



# Indiana German Heritage Society Newsletter

Volume 16, Issue 3

Summer, 2000

## Celebrating Germans in the Performing Arts

### HOLLYWOOD - THE GERMAN CONNECTION

In 1866 it was known as Pfannenschmidtstadt after its founder Adolf Pfannenschmidt from Rinteln. But that was a bit too much of a mouthful for non-German speakers. Daeida Wilcox, since 1891 a widow and heiress of a large ranch in the middle of today's Hollywood, provided the region its lasting name. Hollywood, the name of her own properties, became the name of the whole community.

Already in 1908 the first films were made in the Los Angeles area. In 1909 the first film studios were established in Wilcox's immediate neighborhood. In 1911 the first permanent Hollywood studio by the Nestor Company from New Jersey was erected on a piece of land that was one of her properties.

Only one year after the Nestor Company had established the first permanent film studio in Hollywood, Carl Laemmle (1867-1939), a Swabian born in Laupheim, Germany, came to

Hollywood, bought up the Nestor Company, added his own studio lots, and established the Universal Film Manufacturing Company which he relocated, in 1913, to the San Fernando Valley, North of Hollywood. Universal Studios, as they are called today, are still the largest studio lots in Los Angeles and have also served for years as a tourist attraction.

With Carl Laemmle, who had immigrated to the U.S. in 1884, began the influx of German-speaking film artists on Hollywood. William Fox (Wilhelm Fried, 1879-1952) founded 20th Century Fox; Samuel Goldwyn (Goldfish, 1882-1974) and Louis B. Mayer (Lazar Meir, 1885-1957) were co-founders of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM). Marcus Loew (1870-1927) was a co-founder of MGM studios and the Loew's theater chain. Irving G. Thalberg (1899-1936), American producer of German-Jewish background helped rule MGM for 12 years. Adolph Zukor (1873-1976) was the founder of the "most European" studio--Paramount.

Shortly after World War II, a few producers began to work independently. Among the first successful independent producers were Sam Spiegel (1903-1986) and Otto Preminger (1906-1986), both emigres from Austria.

German-speaking directors brought with them German actors and actresses. Some, like William (Wilhelm) Dieterle, and Ernst Lubitsch, had come from the theater and had been hired in Hollywood to make German versions of American films. At that time, films were not synchronized, but rather the same scenes from the Hollywood version was simply reshot on the same set with actors from the appropriate foreign countries. Quite a few of those who came, stayed.

*Ruth Reichmann*

Sources: Cornelius Schnauber, German-speaking Artists in HOLLYWOOD: Emigration between 1910 and 1945, 1996, Inter Nationes, Bonn  
Willi Paul Adams, The German-Americans: An Ethnic Experience  
For more on the German-



Hollywood Connection see  
<http://www.german-way.com/cinema/alphindx.html>

## GERMAN-AMERICAN COMPOSERS ON POSTAGE STAMPS

In the recent issue of six commemorative stamps honoring "Hollywood Composers" four were German-speaking immigrants: Bernard Herrmann, Franz Waxman [Wachsmann], Max Steiner and Erich Wolfgang Korngold. They were particularly successful with film scores, although Korngold (1897-1971) has, of late, also been rediscovered as a master of orchestral music. Steiner (1888-1971) created music for "King Kong," "Gone with the Wind," and "Casablanca" - all super Hollywood classics.

In another set of stamps "Broadway Songwriters" are remembered. Like Max Steiner, Frederick [Fritz] Loewe (1904-1988) belongs to the "pre-1933ers." Born in Berlin of Austrian parents, he came to the US in 1924, and worked with Alan Jay Lerner. His musicals had great cinematic success, worldwide: "Brigadoon" (1954), "Gigi" (1958), "My Fair Lady" (1964), "Camelot" (1967).

Oskar Hammerstein (1846-1919) was an impresario who brought many fine singers to the U.S. His Grandson, Oscar Hammerstein II (1895-1960) wrote libretti for Vincent Youmans, George

Gershwin, Emmerich Kalman and especially Jerome Kern and Richard Rodgers ("Showboat," "Oklahoma," "South Pacific," "The King and I," "The Sound of Music").

Jerome Kern (1885-1945) born in New York studied at New York College and in Germany. The greatest success was "Show Boat" (1927) with Oskar Hammerstein II.

Richard Rodgers worked for almost twenty years with the librettist Lorenz Hart, who was a descendant of the romantic poet Heinrich Heine. After the death of Hart he worked with Oscar Hammerstein.

On this occasion we are also reminded of some of the German-speaking immigrant composers of "serious" music, whose political or racial background, likewise, promised no future in the Third Reich: Arnold Schoenberg (1874-1951), the father of the revolutionary Twelve-Tone Technique; Kurt Weill (1900-1950), most famous for his music to Bertolt Brecht's "Three Penny Opera," and celebrated on both sides of the ocean this year; Paul Dessau (1894-1979) composed music for several of Brecht's dramas and for 60 films--like Brecht he chose East Berlin after the American exile; Hanns Eisler (1898-1962), also associated with Brecht: "Hangmen Also Die."

*Eberhard  
Reichmann*



## BILLY WILDER HONORED AT 93

After having been honored with six Oscars, now Germany's Federal Cross of Merit had recently been presented to this extraordinary film director. He was born an Austrian, spent "the most important years" of his life in the Berlin of the roaring 1920s.

Like thousands of other Jewish artists and intellectuals, Billy Wilder left the Third Reich for America. The 93-year old's last visit to Berlin was in 1993 (with Gregory Peck). Many of his films have become classics. Some of the Hollywood greats he worked with include Marlene



Dietrich, Marilyn Monroe, Audrey Hepburn, Gloria Swanson, William Holden, Charles Laughton, Tony Curtis and Jack Lemon.

## **HEDDY LAMARR DEAD AT 86**

The German-American film star died in January 2000. She was born in Vienna November 9, 1913 and baptized Hedwig Eva Maria Kiesler. When Hedy Lamarr left Vienna for Hollywood in 1937, she had already become well-known throughout Europe. Discovered by the famous Salzburg (later Chicago) stage director, Max Reinhard, Hedy attended his theater school in Berlin and produced films for both Germany and Austria, among them "Die Blumenfrau von Lindenau." Among her many key roles for MGM are notably those in "Algiers" and "Samson and Delilah."

## **JOHN DENVER "FOLK POET OF OUR TIME"**

John Denver had taken his stage name from the Colorado capital city of Denver where he eventually made his home. His family were Germans from Russia. His grandfather Henry Deutschendorf had entered the US in 1895. Henry John Deutschendorf Jr. was born in Roswell, N.M. where his father, an Air Force Test Pilot was stationed. His father taught him to fly a Learjet. He was killed at age 53, when October 12, 1997 the experimental plane he was

piloting, crashed into California's Monterey Bay.

At one time Denver was at the top of the charts--he was named Country Music Entertainer of the Year in 1975. He scored with songs such as "Rocky Mountain High," "Take Me Home, Country Roads," "Sunshine on My Shoulders," "Annie's Song," and "Thank God I'm a Country Boy." His story was made into a film that was recently shown on TV.

*Ruth Reichmann*

## **THE YEAR OF JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685-1750)**

In all living cultures, anniversaries are milestones of historical consciousness, commemoration and appreciation. In 1999 the 250th birthday of Germany's "prince of poets" became a year-long celebration of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832) and his works. In the year A.D. 2000, the composer of whom Beethoven once said with awe: "Not Bach [= brook], but Meer [= sea] should be his name" is honored on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of his death. Johann Sebastian Bach was born on March 21, 1685 in Eisenach/Thuringen, a place otherwise known by its Wartburg Castle, on which Martin Luther, hiding from persecution, translated the Bible with stylistic brilliance into German. And not far from Eisenach, another musical giant was born the same

year as Bach: Georg Friedrich Haendel. But while the latter's career blossomed in England, Bach stayed in Thuringen and, after age 32, in Sachsen, where he held the position of cantor at the Thomas-Kirche in Leipzig. His masterful and almost superhuman output of predominantly religious works for choir, organ, orchestra, and piano have made him the most revered composer of all times. While Bach-Fests are on the 2000 calendar worldwide, Leipzig has the goal of becoming "Bach-City Number 1." Among its events? The consecration of Bach's renovated Thomas-Kirche and some 90 programs during the Bach-Fest Days, July 21-30.

*Eberhard Reichmann*

## **"HEIL INDIANA"**

When we thumb through files of collected "old stuff," there are surprises waiting, things pop up we never thought we had. This happens to me all the time, like with this German version of the IU song written just about 100 years ago by the then head of IU's German Department, Professor Carl Osthaus.

Heil Indiana!

Kommt und singt im Chor  
zusammen,  
Stimmt freudig ein:  
Unsre teure Alma Mater,  
Lob und Preis sei dein!

Chor:

Gloriana, Frangipana,  
Schwoert ihr ew'ge Treu!



Stolz des Staates Indiana,  
Lebe, blueh, gedeih!

Lasst uns alle fest verbunden  
Jauchzen im Verein;  
Wollen ihre treuen Soehne,  
Treuen Toechter sein!

Hoch das weiss und rote Banner,  
Teures Heiligtum;  
Fuehren soll es uns im Kampfe  
Hin zu Sieg und Ruhm.

Ihren Namen lasst uns preisen  
Stets in Wort und Sang,  
Bleiben ihr in Lieb' ergeben  
Unser Leben lang!

P.S. Anything like that from  
Purdue? Who knows!

## *Was ist uuuuuuuuup? (Events)*

### CALENDAR

Wednesday, June 14, 4:30 p.m.  
IGHS Board meeting  
6 p.m. Stammtisch and Program  
at the Athenaeum

Saturday, June 17, 1 p.m. "The  
German-Americans," Eberhard  
Reichmann, Shelby County  
Genealogical Society Workshop,  
Historical Society Building,  
Shelbyville

June 24, 7:30 p.m. The Cologne  
Donnie Band at the Biergarten of  
the Athenaeum, Indianapolis (317  
630-4569)

July 4, Independence Day

Celebration at the Biergarten of  
the Athenaeum, Indianapolis (317  
630-4569)

July 12, 4:30 p.m. IGHS Board  
meeting at the Athenaeum  
6 p.m. Stammtisch and Program

Sunday, July 30, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.  
P.O.W. Chapel Mass and Picnic  
at Camp Atterbury (Betty  
Randall at 812 546-5328)

Wednesday, August 9, 4:30 p.m.  
IGHS Board meeting  
6 p.m. Stammtisch and Program  
at the Athenaeum

Wednesday, September 13, 4:30  
p.m. IGHS Board meeting  
6 p.m., Stammtisch and Program  
at the Athenaeum

### STAMMTISCH AND PROGRAMS

Stammtisch on the second  
Wednesday of the month at 6  
p.m., prior to the program, at the  
Athenaeum Rathskeller  
Restaurant - good food and good  
talk! Programs are held at 7:30  
p.m. in the Max Kade German-  
American Center Seminar Room,  
First Floor of the Athenaeum,  
401 E. Michigan St., Indianapolis  
June 14, "The Civil War  
Sacrifices of Joseph Hotz and the  
Problems of Translations,"  
Presentation by Paul Brockman.  
Mr. Brockman is the Manuscripts  
Archivist at the Indiana Historical  
Society Library and Editor of the  
IGHS Newsletter.

July 12, "The German-Americans  
and Their Music," with examples

by Drs. Eberhard and Ruth  
Reichmann. Eberhard Reichmann  
is IGHS publications editor. Ruth  
Reichmann is President Emeritus  
of IGHS.

August 9, "Bremerhaven  
Reminiscences," with Ernestine  
Dillon. Dr. Dillon is President of  
the Indiana German Heritage  
Society and teaches German at  
Marian College in Indianapolis.

September 13, "German  
Immigration to Knox County,"  
Klaus Dehne. Mr. Dehne has  
come to Vincennes in connection  
with the Sister City arrangement  
with Wasserburg and has done  
extensive research in that area.

The programs--in English--are  
free of charge and open to the  
public. For information call  
President Ernestine Dillon at  
317 861-5831; office (317-464-  
9004).

### JULY 30 PROGRAM AT CAMP ATTERBURY

The Annual P.O.W. Chapel Mass  
and Picnic, remembering the  
German and Italian P.O.Ws  
confined at Atterbury, will be  
held July 30. The American-  
Italian Heritage Society is  
inviting members of the Indiana  
German Heritage Society once  
again to participate. At 11:00  
a.m. there will be posting of the  
colors, followed by a Catholic  
Mass and pitch-in at the "Chapel  
in the Meadow." Please, bring a  
dish. Table service, tents, tables  
and chairs will be provided.

Several weeks after the Chapel



Mass and Picnic of 1999 an act of arson resulted in extensive water damage to the P.O.W. "Chapel in the Meadow," the only such chapel remaining in the continental United States. The building did not sustain much structural damage, but the paintings will have to be restored. Hopefully the repairs will be completed by July 30.

Camp Atterbury is located 35 miles south of Indianapolis. Take 31 South to 252 West, (or north from the Taylorsville exit of I65,) then south on 200 East Road. Follow POW Chapel signs. For information call Sol Petruzzi 317 849-9731, P.O.W. Mass & Picnic Chairman. (<http://www.italianheritage.org/index.html>), or Betty Randall at 812-546-5328

## **SATURDAY SUMMER FESTIVALS AT THE GERMAN PARK**

8602 S. Meridian St.,  
Indianapolis

June 24 \* Summerfest with Cologne Donnie Band and Jay Fox, Car Show by Make A Wish Foundationsponsored by GAK Ladies Auxiliary

July 8 \* Summerfest with Jay Fox  
August 12 \* Liederkrantz  
Summerfestwith Alpen Echo

Festivals open at 5 p.m. Live music and dancingfood, drinks and fun!

August 6, Schlachtfest  
at the GAK (317 888-6940)

September 1-3, 8-9,  
OKTOBERFEST  
at the German Park

## **FESTIVALS AROUND THE STATE**

June 11-17 Germanfest, Ft. Wayne (219 436-4064 or <http://www.fwi.com/germanfest/>)

June 16-17 Heimatfest - a celebration of Ferdinand's German Heritage (812 367-0550 or <http://www.duboiscounty.org/calendar.htm>)

July 7-8 Haysville Sommerfest at Haysville Park (1-800-968-4578 or <http://www.duboiscounty.org/calendar.htm>)

July 28-29 Swiss Days Festival in Berne (219-589-8080 or Webpage <http://www.bernein.com.events.htm>)

August 3-6 Jasper Strassenfest 812 482-6866 or <http://www.duboiscounty.org/calendar.htm>)

August 11-12 6 p.m. Germanfest in Vincennes (Ralph Ruppel at 812 882-6543)

August 19, Amish Quilt Auction at the Gasthof, Montgomery

Aug. 29-Sept. 1, Oktoberfest at Michigan City (<http://www.michigancity.com/oktoberfest/index.html>)

September 8-9, Berne Heritage Days at Swiss Heritage Village and Oktoberfest Sale Days in Berne (219-589-8080 or Webpage <http://www.bernein.com.events.htm>)

September 8-9 and 15-16 Terre Haute Oktoberfest (David Walbring, 812 466 2107)

September 16-17, Kunstfest, Historic New Harmony - A fall festival of traditional German crafts and foods.

## **GERMANY IN US**

The GERMANY IN US Centerpiece and Learning Centerswill be in Jasper for the Strassenfest andSeptember 16-22 they will be showcased at the BSU/City of Muncie UniverCity Celebration at Ball State University

Visit the GERMANY IN US Website <http://www.ihc4u.org/international>

The Max Kad/IGHS Website <http://www-lib.iupui.edu/kade/> Customs and Traditions <http://serve.com/shear/germusa/germusa.htm>

## **Sister Cities News**

### **ANNIVERSARY VISIT TO PFAFFENWEILER**

*by Franz Hilger, Pfaffenweiler*  
A thundering signal from an old,



recently restored small canon, will announce the arrival of the visitors from Jasper, IN in Pfaffenweiler, Germany on June 14. The welcome ceremony is to take place in front of the Batzenberghalle, Pfaffenweiler's Gymnasium and Civic Auditorium. Members of the local Trachtentanzgruppe (traditional dance group) will welcome their friends with wine. Planned for Thursday is a tour of the nearby university town of Freiburg. As in the past, the group will visit the Muensterplatz, the market square around the gothic cathedral, and have "eine heisse Wurst" (a hot sausage) for lunch. One can climb the cathedral tower by stairs (no elevator), for a wonderful view of Freiburg, the Rhine River Valley and the Black Forest. Some may want to take a city tour by tram instead.

Friday is Pfaffenweiler Tag (Day). Tours are offered to the museum, the Rathaus, the Winery, the old part of Pfaffenweiler and the church. At noon, above town at the Gruenwasenhuette (cabin on the Gruenwasen), the visitors can enjoy a beautiful view of Pfaffenweiler below. The Trachtentanzgruppe will have some lunch prepared. The official Partnership evening in the Batzenberghalle is hosted by local heritage clubs. The Landfrauen (Association of Rural Women) are providing food and drinks and the accordion club the music.

Saturday is host families day. In

the evening the stone carver group can be joined for a glass of wine in the historic stone quarries. On Sunday the Steibickfescht (stone quarry festival) begins with mass at the Servatiuskapelle (chapel), with the Winzerkapelle (Winegrowers Brass Band), the Church and the Men's Choir. After mass everyone follows the Winzerkapelle to the historical stone quarry, where the Winzerkapelle, the Accordion Club, the Alpine Horn Blowers and a Swiss Organ Duo will entertain. On Monday June 19th, this year's visit concludes with a Black Forest tour.

(translated by Matthias Hilger of Jasper)

### COLOGNE YOUTHS TO BRING THEIR MUSIC TO INDY

The "Donie Band," 37 High School students from Cologne, ages 11 to 19 will be in Indianapolis from June 23 to June 27. They play everything from trumpets to trombones to clarinet, guitars and flutes. The youngsters were chosen to take part in the exchange program on the basis of their essay, written in English, on why they wanted to make the trip. They will perform on Saturday, June 24 from 5-6 p.m. in the Park Festival at the German Park on Meridian Street. At 7:30 p.m. they will be in the Biergarten of the Athenaeum. On Sunday they will be at Lutherwood for an ice cream social. For information call Gloria

Webster at 317 846-8440.

## New Books

Friends of Civil War history will be delighted with Michael A. Peake's *Baptism of Fire. Rowlett's Station*, constituting the first volume of Indiana's German Sons. From Rowlett's Station to the Lone Star. A History of the 1st German, 32nd Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment. The 71 pages with numerous contemporary illustrations give a carefully researched account of this all-German regiment's brief and bloody engagement that also marked the beginning of its distinguished career. This December 1861 battle near Rowlett's Station provided a victory for the North in the fields of Kentucky at a time when the Union suffered embarrassing losses and setbacks on other fronts. The book's author is also spearheading the rescue action for the deteriorating monument at Cave Hill Cemetery in Louisville, KY, erected presumably as the country's first Civil War memorial. Its German inscriptions have been obliterated by the elements. The memorial's base has an English text: "In memory of the First Victims of the 32. Reg. Indiana Vol. Who fell at the Battle of Rowlett [sic] Station Dec. 17, 1861." Orders: NCSA Literatur, 430 Kelp Grove Rd., Nashville, IN 47448. \$6.00 (includes shipping).

# Indiana German Heritage Society

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

For joining or membership renewal, please use this statement and make checks payable to the Indiana German Heritage Society. To increase Society support, you may wish to designate a higher category.  
All contributions are tax deductible

## ANNUAL DUES

Student \$5 \_\_\_\_\_ (School) \_\_\_\_\_

Individual \$12 \_\_\_\_\_

Family \$20 \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

Patron \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

Corporate \$100 \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor \$500 \_\_\_\_\_

Benefactor \$1,000 \_\_\_\_\_

New Member \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Send payment with this statement to: Membership Secretary IGHS, 401 E. Michigan St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204



INDIANA GERMAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

Indiana German Heritage Society

401 East Michigan St  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Nonprofit Organization

US Postage

Paid

Indianapolis Indiana

Permit Number 8046



***Bach is Back!*** The year 2000 commemorates the 250th year of Johann Sebastian Bach's death (1685-1750). To learn more about the celebration events, see page 3.