



# Indiana German Heritage Society Newsletter

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## Tales from the upcoming *Anthology*

### SHOOTING IN THE NEW YEAR

by Ruth Reichmann

Shooting in the New Year, one of the activities in the old country marking year's end and the beginning of a new one, was a favorite custom in Dubois County's German areas. The following verses were used widely. Passed on orally only, spelling and grammar of the text varied:

Ich wuensche euch und eure liebe Frau,  
Soehne und Toechter, Knechte und Maechte [Mägde],  
alles was de Thuere [Türe] herein und heraus geht,  
ein glueckseliges neues Jahr,  
ein viel bes[s]eres als das alte wahr [war].

Wir wuenschen euch ein viereckigen Tisch  
und auf jede e[E]cke einen gebratenen f[F]isch,  
in der m[M]itte ein Flasche w[W]ein,  
das soll fuer euch und mich und meine Kameraden das Neujahrs g[G]eschenk sein.

Wir stehen da auf eurem Hof  
und vor eure Thuere um das Neues-jahr anzuschies[s]en

und soll das s[S]chies[s]en euch verdries[s]en,  
lasst uns wissen [be]vor wir schies-sen.

Ich hoer es macht euch kein v[V]erdrus[s]  
dan[n] geben wir ein freundlichen s[S]chuss.

Das Pulver ist nicht teuer so geben wir das f[F]euer.

**BANG! BANG! BANG!**

We wish you, your dear wife,  
your sons and daughters, serfs and maids,  
and all who enter and leave your door,  
a Happy New Year, a much better one  
than the one before.

A four-cornered table is our wish  
and on each corner a good, baked fish,  
and in the middle a bottle of wine.  
That shall the New Year's present be

for you, my comrades and me.

We're standing in your yard,  
in front of your door  
to shoot in the New Year.

But should the shooting  
sound bad to your ear,  
let us know before we're firing.

I hear it doesn't bother you,  
so let us have a friendly shot,  
powder doesn't cost a lot:

**FIRE!!! BANG! BANG! BANG!**

In 1993 Claude and Martina Eckert of Jasper recalled:

"New Year's was usually a family gathering, shooting the old year out and the new year in. There were certain groups that would come to our house every year and you could expect that they would wait until after midnight. You'd hear a little noise. They'd say, "Oh jess, jess, mach amol uff" [yes, yes, come on and open] and you'd have to get up and open the door, and then they would go through the whole spiel, "Wir wünschen Dir und Deine Frau und Deine Kinder..." (See the verses above). And then shots would be fired and you invited them in and they had a drink and then go somewhere else. They were usually 5 or 6 young men, with musical instruments, horns and violins, and one guy, John Acker-man, even carried a bass fiddle, and sometimes they would sing along."

Dubois County Historian Lillian Doane shared her recollections also in 1993:

"I was born in 1913, and in my earliest memory of the gun used in this custom it was already called "that old New Year Shooting pistol." Yes, it was a common practice in Dubois Co. In my neck of the woods the men from age about 16 to 40 or 50 gathered and went



around the neighborhood. There was always someone from each family along, and as they came to a home, they knocked on the bedroom window where the head of the family was sleeping (in my home it was my mother, for my father had died). The speaker of the group would call until he received an answer. He then asked if they could "shoot in the New Year". When permission was given, the speaker would recite a long greeting: *Ich wünsche euch...*" (see above) and then all would shoot.

Another noise making technique was used by some. They placed something in a half gallon bucket, maybe carbide, and the explosion blew out the lid with a big bang. One boy in the neighborhood got hurt one night. He hadn't done it right.

By the time the head of the house opened the door and all came in, usually about 10 or 12. Our close neighbor was a very musical family. They had an accordion, a French harp and a violin, which they always brought and played while in the house. If there were young girls in the family, the young men and women would dance, and George Miller, the bachelor who always did our sausage, he would play the French harp and do a jig. I can still see him as plainly as if it were today. In some families, the couple would also dance. It was a merry time. A lunch of some kind was served with home made wine. If it had been cold enough to have butchered, a sausage sandwich was served or, if not, something else like "Küchle" (little donuts). A visit usually lasted about a half hour.

It was such a memorable time for us children. There was no radio, no TV, or other kinds of entertainment, so New Year Shoot-ing, butchering and thrashing, the neighborhood corn husking, wood splitting, that's when the neighbors would gather to either

work, or make merry. And always in winter the men would come to play Schafskopf, an old German card game still played today. We had a big old table and men would come before it got dark and there would always be a pitcher of wine on each corner, no one was ever drunk but they had a good time.

The New Year's gun was made by Henry Brames, who lived in our neighborhood. He also made butcher knives and paring knives. He is listed in Lindert's Gunmakers of Indiana (1964). I still remember a "Shooting" here on Jackson street as late as about 1935."

From: Interviews in 1993 with Claude and Martina Eckert and Lillian Doane. The opening verses--from an old newspaper clip-ping--were provided by the Oscar Schroeders, also of Jasper.



## SCHLACHTTAG - BUTCHERING

by Ruth Reichmann

"Schlachtereier" reads the invitation by the Jasper Deutscher-verein. It announces that on Saturday, March 19, 1994 beginning at 8 a.m. members will meet to make pork liver sausage, blood sausage, and head cheese. Everyone is to bring a favorite sharpened knife to help cut up meat and maybe a cutting board. Served for lunch at 11 a.m. will be liver and onions; supper at 5 p.m. will be sau-

sage, mashed potatoes, sauerkraut, ribs and beans. Following supper the cold-packed meat and sausage not used that day will be auctioned off.

It is an old tradition in Dubois County. An entry from the Jasper Weekly Courier of December 2, 1876 reads: "Several of our citizens killed their hogs, this week, and some of the on-lookers were surprised, on reaching home, and feeling for their handkerchiefs, to find a piece of hog's liver or a tail!!!"

In the rural days and areas of our state, butchering a hog was an important and joyous occasion, for there was the prospect of good meat to go along with the usual staple of potatoes and kraut, and of soup (Metzelsuppe) from the broth you cooked your sausages in. It was also a great occasion for socializing. Butchering required much preparation ahead of time and a lot of work on "Schlachttag," especially with the cutting up and cleaning of the guts.

So you had relatives or friends and neighbors who would come and help.

Lillian Doane of Jasper remembers it from her childhood:

When I was a child we lived on the farm and we always butchered. My brother had to do the shooting. When I asked him why it was so important that the hogs be killed that very morning, he

explained that it was to save the blood for blood sausage (Blutwurst). The men would bring the hogs up, dip them in boiling water and hang them up, and scrape and gut them. And the women would empty the entrails and bring them in and would wash them and scrape them and wash them and wash them. Eventually by the time the entrails were cleaned, the hogs were also cut up, and there would be the hams and all the meat trimmed, and out to cool. All the red meat would be ground up



for pork sausage (Bratwurst) and the liver had been cooked and mixed with other things for liver sausage (Leberwurst). The blood pudding (Blutwurst and Pressack) had been put into the large intestines and cooked; then for the "Schwartemagen" (head cheese or souse) the mixture was put into the stomachs and they were also cooked. And then you had the wonderful broth (the "Metzelsuppe") in which all of this had been cooked. If it was cold enough most of this broth was frozen and later it would be cooked into mush, together with cracklings. To render the lard, it was put into a press to be squeezed out and it left clumps of cracklings. These cracklings were broken up into the broth and then a cornmeal mush was made and we would have that for our supper with milk, it was called crackling mush.

Only one man in our neighborhood knew how to season the regular pork sausage ("Bratwurst"). George Miller would come and they would bring in the tubs full of meat for him to season. As he seasoned it, my mother would cook a little to see how it tasted, and if it was alright the sausage was stuffed into a round press which had a long round spout and a wheel to turn it. The clean intestines were pulled over the spout and as the wheel was turned it would press the ground meat into the intestines, and then each link was tied and that was your sausage. And this is where the Indiana breakfast sausage comes from, it is actually "Bratwurst."

The importance of "Schlachttag" in rural life is captured by Jasper poet Norbert Krapf in his volume, *Somewhere in Southern Indiana*.

Butchering: After a Family Photograph

(In memory of my grandmother  
Mary Hoffmann Schmitt,  
1883-1979)

In front of the weathered smoke-house the scaled hogs hang, hind feet tied to an ash sapling wedged between forks in the framing maples. the squeals of animals dying have long since frozen into silence. Snouts have dripped circles of blood onto a sheet of January snow. In a field behind the smokehouse (out of range of the camera eye) the women empty intestines thin as onion skin for casing while other innards boil in iron pots. Carving at a carcass in the middle of the picture, the men half turn and frown as if to say: "We kill to survive. Starvation lurks just down the road. We have no time for your art or your sentimentality." The man in overalls and boots who squints the hardest is my grandfather, thirty-three. Three years later, on doctor's advice, he took a walk. Zero-degree breezes fanned the flames of consumption hidden in his chest. Two weeks later he lay in cold earth.

Today very few Hoosier farmers are still butchering them-selves. Those from the Dubois County area will take their animals to Merkley & Sons of Jasper, a German style butcher, who makes wonderful sausages. Besides Merkley there are other good German butchers in Indiana. The best known is Klemm's Meat Market on South Street in Indianapolis. However, you can get good bratwurst, knockwurst and headcheese (also called souse) in most Indiana food markets.

To this day "Leberwurst, Blutwurst und Bauchfleisch/Suppenfleisch" (liver sausage, blood sausage, and boiled pork belly) with "Spätzle," or potatoes boiled in their skins, or "Bauern-brot" (dark bread) and--of course, Sauerkraut--are the elements of every "Schlachtplatte" (butchering platter). In rural Wuerst-temberg and Black

Forest restaurants butchering was/is a regular part of the business. On "Schlachttag" a broom is hung outside the door to let people know "what's cooking"-- "Schlachtplatte" (butchering platter)--served with a glass of beer, apple cider or new wine.

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The contributions "Shooting in the New Year" and "Schlachttag - Butchering" will be included in the Chapter on "Customs and Traditions" of the forthcoming Anthology *The Hoosier German Heritage*. Our fundraising efforts for this comprehensive volume is making progress but we still need more \$upport. Why not honor our forebears with a donation of any size! See contribution form on page 14.

## President's Letter

First of all, let me wish all IGHS members and their families Frohe Weihnachten und ein glückliches neues Jahr 2006. It is, as we always say, hard to believe that another year has passed, but, of course, they always do, and we always wonder where the time went. At that point it is useful to reflect on what has been accomplished and what needs yet to be done. In that way we have at least a sense of where the time went and where it's going.

Since last I wrote you in this column several significant events occurred. Congratulations to South Bender Gabrielle Robinson and her group who signed the official Sister City documents with their partner city Arzberg in Bavaria whence many South Benders are descended. This is the culmination of a lot of effort, including excellent research in Gabrielle's book on the Germans of South Bend. It sets the basis for future relationships and exchanges

The Friends of Wyncken in Allen County succeeded in saving and moving the home of circuit riding



**German Lutheran Pastor Friedrich Wyneken.** A great accomplishment with the promise of a future home for a heritage interpretive center. Congrats to Ken Selking, Chair of the Wyneken Committee, the many volunteers, including Leanne Busick, Angela Rumschlag, John Kalb, and thanks also to Heiko Muehr, Chair of the IGHS Preservation Committee and Catherine Compton of Indiana Historic Landmarks Foundation.

Patty Goepfrich, the State council rep from Jasper, reported on the very successful visit of Mayor Gutgesell and a large delegation from their sister City Pfaffenweiler. I had the pleasure of meeting with some of the Pfaffenweiler folks during the wonderful Jasper Strassenfest. I especially enjoy practicing Jasper Deutsch while still being amazed that the Pfaffenweiler visitors and many of the dialect speakers in Jasper still communicate as their ancestors were able five generations ago. I want to thank Patty also for allowing me to make CD copies of interview videos she made of dialect speakers.

The IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center had this summer Prof. Antonius Holtmann as guest professor giving a graduate seminar on emigration based on use of documentation available in Germany and the US. German-American Studies continues to be developed as a research specialty that attracts very good students.

Eb Reichmann continues to work on what will be a truly unique work—the anthology that brings together between two covers the premier articles and original documentation of Indiana's German cultural heritage. This work deserves the strong support of all IGHS members, that means financial support for publishing costs. You will be proud to be a part of this work—there is no such anthology for the Germans of any other state. Elsewhere in the News-

letter there are examples of the material that will be included in the anthology. Please make a generous donation to help with the publications cost.

The Indiana German Heritage Society participated in the large International Festival mounted by the Nationalities Council of Indianapolis and held at the State Fair Grounds. Both the IGHS educational booth and the food booth won first prize for the second year in a row. Congratulations to the Program Committee and the Education Committee as well as the many volunteers who helped. Many hours were spent there by Eb and Ruth Reichmann, Fred Yanega, Janette Footman and Claudia Grossmann. Thanks go also to the students from Butler University and IUPUI who helped.

There is much more to mention both as having been accomplished and needing to be undertaken. But that will be for next time. Nochmals wünsche ich Euch allen schöne Feiertage und einen guten Rutsch ins neue Jahr.

Giles R. Hoyt

## SCHILLER EXHIBIT AND SYMPOSIUM AT IUPUI LIBRARY

Feb. 1, 2-4:30 p.m. Opening of Schiller Exhibit and Symposium at IUPUI Library. The presenters: Ferdinand Piedmont: "Schiller in Context: Quotable Quotes"; Peter Boerner: "Amazing Schiller Memorabilia--in Indiana"; Andri De Tienne: "Schiller: The First Philosopher Peirce Ever Read"; Eberhard Reichmann: "In Schiller's House in the Middle of World War II--A Personal Story." Professors Piedmont, Boerner, and Reichmann are professors emeriti from the Department of Germanic Studies at IU Bloomington. Prof. Reichmann is also a fellow

of the Max Kade Center and its chief editor. Prof. De Tienne is associate director of the Peirce Edition Project and a member of the Institute for American Thought at IUPUI.

Friedrich Schiller (1759-1805) remains one of Germany's most revered and prolific dramatists and poets 200 years after his passing (see also the Schiller article in this Newsletter). His influence was widely felt throughout Europe and America. In honor of this great man, the Indiana German Heritage Society in cooperation with the IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center is sponsoring an exhibit and holding a symposium on Schiller. The event will be held in the IUPUI Library with a reception to follow. The symposium will be very lively and concentrate on Schiller as a person. For questions contact Giles R. Hoyt at the Max Kade Center 317-274-2330, ghoyt@iupui.edu.



## STAMMTISCH AND PROGRAMS

Wed., Feb. 8: "The Role of Music in the Lives of German-American Settlers in Southern Indiana," Sara Anne Hook, M.B.A., J.D. Professor of



Informatics and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Undergraduate Studies IU School of Informatics, IUPUI

Wed., March 8: "German-American Connections of the Former Central State Hospital and the Indiana Medical History Museum," Dr. Robert McDougal, Clinical Professor of Pathology, I.U. School of Medicine; and Virginia Terpening, Director, Indiana Medical History Museum

As always, the programs are held at the Athenaeum, 401 E. Michigan St., Indianapolis. They are in English--free of charge and open to the public. Optional dinner with conversation at 6:30 p.m. with pro-gram at 7:30 p.m. For questions contact Giles R. Hoyt at the Max Kade Center 317-274-2330, ghoyt@iupui.edu.



## KARNEVAL IN INDIANAPOLIS

Sat., Feb. 4: 6-11 p.m. Karneval/ Masked Ball at the Athenaeum, 401 E. Michigan St., Indianapolis. Everyone is invited to a frolicking good time in the Athenaeum Kellersaal. The Indianapolis tradition of

Karneval goes back to the 1880s when German societies held lavish masked balls. Athenaeum Karneval incorpo-rates Karneval traditions of its German sister city Cologne-- Masks and Costumes, presentation of Karneval Royalty and Prinzen-garde, Presentation of Karneval Ordens or medals. Music and Dancing provided by the Freudemacher. Come in costume, nightgown, maid of honor's dress, grandmother's ballgown or grandfather's best - anything goes! Bring your mask - or buy one at the door. KOELLE, ALAAF! ALAAF!!! \$12 Admission in advance, \$15 at the door. Food a la Carte by the Rathskeller Restaurant. For information or reservations 1-317 630-4569 Ext. 1

Sat., Feb. 11: Fasching at the German American Klub, Indianapolis (317-888-6940 <http://www/germanpark.org/gak>)

Sun., Feb. 26, 3-5 p.m. KINDERKARNEVAL (German Children's Mardi Gras) at the Athenaeum. Please come in costume and join the fun. Led by a Prinz and Prinzessin there will be a Balloon dance, Pretzel eating contest, pin the nose on the clown, dancing and music, costume parade and contest for best costume. Admission \$5.00 individual, \$10 per family. Info and reservations: 1-317 630-4569 Ext. 1 - Walk-ins welcome!

Sat., April 1, St. Benno Fest with Jay Fox and his Bavarian Showtime Band. Call Buddy McCart 317-846-8613

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Fri./Sat., March 24-25: IGHS Annual Meeting & Conference in Terre Haute! More about this in the next Newsletter.**

## FRIEDRICH VON SCHILLER (1759-1805)

When Schiller died in 1805 - 200 years ago - the world lost a truly great poetic genius. He and his friend Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832), both at Weimar, were the central figures of the golden age of German literature, flanked by Kant's philosophy and the immortal music of Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven.

Born in the little town of Marbach near Stuttgart, young Schiller was put in the Duke's military academy, where he studied both jurisprudence and medicine. The revolutionary passion of "Sturm und Drang" (Storm and Stress) found expression in his first drama, "Die Räuber" (The Robbers) which he subtitled "in tiran-nos" - not pleasing to the Duke who forbade him to keep on writ-ing. Schiller fled to Mannheim, for he was determined to gain his freedom. The struggle for freedom and humanity against all forms of suppression is a central force in his dramatic works. When his "Don Carlos" was produced in the former German Democratic Republic, the plea spoken by Marquis Posa to Spanish King Phillip, "Give them the freedom of thought," the applause was unstoppable which led the communist regime to ban the drama. Schiller held a professorship for history at the University of Jena. His research, teaching, and dramatic output went hand in hand. The "Wallenstein" trilogy corresponds to his comprehensive history of the "Thirty Years War." British history led to the tragedy of "Maria Stuart." The story of the medieval French heroine, Jeanne d'Arc, found an equally superb rendition in the tragedy of "Die Jungfrau von Orleans." With his "Wilhelm Tell" Schiller gave Switzerland its national drama that celebrates a successful struggle for freedom and unity.

Through most of the 19th century Schiller was the most popular and



revered German poet, more even than Goethe, as the "national poet," often considered "the German Shakespeare." German literature has been immensely enriched also by his ballads, critical poetics and aesthetics. His historical-political dramas and tragedies are unsurpassed and have inspired even the Italian composers Verdi and Rossini. The latter's "Wilhelm Tell" overture provided the theme music for Hollywood's "Lone Ranger." Verdi was inspired by "Die Räuber," "Kabale und Liebe" ("Luisa Miller"), and "Don Carlos." Beethoven immortalized Schiller's poem "An die Freude" ("Ode to Joy") in the final movement of his Ninth Symphony.

Small wonder, German-speaking immigrants carried their Schiller works and many memorized lines with them to America. Schiller's Kantian moral rigor together with Goethe's humanism became also an essential part of the Freethinkers' code of ethics and social responsibility, not unlike Christian commands.

Schiller Lodges for intellectual and literary pursuits were founded in numerous cities; Indianapolis, e.g., had Schiller Loge Nummer 2 and 381.

Schiller monuments can still be found in many places in the U.S. Most of them bronze cast copies, bust or full statue, were made in the "fatherland." The visitor to New York's Central Park will happen onto a bust of Schiller, sculpted by C.L. Richter. The Schiller Monument in St. Louis is a reproduction of the bronze by Ernest Rau at Marbach, Germany. Copies of Ernst Reitschel's famous Goethe-Schiller monument in Weimar, Germany, can be found in Cleveland, in Syracuse' Baltimore Woods at 3rd Ave., and in Golden Gate Park. The Chicago Schiller Monument is located in Lincoln Park. Many Schiller monuments are placed in a Schiller Parks. Well

worth a visit is Schiller Park in Historic German Village, in Columbus, OH.

In Indianapolis we have just a small street named in Schiller's honor, it begins at S-Meridian. But the theatrical history of the Indy Germans shows several performances of "Die Räuber."

In conjunction with the Max Kade German-American Center of IUPUI, a Schiller exhibit and symposium are being planned for February 1, 2006 at the IUPUI Indianapolis Library.

*Eberhard Reichmann*

## FAMOUS GERMAN- AMERICANS



### DR. SEUSS: THEODOR SEUSS GEISEL (1904-91)

Theodor Seuss Geisel, was born into a German-American family in Springfield, Mass., where his grandfather had established a prosperous brewery. Geisel, better known to the world by his pen name "Dr. Seuss," which was both Ted's middle name and his mother's maiden name, who was also of German descent. Ted credited his mother with both his ability and desire to create the rhymes for which he became so well known.

Ted's father, Theodor Robert, was also a brewmaster and the Geisels enjoyed financial success for many

years. Prohibition and the onset of WW I would change all this for the German immigrants. The Temperance movement painted beer as the "devil's brew," and there were those who saw even beer gardens and "gemue-tlichkeit" as part of a plot to demoralize youth. Any plans Theodor had in becoming a "brauer" were dashed by the passage, in 1918, of the XVIIIth Amendment, which outlawed the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages.

Ted left Springfield to attend Dartmouth College, where he became editor-in-chief of the "Jack-O-Lantern," Dartmouth's humor magazine. It was here that he first used the "Seuss" pseudonym. After taking advanced degrees he freelanced as a cartoonist. "The Saturday Evening Post," e.g., published some of his early pieces. As illustrator for an advertising agency he penned a series of cartoons for an insecticide spray and used the punch line, "Quick Henry, the Flit," which was soon became a catch phrase. He found steady work for more than 15 years as a creative ad man for Standard Oil.

As WW II approached, Ted began contributing weekly political cartoons to the liberal "PM magazine." While he was continuing to contribute to "Life," "Vanity Fair," and other magazines, Viking Press offered him a contract to illustrate a collection of children's sayings which was his first "big break" into children's literature. In 1937, his first book, "To Think I Saw It on Mulberry Street," which he both wrote and illustrated, was rejected 27 times before being published by Vanguard Press. For Hollywood he wrote several screenplays which garnered three Academy Award Oscars for him. In 1958, he started to concentrate on Beginner Books or Children Books. "The Cat in the Hat" and "Yurtle the Turtle" were immediate successes. They initiated a series of



books which treated reading as an enjoyable experience using cartoons, puzzles, dramatic skits, etc. to compliment the rudiments of reading.

"The Cat in the Hat," perhaps the defining book of Ted's career, developed as part of a unique joint venture between Houghton Mifflin (Vanguard Press) and Random House. With the release of "The Cat in the Hat," Ted became the definitive children's book author and illustrator, and a prolific writer and illustrator of such all-time favorites as "Green Eggs and Ham," and "Fox in Socks." One of the books, "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas," was made into an animated cartoon and serves as an annual holiday presentation on television. In his advanced years, he composed two books aimed at senior citizens: "You're Only Old Once" (1986) and "Oh, The Places You'll Go" (1990).

At the time of his death on Sept. 24, 1991, Ted had written and illustrated 44 children's books. They had been translated into more than 15 languages and over 200 million copies had found their way into homes and hearts around the world. Besides the books, his works have provided the source for 11 children's TV specials, a Broadway musical and a feature-length motion picture. Other major motion pictures are on the way.

His honors included two Academy awards, two Emmy awards, a Peabody award and the Pulitzer Prize. To commemorate his great contribution to literature and education, the U.S. Postal Service issued a series of 37 cent stamps honoring him. His hometown Springfield, Mass. is celebrating this favorite son in style. For more go to: <http://catinthehat.org/>

## ROBERT WAGNER--THE ARCHITECT OF SOCIAL SECURITY

"Champion of the underdog" best describes the accomplishment of U.S. Senator Robert Wagner, who was born in Nastaetten/Hesse on June 8, 1877. His name is preserved in the Wagner Act, or the National Labor Relations Act of 1935, which may be called the Magna Charta of the U.S. labor unions. Much to Wagner's regret, the bill was later restricted somewhat by the Taft-Hartley legislation.

Wagner also was the architect of the Social Security System.

"Your name is indissolubly tied to America's second Bill of Rights," declared President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1944.

Wagner's parents immigrated to America in 1886. His father had difficulty earning a living in New York. He worked in Yorkville as a building superintendent for a free basement apartment and a weekly wage of \$5. Bobby, the youngest of seven children, helped by delivering newspapers and groceries. His older brother, Gus, who worked as a cook for the New York Athletic Club, helped his talented younger brother who "always wanted to go to school" to study at New York's City College. In 1896, the disappointed parents returned to Nastaetten.

While attending school, Bob worked as a page and also at the New York Athletic Club while attending law school. In 1900 he was admitted to the Bar in New York. During an impromptu debate in the Algonquin Democratic Club in Yorkville, he attracted the attention of politicians from the Tammany Hall. Four years later he was a member of the Albany legislature. His parliamentary ascent was steep. From 1908-1918 he served as New York State Senator, from 1911 as Minority Leader, and

was Deputy Lieutenant Governor in 1914 for a few months. From the beginning of his parliamentary career, his goal was "to fulfill our social obligations." He was strengthened in his commitment by the disastrous fire in the Triangle Shirtwaist Co. in New York on March 25, 1911, which killed 200 workers. From that date, Wagner fought untiringly, even though for a long time unsuccessfully, for safe working conditions, unemployment insurance, and restrictions on child labor. As a result of his activity, the Federation of Labor could announce in 1913 that New York State had the best labor laws in the U.S.

In 1919 Wagner was appointed Justice of the New York Supreme Court, and in 1926 he was elected to his first term in the U.S. Senate. "We are confronted with revolutionary changes in the industrial production which are as profound as those of the beginning of the last century," he warned. Year after year he introduced bills in support of job security, unemployment support, and old age pensions. When he was accused of being a socialist, he responded by asking whether it was socialism "if one tries to raise the standard of living in the interest of the commonweal?" In 1932, after some hard battles, he pushed through the Relief Construction Act, a law which "for the first time recognized the responsibility of the federal government for the unemployed."

When Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected President, Wagner became the "legislative pilot of the New Deal." Not all his dreams came true, however. A national health insurance system, for which he introduced a bill as early as 1939, still remains controversial.

During his lifetime it was written that "since the days of the founding fathers no legislator has realized more or introduced more revolution-



ary bills in America history."

"Current Biography" noted in 1941 that "Wagner's activities in the Senate represent a history of progressive legislation in America." Wagner's fundamental honesty, humanitarian integrity, and dedication to his cause were never doubted.

In 1947, Robert F. Wagner resigned from his senate seat because of health considerations. He then lived in Islip, Long Island, during the summers and spent winters with his son, Robert F. Wagner, Jr., who served three terms as Mayor of New York City. Senator Wagner died on May 4, 1953. Shortly before his death he declared, "We need new recruits for the army of progress and humanity. But history is on our side."

From: Gerard Wilk, *Americans from Germany*, German Information Center New York (1976), 67-70; reprint edition (1995) by D.H. Tolzmann. A publication of IGHS & Max Kade German-American Center.

## FROM AROUND THE STATE

### IGHS 2006 ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN TERRE HAUTE

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: On March 24/25, IGHS will hold its annual meeting and symposium in Terre Haute. Coordinated by Prof. Ronald W. Dunbar, Chair of the Dept. of Languages & Literatures at Indiana State University. It will showcase the Terre Haute area' German history and heritage.

Friday night after dinner Jonathon Meyers of Boston, MA, will give a

presentation on the life and times of Eugene V. Debs along with a dramatic reading, probably of Debs' famous Canton OH speech on Freedom of Speech.

On Saturday, Prof. Dunbar will introduce the presentations with an overview of German-American settlement history of Terre Haute. Dorothy Jerse, local Terre Haute historian, is to speak about poet Max Ehrmann. Michael Peake, Civil War historian from Tennessee, will present the 1st German regiment of the 32nd Indiana with the focus on the Terre Haute contingent. Pamela Meeks, official historian of Hulman & Co., will focus on Hermann Hulman. Jim Gould will introduce his ancestor Albert Lange, Civil War era mayor of Terre Haute, U.S. ambassador to Holland and, State Auditor of Indiana under Governor Morton.

There will also be exhibits and sight-seeing. Planned are visits to Paul Dresser's home, in conjunction with the Vigo County Historical Society, the Eugene V. Debs home, in conjunction with the Debs society, and the Clabber Girl Museum (early 20th century memorabilia of Hulman & Co.).

For more information contact Prof. Dunbar at (812) 237-2367

Web: <http://web.indstate.edu/III/>

### A MOVING HISTORICAL MOMENT - ARZBERG-SOUTH BEND

by Gabrielle Robinson

2005 continued and deepened the exchanges between Arzberg and South Bend. After the successful exchange of gifts during Advent, we began planning for summer and fall and I gave a presentation to the South Bend Common Council in February.

They were enthusiastic about continuing the connection and establishing a sister city relationship.

In June, husband Mike and I visited Arzberg, to attend the re-lease of the German translation of my book "German Settlers of South Bend." As always, when we are in Arzberg, the American flag flies over City Hall, and articles about our visit appear in the local paper as well.

At the book signing in City Hall, we also had Tuck Langland with us, the well-known sculptor of many public sculptures across the U.S., including the Hermann Wells statue at IU Bloomington. He had made a mock-up of a medal celebrating the South Bend-Arzberg connection. One side shows a picture of South Bend today, the other of Arzberg in the past, and through a hole in the middle a steam boat moves from the memory of the old world to the dream of the new. We are planning to have 300 copies of the medal made for both cities.

On August 16, two students from Arzberg visited South Bend for three weeks. Julia and Corinna attended a small town high school in Bremen and then went to our biggest high school campus with 3,000 students at Penn Harris. When IU South Bend classes began, they also spent several days attending lectures. But it was not all work. They also visited Chicago, socialized at football games, and went horseback riding and swimming and tried jet skis for the first time, to say nothing of the many parties the German group arranged for them.

In early October, Mayor Winfried Geppert and a delegation of 16 Arzbergers, including a council member, a journalist, a business executive, an artist and others, visited South Bend. People with Arzberg connections from North Carolina, Alabama, and Florida also joined the group. The highlight of this visit was the for-



malization of our sister city relationship. On Sept. 26, the South Bend Common Council had passed the resolution making South Bend and Arzberg sister cities. On October 3, the affiliation was launched with a large reception at the office of Stephen Luecke, Mayor of South Bend. October 3, the Day of German Unity, and two days before German-American Day (October 6) was an auspicious date for entering into such an affiliation.

Both mayors expressed the hope that our cultural and educational exchanges would grow through this linkage, given new life by the younger generation, and that we would learn from each other and work together for a better future. Mayor Geppert also mentioned that the world in the 21st century has drawn more closely together, and commented on the significance of this affiliation from a personal perspective. He never imagined that he would be travelling to America; that as a refugee child in World War II, he had his first taste of chewing gum and his first chocolate from American soldiers and that this link between Germany and America also has a personal importance to him and his generation.

The event was well covered by the newspaper and several tv channels. Our farewell dinner at the Mishawaka Brew Pub was sponsored by descendants of Arzberg immigrants.

Other highlights included a wonderful service at Zion church, held by Pastor David Sickelka. This was an emotional moment for many of the Arzbergers, especially for Erika Weiss Klos. Her great grandfather had emigrated to South Bend. When he died, his two daughters made a trip back to Arzberg. There they fell in love with two brothers. Erika's grandmother married one of the brothers in a ceremony at Zion Church in 1899 before going to Arz-

berg to live. Her husband's wedding gift was a house built on the model of her favorite house on Park Avenue in South Bend. He also remodeled his brewery in the style of the South Bend Muessel Brewery. Both house and brewery still stand in Arzberg. The group also visited the old South Bend cemetery where they found the gravesites of their ancestors, the Weiss, Lederers, Becks, Mues-sels, Elbels, and many others.

I was helped in everything by our South Bend IGHS branch. We meet regularly at Zion's Church and they help with all the schedules and logistics. They are an enthusiastic group, always willing to give of their time and help finance our activities. Next June, a group from South Bend is planning to go to Arzberg when the former Muessel Brewery, dating back to the 15th century, will be reopened as a cultural center. I am working with Mayor Geppert on space for South Bend. We also hope to have some of the South Bend Muessels in attendance.

This was an important step in bringing Arzberg and South Bend closer together. Now it remains for us to keep this relationship alive by furthering more exchanges on many levels, and especially by involving the younger generation.

## GERMAN-AMERICAN DAY CELEBRATED IN JASPER

On October 6, the Jasper Deutscher Verein, Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc., and the Jasper Partnership Commission celebrated German-American Day at the Schnitzelbank Restaurant with over 95 persons participating. Bob Dilger, president of the Jasper Deutscher Verein, gave a brief history of German-American Day. Mayor William J. Schmitt, read the proclamation recognizing October

6th as German American Day in Jasper.

Jim Gutschell, president of Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc., introduced the winners of the Dubois County German Heritage essay contest, held in conjunction with German-American Day. Open to all seniors in the four County high schools over 75 entries were received. The winners were: Steffi Mehringer of Forest Park Junior/Senior High School, Katie Schuck of Jasper High, Nicole Schepers of Northeast Dubois High, and Jenna Bartley of South-ridge High School. The students presented their essays and their teachers were also recognized.

Ken Sendelweck, President/CEO of the German American Bank applauded the students for their fine work. He and Mrs. Rhonda Hopf, Executive Assistant, presented in the name of the German American Bank each of the four essay winners a \$250 scholarship and certificate. Two of the essays are published elsewhere in this newsletter.

Mrs. Newton, German teacher at Jasper High, presented a program on her German classes and the student exchange program with Staufen and Poessneck, Germany. She shared her philosophy on teaching German and encouraged all present to get involved with their children and grandchildren in keeping the German heritage alive by traveling together or studying family genealogy.

Matthias Hilger, president of The Jasper Partnership Commission, presented the 7th Annual German Heritage Award. This award, presented to an individual or group who contributed generously of time, talents, or resources in maintaining, improving, or build-ing upon the German roots in Dubois County, was presented to Leo and Lora Lou Eckerle.

For information on the Jasper Deutscher Verein:



www.jaspergerman-club.org or call  
Patti Goepfrich at 812 482-4821

## WHAT GERMAN HERITAGE MEANS TO ME

*by Katie Schuck of Jasper High  
School*

The colors are black, red, and yellow. For some, these three colors put together mean nothing. But those colors put together on the German flag what I hold close to my heart. My German heritage means everything in the world to me.

My German heritage was first introduced to me when I was a young child, when I would spend time with my grandfather, Thomas Scherle. I would go to his house almost every day, and quite frequently he would speak German. I remember having lessons on counting to ten in German, and I still knew the names of the numbers when I started learning more of the language in high school.

I started to learn more about what it means to have a German heritage when my grandparents, Tom and Emma Scherle, hosted some of our relatives from Germany during Strassenfest time. Stefan and Agatha Kiefer, both of whom are now deceased, brought their family from Pfaffenweiler, to Jasper. I was still fairly young at the time, but I started to realize that there was a deep relationship between the people of Jasper and its sister city Pfaffenweiler. During the Germans' stay in Jasper, I recall sitting in my grandparents' living room and listening to Stefan, Agatha, and their family talk with my grandfather. My grandfather was the only one who spoke fluent German, so all of us non-German speakers would ask, "What did they say?" and my grandpa would translate for

us. Those were the times when I took to heart that the people of Jasper had strong ties with the people of Germany.

The last occasion I can remember of the German people coming to visit family was when the mayor of Pfaffenweiler, Fritz Gutsell, came to our home. He acted as though he was part of our family. Now that I recall this I think, "Wow! For the mayor of Pfaffenweiler to come to Jasper, he must really care about keeping the German heritage and tradition alive."

My grandparents kept their German heritage alive by taking many trips to Germany, particularly to Pfaffenweiler. They stayed with the Kiefer family and did much touring of the city and the country. Both of my cousins kept their heritage alive by taking German at Jasper High School and partaking in the exchange program. Both had German exchange students stay at their house, and I remember getting the chance to talk with my cousins' partners and hearing them speak German. Then I wanted to do something to enhance my own German heritage.

So, when I entered Jasper High School, I decided to keep my heritage alive by taking German as my foreign language. It was one of the best decisions I have ever made. Since I started learning the language, my heritage has started to mean so much more to me. I have learned much about the German culture, including what types of foods the people eat, what their customs are, and how their way of life is. Now I can see how the traditions we have in Jasper relate to those of the German people; there are major resemblances.

I am now in my fourth year of German at Jasper High School, and I have the capability of carrying out a conversation in German. Knowing that I can now communicate in the

same language that I once heard my Grandfather speak gives me great pride. My German knowledge has definitely been taken to the next level, which means my German heritage means more to me now than ever before.

My German heritage is something I am very proud of. I think I am at a time in my life when I value my ancestry more than ever. I am glad to have a family that has taught me about my heritage, but I am especially happy to have a family that has kept the German heritage alive.

## WHAT CAN WE, AS THE YOUNGER GENERATION, DO TO HELP MAINTAIN AND PRESERVE OUR GERMAN HERITAGE?

*by Jemma Bartley of Southridge High  
School, Huntingburg*

Cell phones, internet, mp3 players, and satellite TV. My generation has been exposed to technology like this all our lives. They are all things that we are very familiar with and could tell you plenty of information. But, ask someone my age about their German heritage, if any, and I think they would stumble through giving you a good explanation of their history. That's why I believe that as the younger generation today we must maintain and preserve our German heritage as much as possible for the generations of tomorrow.

Living in Dubois County, I have always been aware that we have a very strong background of German in our community. My family is of German decent just like many others in our area. Growing up I learned history, culture, traditions, and occasionally a little of the language through both my parents, but more so from my grandparents. I remember



my Grandpa always calling me a "schnick-lefritz" or shaking his finger at me while saying "Shande" if I did something mischievous. Being around family that enforced German heritage when I was younger inspired me to want to learn more of the language and about the culture. That's partially why I decided to take German classes throughout high school. I feel that it is important to introduce children at an early age to something so that they spark an interest in it. Learning about my German heritage when I was younger kept me interested and inspired to learn more as I grew older. Every year at Southridge, the advanced German class prepares and presents an event entitled "Kinderspiel" for the first graders at Huntingburg Elementary School. They introduce basics of the German language and culture through a skit of a classic German fairytale to the students. I feel that Kinderspiel is a fantastic way in which my generation is working hard to continue to spark an interest in the younger generation so that they will continue to be interested and want to learn more about our German heritage.

There are plenty of other ways in our community that my generation is working hard to promote the education and preservation of our German heritage. Each day at Southridge High School six classes of students meet to learn the German language. There is also a German Club at Southridge that participates in activities such as going to the Schnitzelbank each year. Just the effort put out by these students shows that they just aren't taking the class, but they really do want to learn something about our history and ancestors' way of life. This past summer, 36 students from those classes traveled to Germany along with our teacher to visit the country and get a hands-on look at where our roots really come from. I was fortunate enough to be one of those students. This most definitely was a trip of a lifetime. Not

only did I get to spend two weeks in Europe with some of my closest friends, but I also learned so much. Everything that was ever taught to me in my German classes suddenly clicked. It was such a unique feeling to be able to listen to the language natively spoke right in front of me and see all the historic figures and places we had studied. Going on the trip gave me a great sense of pride to know that my background was of German descent and that my ancestors came from such a wonderful and powerful land. I feel that by experiencing these things first hand, by learning the language and culture within the classroom and along with staying involved in clubs and activities is another great effort that my generation is making to maintain the unique amount of German heritage our community withholds.

Area towns host festivals each year such as the Strassenfest or Herbstfest that remind us of our German heritage. As our communities continue to grow, so do these events. I feel that it is vital to their success that everyone who is able to participate and help out with these fests. People my age can assist in them by volunteering their time and also by taking part in the events that are sponsored and offered to us. As we grow older, some of us may move away, but I feel that for those of us who choose to stay in the community, we must continue these traditions and improve them by doing what we can to keep the festivals going. They promote our German heritage and bring our communities closer together. That's why it is so important that we enjoy and take part in them now, but plan and keep them going in the future.

Without our ancestors, we would not be here today. Our lives in the aspect of language, culture, and tradition would be completely different from what we know. Our German heritage is a wonderful part of all

our lives. I feel that it is so important for my generation to be educated on our traditions as well as to open doors of opportunity to the younger generations to keep and preserve our ancestry as we know it. My generation is doing great things to help maintain our heritage. I am sure that for generations to come, people will appreciate all that we have done, are doing, and will achieve in the preservation of this wonderful aspect of our German history.

## IT IS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

Our membership year is the same as the calendar year. The renewal form can be found at the back of this Newsletter. Please, check your mailing label for your membership status. If we do not have to send you a renewal letter, it will save us time and money. Your membership is important to us and your financial support is very much appreciated. It works for our many activities and publications. Please, consider renewing in a higher membership category or donating a little extra. As a not-for-profit organization we depend upon membership fees and (tax deductible) donations as our main sources of income. Thank you!

*Louise Lamkin,  
Membership Chair*

## DONATIONS

Our appreciation for their generous contributions goes to: Mari-beth Bailey, Bill & Renee Bilgram, Herman C. Brandt, Jr., Joseph & Patricia Conrad, Martina Eckert, Richard E. Ford, Christel Behnke Gehlert, Patricia Goepfrich, Jim Gould, Claudia Grossmann, Cmdr. Ray Hall, Eleanore M. Harle, Nancy & Jerry Hurley, Roland E. Kohr, Dennis Kruse, Robert A. & Myra R. Kuhn,



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Contributions to the Anthology were received from: Christel DeHaan Family Foundation, Charles and Ann Conrad, Dennis Gehlhau-sen, Patricia Eckerle Goepfrich, Dennis R. Kruse and Will H. and Gail Schwoebel.

We also thank Cheryl Winner of the Indianapolis German American Klub for her generous donation of newsletter mailing supplies, to Henry Wahl for books and Betty Randall for various artifacts. We were able to sell the Lederhosen at International Festival!

As a not-for-profit organization we depend upon membership fees and donations as our main sources of income. Donations are vital for our publishing program in cooperation with the IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center. For the Archives and the Museum we gladly accept books, hand-written or pictorial materials and other items. Just bring them to the Stammtisch meetings or send a description, Attention: Eberhard Reichmann. Remember: All donations are tax deductible.

## THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Our appreciation goes to the International Festival volunteers for making the event in November such a suc-

cess. A special thank-you goes to Jeannette Footman and Ruth Reichmann for coordinating it, to Fred Yaniga and his students for planning and decorating the culture booth, to Eberhard Reichmann, Eleonore Harle and Louise Lamkin for helping with the sales booth and staying with it throughout the 4-day event! To Fred Yaniga and Tony Reichmann, Bill and Carl Selm for helping with the set-up and taking down of our booths.

The following staffed our booths and helped sell books and Christmas items. They patiently answered questions of hundreds of students, teachers and parents, and other festival-goers: Gina Benbow, Friederike and Jacquelynn Benfield, Tessa Boeing, Paul Brockman, Jane and Jim Feit, Jeanette Footman, Dane Fuelling, Katherine Gross, Lore Harle, Darlene and John Himmelheber, Giles Hoyt, Brian Huyvaert Amberly Jaquess, Denitra Kitchell, Allison Knauf, Peter Lachmann, Louise Lamkin, Charles and Lynne McDonald, Matt Mischler, Charles Most, Paul Nawa, Jen Nuest, Boyd Obermeyer, Erik Osborn, Eberhard and Ruth Reichmann, David and Zeleste Rose, Carrie, Michael, Steve and Thomas Schmidt, Fred Schramm, Willi Schwoebel, Bill and Karl Selm, Chris Simmons, Adam Stults, Meliisa Tienes, Fred Yaniga.

A special thanks goes to Jerry Lamkin for sponsoring again the Bratwurst booth and to Ralph Comstock, Jeff Bricker of IVYTech and their students for staffing it. They did once again a great job and won again first price in the food booth category. The IGHS culture and sales booths received first price for "educational value." The decorations as well as the many handouts and sales items caught the eyes of the judges!

The festival is the premier opportunity to get word out about the German-Americans, the German-

speaking countries, and about IGHS and its mission. We talk to members who stop by, and solicit new members. If you are interested in volunteering for one of our events let us know!



# AN EXCITING HISTORICAL ADVENTURE



## REDISCOVERING THE GERMAN HERITAGE IN INDIANA



Ever since its founding in 1984 the Indiana German Heritage Society has been dedicated to researching, documenting, and celebrating the contributions of Hoosiers with roots in the German-speaking countries and regions of Europe.

During these years we have published a quarterly Newsletter and in cooperation with the Max Kade German-American Center of IUPUI, seventeen books, two of them electronically on our Website.

One book, however, planned in the early years of IGHS, has long been postponed because we could not meet the publishing costs. Small wonder, it is to be the most comprehensive documentation of German-American contributions to the building of a state - our state of Indiana. It is...

### THE HOOSIER GERMAN HERITAGE An Anthology

Its Contents will include::

Emigration  
They Chose Indiana  
Religion, Ethnicity and  
Community Building  
Education  
Customs and Traditions  
Vereins and Organizations  
Music  
Literature  
Architecture and the Arts  
The German-language Press  
Business and Industry  
Civil War  
World War I  
Politics and Public Service  
Becoming American  
Comprehensive Bibliography

The anthology is going to be a collection of previously published materials scattered in numerous, often hard-to-come-by and forgotten print media, but, brought together, including translated handwritten letters, they form a colorful mosaic of the time and life of our forebears.

To bring this book into your hands and on the shelves of our public and college libraries by 2005/06, we have started our second fund drive. Won't you join those who have already made donations toward the \$25,000 goal.

For a fully tax-deductible donation of \$100.00 or more, your name will be listed in this beautiful edition. You and your family will be proud to have supported it. Our publications program depends on the generosity of friends of the rich Hoosier German Heritage.

Please join us. Thank you! Danke schön!

Considering that more than one out of three Hoosiers (1990 U.S. Census) reported German or partial German ancestry, our envisioned 700/800 pages of documentation will be a major resource for supplementing Indiana history from an ethnic perspective.





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I wish to make an additional gift to IGHS of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to donate books/materials. Please contact me. \_\_\_\_\_

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Membership Chair, 401 East Michigan Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204

My specific interests in German-Americana are:

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Knowledge of German script: \_\_\_\_\_ none \_\_\_\_\_ some \_\_\_\_\_ good

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*Happy New Year!*  
*Ein/gutes neues jahr!*