



DANK Chapter 71

German Heritage Society of Erie

Mitteilungsblatt



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July / Aug 2017



It's that time of the year, when picnics, family gatherings and reunions flourish amid the patriotic fervor of Independence Day. Since weekends are generally busy, we chose to hold our picnic the same night as our regular meeting – Wednesday, July 19th.

While everyone has a rather hectic schedule, this is a great way to just get together and renew friendships and RELAX! We have held previous picnics at parks with picnic pavilions but the cost was prohibitive in the past three years in comparison to the number of people attending – the last was 15. We no longer have children who attend. The rentals originally at \$50 now range from \$100-\$175! Mt. Carmel Picnic Shelter went to \$125 and that was ideal. There is no problem paying for a rental IF and that is a big IF, we had more people attending. Last year, we had 6 respond and as a result the picnic was cancelled. This year, Fred Huttel and wife, Beverly, opened their home/ yard to host the picnic. We had 10 attendees. Fred provided tents for shelter from the elements, and tables and chairs. It was a chance to get to know everyone a little better with pleasant conversation and – of course – German music piped in from Munich. The Chapter provided Ox Roast for sandwiches and fried chicken tenders accompanied by Fred's German Potato Salad, Käsespatzle, baked corn casserole, 3 Bean Salad, deviled eggs, watermelon slices, chocolate cream pie and a banana cream pie!



Do you get the message? It's time to schedule our volunteers for the German Fest on Labor Day weekend. When DANK started the festival 21 years ago, we all were a lot younger and to be truthful the years have not been kind recently. Some of our faithful volunteers have passed and we need younger members to step up to help keep this tradition alive! The jobs are not demanding and we ask you to volunteer. We are open from 10:30 A.M. to 7:30 PM. If we have sufficient numbers of volunteers, we want to make the shifts 3 hours instead of the previous 4 ½ hours. At our regular meeting on August 16th we will have our sign-up party at the Männerchor and we will bring you up to date on everything that is changing this year. Our festival visitors will not be disappointed.



*Alles das Beste zum Geburtstag!
All the best on your birthday!*

Jul 1 Charles Roehrl
Jul 2 John Lesniewski
Jul 7 Siegfried Wunner
Jul 15 Susan Roehrl
Jul 27 Patricia Munz
Aug 4 Mark Lesniewski
Aug 8 Frederick K. Huttel, Jr.
Aug 11 Beverly Pochatko
Aug 28 Jason Jaquith

August Hochzeitsjubilären



Aug 11 Tim and Melissa B. Lesniewski

MUSIC MATTERS!



Our German chorus, the Männerchor Gesangverein is hoping that you will agree that music does matter! Even better, that you will consider lending your voice to their group! Aging is a problem as with most groups and the chorus is no exception. Two of our members are 90/93 respectively! They joined because of their love of singing! Currently there are nine members in the chorus and we are active, singing in senior living and assisted living facilities. Our practice schedule is on Tuesday evenings from 5-6:30 P.M. at the Männerchor Club. The programs are presented on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-7:30 P.M. We are currently focusing on seasonal music for Oktoberfest and Christmas. Come and try us out – we will be happy to meet you. Call Bev (746-8882) Carol (455-7009) for more information.

Music is beneficial to your health when your heart sings!



"Happiness is being remembered."

Elizabeth Pfeiffer

Occasionally we learn of members who have been under-the-weather for various reasons. Some members are no longer up and about and we think of them as well. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers and perhaps send a card or give them a call to let them know they are thought about.

Tom Kliber
Susan Roehrl
Gretel & Emil Daeschner
Phil Susann
Glenn Blodgett



We are happy to welcome to our DANK family:

Carl Anderson III
Evelyn Marzullo Anderson
Carl Anderson IV
Autumn Rose Anderson
3830 Parade Street
Erie, PA 16504
and
George Stefanovski
5106 Exeter Road
Erie, PA 16509

In medieval times the apprentice was bound to his master for a number of years. He lived with the master as a member of the household, receiving most or all of his compensation in the form of food and lodging. An apprentice could not charge a fee for his day's work; in Germany it was normal that the apprentice had to pay a fee (German: *Lehrgeld*) for his apprenticeship. After the years of apprenticeship (German: *Lehrjahre*, literally "teaching years") the apprentice was absolved from his obligations (German: *Freisprechung*, "being declared free"). The guilds, however, would not allow a young craftsman without experience to be promoted to master—they could only choose to be employed, but many chose instead to roam about.

In parts of Europe, such as in later medieval Germany, spending time as a journeyman (*Geselle*), moving from one town to another to gain experience of different workshops, became an important part of the training of an aspirant master. Carpenters in Germany have retained the tradition of travelling journeymen even today, although only a small minority still practice it.

In the Middle Ages, the number of years spent journeying differed by the craft. Only after half of the required journeyman years (German: *Wanderjahre*, literally "wandering years") would the craftsman register with a guild for the right to be an apprentice master. After completing the journeyman years, he would settle in a workshop of the guild and after some more years (German: *Mutjahre*, literally "grit [courage] years") he would be allowed to make his masterpiece (German: *Meisterstück*) and present it to the guild. With their consent he would be promoted to guild master and as such be allowed to open his own guild workshop in town.

The **journeyman years** (*Wanderjahre*) refer to the tradition of setting out on travel for several years after completing apprenticeship as a craftsman. The tradition dates back to medieval times and is still alive in German-speaking countries. In the British Isles the tradition is lost and only the title journeyman itself remains as a reminder of the custom of young men travelling throughout the country. Normally three years and one day is minimum period of journeyman/woman. Crafts include roofing, metalworking, woodcarving, carpentry and joinery, and even millinery and musical instrument making/organ building.



1 - Travelling book of a German furrier named Albert Strauß in the Kingdom of Hungary of the Habsburg Monarchy in the year 1816.



2 - A travelling book of Albert Strauß: Regeln, welche der Wandernde zur Vermeidung angemessener Strafe zu beobachten hat. (rules which the journeyman has to observe to avoid proper punishment).



3 - A travelling book of Albert Strauß: Bezeichnung des Inhabers (description of the owner).

The German "Walz"

The tradition of the journeyman years (German: *auf der Walz sein*) persisted well into the 1920s in German-speaking countries, but was set back by multiple events like Nazis allegedly banning the tradition, the postwar German economic boom making it seem too much of a burden, and in East Germany the lack of opportunities for work in an economic system based on Volkseigener Betrieb. Beginning in the late 1980s, renewed interest in tradition in general together with economic changes (especially after the fall of the Berlin Wall) have caused the tradition to gain wider acceptance. The tradition was brought back to life mostly unchanged from the medieval concept since the journeyman brotherhoods (German: *Schächte*, literally "shafts") never ceased to exist.



Carpenters "on the Walz", 1990 ➤

The journeyman brotherhoods had established a standard to ensure that wandering journeymen are not mistaken for tramps and vagabonds. The journeyman is required to be unmarried, childless and debt-free—so that the journeyman years will not be taken as a chance to run away from social obligations. In modern times the brotherhoods often require a police clearance. Additionally, journeymen are required to wear a specific uniform (German: *Kluft*) and to present themselves in a clean and friendly manner in public. This helps them to find shelter for the night and a ride to the next town.



◀ *A travelling book in Bremen, 1818.*

A travelling book (German: *Wanderbuch*) was given to the journeyman and in each new town, he would go to the town office asking for a stamp. This qualifies both as a record of his journey and also replaces the residence registration that would otherwise be required. In contemporary brotherhoods the "Walz" is required to last at least three years and one day (sometimes two years and one day). During the journeyman years the wanderer is not allowed to return within a perimeter of 50 km of his home town, except in specific emergency situations, such as the impending death of an immediate

relative.

At the beginning of the journey, the wanderer takes only a small, fixed sum of money with him (exactly five Deutschmarks was common, now five Euros); at its end, he should come home with exactly the same sum of money in his pocket. Thus, he is supposed neither to squander money nor to store up any riches during the journey, which should be undertaken only for the experience.

There are secret signs, such as specific, involved handshakes, that German carpenters traditionally use to identify each other. They are taught to the beginning journeyman before he leaves. This is another traditional method to protect the trade against impostors. While less necessary in an age of telephones, identity cards and official diplomas, the signs are still retained as a tradition. Teaching them to anybody who has not successfully completed a carpenter apprenticeship is still considered very wrong, even though it is no longer a punishable crime today.

As of 2005 there were 600 to 800 journeymen "on the Walz", either associated with a brotherhood or running free. While the great majority are still male, young women are no longer unheard-of on the Walz today.

Journeyman uniform in Germany



This 23-year-old journeyman bricklayer has traveled through Germany, Denmark, Italy, and Switzerland

Journeymen can be easily recognized on the street by their clothing. The carpenter's black hat has a broad brim; some professions use a black stovepipe hat or a cocked hat. The carpenters wear black bell-bottoms and a waistcoat and carry the *Stenz*, which is a traditional curled hiking pole. Since many professions have since converted to the uniform of the carpenters, many people in Germany believe that only carpenters go journeying, which is untrue – since the carpenter's uniform is best known and well received, it simply eases the journey.

The uniform is completed with a golden earring and golden bracelets—which could be sold in hard

times and in the Middle Ages could be used to pay the gravedigger if any wanderer should die on his journey. The journeyman carries his belongings in a leather backpack called the *Felleisen*, but some medieval towns banned those (for the fleas in them) so that many journeyman used a coarse cloth to wrap up their belongings.



Journeymen in in Århus, Denmark



Fig. 4-5 4-5 Journeymen in Bad Kissingen (2010)

Journeyman (2011) While the institution of the journeyman years is original to craftsmen, the concept has spread to other professions. As such, a priest could set out on an extended journey to do research in the libraries of monasteries across Europe and gain wider knowledge and experience.

The traveler books or *Wanderbücher* are important research sources which show migration paths in the early period of industrialization in Europe. Journeymen's paths often show boundaries of language and religion that hindered travel of craftsmen "on the Walz".

Well-known journeymen

The following people are known to have completed the traditional journeyman years:

- August Bebel (turner) – founder of the Social Democratic Party of Germany
- Jakob Böhme (shoemaker) – mystic and Christian philosopher
- Albrecht Dürer (painter) – German copperplate engraver and painter, later famous artist
- Friedrich Ebert (saddlemaker) – first president of the Weimar Republic
- Adam Opel (mechanic) – maker of sewing machines and bicycles, later a car maker
- Wilhelm Pieck (carpenter) – first president of the GDR

Getting *gemütlich* - Germans work hard and play hard. They are task-oriented people who like to solve problems and make sure important things - like infrastructure - really work.

Like other Europeans, they also enjoy the little things in life. Germans are experts at *Gemütlichkeit* - creating cozy, inviting atmospheres in cafes, restaurants, hotels, private homes, and at special events. Charming personal touches *like* setting the Sunday family breakfast table - with candles, flowers, fine china and little plates of cold cuts, sliced vegetables, eggs and baskets bursting with freshly baked *Brötchen* (bread rolls) – will make your heart sing.

Deutsche Inseln – German Islands

J	G	O	O	R	E	K	E	I	P	S	F	H
D	U	E	N	E	G	I	L	L	A	H	E	N
L	S	I	G	O	O	E	G	N	A	L	H	E
O	M	Y	S	L	O	A	B	N	G	R	M	N
Z	B	A	L	T	R	U	M	O	E	L	A	H
E	A	E	L	T	E	Ü	L	R	R	P	R	P
R	O	T	O	R	G	A	G	D	U	K	N	U
H	I	D	D	E	N	S	E	E	R	M	U	M
Ö	L	A	T	D	A	G	P	R	N	U	E	M
F	P	E	L	L	W	O	R	N	N	I	O	A
I	L	U	N	R	E	G	U	E	L	M	O	N
O	W	L	O	L	U	O	D	Y	O	N	L	Z
M	N	W	H	R	A	O	Ü	A	R	T	T	E

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|------------|------------|-----------|
| Helgoland | Amrum | Föhr |
| Baltrum | Borkum | Halligen |
| Juist | Langeoog | Norderney |
| Pellworn | Spiekeroog | Sylt |
| Wangerooge | Fehmarn | Hiddensee |
| Poel | Ummanz | Rügen |



Food for Thought

To accomplish anything worth doing in life,

- you must believe in yourself;
- always be optimistic;
- always believe that tomorrow will be better;
- always solve the problem before you;
- above all, you must believe in yourself and your organization.

If you do all of this, you can do anything!





DANK CHAPTER 71
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*We are going to volunteer at the German Fest
Sept. 2nd & 3rd -- See you there?*

Solution for Word Search Puzzle.



Veranstaltungskalender & Calendar of Events

*All Chapter gathering times unless noted otherwise.
3rd Wednesdays of the month
7:00 – 8:30 P.M.*

- ▶ **16 Aug 2017** - German Fest meeting and Hospitality night. Learn what's new and what has changed in 2017. Volunteer sign-ups this evening.
- ▶ Sept 1 – Set-up for the festival, covering tables putting up signage.
- ▶ **Sept 2-3rd German Heritage Fest – St. Nick's Grove**
- ▶ Sept 21st - Chapter Mtg – Festival wrap up, upcoming DANK National Convention in South Chicago (October 13-15th)