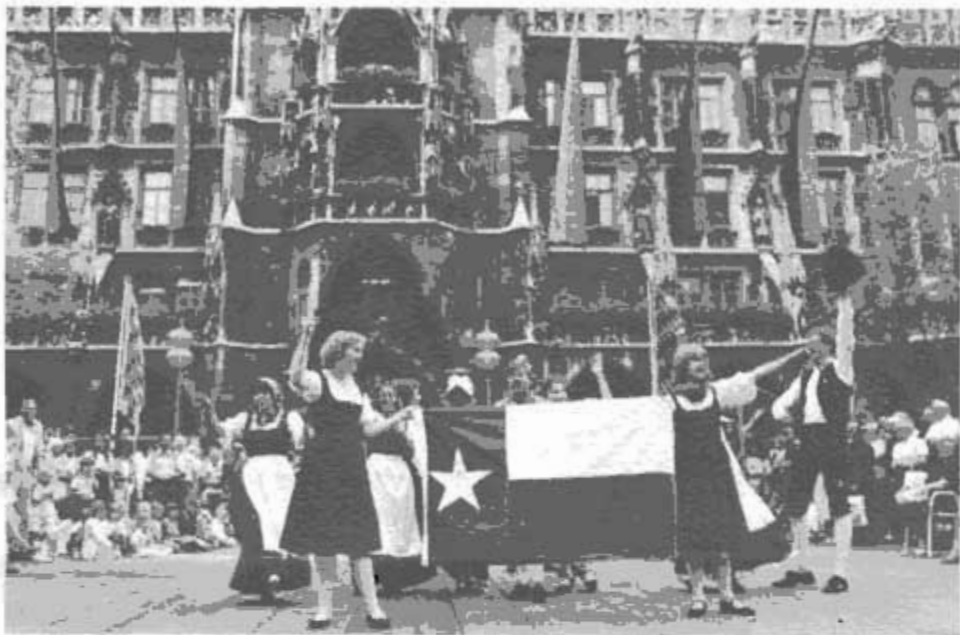


# Umlaut

Texas Tech University Department of Germanic and Slavic Language

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German Dancers perform before a crowd in Munich, Germany

## Texas Tech German Dancers

In 1683, thirteen Mennonite families left Krefeld, Germany and sailed to the New World, where they founded Germantown, Pennsylvania, the first German community in America. Exactly 300 years later twelve Texas Tech German Dancers and their sponsor, Professor Meredith McClain, arrived in Krefeld to help celebrate 300 years of Germans in America. Their performance of German folk dances and Texas cowboy dancing had been well planned by Mr. Randy Kirk, the director of the dancers. At the end of each performance, when the students presented the Texas flag and a big "whoopie," hundreds of Germans applauded with enthusiasm.

This kind of success was not limited to Krefeld. The dancers, named by Governor Mark Smith "Texas State German Dancers for 1983 and

Ambassadors of Goodwill," performed twenty-eight times in eleven German cities during their 1983 Friendship Tour of Germany. Thanks to the generosity of many Lubbock community supporters, parents of the dancers, and the administration of Texas Tech University, the money was raised to support this very successful event.

Although the Dancers have performed all over the United States, they have been particularly busy this last semester in the State of Texas. They have entertained audiences at Octoberfests, Wurstfests, as well as at church and community functions. Their spirited performances have been enjoyed by audiences the world over, and if you have not seen them, you have missed a good show.