WASSERBURGERS LEAD SUMMER PROGRAMS

The Trachtenverein Almrausch from Wasserburg, Bavaria, Germany will perform in several Indiana cities this Summer. See story on next page.
73 members of the "Trachtenverein Almrausch" from Wasserburg, Germany, will visit Indiana this summer and participate in a number of German-American town and club festivals. The traditional dance group takes its name, "Almrausch," from a small Alpine rose that grows on mountain meadows. They will wear the costumes of their Inn-valley region and perform traditional dances, featuring the Schuhplatter. The aim of the Trachtenverein is to share with their American hosts, the many generosity of extending Hoosier Hospitality to them, their love for authentic costumes, music and traditions. This love is a family affair. Parents instill in their children a desire to continue the traditions of things that have been. Therefore a sizable number of the participants in this visit are children. They made the number of original visitors swell from about 30 or 40 to 73!

Wasserburg is located 34 miles south of Munich, Germany, and 50 miles north of Innsbruck, Austria. The river Inn forms a loop around this picturesque town which has preserved its medieval character.

Wasserburg traces its roots back to the year 1317. The settlement was given the name "Wasserburg" (literally "water castle") in the middle of the 13th century. In 1334 Emperor Ludwig the Bavarian bestowed town right on Wasserburg. Wasserburg blossomed during the 15th and 16th centuries, when it became a hub of trade on one of the two "salt roads" leading from Reichenhall, near Salzburg, to Munich. Wasserburg charged a toll for every bag of salt transported - the Wasserburg penny. Most of the town's houses were built during this time and they, and the pretentious town hall, bear witness to the wealth of the citizens during those centuries.

There is but one entry to the town from the South: over a bridge gate (dating from the 15th century), through which until recently all traffic had to pass as well. It is for this reason that Wasserburg waited until 1988, instead of 1987, to celebrate its 850th anniversary, so as to allow for the completion of a road and a bridge that routed traffic around the town. The lavish anniversary celebration included the residents dressing in the costumes of the times when the "salt transports" came through the town, and a re-enactment of such a "salt train" on boats and with heavy horsedrawn wagons was recorded by German television.

The Trachtenverein Almrausch was founded in 1911 and it has performed regularly except for pauses during the two world wars. The 80th anniversary celebration began in July, 1990, when the club hosted the 101st regional festival which was attended by 130 dance clubs and 30 bands. The region encompasses Southeastern Bavaria and part of Austria. Lorenz Graserger, a board member of the Trachtenverein Almrausch, addressed the festival on the "Impulses for the Future of Costumes." Mr. Graserger told the audience that it was not the aim of regional festivals to show off jewelry, costumes, music, and dancing skills, but rather to send out new impulses for the future, to reach a true understanding of customs and traditions. He pointed to the recent trend linking fashion and costumes which must be overcome and replaced by a historically genuine and "true preservation" of traditional costumes and music. To be able to give living proof of this aim, the club had searched museum and researched old documents and five ladies presented their "married lady from Wasserburg" costume in the festival parade.

Plans for the Trachtenverein Almrausch are not totally complete, but their visit promises to be a positive one for guests and hosts. Their calendar allows no time out for jet lag, but the club's president stated that they are too excited to be tired, and, if they do, they will grab naps on the plane and bus. Speaking for all his members, the president said "we want to give Americans everything they want us to give" to make it truly an exchange of culture and friendship. The group also invites their hosts to their town and homes.

Home stays in Indianapolis are mainly provided by members of German associations. Additional or back up hosts may be needed. The time involved is August 8 or 9th through the 16th. Families who would like to host but find that 9 or 10 days is too long, may host 3 to 5 days. For hosting please call Ernestine Dillon at 317-861-5031.

The Wasserburger's schedule is as follows (IGHS members are invited to any or all of the group's performances):

- July 31--Arrive in Indianapolis.
- July 31--August 2--Jasper Strassenfest.
- August 7--20th Anniversary of Vincennes Germanfest.
- August 8--Liederkranz Festival, German Park, Indianapolis.
- August 11--Indianapolis City Market at noon.

**August 12--Pitch-in reception and barbecue at German Park sponsored by the German-American Klub and the Federation of German Clubs of Indianapolis. IGHS members are invited. A slight charge may be announced later to cover the cost of the meat and other expenses, plus attendees will be asked to bring a covered dish.

- August 18--Departure for Germany.

**GERMANFEST '92 AT VINCENNES**

The 20th Germanfest will be held on August 7th and 8th from 6:00 PM until midnight at Highland Park in Vincennes. Entertainment will be provided by the Trachtenverein Almrausch from Wasserburg, Germany, the Jay Fox Band, and Die Fledermauschen Tanzgruppe from Indianapolis. There will also be German food and drink. For more information, contact Ralph W. Ruppel (812) 862-1739 or 1-800-473-0068.
SUMMER FEST IN FERDINAND AND SANTA CLAUS

On June 27-28 the IGHS will join the Sisters of St. Benedict for Summer Fest up on Saturday, June 27, there will be a visit with Pat Koch of Holiday World and the historic German Methodist Church in Santa Claus.

More than a dozen public events have been scheduled to celebrate the Sisters of St. Benedict’s 125 years of Prayer and Work, and friends are invited to participate. The high point will be Summer Fest, a two-day festival including a farm show featuring equipment, dating back to 1867, the time of the monastery’s founding.

The Benedictine Farm Heritage Show will open June 27, complete with petting zoo, old fashioned games and contests and generations of farmers threshing wheat with antique machinery. There will be a craft show at Madonna Hall, and the tennis court will be transformed into a food court during the two-day event with booths selling pizza, turtle soup, elephant ears, and more. On Sunday, there will be indoor meals prepared by Jug Eckert of Jug’s Catering of Indianapolis.

The Sisters will celebrate their 125th Anniversary and the historic links between the town and "the Castle on the Hill." There have been strong bonds between the town and the monastery ever since its founding, and the town residents will contribute to the sister’s activities during the historic year. "Where we are today involves the whole Dubois County area ... and I think our 125 years have helped shape the county," said Prioress Kathryn Huber.

Overnight accommodations are available at the Best Western in Huntingburg (1-800-926-2334), Days Inn in Jasper (1-800-742-7482), or the Holiday Inn in Jasper (1-800-HOLIDAY). All Summer Festival guests are eligible for a 10% discount off standard room rates. Pick up discount coupon off at Summer Festival on Saturday.

For the visit to Santa Claus Methodist Church, meet at the church at 2:00 PM. Directions to the church: follow S.R. 162 from Ferdinand, go past sign "Holiday World," when the road comes to a "T", turn left on S.R. 245 and continue approximately 1 mile over the hill and down the valley to a country road crossing. The red brick structure of the former Santa Candy Castle will be on the left, and the church will be on the right.

The earliest German settlers in the area were the H. Decker family and the J. Diedrich Hennings. The Methodist circuit rider, Rev. Chris Wytenbach, attracted many German families by advertising in the Apocatacte (Christian Advocate); this led to the founding of the "German Methodist Episcopal Church" in 1849, which became known for its campground meetings.

Except for the addition of the Post office in 1856, the town has remained a quaint community tucked away in the rolling hills of southern Indiana.

GERMAN-AMERICANS IN WORLD WAR I

A session entitled "World War I: The German-American Scene in Indiana Revisited, 1917-1919" will be presented at the Summer Meeting of the Indiana Historical Society in Evansville on Friday, July 31, from 1:30-4:00 PM. This corresponds with the 75th anniversary of the U.S.’s entry into World War I and will explore the loyalty and persecution of German-Americans in Indiana. Prof. Clifford Scott of the history department at IU-PU Fort Wayne will speak on "The Effects of World War I on the German-American Community of Evansville." And Eberhard Reichmann will present "Memories of the War: Readings from the Hoosier German Tales Project."

For registration information and the meeting’s complete program for July 31-August 1, please contact the Indiana Historical Society, 315 W. Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202 or phone 317-232-1882.

SUMMER OUTINGS AT GERMAN PARK, INDpls.

A number of festivals and outings for German societies in Indianapolis are scheduled to be held in German Park in the evenings this summer. The park is located at 8600 S. Meridian Street. German food and beverages will be available. German and American music will be provided and there will be dancing and games for all ages. The activities and dates are listed below:

June 13: Southside Turners
June 20: Heimath-Preussen
June 27: Federation of German Societies
July 11: Soccer Club
July 18: Ladies Aux., G.A.K.
Aug. 1: Saenger Chor
Aug. 8: Liederkranz

The annual Oktoberfest sponsored by the Federation of German Societies will be held at the Park on the weekends of Sept. 4-5 and 11-12.

For more information on any of these activities contact George T. Wehrle, 5632 King John Ct., Indianapolis, IN 46227, or phone (317) 783-2667 or (317) 230-4226.

IGHS LOSES TWO MEMBERS

The Indiana German Heritage Society has recently lost two of its most active members, Fred (Fritz) Bockstege of Evansville and Cletus (Clete) Broecker of Indianapolis. Both were original and active IGHS members and both worked to further the study of German heritage in Indiana through their participation in German societies in Evansville and Indianapolis. We miss both of you!
JASPER STRASSENFEST

The Annual Jasper Strassenfest will be held on August 1 and 2, and will feature the Trachtenverein Almrausch from Wasserburg, Germany (see article about this group in this Newsletter.) The group will be performing their folk dances in their beautiful Bavarian costumes both days and participate in the parade on Sunday. Also, Dr. Detlof von Berg, Consul General for the Federal Republic of Germany in Detroit, has agreed to be the Grand Marshal for the parade.

Many members of the community help to plan and carry out the Strassenfest and the whole town is involved. It takes place in the very heart of town, in the roped off public square, and features traditional events such as contests, music, dancing, German foods, beer garden, carnival rides, and a Sunday morning Polka Mass with the Harmonika Boys and Bishop Gettelfinger from Evansville.

Jasper is a town rich in German-American history, with many residents retaining part of their original dialect. For the past 14 years, the citizens of Jasper have gathered to celebrate their German heritage. The Strassenfest is a time for family get togethers, renewing old friendships and making new acquaintances. These include visitors from their German sister city of Pfaffenweiler.

To link up with the IGHS contingent, ask at the Deutscherverein booth for Ruth Reichmann or Ernestine Dillon. If you plan to be in Evansville on Friday/Saturday for the Indiana Historical Society meeting, join the fun in Jasper on Saturday evening! If you need additional information, call Ruth Reichmann at (812) 988-2866 or Ernestine Dillon at (317) 861-5831.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Sisters Angela Sasse and Mary Kenneth Schessesle, Monastery of St. Benedict, Ferdinand, long time friends and collaborators on many joint activities, are both observing the 50th anniversary of their final vows into the order. Sister Angela has been librarian of the Convent (now Monastery) and of Marian Heights Academy since 1975. Previously she held that position at the Jasper Center, Vincennes University, 1970-1975 and at St. Benedictine College, Ferdinand, 1963-1970. From 1946-1961 she was a secondary teacher at the Academy and at Mater Dei High School in Evansville.

Sister Mary Kenneth has been archivist and historian for the Sisters of St. Benedict at Ferdinand since 1973. She taught in elementary and secondary schools of southwestern Indiana for 30 years. Sister Mary Kenneth also served as tour guide and hospitality minister for the Sisters of St. Benedict for 14 years and covered all the IGHS tours which frequently stopped at Ferdinand. We congratulate Sister Angela and Sister Mary Kenneth and pray for their good health and for continued blessings on them in the years to come.

ELDERHOSTEL IN FERDINAND

An Elderhostel entitled "The German-American Experience" will be held at the Kordes Enrichment Center in Ferdinand from August 23-29. Presenters will be professors Eberhard Reichmann, Ruth Reichmann, and Annemarie Springer. Among the topics to be presented are the history, culture, and religion of the Germans, factors encouraging emigration and types of settlements in North America; the German-American heritage, its customs and traditions; a taste of German-American cuisine and music; a tour of the Benedictine Monastery; field trips to St. Meinrad Archabbey and other places of interest; and the role of Father Kundek in the settling of the area by German-speaking people.

For information on the Elderhostel contact Sr. Anna Corinne O'Connor, Kordes Enrichment Center, Sisters of St. Benedict, 841 East 14th Street, Ferdinand, Indiana 47532-9216; (812) 367-2777.

GERMANS IN NORTH AMERICA 75 YEARS EARLIER THAN PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT

German Americans have traditionally celebrated October 6 as the day in 1683 on which Germantown, Pennsylvania was founded and German settlement in North American Colonies began. According to researcher and bibliographer of German Americans [and IGHS member] Don Heinrich Tolzmann, however, there is evidence that German immigrants were among the residents of the British colony of Jamestown, Virginia as early as 1608.

Tolzmann, who works at the University of Cincinnati, spent years studying old German language newspapers, and concluded that 18 members of the Jamestown colony were German. The men, some of whom were Thomas Cassen, William Unger, Peter Keffer, and Nathaniel Graeus, worked as glass blowers, wine merchants, and tobacco farmers.

The researcher also found that Germans were among the settlers in the Massachusetts colonies after 1630 and in Maryland after 1660. They played a particularly important role in New York, then called New Amsterdam. Both the first governor of the colony, Peter Minuit, who bought the island of Manhattan from the Indians for 60 Dutch guilders, and his successor, Jacob Leisler, who has been credited by historians as the first politician to demand unity among the colonies and a severance of ties to London, were German.

Tolzmann noted as well that the history of the Germans and the Dutch in North America has often been confused because of the similarity of "Deutsch" and "Dutch."

From The Week in Germany, March 27, 1992, p. 7

HOFSTETTER WINS SERVAAS AWARD

Richard Hofstetter of the Athenaeum Foundation, and an IGHS member, was one of the recipients of the Servaas Memorial Award at the annual meeting of the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana. Hofstetter received the award for his work in the creation of the Athenaeum Foundation and the restoration of the building. The award recognizes achievement in creating public awareness for historic preservation. Congratulations, Rick!
A major new book from Cornell on the German-American experience—

News from the Land of Freedom

German Immigrants Write Home

Edited by Walter D. Kamphoefner, Wolfgang Helbich, and Ulrike Sommer
Translated by Susan Carter Vogel

“General readers should welcome the appearance of these letters. . . . In the writings of these farmers, workers and domestic servants . . . we find the gold rush, slavery, the Mexican War, the Civil War and World War I. . . . Most of what comes through, however, is the sense of immediacy one often gets from good novels and so seldom finds in conventional history. . . . [The letters] provide glimpses of the sufferings and occasional triumphs that characterize day-to-day existence, and thus they illuminate human existence in ways that ‘special contribution’ literature seldom can do.”

—Martin E. Marty, New York Times Book Review

“A major contribution to the literature of immigration history. The book fills a long-felt need for a rationalized sample of the millions of letters that ordinary German immigrants—farmers, workers, and servants—sent home to relatives and friends. The selections are judicious, the translations excellent, the editorial notes illuminating. The introductory essays are exceptionally helpful.”

—Frederick C. Luebke, Charles J. Mach Professor of History, University of Nebraska

“You at least have a pension,” writes a socialist to his brother. “Here you get a kick in the backside when you are old. A disgrace for the richest country in the world.”

“A monumental feat . . . . The correspondents offer an intimate look at immigrant triumphs and troubles . . . as well as fresh eyewitness descriptions of America. . . . This is a vital and captivating contribution to immigrant lore.”

—Kirkus Reviews

Walter D. Kamphoefner is Associate Professor of History at Texas A&M University.
Wolfgang Helbich is Professor of History and Ulrike Sommer is Research Associate at Ruhr Universität Bochum, Germany.

Documents in American Social History
646 pages, 39 illustrations
(Cloth 2523-9)
List price: $35.00
Special offer: $28.00
20% discount if purchased by June 30, 1992

News from the Land of Freedom
German Immigrants Write Home

Edited by Walter D. Kamphoeijen, Wolfgang Helbich, and Ulrike Sommer
Translated by Susan Carter Vogel

CORNELL UNIVERSITY PRESS
INDIANAPOLIS-COLOGNE SISTER CITY NEWS

In July, 1991, the first delegation representing the Indianapolis-Cologne Sister City Committee visited its counterpart in Cologne. The delegation consisted of Indiana Vocational Tech President Gerald Larkin and Mrs. Larkin, IV-Tech Indianapolis Chancellor Dr. Meredith Carter and Mrs. Carter, City-County Councilman Carlton Curry and Mrs. Curry, and Dr. Giles Hoyt of IUPUI. The delegation primarily concentrated on educational contacts, but also visited the Cologne Airport Authority and met with members of the Freundschaft Kreis Köln-Indianapolis which is the Cologne Sister City Committee. Since that trip, Gerald Larkin has taken over the chairmanship of the Committee from Horst Winkler who had led the Committee from its inception in 1989. Horst Winkler, the Honorary Consul of the Federal Republic of Germany in Indianapolis, was one of the main proponents of the Sister City relationship between Indianapolis and Cologne. The chair of the Cologne "Freundschaft," Volkmar Schultz, visited Indianapolis during early March to discuss plans for future programs.

The most active section of the Committee currently is its Education Sub-Committee, chaired by Dr. Giles Hoyt. A group of 14 German high school students visited Indianapolis during March and early April along with their accompanying teacher, Gerhardt Ziegenfuss. In June, a group of Indianapolis high school students will visit their counterparts in Cologne and in Olde, a small city north of Cologne. They will be accompanied by Kathryn Larch, a member of the Education Sub-Committee and a teacher at Park Tudor School. The participating students come from high schools all over the Indianapolis area including, Broad Ripple, North Central, Howe, Roncalli, Ben Davis, Zionsville, Mooresville, and Carmel. There remains one slot left to fill to make up a group of 14. (If interested contact Giles Hoyt at (317) 253-9509.)

A second exchange involves 10 Indianapolis area college age students who will spend 10 days in July visiting with 10 German and 10 Russian young people of the same age group. This is a "Jugendbegegung" (Meeting of Youth) instituted by the Mayor's Office of Cologne to celebrate the partnerships with its sister cities of Indianapolis and Volgograd. The Indianapolis Committee hopes to repeat the event in Indianapolis in the next year or two. The young people will have an opportunity to get to know each other from the vantage point of three different cultures. A committee headed by Nancy Ruckle from the Education Sub-Committee is in charge of selecting and preparing the students from Indianapolis. For information, contact her at (317) 873-6651.

Dr. Meredith Carter, IV-Tech Indianapolis, has established with a grant from Christel DeHaan of Resort Condominiums International a scholarship for students interested in the international aspects of technical careers. In cooperation with IUPUI's German Department, students will be prepared starting in high school for a practicum in Cologne at the conclusion of their work at IV-Tech. Also, an exchange of Continuing Education Students learning English and German in Cologne and Indianapolis respectively is being planned for 1993. Dr. Ruth Reichmann of Indiana Sister Cities, Inc. is helping with the latter program.

And not to forget Carnival--the "Freundschaft" has promised to help Indianapolis Sister Cities develop a "Kara'val" in the Rehnish tradition. This is also in the works for 1993 and will help popularize the sister city relationship.

--From Giles Hoyt, (317) 253-9509

NEW GERMAN FEDERAL STATE GARDEN AT AMERIFLORA '92

Columbus, Ohio -- The joy of freedom and celebration of the unification of Germany will be showcased through a German garden, the New German Federal States exhibit, at AmeriFlora '92, the largest quincentennial event in the United States. The more than 15,000 square foot garden is sponsored by Hansa Consulting GmbH, a management consulting firm with offices in Brandenburg and Finneberg, Germany. Two hospitality pavilions will feature cultural, historical and industrial displays as well as information on trade and investment opportunities in the "new" eastern Germany -- a region whose cultural traditions and future are no longer restricted by dictatorship and communism. Two-ton section of the Berlin Wall will remind all visitors of how easily freedom can be taken away.

"The garden will express the joy of freedom now experienced by the people of Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Sachsen, Sachsen-Anhalt, Thuringen, and of the eastern part of Berlin," said Gunther Tukey, a partner of Hansa Consulting. "We will encourage visitors to the exhibit to acknowledge in a guest book how they were personally affected by the division of Germany and its recent unification."

Further capturing the visitors' imagination and symbolizing the efforts made in bonding the East and West together, is an extensive German outdoor model train exhibit within the garden. The G-scale trains will wind their way through scenery typical of the new German states, including miniature structures, roads, bridges, and waterfalls.

The centerpiece of all U.S. activities in 1992, AmeriFlora '92 will take place from April 20 - October 12 in Columbus, Ohio. The exposition will feature international and domestic exhibits, multimedia attractions, live entertainment, international cuisine, and shopping. A $96 million project, AmeriFlora '92 is set amidst 88 acres of lavish gardens. For more information contact either Val Pastore (614) 645-1970 or Bob Ellis (614) 228-0200.

ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

Contained in this Newsletter is the recommendations of the IGHIS nominating committee for new and current officers and board of directors. The recommendations was unanimously accepted by those in attendance at the annual meeting on March 13. Also listed is treasurer's report for 1991.
NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT
TO 1992 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
INDIANA GERMAN HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.

Board of Directors

Class of 1990 (Terms Expiring 1993)
1. Giles Hoyt
2. Richard Askren
3. Rosalind McCart
4. Helen Moore
5. Clifford Scott
6. Ray Hall
7. John Niermeyer

Class of 1991 (Terms Expiring 1994)
1. Hal Kunz
2. Paul Brockman
3. Claudia Grossman
4. Ruth Reichmann
5. Ruth Scanland
6. Gisela Reibel
7. William Selm

Class of 1992 (Terms Expiring 1995)
1. Martha Enyart
2. William Hoelker
3. Fred Schramm
4. Mary Ellen Wehrle
5. Eberhard Reichmann
6. Annemarie Springer
7. Ernestine Dillon
8. James Talley

Officers

President - James Talley
Senior Vice-President - Rosalind McCart
2nd Vice-President - Eberhard Reichmann
Secretary - Annemarie Springer
Treasurer - Giles Hoyt
Legal Counsel - Halbert W. Kunz
President Emeritus - Ruth Reichmann

Nominating Committee
Chairman - Eberhard Reichmann
Member - Rosalind McCart
Member - Halbert W. Kunz
**INDIANA GERMAN HERITAGE SOCIETY**  
Treasurer's Report for the year 1991

### Expenses

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**ACCOUNT BALANCES AS OF DECEMBER 1991**

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Respectfully submitted,

Giles R. Hoyt  
Treasurer
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 10  IGHS Board Meeting 12:30-2, Athenaeum Rathsteller Restaurant.

June 27-28  Summer Fest in Ferdinand and IGHS Program in Santa Claus--see article in Newsletter.

July 8  IGHS Board Meeting 12:30-2, Athenaeum Rathsteller Restaurant.

July 31-August 1  Indiana Historical Society Summer Program in Evansville--IGHS session.

August 1-2  Jasper Strassenfest--see article in Newsletter.

August 7-8  Vincennes Germanfest--see article in Newsletter.

August 11  Trachtenverein Almrausch performance at Indianapolis City Market, noon.

August 12  IGHS Board Meeting 12:30-2, Athenaeum Rathsteller Restaurant.

August 12  Barbecue and Pitch-in for Trachtenverein Almrausch at German Park--see article in Newsletter.

Sept. 4-5  Indianapolis Oktoberfest, German Park, 8600 S. Meridian St.

Sept. 9  IGHS Board Meeting 12:30-2, Athenaeum Rathsteller Restaurant.

Indiana German Heritage Society

Newsletter Return Address
401 East Michigan Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

The Indiana German Heritage Society Newsletter is published quarterly by the Indiana German Heritage Society, Inc. Written contribution, suggestions and information for publication are welcome. Your name, address and phone number should be included with all correspondence. Send to Editor, Indiana German Heritage Society Newsletter, 315 W. Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202

Paul Brockman, Editor