

Umlaut

Texas Tech University Department of Germanic and Slavic Language

Vol. 3, No. 1 Spring 1986

1986 Texas-Germany Sesquicentennial Committee



On Sunday, March 2, 1986 everyone in the Lone Star State celebrated Texas' 150th birthday. Governor Mark White reviewed a special parade in Austin, and among the groups participating in that event was a West German delegation bringing good wishes from the "Vaterland." The representatives included a twenty-five piece "Musikkappelle" from Markt Erkheim near Munich, the Mayor of Erkheim, fifteen "German Friends of Texas," the sheriff of an international Western club in Memmingen, a senator from the West Berlin Senate, and a small group of West Berlin friends.

The parade was the first event on a fourteen-day "Tour of Texas" which took the German delegation from Austin to Burton and Round Top, from San Antonio to the Texas Tech campus at Junction, and then on to Lubbock and Amarillo. For Professor Meredith McClain, chair of the Texas-Germany 1986 Sesquicentennial Committee, the statewide events in 1986 represent the culmination of three years of extensive planning. The hospitality of a number of pro-German Texans throughout the state resulted in overnight accommodations, in free meals, in special receptions, and in special programs and tours for the visiting Germans.

Some of the events which have involved Texas Tech University, the department, and the city of Lubbock are:

— The Texas Tech German Dancers performed at the Lubbock Sesquicentennial birthday party on March 2.

- German Friendship Days were observed in Lubbock on March 9-10. The German delegation attended festivities hosted by the Lubbock Sesquicentennial committee and by the university. The "Lone Star and Eagle" display funded by the Goethe Institute and the German Consulate in Houston was on campus March 5-24.
- Several German high school students visited Lubbock High School in March. A group of Lubbock High students will visit Germany in the summer.
- Twenty-five 4-H folk dancers from Heidelberg were hosted in Lubbock by the Texas Tech German Dancers and then toured the state.
- A German folk dance evening was held at the University Center on March 27.
- Twenty professional folk dancers from Salzburg, Austria will be in Lubbock May 1-3.
- June 1 marks the opening of an exhibit of cowboy art from the Texas Tech Ranching Heritage Center in Saarbrücken, West Germany during the "Texas Week" sponsored by the German-American Institute.
- Two graduate students from our department will participate in a special three-week seminar for Texas teachers of German in Hannover, Bonn, and West Berlin in July.
- Approximately 20 electrical Engineering students from Lower Saxony, West Germany attended a three-week exchange seminar in the College of Engineering at Texas Tech in the spring.
- Approximately 20 banking apprentices from Hannover, West Germany will attend a three-week exchange seminar in the College of Business Administration at Texas Tech in the fall.