorn, #128	Lincoln, NE 68516
475-8221	HEDGES, Lucille	214 NW 126th St.	Lincoln, NE 68528
489-5976	HERSTEIN, Gladys	520 Teakwood Dr.	Lincoln, NE 68510
477-3978	LOOS, Paul	400 Fletcher	Lincoln, NE 68521
489-5462	REITZ, Ann	4121 So. 30th St.	Lincoln, NE 68502
423-4212	SADER, Henry	Route 1	Roca, NE 68430
438-3814	SCHENKEL, Larry	9439 Benziger Dr.	Lincoln, NE 68526
476-8976	SOMERHEISER, Norma	2675 South 11th Street	Lincoln, NE 68502
488-2313	WEBER, John	4940 Sinclair Court	Lincoln, NE 68516
423-4345	WHITE, Ruth	3300 Serenity Cr #7	Lincoln, NE 68542
		(Mail to: PO Box 23095)	Lincoln, NE 68516)

Officers are elected to the Board of Directors for a three-year term. However, if you are interested in serving for a shorter period of time, you could ask about a one-year appointment, to determine if it would be something you would enjoy doing.

2006 Officers

President	.....Paul Loos	Treasurer	.....Norma Somerheiser
1st Vice President	.....Sidonia Babcock	Corresponding Secretary	....Lucille Hedges
2nd Vice President	.....Dale Dinges	Historian	.....Leslie Bill
Recording Secretary	.....Nancy Bouwens		

Out and About...

On Friday, December 2, 2005, Norma and I attended the "Passport to the World Ethnic Holiday Festival" in Omaha. It was held in the Durham Western Heritage Museum from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

There were at least 16 countries and the Native Americans represented with cultural display booths in the main waiting room, food booths on the lower level, and an ethnic Christmas tree display in the South Gallery.

The mayor of Omaha, Mike Fahey, welcomed everyone and then individuals dressed in traditional costumes brought in the flags of the different countries.

Pipers, drummers and bagpipes performed in the Swanson Gallery and the Main Waiting Room, as well as, choirs and dancers. There was even a dance workshop in the Tree House Gallery.

All together, there were at least 28 partic-

ipating organizations. Unfortunately, AHSGR was not one of them. However, we were promised, by one of the curators of the museum, that we would receive a "gold plated" invitation to participate next year.

The curator's name seemed very familiar to me. I believe he said it was Luis Vasquez!

Yes, it was the same Luis that worked here at AHSGR and that so many of us enjoyed getting to know. He is happy to be back in Nebraska, which is where he wants to be. I don't know about anyone else, but Norma and I are two people who are very happy about this. It was great to see him and have a chance to catch up on what's going on in his life.

Are there any of you who want to volunteer to go with Norma and me next year and participate in the festivities by having a booth? It could be a lot of fun!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

The Lincoln Chapter Board meeting was held on January 16, 2006 at the Heritage Center. Paul Loos accepted a nomination for President, Sidonia Babcock for 1st Vice President, Dale Dinges for 2nd Vice President and Nancy Bouwens for Recording Secretary. Leslie Bill accepted a one-year appointment to the board and was elected Historian.

Following is the list of officers:

President Paul Loos
1st Vice President Sidonia Babcock
2nd Vice President Dale Dinges

Recording Secretary Nancy Bouwens
Treasurer Norma Somerheiser
Corresponding Secretary Lucille Hedges
Historian Leslie Bill

We have a full Board of Directors and a full set of officers. It looks like a good year coming up. Lots to do! Lots to do!

This year is the Lincoln Chapter's turn to host the Convention which means lots of help is needed!! We will need you so please feel free to volunteer!

ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION

On January 8, 2006 our annual meeting and election of the Board and Officers was held at St. John's UCC. We had a nice turnout for the potluck lunch and the general membership meeting. (That's the good news.)

The bad news is, no one would accept a nomination for president, 1st vice president, 2nd vice president or historian. But more good news is Bill Amen and John Weber both ran for three-year terms and both were elected. Henry Sader and Don Burbach were both re-elected for three more years. Sidonia Babcock (welcome back, Sid!) accepted a one year appointment to the Board, as did Norma "Die Butzen" Somerheiser, and Nancy Bouwens.

Welcome back, also, to Bill Amen and Norma Somerheiser. They and Sid have all been on the Board before. Their experience will be invaluable.

Also, welcome to John Weber, "Duck", has been coming down to the Heritage Center on Saturday mornings, and he and his wife, Ruby, often join us for the 2nd Tuesday Breakfast Bunch.

Welcome, as well, to Nancy Bouwens. Nancy has some big shoes to fill when it comes to involvement with AHSGR. She is Molly and Lefty Grenemeier's daughter.

Again, welcome to the new board members and thank you for your commitment to AHSGR.



Left: Participants at the Annual Meeting who donated Mania Bucks.

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



Mr. Larry D. Schenkel
9439 Benziger Dr.
Lincoln, NE 68526

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SOUP SUPPER

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2006

5:00 - 7:00 P.M.

WSI HALL, 1430 N. 10TH STREET

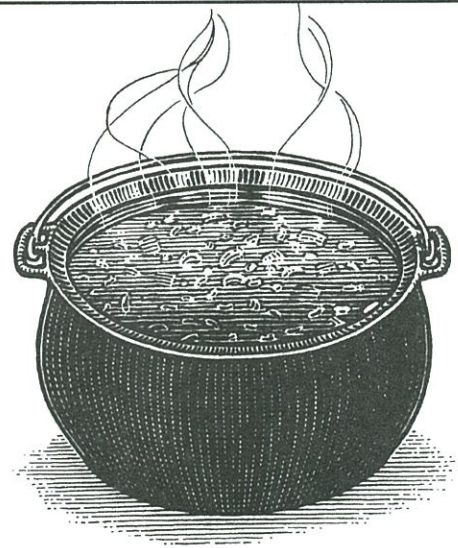
TAKE OUT AVAILABLE

Adults: \$6; Children under 12: \$3

4 Kinds of Soup Available:

**Chicken Noodle w/butter balls ■ Green Bean
Vegetable Beef ■ Chili**

The menu also includes Rye Bread, Coffee & Dessert. Please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your order and your check to Norma Somerheiser, 2675 So. 11th Street, Lincoln, NE 68502. 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)

SOUP SUPPER - FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2006 - WSI HALL - 1430 N. 10TH STREET

\$6 ADULTS; \$3 CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER

NUMBER OF TICKETS: ADULT _____ CHILDREN _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY MARCH 17

SEND RESERVATIONS WITH PAYMENT, TO: NORMA SOMERHEISER, 2675 SO. 11TH STREET, LINCOLN, NE 68502