

MINNESOTA GERMAN- BOHEMIAN SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

VOL. II, NO. 2 June, 1991
Editor

LuAnn Lindmeyer,

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Dear Members,

We are nearing the unveiling of the German-Bohemian immigrant monument. I hope you are planning on attending this celebration. We have worked very hard on this project and I know you will be pleased with the outcome. There are various events planned for the celebration and you will find the dates and times listed in this newsletter.

For some of us the festivities begin on July 17th, when the musical group from Germany called the Egerlander Trachtengruppe arrive in New Ulm. As you know our organization has agreed to find housing for the members of this group. Please check this newsletter for further details on this, as we may still need your help.

Some of you may remember hearing the **Egerlander Trachtengruppe** at the 1983 Heritagefest. They sing songs in the German-Bohemian dialect. **Rudolf Kiefner**, the leader of this group, is our European connection and has helped our organization in many ways. He has played an important part in the monument project and he and his group will play an important part in the unveiling celebration. You will meet them when you attend the various events. I think your being there will be a nice way of showing our appreciation for all they are doing for us. They will be appearing at Heritagefest and you will be

able to hear them perform there as well.

Also arriving from Germany, on July 17th, will be **Leopold Hafner** and his son , and I'm sure they will want to meet you. Leopold is the distinguished artist who sculpted the bronze figures that stand at the top of the monument. He will be here for the whole celebration, including the unveiling. I know that when his art work is unveiled you will agree with me that Leopold has definitely captured what we had hoped to portray.

On July 21st a choir from St. Paul will be performing the German language Folk Mass called "**Die Walder Messe**". **Bob Paulson**, the founder of our organization will be directing them. I'm sure you will find this a unique way of celebrating Mass and it will give you the opportunity to hear the type of music our ancestors heard.

I've touched on some of the things that will happen at this celebration. There are more events taking place and you will have to come and see them unfold. For a number of you attending the unveiling, it will mean seeing your family name carved in granite, and for everyone it should prove to be an impressive display.

Putting this together is a real challenge and yet it isn't the only thing we have been working on. We are always planning for the future and we will keep you posted on what lies ahead. Erecting this monument is a good start and will help make us a creditable organization. We have shown that we can accomplish what we set out to do.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the celebration and sharing in this memorable occasion.

Sincerely,

Paul Kretsch

Coming Events

Saturday June 15, 1991: Board of Directors
Meeting

Wednesday July 17th: "Egerlander
Trachtengruppe" arrives

Friday July 19th: Banquet at Turner Hall ;
5:30 pm social hour ;
6:30 pm dinner with program
to follow.

Saturday July 20th: Dedication and Unveiling
Ceremony at German Park 1:30 pm

Sunday July 21st: "Die Walder Messe" (the
Forest Mass)
9:30 am Holy Trinity Cathedral

Host Families Needed

by Dan Beranek

We are still in need of people to open their homes to our German guests during Heritagefest. If you have not done this before you would truly enjoy it. If you have an extra bedroom available, please call me at 354-7333 or 359-9162. Thank you!

Benefit Dance a Huge Success

by Benny Siefert and Adeline Wilfahrt

The Monument Benefit Dance held February 15th at Turner Hall was very successful, and we are sure everyone had a wonderful time by all appearances. Much of the success was due to the variety of the program. The "old time" and "Bohemian" numbers played by the **Bohemian All Star Band** of Frank Lindmeyer, Leroy Flor, Hilary

Mohr, Benny Siefert, Leonard Sellner, and Jon Wendinger charmed the crowd of 180. These fine musicians donated their time for the evening and a hearty thank you goes out to them. A special thank you goes out to **Frank Lindmeyer** for brainstorming the idea of a benefit dance and to **Benny Siefert** for helping Frank organize the band. They only practiced together twice before performing but they sounded as though they had played together for years. After about two hours of dancing and listening to the All Star Band we had selections by our own **German-Bohemian Heritage Singers**, with accompaniment by **Arlene and Norbert Woratschka** and **Louie Lindmeyer**.

A silent auction was held at 10:30 pm which raised over \$1,000.00 for our monument. The auction was followed by a lunch and more dancing. The evening ended with everyone singing America The Beautiful to honor our soldiers in the Persian Gulf. A big thank you to everyone who attended and also to those who purchased tickets and were unable to attend. Your support is appreciated.

From the Editor... We wish to thank **Dan Beranek** for his fine effort with the silent auction and to **Adeline Wilfahrt, Janice Kretsch, Angie Portner, and Jo Elijah** for their help in organizing and decorating.

Fundraising Update

by Dan Baranek

I am very happy to inform you that the fundraising has gone very well. At this time we have approximately \$28,000 collected to pay for the monument. Our original goal was and still is \$35,000. It appears that our estimates have been very close to the actual expenses incurred.

As you can see we are short about \$7,000 at this time, certainly not an impossible number to overcome. Our goal was and still is to have the monument paid for at the time of the unveiling, July 20th.

If we could get 140 people to contribute \$50.00 each, we would have the additional \$7,000 in hand. Have you contributed? The Statue and story it tells can mean a little more for you if some of your dollars are also invested in it. How about making a memorial donation in honor of your parents or grandparents! Talk to your brothers and sisters and others about this. It would be wonderful to gaze at this work of historical art and know its paid for come July 20th.

Send donations to German-Bohemian Society, Box 822, New Ulm, MN 56073. Thanking you in advance, Dan Beranek.

Our Readers Write...

Gemütlichkeit

My visit to New Ulm for the September picnic was my first chance to experience Bohemian-German culture as something bigger than what my family does. What I remember most is the warm feeling of Gemütlichkeit.

I have strong Bohemian roots on my mother's side. The Seidl family was one of four families (also the Maihofer, Zellner, and Stauber families) that left neighboring locales in the Böhmerwald (Schneiderhof, Rothenbaum, and Eistenstrass) in the 1880's and settled in one town on Green Bay - the lumber town of Menominee, Michigan. There, they nestled into a very tight community of German-Americans. They thought of themselves as Austrians. They sang "Tief d'rin im Böhmerwald" around the piano on Sunday nights when the neighbors gathered there - a respite before the work week began. But no one ever mentioned the word "Bohemian".

My grandmother dwelled in Menominee for 97 years, always living within a half mile of the house in which she was born. My mother, the oldest of eleven children, watched the Bohemian ancestors age, but picked up very few stories about *Die Heimatland*. She perfected intricate recipes for ox-tail soup, kolachky (which we called "galoshes", following the lead of my brother at 3), egg noodles, sülz, rouladen, sauerbraten and sauerkraut.

So the first thing that took me home when I came to New Ulm was the wealth of tasty food spread out in front of me. I tested every dish I could fit on my plate. I reveled in the garlicky, fresh sausage, the several versions of sauerkraut, and the desserts. I marveled that I was the only one to bring German potato salad. Devouring more than my share, I listened to tales of World War II and flight from the old country.

I had expected to blend into the crowd and watch. But Bob Paulson made sure my plans were *ausgespielt*. I had barely arrived when he announced over the PA system that I was there. He identified me as a *Hirschauer* to boot, though of course it wasn't until later he told me how some folks considered that a rather common place of origin.

The result of this public introduction, was of course, that several people came right up to meet me. I talked about the Seidl family with some. I chatted about how to visit the old country. I learned more about the New Ulm settlement. But mostly I felt very, very welcome.

There is a certain way to the smile. A glow, hard to translate, *Gemutlichkeit*. *Es ist so lang, so froh, dass ich von dort bin fort.*

Ich freue mich, zuruckzukommen.

Ken Meter

A Quotable Quote...

If... you could see your ancestors all standing in a row, would you be proud of them, or don't you really know? Some strange discoveries are made in climbing family trees. And some of them, you well know, do not particularly please.

If... you could see your ancestors all standing in a row, there might be some of them, perhaps, you wouldn't care to know. But there's another question which requires a different view. If you could meet your ancestors, would they be proud of you?

Anonymous Author

COOKBOOK READY FOR SALE

The DEUTSCH-BÖHMISCHE KÜCHE Cookbook, written by Emmet Hoffmann with over 100 recipes of Bohemian and German flavor, is ready for sale. Many of the recipes were acquired from our own members and are authentic Bohemian. Others were gathered from Emmet's vast collection.

The cookbook will measure 5 1/2" x 8 1/2", be plastic bound so it will lay flat and be easy to read. It will be divided into five sections as follows; soups and salads, main dishes, casseroles, vegetables, and baked goods.

The cost of each cookbook will be \$6.89 tax included plus \$2.00 postage and packaging. The cookbooks will be ready for mailing after July 15th, 1991. If you are able to pick up your cookbook you do not need to add the postage. Emmet will have a table set up at the Dedication Ceremony in German Park on July 20th where you can pick up your book or purchase additional books. He will gladly autograph your copy if you wish. Please use the order form at the end of this newsletter to purchase your copies.

OWN A PIECE OF HISTORY

The board of directors of the Minnesota German-Bohemian Heritage Society have authorized the issue of a 3" x 5" granite tablet made from the same piece of stone that the monument base is being carved from. The tablet will be 3/8" thick, individually serial numbered, and engraved. This is a very unique opportunity to own a piece of your own history.

The number of these tablets will be limited to the amount of granite available after the monument base is cut and will be sold on a first come, first served basis. Many have already been sold. After

you have received your tablet you may take it to Bloedel Monument and have your family name engraved on it at an extra cost of \$6.00. Those of you who live out of town or out of state may add \$3.00 for postage and it will be mailed to your home. Place your order by filling out the order form at the end of this newsletter.

Banquet Tickets Now Available

On Friday evening, July 19, 1991, our society will be hosting a monument dedication banquet at Turner Hall in New Ulm. The evening will begin at 5:30 pm with a social hour, followed by an old fashioned candle-lit Thanksgiving style dinner of turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, cranberries, vegetable, bread, coffee, and pumpkin pie for dessert.

Elroy Ubl will be Master of Ceremonies and scheduled speakers will be Mayor of New Ulm, Carl (Red) Wyczawski; Paul Krestch, President of our society; Leopold Hafner, sculpture of the German-Bohemian Monument; Rudolf Kiefner, leader of the Egerlander Trachtengruppe; and Bob Paulson, founder of our society. The entire membership of the Egerlander Trachtengruppe will be our guests for the evening.

Tickets are \$10.00 each and can be ordered using the order form at the end of this newsletter. There are a limited number of tickets available and we do expect the tickets to sell fast so please order now.

German-Bohemian Exhibit at Museum

The Brown County Historical Society will present an exhibit of German-Bohemian culture from July 1 thru August 30, 1991. Most of the articles on display were donated to the exhibit by our own members and will be of interest to everyone young and old. The exhibit will help tell the story of the German-Bohemian immigrants to this area, a story

which has yet to be clearly told.

The focus day for this exhibit will be July 20th, the day of the Dedication and Unveiling Ceremonies. At the conclusion of the ceremonies you will be directed to the Brown County Historical Society located in New Ulm to view the exhibit and receive a taste of *smear kuchen* and beverage.

We would like to take this opportunity to say **thank you** to the Brown County Historical Society staff and especially Onalee Reeves for working with us to put this exhibit together.

MEMORIALS IN MEMORY OF...

Elmer Ubl

from Marie Korenchen

Walter Sellner

from Martha Pufahl, Art & Dolores Dietz

Otto Neidecker

from Agatha & Marlene Domeier

Annie Neidecker

from George & Angie Portner

**The families of Josef Warta, Joseph Hoffmann, Elizabeth Holl Hoffmann,
Joseph Kraus, Anna Rieger Kraus.**

from Denis J. Warta

John Schwab

from Dan & Turdy Beranek

Frank Lindmeyer Sr.

from Frank Lindmeyer Jr.

Amanda Prokosch

from Eleanor Kretsch

Ethel Karl

from Dan & Trudy Beranek, Marie Korenchen

John Bohlmann

from Marie Korenchen

Oscar Hoffman

from Paul & Janice Kretsch, Eleanor Kretsch

Steven Werdahl

from Randy & Monica Wenninger

Wenzel & Joseph Stadtherr, John Stadtherr Estate

from Leon Stadtherr

Muriel Luepke

from Mr. & Mrs. Dale Rosenthal, Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Boettcher

Anna Kiefner

from Robert & Dorthy Paulson

Rudolf Womes

from Robert & Dorothy Paulson, George &

Angie Portner

Herbert Manderfeld
from Louie & LuAnn Lindmeyer

Peyton Nichols
from Harold & Mary Schaefer

Peyton Nichols
from Harold & Mary Schaefer

Roman Sellner
from Mrs. Roman Sellner
Bauer

Anna Warrell
Mr. & Mrs. George

Families of Teynor, Witt, Walenta
from John P. Teynor

Families of Teynor, Witt, Domeier, Sellner, Walenta
from Dr. Joseph & Babara Lael Teynor

Elmer Ubl
from Dan & Trudy Beranek, Mr. & Mrs. Harold Schaefer, Paul & Janice Kretsch

George & Annie Portner
from George & Angie Portner, Raymond & Alice Portner, Leonard & Alice Portner

MEMORIALS IN MEMORY OF...

Donald Borson
from Alfred & Evelyn Burdorf

Schwab,

John Dittrich
from Douglas & Maggie

Mr. & Mrs. Dale Krueger

Mr. & Mrs. John Haala
from Mrs. Roman Sellner, Eleanor Kretsch, Larry & Elaine Haala, Mr. & Mrs. Merton
Stimpert

Roman Kosek
from Dan & Trudy Beranek, Paul & Janice Kretsch, Wally Arbes, Joleen Elijah

John Dittrich
from Randy & Monica Wenninger, Martha Pufahl, Mr. & Mrs. Roman Saffert, Leo C.
Hoffman,
Tony & Harriet Eckstein, Paul & Janice Kretsch

Leo Saffert
from Agatha & Marlene Domeier, Marie Korenchen, Tony & Harriet Eckstein

Marvin Hofmeister

from Harold & Mary Schaefer, Mr. & Mrs. Roman Saffert

Edwin "Slim" & Clara Kalz
from Mary Ann & Kathy & Roger Kalz

Guldan,

Mr. & Mrs. Bert Guldan
from Richard Guldan, David

Colleen Zins

Dee Ann Pezel
from Agatha & Marlene Domeier

Otto Groebner
from Lorraine Olson

Edward Meidl

from Agatha & Marlene Domeier, Robert & Dorothy Paulson, Kurt & Ella Eisen, Louie & LuAnn

Lindmeyer, Paul & Janice Kretsch, Melvin & Dorothy Guggisberg, Rosalie Grossmann, Donald

& Sue Forster, Ronald & Janet Kahle, Dan & Trudy Beranek, Rollie & Dorothy Howie,

George & Angeline Portner, Marie Korenchen

Loretta Forster
from Marie Korenchen

Margaret Hegler
from Vernon & Daniel Hegler

Fred Fritsche
by Agatha & Marlene Domeier

Robbie Schanus
from Eleanor Kretsch

Joseph Lieb, Anna Fischer, Conrad Hoffmann, Margaret Dauer
from Patricia Lieb (Grand-daughter)

Alma Stadick

from Gladys Ries, George & Angie Portner, Harold & Adeline Wiltscheck, Tony & Harriet Eckstein,

Paul & Janice Kretsch, Eleanor Kretsch, Carroll & Joleen Elijah

Our German-Bohemian Landsmann Is Called To His Final Home

by Dorothy Paulson

Word was received recently that Rudolf Womes, German-Bohemian historian and author, has died in his home in Buchen-Oden, West Germany, in his eighty-eighth year.

Mr. Womes was born April 12, 1903, in Mirkowitz near Hostau in Bohemia (now Czechoslovakia). He was educated in Bohemia and, like his father before him, became a school teacher. He taught in the town of Trohatin, in the same school where his father taught. Later, he became a headmaster, serving lastly at Hochsenlowitz until 1939, when the Second World War broke out. He, like so many others, was forced to serve in the German army. In later years, he would not speak of those times.

After the war and the expulsion of the German-Bohemians from Czechoslovakia, Mr. Womes settled in Buchen-Odenwald, where he served as headmaster for the Volsschule there. He retired in 1969.

In his retirement, he worked diligently for the preservation of the culture of the German-Bohemian people. He collaborated in editing and authoring many books on that subject, including the history of the area he came from: THE PFARRGEMEINDE BERG.

Mr. Womes also served for many years as the Ortsbetreuer, or overseer of Pfarrgemeinde Berg, taking charge of the regular reunions of the people from that area.

Mr. Womes was known in the charming town of Buchen as "Der Beliebte Mitburger" or "beloved fellow citizen." In addition to his work with German-Bohemian history and culture, he pursued with great enthusiasm his hobby of weather forecasting for the town of Buchen and the area surrounding it.

We had the pleasure of Mr. Womes's friendship for over ten years. We carried on a regular correspondence, and were able to visit with him each time we traveled to Europe. He accompanied us into Czechoslovakia several times to visit the old villages. When we visited the town of Trohatin, Mr. Womes walked around the outside of the school several times, hands clasped behind his back, undoubtedly moved by the memory of his many years there.

Mr. Womes and his wife welcomed us into their home several times. He was interested in many subjects, and the conversation was always lively. He did not speak English, but wanted us to teach him some new words each time we came.

We saw Herr Womes for the last time in the summer of 1989 at his home. When we said goodbye, he watched our car drive away until it was out of sight, standing once again with hands clasped behind his back, straight and tall, with great dignity.

Rudolf Womes died on December 28, 1990. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Dedication and Unveiling Ceremony

Saturday July 20th will be **our** day. Our day will begin at 1:30 in the afternoon at German Park in New Ulm. The street will be blocked off and at least 200 chairs set up for the audience. A sound system will also be used so everyone will be able to follow the program.

Scheduled to speak are Carl "Red" Wyczawski, our President Paul Kretsch, the sculptor Leopold Hafner, Rudolf Kiefner, leader of the Egerlander Trachtengruppe and our "European connection", and Bob Paulson, father of our organization. We have planned that the ceremony will last approximately 50 minutes. After the ceremony is complete, you may remain in the park and visit with the dignitaries or you may go to the Brown County Historical Society to view the German-Bohemian exhibit. Tables will be set up so you may purchase buttons, monument tablets, and cookbooks.

This will be a historic day in the lives of everyone who attends. Bring your friends, neighbors, children and grand-children. It will be a day they will remember for the rest of their lives.

PROGRESS!

The bronze sculpture, that will set on top of the granite base, has been completed by Leopold Hafner of Bavaria and has arrived in New Ulm. The statue is in storage and will not be viewed until the Dedication Ceremony on July 20th. Also nearing completion is the eight ton granite base contracted to Bloedel Monument of New Ulm. The granite is now at Cold Spring, Minnesota where it is receiving the final touches before being shipped to us in late June. Upon its arrival in New Ulm, Bloedel Monument will begin the job of engraving the four sides as well as engraving 360 German-Bohemian immigrant names on the four plaques surrounding the base of the monument.

The wrought iron fence has been completed by Haala Welding of Sleepy Eye, Minnesota and will soon be painted by Tom Haala, owner of New Ulm Body Shop.

Bloedel Monument has completed the concrete foundation work in German Park and Heymann Construction is scheduled to complete the walk-around area before July 1. Conklin Nursery has until July 10th to complete the landscaping part of the project.

Order Form

Please check the box on the left for the items you wish to order, then list quantity and total dollar amount for each item on the right.

Amt.

Qty.

Banquet Tickets - Friday July 19, \$10.00 each....._____

Deutch-Böhmische Küche Cookbook \$6.89 each tax
included plus \$2.00 postage for the first book and
\$1.00 postage for each additional book mailed at the
same

time....._____

— —————

Granite Monument Tablets \$20.00 each tax included
plus \$3.00 each
postage..... _____

**Souvenir Monument Buttons \$1.00 each plus \$.50
postage**

.....

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone No. _____

**Make checks payable to German-Bohemian Society, P.O.
Box
822, New Ulm, Mn. 56073-0822**

If you have any questions about any of these items you may call
Louie Lindmeyer at 507-354-4831.