

GERMAN-BOHEMIAN

HERITAGE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

P. O. BOX 822 NEW ULM, MN. 56073

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Louie Lindmeyer, Editor

A Letter From Our President

Another new year is upon us. Time passes quickly and sometimes it is not on our side. Time and fate have not allowed us to start this year on a happy note. Our good friend Rudi Kiefner passed away on February 2. I would like our organization to dedicate this year's accomplishments in Rudi's memory. I also join in with those who have requested we construct a permanent memorial for him and will work toward making that a reality.

Rudi had done so much for us and was still planning on doing more. It seems unfair that a man so full of energy should be taken from us. I am encouraged now more than ever to help keep our organization active. I know Rudi would want it that way.

I welcome Emmet Hoffmann and Peggy Tauer to our Board of Directors. They were both elected to three year terms, and I am pleased to have them aboard. The two seats they have filled were vacated by Dan Beranek and Marie Korenchen. Dan and Marie were unable to seek re-election. I have enjoyed working with them these past three years and will miss their presence very much. Re-elected to the board were George Portner, Mariann Tremml and Elroy Ubl. They were elected to three year terms and we fortunately will continue to have their guidance.

The officers elected for the year 1993 are Louis Lindmeyer as vice president, George Portner treasurer, Peggy Tauer secretary, and myself as president. We are referred to as the Executive Committee. I assure you our decisions will be well thought out and always be for the good of the organization.

Our organization is involved in a number of projects. I will list a few of them for you. A committee is meeting with the Brown County Historical Society to complete arrangements for decorating the museum for Christmas. Another committee is looking into taking over the St. Nicholas day festivities held at the New Ulm Armory. We plan to continue holding the dances. Our German-Bohemian Heritage Singers are going strong and are continually learning new songs. The Historical Preservation Committee has been given some ideas on the renovation project for German Park in New Ulm. Our committee, who submitted their ideas, is looking forward to working with them, and others, to help come up with a final plan.

I ask for your continued support. All too soon more precious time will have passed and it is important that we share now, so what we have learned can be preserved for generations to come.

Paul Kretsch

President

Coming Events

April 17: Board of Directors Meeting
May 21 & 22: Rummage Sale
May 22: General Membership Meeting

Have You Paid Your Dues?

GBHS dues for 1993 are due and payable. Dues have increased over previous years because of increased cost in postage and other items needed in doing our daily business. Dues for 1993 are \$6.00 per year per family or, if you prefer, you may pay in advance and receive a discount. Two year membership is \$11.00 and three year membership is \$15.00. If you are not sure if you have paid just check your mailing label on the back page of this newsletter. The "Expires" date is when your membership dues are due. To pay just drop a check in the mail to GBHS, P.O. Box 822, New Ulm, MN. 56073.

German-Bohemian Village Spotlight

by Robert Paulson

(We hope this article will become a series to familiarize you with some of the many villages in our homeland and give you information that may help you in your research. If you know the history of the village where your ancestors came from or any other German-Bohemian village we encourage you to send it to us to fill this spot. You may also send us a request to do a "Village Spotlight" on your ancestors village. We will try to accomodate you.)

Village of Rindl

Rindl, first recorded of in 1589, was located on the northwest slope of the 750m Rindl Mountain at 600-700m altitude, only 5 km away from the Bavarian border. On both the upper and lower ends of the village were natural springs which supplied the village with fresh, clean water. The unused water flowed right through the village from the upper spring. Wooden troughs were built at regular intervals to supply the homes with drinking water for livestock and for washing. The name Rindl developed from this practice.

In 1789 Rindl, belonging to the district of Ronsperg, counted 21 residences; 1839, 29 (pop. 296), among which Jungrindl/Brandhausel was counted. At this time Rindl belonged to the parish of Muttersdorf. In 1913 the district of Rindl

consisted of 38 houses and 248 residences. The village, which had a spectacular view of the surrounding area, had a fire department of 20 volunteers and a local branch of the German Bohmer Wald-league (forestry club...) which had 31 members. At this time Jungrindl had 7 houses, and the localities of Fuchshausl and Rothausl (incorporated with Jungrindl), each 1. The population fell from 239 in 1930 to 199 in 1939. In Rindl stood 29 houses, so that the district consisted of 44. The terrain was classified as: 177.09 hectare farmland, 98.25 meadow, 85.85 pasture, 82.21 wooded, and 1.39 gardens.

As recorded by older residents, the original Rindl area was divided into 13 equal parts, comprised of 12 farmsteads and one community plot on which the village smithy and shepherd's hut were located. After an incident in 1901 where a lightning fire on one of the straw roofs had to be stopped by water from straw woven buckets, a fire station was also added. The volunteer fire department was established in 1906. Anton Kostner, a teacher in Rindl between 1903-1908, became the first fire chief. The last fire chief in Rindl was Georg Helget. The First World War claimed 9 Rindl lives; the second, 21.

Jungrindl

...once was located 4 km south of Rindl at the foot of the 869m 'Lissa' and north of Hirschsteinhausel/Gibacht, in the middle of the forest. It consisted of 12 houses, of which the Hegerhaus (gamekeeper's) belonged to the district of Schiefer nau, 2 houses to Hirschsteinhausel (or also Stockau), and 9 houses to Rindl. The parish it belonged to was Stockau; the school district was Hirschsteinhausel.

The inhabitants busied themselves with agriculture, forestry, basketweaving, toolmaking and lace production. Baskets and rakes were mass-produced and sold at the weekly market in Ronsperg. Though the spot was a favorite goal for hikers during the summer, deep snows isolated the village from the surrounding area in winter (the mailman came once a week).

It should also be mentioned that the river Radbusa originates on the property of Alois Schweinfurt in the "Barenloch" (Bearcave) and begins its long journey as a mere stream. During optimal visibility conditions one can see from Jungrindl the counties of Bischofteinitz (entirely), Tachau (most of it), Tausen (a majority), and very distantly, the skyline of Pilsen.

The following is a list of inhabitants of Rindl and the neighboring hill villages of Jungrindl, Rothausel and Einxchicht prior to WWII with their house numbers, house names and the size of their landholdings in hectars. A hectar is about 2.5 acres. Many families from Rindl emigrated to the New Ulm area in the latter half of the 19th century.

These villages are no more. They were destroyed in the late 1950's because they were too close to the international border with Germany.

House Nr.	Family Name	House Name	Landholding
1.	Johan Schropfer	Wulf	22.62
2.	Johann Sellner	Reitmeier	1.0
3.	Johann Rothmeier	Link	4.77
4.	Franz Kostner	Friedl	0.97

5.	Andreas Sporl	Bartl	8.83	
6.	Josef Ubl	Girchpeter	18.16	
7.	Franz Liebl	Wirstbauer	13.97	
8.	Anton Wickl	Schmeid	Comm. Black Smith	
9.	Josef Grobner	Weber	15.33	
10.	Andreas Schnobrick	Schworm	23.15	
11.	Community	Huthaus	Com. Forest House	
12.	Georg TucheK	Greger	20.81	
13.	Franz TucheK	Reiter	1.93	
14.	Wenzel Helget	Foulda	16.62	
15.	Andreas Hartl	Schmeidmichl	6.11	
16.	Franz Helget	Richterseff	21.63	
17.	Georg Helget	Wulfkansas	15.86	
18.	Andreas Pechtl	Gougl	1.86	
19.	Anton Kostner	Wogner	2.99	
20.	Andreas Ruby	Fenzl	0.72	
21.	Wenzel Rothemeier	Feierl	13.62	
22.	Anton Domaier	Houch	17.46	
23.	Josef Schilling	Rothausl	—	
24.	August Sporl	Gustl, Jungrindl	4.15	
25.	Katharina Pechtl	Deitschseppl, Jungrindl	1.85	
28.	Andreas Kispert	Weber, Jungrindl	3.41	
29.	Georg Schweinfurter	Fuchsen, Jungrindl	2.27	
30.	Wenzel Theuerl	Schmeidstoffel	4.00	
31.	Georg Sporl	Bartwenz	6.12	
32.	Josef TucheK	Schouster	5.00	
33.	Josef Wickl	Wicki	1.62	
34.	Josef Pretzl	Bartimichl, Jungrindl	1.30	
35.	Community	School		
36.	Anton Rothmeier	Wirt	3.12	
37.	Marie Rothmeier	Maurer	3.31	
38.	Karl Maier	Weberkarl, Jungrindl	1.30	
39.	Anton Rubey	Fenzltoni, Rothausl	—	
40.	Georg Freidrich	Luisen, Jungrindl	0.64	
41.	Franz Erl	Erl, Rothausl	—	
42.	Margareta Schilling	Reiterin, Rothausl	—	
43.	Josef Helget	Sagerer, Einschict	4.50	
44.	Peter Liebl	Dollerl, Einschicht	4.50	

We Have Lost a Good Friend

by Paul Krestch

Although Rudi Kiefner lived in Felsberg, Germany he was always in contact with our organization and was well informed of what was going on. I met Rudi on several different occasions and I would like to tell you about one of my encounters with him. It should explain why I thought so much of him.

The time was August of 1991 and the place was Furth im Wald, Germany. Our tour group was spending an evening with Rudi, Leopold Hafner, their wives and some of their friends. Rudi, as he so often did, came bearing gifts, and what we ate and drank was paid for by Rudi and Leopold. As is customary, Rudi and Leopold presented a toast to our group. I, being the president of our

organization, was asked to say something. As I recall, I thanked Rudi and Leopold for everything they were doing for us. I told Rudi that I felt bad that we didn't come bearing as many gifts as we received. I added that I didn't know how we could repay him for everything he had done, and wondered if we could ever get ahead of him.

Later Rudi, my brother Pat and myself left the party to take care of some other business. After doing this Rudi asked us to walk with him to the place where he was staying. He was in a hurry and had Pat and I puffing in an attempt to keep up with him. After a quick schnapps, we left his apartment carrying more gifts. Again running, I, a bit short of breath, repeated what I had said earlier. "How can we ever get ahead of you?". I could have been referring to his fast walking pace, but he knew what I meant. He stopped abruptly. He wanted to make sure I would understand what he was about to tell me. Those of you who knew Rudi know that he not only could walk fast but could talk fast as well. He even slowed that down to help get his point across. I can't quote his every word but what he pointed out was that he wasn't giving us these gifts and doing all the other things so we would feel indebted to him. He was only interested in helping because what our organization was doing was something he had been involved in a good part of his life. Seeing us grow was his reward. He could have said this at the party, and I found it interesting that he chose to say it in private. There was no doubt of his sincerity and it made me realize just how special our bond with him was.

What happened that night in Furth im Wald was not the only thing Rudi said or did to make me like him, but it is one instance I will never forget. I thought I would share it with you because it is a good example of how sincere and caring he was. We have indeed lost a good friend.

Monument Book Completed

After many months of work the German-Bohemian Monument Book has been completed and distributed free of charge to all those who donated toward the project. If you contributed to the monument project and did not receive a copy of the book please let us know. The book is 30 pages of history and photographs. It also contains a map of the old homeland showing the villages of our German-Bohemian ancestors as well as a map of the new homeland (the area around New Ulm) where they settled. The book also lists the names of all the contributors to the monument project and the 355 family names inscribed on the monument. If anyone wishes to purchase a copy you may do so by sending \$5.00 plus \$1.00 postage to GBHS, P.O. Box 822, New Ulm, MN 56073.

The "Boehmer Koenig", The King of The Bohemians A Tradition Revived by Robert Paulson

(Editors note: This is a follow-up to a similar article that appeared in the March, 1992 newsletter.)

After a vacancy that lasted nearly thirty-five years, the German-Bohemian Heritage Society revived the tradition of electing a "Boehmer Koenig". Otto Dietz, a life long Cottonwood Township farmer, was unanimously elected and properly installed at their annual picnic held in August of 1985 at Hermann Park. Otto was a fitting candidate for this noble office for he was very proud of his German-Bohemian heritage and related many stories about the German-Bohemian community and the previous Bohemian Kings. Otto was born Feb. 17, 1900 in Cottonwood township, the third generation of the Dietz family to farm his grandfather's homestead. Unfortunately Otto enjoyed his lofty office for but a few short months, for he died in December of 1985. The throne again remained vacant for several months in tribute to the memory of the dead king.

The present King of the Bohemians, Kurt Eisen, was born in Marinbad, Bohemia on August 27, 1921 and he and his mother along with more than three million German-Bohemians were forcibly expelled from their homeland in 1946. He spent the next nine years in Bavaria where he married his wife Eleanor and had two children. The Eisen family immigrated to America in 1955 and settled in New Ulm where Kurt found work at Kraft Foods from where he retired in 1983. He is very active in the German-Bohemian Heritage Society, where he is a member of the Board of Directors and teaches classes in the Bohemian dialect, and he and Eleanor sing in the German-Bohemian Heritage Singers. Long live King Kurt!

The practice of electing a "Boehmer Koenig" dates back to the year 1875 with the election of Peter Gag as the very first King of the Bohemians. According to an article in the May 17th 1911 issue of the New Ulm Review, Peter Gag was described as "an old and respected citizen of New Ulm who has done more than anyone else for the comfort of his native countrymen, when they - strangers in a foreign land - come to this country from the fatherland". Peter Gag was born in Trohatin, Bohemia in 1825 and immigrated to America in 1855 with his family, first settling in New Wien, Iowa where he resided for two years after which he traveled to Brown County where he homesteaded in Cottonwood township. He farmed until 1887 when he moved to New Ulm. Peter Gag was one of the first German-Bohemians to settle in the New Ulm area. He died in April of 1911.

The same newspaper article goes on to describe in some detail the festivities surrounding the election of the second "Boehmer Koenig", prominent New Ulm attorney Joseph A. Eckstein, "Two hundred and thirty-six votes were counted and of these Joseph A. Eckstein received two hundred seventeen. He was therefore "declared and proclaimed to be King of the Bohemians of New Ulm and vicinity." The result of the election was received with great applause. After the crowning of the King, his majesty read his first proclamation announcing his cabinet and other officials of the Kingdom.

"His Majesty, the New King, announces to his subjects the appointment of the following gentlemen as members of his Cabinet: Prince Regent, Joseph Gag; Secretary of State, Henry Seifert; Secretary of War, Anton Wiesner; Secretary of the Navy, Mathew Pedersen; Secretary of the Treasury, Henry J. Berg; Secretary of the Interior, Louis J. Vogel; Attorney General, Wenceslaus H. Dempsey; Postmaster General, Joseph Smasal; Secretary of Agriculture, Joseph Wiesner; Secretary of Commerce, Peter J. Soukup; Imperial Hofkapellmeister, Joseph Bier."

The foregoing members of the Cabinet to His Majesty, are each to receive

a salary of \$25,000 per year, but they must find out themselves where to get it."

The following ambassadors are hereby appointed by His Majesty, the King of the Bohemians, to foreign countries, each with a salary of \$10,000 per year, but they must find out themselves where to get it."

Lamberton, John G. Haas; Sanborn, Henry Schwerdtfeger; Springfield, George Reis; Gaenseviertel, New Ulm, John Baeuml; New Prague, Le Sueur and Scott Counties, Mathew Siebenbrunner; St. George, Leonard Vetter; Klossner, Karl Muehlbauer; Courtland, Edward Precht; Searles, Jos. J. Sperl; Sleepy Eye, Michael Radl; Essig John Siebenbrunner; Morgan, Frank Schiefert; Iberia, Anton Rubey; Comfrey, Frank Schwertler; Town of Sigel, Anton Hillesheim; Green Isle, Patrick R. McHale; Fairfax, George A. Leary."

Joseph A. Eckstein was born in Bohemia on October 25, 1857 and came to America with his parents in 1862 and settled in Sigel township. Mr. Eckstein attended state normal school at Mankato and upon graduation taught school for several years. He then studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1880 and was considered one of the best criminal lawyers in the state. For seventeen years, Mr. Eckstein was city attorney of New Ulm. Upon the death of Joseph Eckstein in April of 1915, Anton "Tony" Wiesner was elected the King of the Bohemians. Tony was born in 1861 in Bohemia and immigrated with his parents in 1878. He operated a livery barn in New Ulm and later drove the Dakota Hotel bus. He moved to St. Paul about 1919 where he died in 1942.

George Wurmstein of Springfield was elected the high office when Tony Wiesner moved from New Ulm. George was also born in Bohemia on Nov. 25, 1866 and came to this country when he was eighteen years old. He followed the trade of bricklayer, was a saloonkeeper, and later he was "deposed" in 1925. He died in 1931.

The rather clouded selection of the next claimant to the throne is in the New Ulm Review on Feb. 1925, "George Wurmstein of Springfield who now holds the title of "Boehmer Koenig" of Brown County will no doubt be surprised to learn that there is a "Pretender" to the throne in the person of John Seifert of Milford who at a gathering of the klan at the Seifert home last Thursday was proclaimed "King of Bohemia." " Thirty of Siefert's friends, German-Bohemians and near Bohemians, journeyed to the Seifert home in the evening accompanied by a band of six pieces and then and there the host was elected to fill this honorable and worthy position. Adolf A. Alwin acted as master of ceremonies and from all reports he was equal to the occasion. After the king had been elected and crowned, it was suggested by someone, the establishment of the king would not be complete without a "Hofnarr" and to his important position "Gustel" Schneider was installed by the master of ceremonies."

With this important work disposed of, the guests enjoyed themselves by playing cards, singing German folk songs and listening to the band. There were good things to eat on hand. The host had three different kind of sausages and the followers of the king certainly did justice to the splendid repast. This king crowning episode came to an end at one o'clock when the guests returned to their homes well satisfied that they had spent an enjoyable evening and had elected a worthy king.

John Seifert of Milford was the first Bohemian King born in America. He was born in May of 1878, the son of Joseph Seifert who came to this country in

1867 with his father John and two brothers Andrew and Christ. They joined another brother, John Jr., who immigrated earlier; thus establishing the large Milford branch of the Seifert family.

The New Ulm papers are noticeable silent about the German-Bohemian community until the revitalization of their ethnic pride with the founding of the German-Bohemian Heritage Society in the Fall of 1984. It seems only natural that the rekindling of this pride in Bohemian traditions would result in the election of a new "Boehmer Koenig".

Rummage Sale Scheduled

The German-Bohemian Heritage Singers will be holding a rummage sale to raise money to help pay off their sound equipment. The sale will be held at the home of Diane Tipton, 519 9th No. St., New Ulm on May 21 & 22, 1993. If you have items to donate please drop them off on May 20th. All items should be clean, saleable and marked with a price. If you have any questions call Diane at 354-3396 or Janice Kretsch at 354-2763.

General Meeting Date Set

The Board of Directors of the GBHS has set the date for the next general membership meeting. The meeting will take place on May 22, 1993 at 9 A.M. in the lower level of the New Ulm Public Library. The board is preparing an interesting agenda for the meeting. A guest speaker has not yet been confirmed at time of the printing of this newsletter. These general meetings are important for you to attend. It gives you a chance to voice your opinions about our organizations goals and activities, or any other facet of society functions. Attendance also tells our Board of Directors how interested the society members are in what goes on in our organization.

Cookbooks Selling Well

The "Deutsch-Bohmische Kuche" cookbook has been selling very briskly. To date over 1500 copies have been sold with more orders coming in almost daily. The recent surge in sales is due to an article in the Minneapolis Star Tribune featuring the cookbook and it's author Emmet Hoffman. The article titled "Bohemian culture lives on in food", explores Emmets culinary talents, his German-Bohemian ancestry and explained how the cookbook idea came to life. If you have not yet ordered your copy just send \$9.00 (\$7.00 plus \$2.00 shipping) to GBHS, P.O. Box 822, New Ulm , MN 56073. Emmet has generously pledged all profits to our society.

City of New Ulm Plans German Park Restoration

City of New Ulm officials are currently planning the restoration of German Park in New Ulm and the GBHS along with other civic groups has been asked for input into the planning. A committee of four (Paul Kretsch, Benny Siefert, Louis Lindmeyer, Kurt Eisen) was set up to work on the plan. The committee envisions the park to have a three-fold purpose. One purpose would be for family outings and picnics with a picnic shelter and childrens playground area being built on the north end of the park.

The south end of the park would be a huge flower garden with water fountains, rock gardens, a flowing stream, walkways, benches, and thousands of blooming flowers and ornamental trees. Vine-covered archways, shrubbery, small ponds stocked with gold fish are other ideas. Sculptures could also be added later to give the park a European flavor. The park could be decorated with thousands of Christmas lights to bring vistors from other communties to shop in New Ulm stores for the holidays and view the spectacular Christmas light show in German Park. Most of all the flower garden would be a quiet place to stroll through on a warm summer evening.

In the center section of the park a new band shelter would be built to house community events, evening band concerts, plays, graduations and a hundred other types of events. The hill located along German street would make a perfect amphitheater that could easily seat hundreds of spectators by constructing concrete or wooden seats into the hillside for viewing these events. The rear area of the band shelter could contain restrooms and perhaps a concession stand.

These are the main ideas that have been submitted to the Preservation Committee. The Preservation Committee will review the ideas from all the civic groups, hold meetings with these groups, and then submit a consolidated plan to the City of New Ulm. Demolition and some contruction will take place this year.

Letters . . .

(Editors note: This letter was written by Leopold Hafner, the sculptor of the German-Bohemian Monument, to Robert Paulson.)

November 22, 1992

My Dear Robert,

With happiness I read your letter. I am very much looking forward to June, 1993.

Thanks for the booklets of the German-Bohemian Immigrant Monument. Just the first page shows the symbol of the immigrants. A bare tree, and a colorful tree flank the family. The change of times, Louie Lindmeyer captured perfectly.

The writing of the booklet shows the hard work and happiness in it. By looking and reading of this historic booklet, my hours with you there are very close to me. Also the youth, so as my son, is enclosed in this document.

And so we wish that one thinking, a world wide thinking, should grow. A brutal, stupid happening, like Yugoslavia and elsewhere, will be abolished, so the human being could live as a human being.

Just talked to Rudi shortly, he is full of ideas.

Yours,

Leopold

November Dance Successful

The November 21, 1992 dance held at Turner Hall was a big success. A total of nearly \$900.00 was raised for the benefit of our society. Just as important was the fact that everyone had a wonderful time. One of the goals of the benefit dance was to raise funds to help restore the church in Muttersdorf, Czechoslovakia. We were very pleased to be able to donate \$500.00 for repair of the roof. The roof currently is leaking very bad and the entire structure is threatened if something isn't done soon. If you are not aware, Muttersdorf is a homeland village where many of our ancestors lived and worshiped. They were baptized, married and buried from the Muttersdorf church. The board of directors thought it was a very worthwhile investment to help save the church.

Christmas At The Museum

The Brown County Historical Society has asked the GBHS to help decorate the museum this Christmas in the German-Bohemian tradition. The Historical Society will have a Wanda Gag display later this year, and because the Gag family was of German-Bohemian ancestry, they felt it natural to have the museum decorated in a German-Bohemian flavor. If you have ideas or would like to help with this project please let us know.

St. Nick A Bohemian?

The New Ulm Retail Association has requested help with the St. Nicholas Day celebration in December. Our society has volunteered to take over the task of entertaining hundreds of New Ulm area children, passing out candy, and making sure they all have a good time. We need volunteers for this fun day. It is sure to make your heart smile when you see that many happy children. The event is December 6 starting about 4 p.m. If you would like to help with this project

please contact committee chairman Benny Seifert at 354-2991.

Wanda Gag Centennial

March 11, 1993 marked the 100th anniversary of the birthday of perhaps New Ulm's most famous German-Bohemian Wanda Gag. Wanda, the daughter of artist Anton Gag, is famous for her drawings of very ordinary subjects as well as her many books. Her books include; "Millions of Cats" (1928), "The Funny Thing" (1929), "Snippy and Snappy" (1931), "The ABC Bunny" (1933), "Gone Is Gone" (1935), "Tales From Grimm" (1938), "Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs" (1938), "Nothing At All" (1941), "Three Gay Tales From Grimm" (1943), "More Tales From Grimm" (1947).

Upcoming events will include a full day of celebrating and learning about Wanda Gag on May 1. There will be a Wanda Gag celebration banquet at Turner Hall, an exhibit of Wanda's art and writing will open at the Brown County Historical Society, and an open house at the historic Gag House. For more information contact the Wanda Gag Association, 226 No. Washington, New Ulm, MN. 56073. 507-359-2632.

A Prayer For Rudi Kiefner

1934-1993

Die Walder Messe

Ite Missa Est:

Jetzt geh i voll Frieden ins Waldühtterl nauf;

Now I go full of joy into my forest hut

hoch überm Berg droben steht's Himmelstor auf,

High up above the mountains is the gate of heaven.

Is des a Gefunkel, a Pracht und a Glanz:

A flash of splendor and brightness;

Der Herrgott segn d' Welt mit der Minnelsmonstranz.

The Lord God blesses the world with the heavenly monstrance.

Da zidert jed's Asterl so fromm und so froh,

The branches wave so devoutly and joyfully;

de Berg und de Bammerl, de leuchten nur so;

The mountains and trees, they shine so!

de Waldorgel braust und der Wipfelwind saust,

The forest organ bursts forth, and the treetops sough

oa Glück und oa Jubel, wohins d' nur grad schaut,

in happiness and jubilation of the highest degree!

Da laBt si, ja list's nur, a Walddrossel hörn,

As though lying in wait, the full-throated voice of the forest is heard.

die dankt mit dem Liadl fur d'Himmelsnad gern,

Giving thanks with a hymn for that heavenly grace;

Aa mir dank ma alle, es sei benedeit

Give thanks for all, and blessed

der Herrgott im Himmel de ganz Ewigkeit.

be the Lord God in heaven, for all eternity!

Amen

Auf Wiedersehen, Unser Guter Freund.

Until We Meet Again, Our Good Friend

Ruhet im Frieden.

Rest In Peace.

The German-Bohemian Heritage Society

Rudi Kiefner Remembered

(Editors note: The following article is a summary of a newspaper article written in the Bischofteinitzer Heimatbote published on Friday, February 19, 1993. A special thanks to Kurt Eisen for summarizing and translating the article.)

Rudolf Kiefner was born on March 5, 1934 at Bischofteinitz. He died on February 2, 1993 in Kassel, Germany. Rudi was born the second son of Joseph Kiefner and his wife Anna. He grew up and attended grade school in Ronsperg. On May 5, 1946 he and his family were expelled from their homeland of Bohemia and came with the refuge transport to Melsungen Wolfershausen near Kassel, Germany. He had to finish grade school there. After he had finished his schooling he was an apprentice for a small business.

In 1956 he came as a wholesale businessman to Kassel. There he met his future wife Rosemarie and in 1963 they were married. In 1965 their daughter Martina was born and in 1968 their second daughter Karmen was born.

In 1967 he advanced to an industrial businessman in a large company. In this position his duties stretched all over Germany.

Rudi co-founded the Trachtenvereine Bischofteinitz in 1946 and in 1952 became it's leader. He was an Ortsbetreuer (town representative) for the city of Ronsperg since 1960. He was a board member of the Sudeten-German Organization on a county and state level.

Rudi always wanted to keep the German-Bohemian culture alive. Furth im Wald, Germany is the Patenstadt (sponsor) city of Bischofteinitz. Rudi and his followers were very close friends with the city of Furth im Wald.

Many high honors were given to Rudi. In 1973 he received the German Bundes Medal for his cultural work (the youngest person ever to receive this award), in 1985 he received from the President of West Germany the German Federal Republic Bundesverdienstkreuz Medal. He was a city councilor since 1960 and a county commissioner up until 1986. He was also honored as an honorary city councilor from Felsberg, Germany. He worked with the Sudeten Germans and the people of the State of Hessen in very close harmony and was therefore honored with an Honorary Citizen Letter of the State of Hessen.

His hobby was photography which can be found in several of the books he wrote. He still has thousands of photographs that are unpublished.

A very good friend of Rudi's, the former mayor of the city of Furth im Wald, Gottlieb Dimpfl died on the same day as Rudi. It almost seems as though they had their home-going date prearranged.

It was a gray and foggy day at Rudi's funeral in Wolfershausen. In

attendance were several hundred mourners including close friends, delegations from many organizations, and many high state and local officials. Several bus loads came from Furth im Wald including the mayor and the local Trachtengruppe. Many flowers and wreaths adorned the ceremony including a large wreath from the Czech city of Bischofteinitz. A local priest Father Moritz and the priest from Furth im Wald Father Werner said Mass and administered the blessings at the grave site. The church and cemetery of Wolfershausen has never seen a funeral of this size.

Rudi's friendship reached over many states in Europe and even in the USA and Canada. He will be missed by all of us.

Memorials In Memory of . . .

Brian Woratchka
from George & Angie Portner

Franz & Maria Schropfer family
from Cleo Kathryn VanLerberg

Joseph & Florence (Macho) Rewitzer &
from Roman H. & Clara (Wilfahrt) Berg
from Donald & Marlene Domeier

Hertha Wolf
from Agatha & Marlene Domeier

Harold Schaefer
from Debra Schaefer

Harley Wieland
from Eric Wieland &
Arlene (Dittebenner) Wieland

Leona Clyne
from Walter & Cora Roloff, Eleanor Kretsch,
Louis & LuAnn Lindmeyer

Stanley Wolf
from Agatha & Marlene Domeier

Leland Schultz
family
from Mr. & Mrs. Harold Wiltscheck

Donald Sprenger
from George & Angie Portner

Cordula Franta
from Marie Korenchen

Adeline Kretsch
from Eleanor Kretsch, George &
Angie Portner

Gertrude Alfred
from Marie Korenchen

Clyne Anderson
from George & Angie Portner

Joseph Brand
from Agatha & Marlene Domeier

Anton Fleck
from George & Angie Portner

Herbert Sellner
from George & Angie Portner

Phylis Glaser Lietzau
from Agatha & Marlene Domeier

Ambrose Hornick
from George & Angie Portner

Margaret Boelter
from Edwin & Elaine Stueber,
Darrell & Donna Asleson &

Norbert Windschitl
from George & Angie Portner

Mary Ann Sturm
from George & Angie Portner

Sister Mary Ann Hoffman

Guy DeLeo
from Arlin & Gloria Jungkams,
Marilyn & Alvin Person,
Eleanor Kretsch

Helen Mathiowetz
from George & Angie Portner

Gertrude Reinhart
from Alberto & Marlene Sanudo

Eleanor Ubl
from George & Angie Portner,
&
Marie Korenchen, Dr. Ann Vogel

from George & Angie Portner

Donald Schaefer
from George & Angie Portner

Alma Berg
from George & Angie Portner

Warren Marti
from Mr. & Mrs. Dale Krueger

Rudi Kiefner
from Marie Korenchen, George
Angie Portner