



Lincoln Chapter

The American Historical Society of Germans From Russia

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XVIII, ISSUE 2

March/April 2009

The South Bottoms

The South Bottoms boundaries are, basically, "A" Street on the south, Ninth Street on the east, "F" Street on the north, and First Street on the west. (Some people will argue that Salt Creek is the west boundary.)

Just as there was a small grouping of GR's in Havelock, there also was a small grouping on West "A" Street. I'll not write about this grouping, except to tell you "Pop" Greenwald lived in this area. My friends and I spent a lot of time listening to his band at "Der Loaf and Stein" on "P" Street. Of course, being good German boys, we had to do what all good Germans do well, drink beer while listening to the music. But, I digress.

At the Heritage Center on a recent Saturday morning, we talked about the South Bottoms. By "we", I mean the group of men and, sometimes women, who gather for coffee, rolls, and conversation. That particular Saturday the group consisted of John Weber, Bill Amen, Phil Dinges, Bruce and Roger Trautwein, Scotty Kaufman, Erwin Ulmer and me. I was able to ask ques-

tions and gather more information about the South Bottoms.

We talked about some of the families of the area, like the Amens: Bill, Jim, Rudy, Frances, H.J., Jacob and Ruth.

We talked about the grocery stores that were in the area, and how the merchants would let the people buy on credit when times got hard. The stores that were remembered were Amen's Grocery on Second and "F" Streets, Dell's on "B" Street, Bernhardt's on "C" Street.

The grocery store on our campus really was a store, although it has changed in appearance over the years.

As we looked up at the Building Crew mugs, which hang above the sink in the snack area of the Heritage Center, we realized that almost of the names were South Bottoms families. Phil Dinges and Jake Sinner were the only ones from the North Bottoms. Most of Bud Dietrich's early years were on a farm and the family didn't move into the South Bottoms until later.

Do you remember bread trucks and milk trucks that came into your South Bottoms neighborhood early in the morning? Omar Bread, Aunt — Betty's



Rose Luft-Schenkel, unknown person, Uncle Manny Luft, and Aunt Esther.

Bread, Roberts Dairy and Meadow Gold Dairy deliveries were good jobs for our hard-working people.

Although I was pretty young, I do remember sitting on the steps of Adam Alles Drug Store. There were two gas pumps in front with glass tops. The glass had gallon increments marked on it and a handle to pump the gas up into the glass top. After you'd pumped the desired amount of gas into the top, you'd put the nozzle into your car's tank, open the nozzle and the gas flowed into your tank. I was probably about ten years old at the time, and, according to Google, the price of gas was 26 cents a gallon!

There would usually be some older men on the porch, chewing tobacco or smoking, and talking about the problems of the world, just like we do today.

The young boys chewed seeds and had hull-spitting contests. I can remember seeing Bud Dietrich and his grandson, Luke, sitting on the glider in front of Bud and Virginia's house and

(continued on page 2)



Rose Luft-Schenkel helps clean out basement at 125 D Street after Salt Creek flood.



The South Bottoms

(continued)

Bud was teaching Luke how to chew "Rooshen peanuts" and then see who could spit the empty hulls the furthest.

I came to know that our people in the South Bottoms, and I suppose in the North Bottoms, too, had a lot of nicknames. There was "Moaner", "Gemar", "Ace", "Scotty", "Lefty", "Ears", "Spits", "Neighbor", "Whiz", and "Biff and "Boom". One nickname that really intrigued me is "Fat Frog".

I know how both John "Ducky" Weber and Don "Ducky" Schwartz, who was from the North Bottoms, got their nicknames. Do you?

Giving nicknames to our friends does not make our people unique, it just shows that people are the same all over.

As I looked up at the Building Crew mugs, I was stumped and had to ask what "Diffy" Froescheiser's real first name was. Following a few minutes of silence, someone said, "I think it was Alex." We all had a good laugh about that, but it does show how we get used to our nicknames.

Our conversation then turned to other names, such as, the Harris's, Don and Oleta Ernst, the Hergenraders, Pete Kaufman, and Scotty Kaufman. The Luft family at 125 "D" Street was where my mother lived. My Dad lured her away from the South Bottoms to the North Bottoms, where I was born at 7th and Vine Streets.

We talked about Roger Welsch, noted Nebraska historian, who lived at First and "E" Streets and about Ed and Sam Schwartzkopf and the Butherus's, the Millers, the Greens, the Kohlers, the Schneiders and "Ace" Dinges.

We talked of their accomplishments, their love of their heritage, and their deep religious beliefs. This conversation brought us to the churches; Ebenezer, St. Pauls, First German, Friedens and Zion. The parking at the churches was limited to curbside but the pews were usually full. Many people walked to church regardless of the weather.

As our generations grew from the first and second, church population

began to dwindle. The younger generations were moving outside of the Bottoms and driving to church became a necessity. Lack of parking caused some to start going to new churches.

As a general rule, one would find that there was usually one village that was predominant in the church; Balzar, Frank, Norka, etc. And sometimes feuds had something to do with who went to what church.

Our people did well in this great New World where they learned the English language in order to fit in and become Americans.

Although it had nothing to do with the South Bottoms, Erwin Ulmer and I started talking about another small enclave of GR's in the area from 14th to 17th and Vine. On the south side of the street there were a number of small houses that were GR families. There were some rental houses that were south of 14th and Vine. I remember those because Adam and Helen Loos, my godparents, had an apartment in one of them.

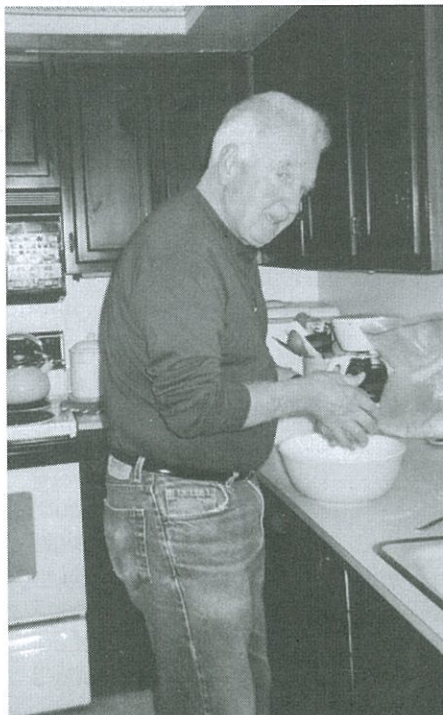
Do you have a memory you would like to share with our members? If so, call me at 438-3814, or email me at lschenkel@neb.rr.com, or snail mail me at 9439 Benziger Drive, Lincoln, NE 68526.

Butterballs aka Golf Balls

On Wednesday, February 18th a group of people met at Nancy Borrell's home to make butterballs for the Soup Supper. Following is a list of those who were there:

Delores Kaufman, Helen Schwartz, Leslie Bill, Susan Stoehr, Barbara Schmidt, Judy Runion, Gail Gingrich (it was her day off at AHSGR), Don Weber (he's a very brave man.) and, of course, Nancy Borrell.

They made a lot of balls that day so we would have enough to package and sell, as well as serve, at the Soup Supper.



MayFest Ice Cream Social and Open House

Mark your calendars for this event which will be held on May 3rd from 2-4:00pm at the Heritage Center at 631 "D" Street.



Calendar of Events

2009

Lincoln Chapter

American Historical Society of Germans from Russia

April 14, 2009	Coffee Club	9:00AM	Stauffer's	48th & Hwy 2
April 20, 2009	Board Meeting	7:00PM		631 "D" St.
April 26, 2009	Gen'l Membership Meeting	2:00PM (Refreshments following)		631 "D" St.
May 2, 2009	Nebraska Roundup	TBA		631 "D" St.
May 3, 2009	Mayfest Ice Cream Social & Open House	2:00-4:00 PM		631 "D" St.
May 12, 2009	Coffee Club	9:00AM	Stauffer's	48th & Hwy 2
May, 2009	Garage Sale	TBA		TBA
May 18, 2009	Board Meeting	7:00PM		631 "D" St.
June 9, 2009	Coffee Club	9:00AM	Stauffer's	48th & Hwy 2
June 14-21, 2009	Internaitonal Convention		Medicine Hat, Canada	
June 15, 2009	Board Meeting	7:00PM		631 "D" St.
June 28, 2009	Gen'l Membership Meeting	2:00PM (Refreshments following)		631 "D" St.
July 14, 2009	Coffee Club	9:00AM	Stauffer's	48th & Hwy 2
July 20, 2009	Board Meeting	7:00PM		631 "D" St.
August 11, 2009	Coffee Club	9:00AM	Stauffer's	48th & Hwy 2
August 17, 2009	Board Meeting	7:00PM		631 "D" St.
September 8, 2009	Coffee Club	9:00AM	Stauffer's	48th & Hwy 2
September 20, 2009	Gen'l Membership Meeting	2:00PM (Refreshments following)		631 "D" St.
September 21, 2009	Board Meeting	7:00 PM		631 "D" Street
October 13, 2009	Coffee Club	9:00AM	Stauffer's	48th & Hwy 2
October 19, 2009	Board Meeting	7:00PM		631 "D" St.
November 6, 2009	Broda Dinner	5:00-7:00PM	WSI Hall	1430 N 10th St.
November 10, 2009	Coffee Club	9:00AM	Stauffer's	48th & Hwy 2
November 16, 2009	Board Meeting	7:00PM		631 "D" St.
December 5, 2009	Christmas Festival	11:30AM-3:00PM		631 "D" St.
December 8, 2009	Coffee Club	9:00AM	Stauffer's	48th & Hwy 2
December, 2009	Board Member's Christmas Dinner		(Date, time and location TBA)	
January 10, 2010	Annual Membership Meeting (Potluck Dinner & Election of Officers)	1:00PM	Immanuel Church Fellowship Hall (10th & Charleston Sts)	

5th Annual AH\$GR Membership Campaign

ABOVE AND BEYOND

This campaign is designed to reward AHSGR members (individuals) and chapters who recruit a sufficient number of new members for AHSGR or purchase gift memberships. The campaign began August 2, 2008 and ends May 15, 2009. Winner will be announced and cash prizes awarded at the 2009 Medicine Hat, AB Canada Convention to be held June 15 – 21 (You do not need to attend to win). Additional prizes for AHSGR Chapters will continue this year. Membership Data Forms are available at Chapters or on-line at <http://www.ahsgr.org/membership.htm>

- **\$100 to the AH\$GR member AND \$200 to the AH\$GR Chapter who recruits the highest number of new members**
- **\$75 to the AH\$GR member AND \$150 to the AH\$GR Chapter who recruits the 2nd highest number of new members**
- **\$50 to the AH\$GR member AND \$100 to the AH\$GR Chapter who recruits the 3rd highest number of new members**
- ***In addition, all new members who join during the campaign period will have their name placed "in the hat" for a drawing. \$25 cash prizes will be awarded to three (3) lucky new members.***

There is still time to get involved in this money earning campaign and help push AHSGR's membership "**Above and Beyond**" last years total. These difficult economic times may present special challenges to recruiting new members. If the usual ways of recruiting are not working well, employ some innovating recruiting techniques. And, let me know of your success. If you have questions, please contact Jim Weibert, bjweib@surewest.net or 916-783-2453.

2009 BOARD MEMBER DIRECTORY LINCOLN CHAPTER - AHSGR

BABCOCK, Sidonia	403 Stagecoach Avenue	Hickman, NE 68372	792-2175
BILL, Leslie	3338 Glenhaven Place	Lincoln, NE 68506	486-0596
BORRELL, Nancy	2221 Devonshire Drive	Lincoln, NE 68506	489-2583
BOUWENS, Nancy	1121 N. 79th Street	Lincoln, NE 68521	435-3052
DINGES, Dale	1609 S. Cotner Blvd.	Lincoln, NE 68506	488-5154
GINGRICH, Gail	631 D Street	Lincoln, NE 68502	474-3363 x16
HERSTEIN, Gladys	520 Teakwood Drive	Lincoln, NE 68510	489-5976
LOOS, Paul	400 Fletcher	Lincoln, NE 68521	477-3978
RUNION, Judy	2848 Katelyn Circle	Lincoln, NE 68516	423-3853
SADER, Henry	Route 1	Roca, NE 68430	423-4212
WEBER, Don	6201 Normal Blvd., Apt. 322	Lincoln, NE 68506	489-4898
WEBER, John	4940 Sinclair Court	Lincoln, NE 68516	488-2313
WHITE, Ruth	3300 Serenity Circle #7	Lincoln, NE 68542	423-4345

(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.

2009 OFFICERS

President	none	Treasurer	Sidonia Babcock
1st Vice President	Ruth White	Corresponding Secretary ..	Gladys Herstein
2nd Vice President	Nancy Borrell	Historian	Judy Runion
Recording Secretary	Leslie Bill	Membership Chairman	Dale Dinges



LINCOLN CHAPTER -- AHSGR TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2008

ITEM	INCOME	EXPENSE	PROFIT/COST
2008 dues deposited in calendar year	\$864.00	\$52.05	811.95
2009 dues deposited in 2008	\$12.00		12.00
Checking account statement -- interest earned	\$8.44		8.44
Soup supper on March 8	\$1,919.00	\$759.86	1,159.14
May Fest on May 4	\$9.00	\$58.89	(49.89)
Garage Sale on May 16 and May 17	\$1,016.20		1,016.20
General Chapter meeting on January 13	\$55.00	\$98.24	(43.24)
General Chapter meeting on April 27		\$50.00	(50.00)
General Chapter meeting on June 29-AV equip		\$171.21	(171.21)
Chapter Picnic on September 21		\$477.25	(477.25)
Broda dinner on November 7	\$2,697.00	\$1,054.69	1,642.31
Christmas Festival on December 6	\$215.00	\$304.24	(89.24)
Quilt drawing and \$15 donation	\$694.00		694.00
Supplies for quilters		\$75.00	(75.00)
Corresponding secretary - cards, flyers and postage		\$424.07	(424.07)
Donations, miscellaneous	\$67.16		67.16
Newsletters - publishing costs		\$1,403.36	(1,403.36)
Postage and labels for mailing newsletters		\$302.69	(302.69)
Sale of 3 Folklore books	\$16.00		16.00
Sale of Memories book	\$6.00		6.00
Withdrawal of \$2000 to purchase CD @ 3.6%		\$2,000.00	(2,000.00)
Liability insurance		\$245.00	(245.00)
Carpet cleaning - Headquarters, 50% of bill		\$210.00	(210.00)
Balance of Hy-Vee Card	\$48.24		48.24
State Sales Tax- Paid 01/23/09		\$274.77	(274.77)
 Balances as of 01/01/2009	 \$7,627.04	 \$7,961.32	 (334.28)
 Balance in checkbook on 12/31/09	 \$3,037.84		 3,037.84
 CDs			
18 month --- matures 02-19-2009	\$1,108.35		
18 month --- matures 02-19-2009	\$5,541.84		
18 month --- matures 03-11-2009	\$1,052.13		
13 month --- matures 05-22-2009	\$2,036.26		
CD Total Value	\$9,738.58		9,738.58
 Chapter Worth on 12/31/2008			 12,107.86

A Little Timely Humor

Vocabulary word for the day: "liquidity:"

When you look at your investments and wet yourself.

(Contributed by a faithful reader.)



HERZLICHEN GLUCKWUNSCH ZUM GEBURSTAGL HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March

Virginia Amen
Dale Dinges
Recca J. Hansen
Amy Frohn
Kenneth A. Hardt
Sylvia Hanner
Cheryl Kahler
Peter J. Kolb
Shirley Michel
Victor Michel
Ed O'Neill
Dorothy J. Pearce
Myron Pudwill
Bertha Reifschneider
Louise Schleich
Carol Sommers
Randy Tichota
John Weber
Jone White

April

Jacob Dering
Joan Dietrich
Bill Leonhardt
Jane Nickolaus
Sue Pudwill
Judy Sader

UNSERE LEUTE ERINNRYNG OUR PEOPLE IN MEMORY

Freddie "Cherries" Albrandt	Elsie I. Beeman
Henry F. Brt, Jr.	Henry "Lefty" Grenemeier
Virginia Darlene (Knopp) Hull	Medora M. Jacobs
Peter Jacobs, Jr.	Katherine "Kay" Johnson
Laverne A. Luedtke	Hildegard R. "Hilde" Nagel

IN MEMORIUM

Lefty Grenemeier and his wife, Molly, lived and loved AHSGR. Lefty was one of the members of the Building Crew that built our campus at 631 "D" Street from the ground up. He was always ready to go the Heritage Center to help repair anything, mow, remove snow and ice, cut up and remove downed trees after a storm, etc. You could find him helping at the mailings, or any other activity that needed volunteers.

I first got to know Lefty when my Norma and I attended a Broda dinner at First Plymouth Church. We sat at the same table with Lefty and Molly, Otis Young, Senior Pastor of First Plymouth, and Bill Harris and his wife. (Bill was mayor of Lincoln at that time.)

As we went around the table introducing ourselves, Lefty asked me if I was related to Phil Schenkel, as they had been good friends. I told him Phil had been my Dad. We all visited, ate, and visited some more, then went on our way.

A few weeks later, I got a phone call from Lefty. He was on the Lincoln Chapter's Nominating Committee and would I consider being nominated and have my name put on the ballot for one of the empty Board of Director seats. It took a while, but Lefty finally talked me into it. That was to be my start of being very active in the Lincoln Chapter.

I won't bore you with much more rambling, but I want you to know the man I called "Little Leprechaun" because of the twinkle in his eye, the smile on his face, and his unfailing good humor.

Lefty had been on the Board of Directors of the Lincoln Chapter almost from the beginning. Further, he was in on the beginning years of AHSGR. And where Lefty was, Molly was right beside him, helping in any way she could. I wonder how many Volga Boatman sandwiches they helped make and serve at the State Fair, to raise money for AHSGR?

I grew to love Lefty and I am going to miss him. To my knowledge, he is the last member who was born in Russia. He was a very special man who touched, and will continue to touch, many lives through his contributions to AHSGR.

I just thought everyone should know about the man called "Lefty".

AHSGR Conventions

June 15-21, 2009

Medicine Hat, Alberta Canada

Just a reminder, you will need a passport to get into Canada.

August 1-8, 2010

Embassy Suites • Lincoln, NE

2011 Date and time to be announced
Salt Lake City, Utah

FROHLICH JUHRESTAG HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

March

Bill & Elsa Amen
Lenny & Jan Schneider

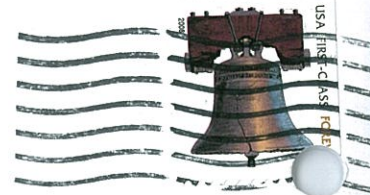
April

Jand & Lowell Nickolaus
Carol & Jim Sommers

Lincoln Chapter AHSGR



Mr. Larry D. Schenkel
9439 Benziger Dr.
Lincoln, NE 68526-9219



Leslie & Tom Hill
1034 Glenhaven Place
Lincoln, NE 68502

65063300 0010



Bits and Pieces

Gas House follow-up

I received a phone call from Ann Meier about the grocery store in the Gas House area. She lived across from the store and it was Garcia/Damion. Thanks, Ann, for the name and letting me know the newsletter is being read.

Favoritism?

I got a note from my friend, Little Suzy (my name for her) Stoehr. She wondered if I liked our friend, Barb (Babs) Schmidt more than I did her. The reason she was asking is because in the last newsletter, Barb's name was listed twice in the list of volunteers and hers was only listed once. I don't know why it is that most of the errors I make in the newsletter are connected with Barb.

I hope you all realize that this is all in good fun. I consider Barb and Suzy to be two of my best friends in the Lincoln Chapter. And once again, it proves the newsletter is being read.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Don't forget - the General Membership meeting on April 26 at the Heritage Center, 631 "D" Street at 2:00pm. Pam Wurst will present a video program. Refreshments will be served following the program.

Jubilee - May 2, 2009 9:00am to 4:00pm

This is the first attempt at putting on something like this and a few people have done a lot of work to make it memorable for those who will be attending.

Due to the number of people who have responded, it was felt that the Heritage Center did not have enough space to accommodate everyone so permission was sought and received to hold this event at Friedens Church.

Therefore, the meetings will be held in the basement of Friedens Lutheran Church on the northwest corner of 6th and "D" Streets.

Our first speaker will be Diane White. Diane is the Office Manager of the head-

quarters of AHSGR. She will give a brief rundown on conditions of AHSGR and will then answer questions and she will also be available for questions throughout the day.

Pam Wurst will have a presentation on how to use information at cemeteries for genealogical research.

Gwen Meister will be one of our guest speakers, as well. Gwen created traveling trunks for teachers to use to teach GR history. The trunks will be on display.

David Marsh, a presenter from the Humanities Council, will be presenting "Music of Germanic Lands". He will, also, be playing both the dulcimer and the accordion.

Lunch will be catered. The cost will be announced later.

The Heritage Center will be open for tours, but at this time, it is not known if the rest of the campus buildings will be open or not.