



Chronicle Unserer Leute

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The American Historical Society of Germans from Russia is an international organization dedicated to the discovery, collection, preservation, and the dissemination of information related to the history, cultural heritage, and genealogy of Germanic settlers in the Russian Empire and their descendants.

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Oregon Chapter website with the newsletter: <http://www.ahsgroregon.com>

Germans from Russia in Portland website: <http://www.volgagermans.net/portland/>

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President's Message

What a pleasure it was to attend the Council of Northwest Chapters meeting in Walla Walla September 21st to 23rd.

It's getting to be like a vacation trip! The last one was on the shore of Puget Sound at Port Angeles, and Walla Walla celebrated its German Heritage Day at this latest CNC meeting.

We were treated to an exhibition of sausage grinding and cabbage shredding. We then had the pleasure of eating the demonstration.

German dancing and a blacksmithing exhibit were on the agenda, the historical museum for Whitman County and all exhibits were at the same site.

Always a treat is seeing the chapter presidents, CNC officers, members and guests. It may sound trite, but it is very true that we have come to love these folks that have become like beloved relatives we see too rarely.

Brent Mai made a presentation on behalf of the new library building at Concordia College that will include a section on material pertaining to the Volga Germans, whose settlement area in North and Northeast Portland was close to the present campus.

Doris Evans elaborated on her arrangements with the archives in Volgograd. Donations were made to help her cause.

The meeting and meal were great and our heartfelt thanks to Charles Saranto, Larry Frank and their wives for hosting an excellent meeting.

Our chapter election is in motion and other than the secretary position, we are covered at all positions

Perhaps I'll volunteer as secretary to keep my oar in the water.

Our last two home meetings have been held at the Williams' home. It's an intimate, pleasant atmosphere, and I really enjoy the meetings being held there. Chuck and Ruth are such special hosts that is has been a real treat.

We will hold elections at the November meeting for a new slate of officers. I'm hoping we'll have a secretary after the October meeting.

I have a businessman from The Dalles, Hugo Lutz, who will likely be presenting our November program (see page 8).

His family experienced being uprooted from Bessarabia to Germany and Poland during WWII. After the cessation of hostilities, they came to American as displaced persons.

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President's Message (cont'd)

The Lutheran Church in The Dalles sponsored the family and the younger three grew up here while attending the local schools.

The family has been very successful in the U.S., and their story is testimony to the value of intelligently directed effort.

They have progressed from repairing radio and television equipment to selling sound equipment, television and the dish receiving systems.

I felt very close to their parents and enjoyed my contacts with them.

Betty Flaig Hagelganz (married to Pastor James Hagelganz grandson of Pastor Henry Hagelganz of the 2nd German Congregational Church) is a first cousin to the boy's mother, Lily.

The Flaig family had a store on E. 11th Street two blocks south of Prescott.

If you haven't sent in your dues, please do so as it take a load off the shoulders of Lois Klaus. When dues trickle in all year long, it adds to her problems and the correspondence required.

Your lame duck president,

Dr. Raymond P. Koch

**President
Oregon Chapter of AHSGR**



[Editor's note: This is the 15th installment serializing Marie Krieger's autobiography. In it we get a look at life for GR's, in both rural and urban settings, in the Pacific Northwest that spans over seven decades.]



SOMETHING OF MYSELF

**by Marie Trupp Krieger
(1910-2006)**

(copyright Marie Trupp Krieger)

At Endicott in the wheat farming community, the harvest season was usually over by school opening time. There, also, most of the people lived on farms, the area referred to as the Palouse Hills where the soil's productivity excelled that of the so-called Big Bend Country in the vicinity of Odessa and Ritzville. Both schools outshone themselves in extracurricular endeavors such as music and athletics, matching their wits and strength with the best in their respective county's programs. I believe I was one of their most enthusiastic supporters as they displayed their abilities to the fullest. The community stood behind them as well; one soon discovered that the schools' and churches' functions played a vital role in the entertainment field.

I have returned to both communities [Endicott and Tonasket] infrequently as a participant in the reunions of the different graduating classes. Some of my former students can be classed doting grandparents in their retirement years (is it possible for me to be that old?). One of them recently remarked, "You must have been very young when you taught us." Indeed I was--and naive too. I am positive a certain number are aware a reserved spot remains in my heart for them as I am always concerned about their welfare and achievements. My correspondence list includes a considerable number of names with addresses in Washington, Oregon and California. We exchange greetings and regular news-notes at Christmas. If an unusual episode occurs, one of the faithful ones notifies us via letter.

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Something of Myself (cont'd)

I wouldn't be doing justice to these north central and eastern Washington areas if I didn't mention the weather. Pullman and Endicott's winters in the '30's may best be described by the nursery rhyme--"Blow wind blow, and we shall have snow."

The record in January, 1937, boasted a 19 degree below zero temperature one day and the next day 37 to 39 degrees below zero with winds up to 20 miles an hour in the town of Pullman. But we didn't miss classes. I remember one night in 1933 when it snowed an estimated three feet. Walking was quite difficult that morning notably with my short legs. Have you ever used your hands to pull a leg out of a snowdrift and help it move forward? That's the picture I presented that morning. The snow resembling dry powder kept my clothes dry on my way to classes, and, of course, people shoveled and swept their sidewalks then. The Endicott winters of '37 and '38 with ample snow provided outdoor fun for the teachers too, and we were young. We constructed snowmen and threw snowballs at each other while a photographer captured the excitement on film. At our ages, vigor and vitality reigned. Summers remained hot, the only unpleasantness experienced at summer school. The grain fields longed for sunshine and heat to ripen the wheat while the apples at Tonasket sought the sun to enhance their color. The emphases on color robbed the apples of taste. That trend is being reversed of late. The snow and cold found its way to Tonasket, too. The clouds in a clear sky put on a real show, an unforgettable phenomenon.

(continued in the next issue)

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

This year's Christmas program will take place on Saturday, December 15, at the Rivercrest Church on 148th Ave, at 2:00 p.m.

We have a variety of talent lined up that will help put the spirit of Christmas in your holiday season! If you would like to participate in this year's program, please call Joanne Hummel at **(503) 695-2741** and offer YOUR talent to help make this program an event to remember!



past that was significant in your life, please give me a call!!!

We are just beginning to get our program planned, but really need to hear from YOU!! YOU are the ones that make the program special! **Rehearsal** will be the **Saturday** before the program **(December 8)at the church at 2 p.m.**

*"The earth has grown old with its burden of care,
But at Christmas it always is young,
The heart of the jewel burns lustrous and fair,
And its soul full of music bursts forth on the air,
When the song of the angels is sung!!"*

Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

KOCH'S COLUMN

by Dr. Raymond P. Koch

How did it happen that we had so many shoe repair shops in the old neighborhood?

My brother, Richard, once stated that our folks were so tight that they wouldn't spend a nickel to see the start of WWII. Of course, this was an exaggeration, but it wasn't too far from the truth.

A decent income did not spark an increase in our living standard. I wish the present generation could have observed the time when two pairs of shoes was ideal: one for work and play and one for Sunday and dress up time. One not only had them resoled many times, they were passed down the line to the younger siblings.

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Koch's Kolumn (cont'd)

Another item we overlook is how our elders were often without cars for years--even after marriage and children. I vividly remember John Miller, my Sunday School teacher, who lived above Fremont Street and west of Union Avenue. His position as custodian at Ockley Green Grade School required him to walk the two plus miles to work in the a.m., and repeat the exercise at the end of the day. Mr. Wiedemann and Grandpa Koch walked over two miles from 9th and Shaver to Jefferson High School five days a week to their positions as custodians.

Henry Schlitt walked from 13th Street above Fremont Street to the railroad yards where he was joined by others such as "Uncle" Geist (related to me by marriage), G. P. Sittner (another of my Sunday School teachers and father of Dr. Sittner) and many others who got there by Shank's Mare. Because of younger men with cars, there were carpools to B. P. John Furniture Co. and to Doernbecher Mfg.

Not only did the adults wear out their soles and heels, but also the children. After relative affluence resulted in bicycles for us, it saved shoe leather, but repair shops remained as numerous as barber shops since so many cut their children's hair.

Our kids will never know the pleasure of visiting with customers or the proprietor while waiting to have a heel replaced on a shoe used as a wagon brake coming down the hill on 16th Street above Sabin Grade School.

These craftsmen were all gregarious men. Miller had a nephew, Jake, and a brother who had a nice store on Killingsworth off Mississippi Avenue. He chose to have a shop in the Fred Meyer Store at Union Avenue and Killingsworth Street. He always bemoaned the fact that it took him so long to get here from South America where he had first emigrated as the fare was much cheaper for a time. He had very little positive to relate about South America and the opportunities there.

Mr. Trupp was Marie's father and just as lovable as she was. He was a real gentleman and referred to in our dialect as "Der KlahnaTruppje." The "j" is pronounced as a "y" and the "je" after a word

indicated a liking and respect for the individual. "Klahna" was for Kleine, and the "a" is soft as it should be in "Angst." It grates on my ear to hear the entertainment media pronounce it "Ang" as in "hang." They just don't know their Yiddish!

In later years I went to Adam Schreiner on Union Avenue north of Weimers on the corner, a likeable man with ties to our family by marriage and a shared two bedroom home in Ft. Morgan, Colorado. In 1913, 1914 and 1915 our family shared a home with the Schreiners until finances allowed them to get a place on their own. The families share cropped sugar beets and living in one home was bearable. The folks each had a bedroom for them and the babies, and the kids slept in the front room. There were only two girls, so it wasn't difficult to separate the sexes.

I have to chuckle inwardly when people speak of the Hispanics and their crowded housing conditions . . . that is exactly what our people were forced to do to get by at first.

Adam Schreiner was a friendly, garrulous man. I collected beer steins, and he had a beauty he promised to me. I saw it was missing at a later visit, and he was chagrined to admit that he had visited the bar across Union Avenue and the owner talked him out of it--probably with a few freebies. My memories of him are dearer than any stein could every be.

I really liked all three of these men. They were full of stories they enjoyed relating to someone like me who had a father who trained him to listen and learn.

Mr. Trupp would speak of the problems they had farming near Odessa, Washington, and how he wished he could have helped Marie with her educational expenses. And--how proud she made him and the family by succeeding in obtaining an education.

Miller spoke of Russia, South America, and how fortunate my generation was to be born here. He didn't have to convince me or my peers--we knew!

Because we had so many mutual memories, Mr. Schreiner would take an incident I had observed of a
(continued on page 5)

Koch's Kolumn (cont'd)

younger brother of his who had unusual strength. I would tell him of seeing this brother lift a sack of sand over his head that the average man would only budge, and Adam S. would add his recollections. Sometimes replacing a heel would take an hour or more, and he'd often tell me there wasn't any charge.

There was plenty of work for all of them to do despite the fact that our grandfathers all had an awl and last for the easy repairs they could handle.

Today's housing, clothing and shoe expenses make me cringe. The cost of a new site of Nikes would buy an entire row of the old "tennis shoes" at Geist's or Miller's shoe store.

We are all spoiled nowadays with our autos that we gripe over congestion and travel time. Time yourself by walking from the old neighborhood to Jefferson High School or the railroad yards below Overlook. I'll take the warm car, the cd's, and soft seat any day as I think of the fact that I have a closet full of shoes and don't know the location of a local shoe repair shop.

Mensch, I am spoiled . . .

Raymond Koch, DMD

President, Oregon Chapter AHSGR

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Street Maps of the German-Russian Community in Portland, Oregon

by Bill Burbach

Many German-Russians settled in NE Portland. Street maps have been prepared showing city blocks, sites and G-R occupants. This project covers areas bounded by Fremont St., Wygant St., Cleveland Ave., 15th Ave. and Fremont St., Graham St., Union Ave., and 7th Avenue. The project includes listings from the 1921 city directory, 1938 city directory, Sanford fire maps and assessor's maps. About 650 families are identified. Anyone wishing to make additions or corrections, please let Bill Burbach know either at a meeting or by phone (503) 654-4694.

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Street Maps of the German-Russian Community in Portland, Oregon (cont'd)

CLEVELAND AVE.			FAILING ST.			a	b		MAL-LORY AVE.	a-ALBRIGHT William
			RODNEY AVE.							b-HOLZ- WORTH
										c-DILLMAN Conrad Elizabeth
										d-GIEBEL- HAUS John Kate
										e-WEI- GANDT Henry

MEMORIES OF NORKA

by

Conrad Brill

as told to

George Brill

(manuscript provided by Bill Burbach)

[Former chapter member George Brill was fascinated with the history and folklore of the German-Russians. He would listen hours to his father Conrad tell stories and personal accounts of Norka. Son George wrote a paper of his father's experience on life in Norka. This is part 9.]

We used to be allotted our hay crop by the Tousse System. Sixteen tousse equaled a "gesetka" meaning that 16 men shares made up this gasetka (parcel). You sometimes had a scoundrel in your parcel. This one year we had 5 Brills, 5 Schreibers, 5 Weise Schlitts, and one Vetter Glahn. We cut our hay and stacked it putting our official numbered tags on our stacks. Weise Schlitt was notorious for taking the stacks of the best hay and changing tags to another stack after he loaded the best on his wagons. Old Vetter Glahn called him on it several times and then nicknamed him "der Cappa Staeller" because while at a Russian Gerverie (leather processor) he got caught stealing a leather cap made of lamb skin. Vetter Glahn had a daughter Amelia who was married to a man from Frank. They lived in the U.S. in Portland and about 1912 they came to Norka to visit her parents on a vacation. They talked Vetter Glahn and his wife into making the move to the U.S. He later would work at Swan Island in Portland making boxcars.

The family of a boyhood friend of mine John Green (Greunba Hannes), whose family lived next to us when we lived in Grandpa Dens' home, moved out of Norka in the middle of the night. The father was being harassed by one of our richer farmers in Norka who had extended credit to old Mr. Green who was unable to repay the debt. The rich farmer was to be paid after the fall harvest, but Mr. Green didn't have the funds to fulfill his debt. The rich farmer let it slide until the next spring and then warned old Mr. Green if he did not pay in the fall he would be beaten to death. Mr. Green moved his family out of Norka with three or four children from his first wife. When he settled in another village he had additional children by a

second wife. Later he would leave Russia with his family to settle in the U.S. Going through Germany. Mr. Green died. The family was always under the impression that he was scared and worried that the Bolsheviks were after him. Actually he was scared the rich farmer would carry out his threat. His family moved on to the U.S., arriving in Montana to work in the sugar beet fields. Later they moved to Oregon. Three sons in that family were John, Louie, and Jacob.

The nearest place to get firewood was near the Russian village called Kaberna. The Russians there made charcoal to sell. We had a man who was nicknamed "Hoorooliga" and he was very active in the Brotherhood of the Versamelung. He hired several youngsters of the village to accompany him on a wood cutting trip on which they had to pass several small Russian villages. The nearby wood had been cut up and used up years previously. They had oxen in harness because they could pull heavier loads of wood than horses could, although it would be a slower trip. They reached the wooded area where they were allowed to cut the needed wood and load it upon the wagon which took several days. It would take more than a day for the oxen to pull the load home so it turned out that they had to camp out just after they passed through a Russian village. There was nothing but Russian grain fields between them and the Norka peoples' land. In the night it seems that the fence around the Russian grain field came down and the oxen went in and gorged themselves on the near ripe green grain. At sunup they awoke and hitched the oxen and headed for home very quickly. Several of the oxen became so bloated from eating the green grain that they fell in their traces and had to be stuck with picks to relieve the gas pressure in their stomach. An ox was so bad that it couldn't get up and lo and behold the Russians caught up to them at this time. The Norka people were escorted back to the village to be tried and fined for the damage done to the grain field. The Russian court didn't understand German any better than Hoorooliga understood Russian. He knew they wanted him to swear on the Bible when they held it out for him to swear on it. He placed his left hand on the Bible and raised his right hand. According to the young men who were there he said,

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Memories of Norka (cont'd)

"Gefresse huns es, shoise mustaza, und wieder kunza nicht gehn." Eat it they did, pooped they had to and further they couldn't go.) For years the people laughed and discussed the taking of the oath to the Russians, "Hoorooliga style."

(continued in the next issue)

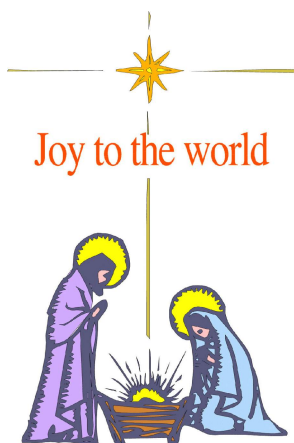
****Upcoming Events****

NOVEMBER

3 November, Saturday 10:00 am, board meeting at 1830 NE 141st Avenue, Portland. All members welcome to attend.

18 November, Sunday 2:30-4:00 pm, general chapter meeting at Rivercrest Church. Hugo Lutz will be sharing about his family's journey from Bessarabia to Germany and Poland in WWII and finally to America. Refreshments served.

21 November, Wednesday; and 24 November, Saturday, Williams-Krieger Library open on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and on the 4th Saturday of the month from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. (Volunteers and full members have free access to the library. There is a \$4.00 charge for non-members.)



Joy to the world

DECEMBER

NO BOARD MEETING.

15 December, Saturday, 2:00 pm. Christmas Program at Rivercrest Church.
(see page 3 for details)

19 December, Wednesday; and 22

December, Saturday, Williams-Krieger Library open on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from

10:00 am to 2:00 pm and on the 4th Saturday of the month from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. (Volunteers and full members will have free access to the library. There is a \$4.00 charge for non-members.)

JANUARY

2 January, Saturday, 10:00 am, board meeting at 1830 NE 141st Avenue, Portland. All members welcome to attend.

16 January, Wednesday; and 26 January, Saturday, Williams-Krieger Library open on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and on the 4th Saturday of the month from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. (Volunteers and full members will have free access to the library. There is a \$4.00 charge for non-members.)

20 January, Sunday 2:30-4:00 pm, general chapter meeting at Rivercrest Church. Ed Wagner will lead an open forum to discuss challenges and opportunities for our chapter. Everyone come and share in this dynamic opportunity. Refreshments served.

Meeting Directions and Information

Unless otherwise noted, all chapter meetings and genealogy workshops are held at Rivercrest Church, 3201 NE 148th, Portland, Oregon.

General Meeting Information

Rivercrest Community church is located between NE Sandy Blvd. and NE Halsey Street on NE 148th. Park in the lower parking lot and follow the directional signs to the meeting rooms.

Potluck information: Oregon Chapter meetings held on Saturdays are generally two and one-half hours in length and include a potluck lunch. Please bring an entree, salad, or dessert to share and your own plate and utensils. At the potluck lunches, \$2 for members and \$2 for non-members is requested to help defray the cost of the meeting facilities.

It's time to renew your membership for 2008!

AHSGR Oregon Chapter Membership Form

Membership fees are for a calendar year that **renews each January 1st**. Dues shown below include \$10 for an Oregon Chapter membership. The remaining fee is for membership in the AHSGR international organization. We will forward your fee to AHSGR international.

Membership Categories - Annual International and Oregon Chapter Dues

Individual & Family	\$ 60
Institutional	\$ 60
Contributing	\$ 85
Sustaining	\$110
Int'l Life Member	\$750 (may be paid in 5 annual installments--add \$10 to each installment for Chapter dues)
Int'l Life Member	\$ 10 (for fully paid International Life Members who pay only Chapter dues)
Student (15 - 24)	\$ 15 (Receive 4 newsletters, Youth Membership packet, Membership card, and discounts)
Youth (1 - 14)	\$ 8 on specially advertised books and special convention benefits.)
Newsletters Only	\$ 12 For non-members

New Member____ Renewal____ Individual____ Family____ Youth____ Student____

Membership Year 200__

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ E-Mail _____

I want to receive my Oregon Chapter newsletter through the web (Adobe Acrobat format)? Yes____ No____

In order for us to service our membership more effectively, please list all of your German family names and all villages that you believe your ancestors are from. Ancestral Villages - Please specify for each member

Surnames - Please specify for each member _____

There are many opportunities to help build our chapter. Let us know if you desire to participate actively.:

Genealogy Workshops _____

Other _____

Newsletter _____

Publicity _____

Library _____

Ways & Means _____

Programs _____

Reminder Calls for Upcoming Meetings _____

Hospitality _____

Sunshine _____

Please make all checks payable to **AHSGR OREGON CHAPTER and send your membership dues and applications to:** Lois Klaus, 111 N.E. 67th Avenue, Portland, OR 97213-5029
phone: (503) 232-3065 e-mail: lkklaus@earthlink.net

**AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA
OREGON CHAPTER**

1830 NE 141st Avenue
PORTLAND, OR 97230



Attention Library!

Change in hours for Williams-Krieger Library. For the winter months we will open from 10am to 2pm on the 3rd Wed. and 10am to 2pm on the 4th Sat. of each month.

We have some **new books** that have a great deal of vital information about our GR's during the early years. Our own chapter member Brent Mai's collection of **1798 Census of The German Colonies along the Volga** (volumes 1 and 2) is a must for anyone doing serious family research. Jacob Dietz' **History of the Volga German Colonists** is another book that I highly recommend. I suggest you bring paper and pencil to take notes on these books and come early.

We can always use **volunteers** and if you are inquisitive about what we have available volunteering is the fast way to find out.

Shirley Hurrell just finished working on obits that Marie Krieger had early in her collection that hadn't been put on cards. These need to be filed. We are so blessed that this lady left us such a legacy of information. **Jack Lawrence made a holder for maps**, and we could use someone to label the holders. This is your chapter and we all have to do our part to build it, and volunteering is a great way to get acquainted. Who knows you may even meet a relative that can fill in your last puzzle piece of your family genealogy.

**This newsletter
can be viewed online at:**
<http://www.ahsgroregon.com>



QUILT RAFFLE

There will be a raffle for this wonderful hand-quilted lap quilt.

The **raffle tickets will be available during the general meetings of October and November and before the Christmas program** (if somebody hasn't had the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets before that time). The quilt will be presented at the Christmas program.

Tickets are available for \$1.00 each or 6 for only \$5.00. Let's all help raise money for our local Oregon Chapter of AHSGR.

For more information, contact Shirley Hurrell at (503) 642-4105.