



Umlaut

Annual Newsletter of the Southwest Center for German Studies • Texas Tech University • Box 41036 • Lubbock, Texas

After more than a decade of planning, an idea shared by educators, administrators and private citizens of Lubbock has become a reality. The International Cultural Center (ICC) of Texas Tech University is open for business and international business is booming.

This dramatic building symbolizes powerful commitments which join campus and community and link with regional, state, national and international partners. According to Dr. Idris R. Traylor Jr., Executive Director of the Office of International Affairs and Director of the International Cultural Center, "It is a building for Texas Tech, its students,

its faculty, its alumni, and for those the university serves so well in many fields and in many geographic regions."

The Southwest Center for German Studies (SwCfGS) is one of the two centers and three area studies programs now housed in beautiful offices of the ICC. Since taking up residence in the summer of 1997, the SwCfGS has hosted numerous German groups for special events, some of which are documented in the following pages. Future



Photo: M McClain

events on an even grander scale may be announced with confidence because of the assurance of the elegant, professional settings in the ICC and the expanding research connections built over years of preparation.

As we look back to report on the successes of the last three years, the

Umlaut narrative balances on the steady momentum brought about through Tech's evolution to its 75th birthday in 1998, the stillness of the newborn year of 1999, and the seeming insignificance of the few brief remaining seasons already dissolving toward the momentous opening of the new millennium.

Now it is time to report on the events which are moving Tech and Lubbock into the German newspapers, and which explain why more and more Germans are buying their tickets to the Llano Estacado. We begin with remarks by the President of Texas Tech University, Dr. Donald R. Haragan, on his summer 1998 tour of Tech programs and events in the Northern half of Germany.

Bitte einsteigen! All aboard for Berlin, Wust, Hamburg and Wilhelms-haven, with side trips to Potsdam and Frederick the Great's *Sans Souci* Palace Gardens, the Karl May Festival in Bad Segeberg and *Der Spieker*, a rustic, half-timbered farmhouse restaurant in Bad Zwischenahn.



Photo: S Arnold

President and Mrs. Haragan enjoying the French style formal gardens of *Sans Souci* Palace in Potsdam, Germany, July 1998.

From the President's Office

The trip to Germany was without a doubt the highlight of the year for my wife, Willie, and me. Not only were we able to visit with our students studying in Wust, but we were able to meet with the President and key faculty at *Fachhochschule Wilhelms-haven*, which will become one of our primary exchange partners in engineering. Couple this with our delightful visit to Old Texas Town in Berlin and our opportunity to see David Gaschen in his role as

the phantom in *Phantom of the Opera* in Hamburg and you have an experience that won't soon be forgotten.

The trip to Wust and the opportunity to speak with Texas Tech students spending a summer studying there was very special. The people in the village of Wust and those who traveled long distances to greet us made us feel so welcome. Seeing the interaction of the students with each other and with

(See **President**, p. 2)

From the President (Continued from P. 1)

the host families emphasized for me what education is all about. I want to make Texas Tech an even more important partner next year by providing funding for a student in the summer program or for a docent in Dr. von Katte's summer school for language, literature, theater and music.

During our visit in Berlin we were able to meet also with Mr. Alexander Longolius regarding a program which connects German teachers with K-12 programs in the United States. I plan to pursue this concept with superintendents in the South Plains and other areas of West Texas.

At each stop on our tour, it was the friends we met and the wonderful cordiality of our German hosts which we will never forget. Thank you! Willie and I look forward to a return visit and extend a cordial invitation to all of our German friends to visit Lubbock and Texas Tech University.

Texas Tech and Northern Germany

BERLIN, the capital city of the Federal Republic of Germany, is laced with Tech supporters.

Berliners by the names of Machus, Oldenburg, and Preuss have opened their homes to Techsans for decades. They helped to organize entire neighborhoods and youth hostels for student lodging, they drove pick-up and delivery runs to Tegel airport, got programs organized, lined-up group tickets, exchanged money, corrected grammar, washed clothes, gave advice on visiting "over there" in East Berlin, and still produce the hottest tips on their ever vibrant hometown for visiting Texans.

Harold and Bucka Preuss hosted Sue Arnold and Clinton Barrick (Texas Tech School of Music) during the summer '98 Germany tour in their wonderful house and rambling garden tucked away in the middle of Berlin. Dr. and Mrs. Haragan were treated to a delightful reception and dinner in the Preuss' home which

set the gracious and warm tone for the rest of the trip.

The big event in Berlin was the second annual **4th of July Celebration** hosted by Fritz Walter (*Ben Destry*), the

tion had center stage in the completely filled Saloon when Sue Arnold and Clinton Barrick opened with rousing, patriotic music. Then President



Unvergleichliches Flair gleich hinter der Kleingartenkolonie „Sonneneck“: Südstaaten-Romantik kam bei der Feier des amerikanischen Unabhängigkeitstags auf. Foto: Liebram

Old Texas Town hißte die Flagge

Harte Burschen waren am Sonnabend in Old Texas Town an der Paulsternstraße gefragt: Sie trotzten der kühlen Witterung am amerikanischen Unabhängigkeitstag.

Siemensstadt (cl). Im Saloon war der Teufel los: die „Bewohner“ und Gäste der Westerstadt hatten zum amerikanischen Unabhängigkeitstag hohen Besuch. Dr. Donald

Haragan, Präsident der Technischen Universität Texas stellte ihnen einen Besuch ab. Eigentlich war er nach Deutschland gekommen, um seine „Schäflein“ zu besuchen. 18 Studenten leben jedes Jahr im Sommer bei Bauernfamilien in Wust bei Schönhausen (Land Brandenburg) die deutsche Sprache. „Die Familien dort sprechen sonst nur russisch, kaum englisch“, so Haragan. Und weil's beim Abschlußfest an waschechtem

Barbecue mangelte, gab's ordinäre Bratwurst. Der amerikanische Unabhängigkeitstag wurde in Old Texas Town traditionell gefeiert: Zunächst wurde die Fahne gehißt, bevor kräftig gefeiert, die Flaggenparade abgenommen und in das Fort Steuben eingezogen wurde. Ben Destry, Bürgermeister von Old Texas Town und im täglichen Leben Fritz Walter heißend, wachte über sein „Volk“ und dessen Besuch.

“Boss” and Sheriff of *Cowboy Club Old Texas*, a museum-quality Western Town hidden in Berlin/Spandau about 10 minutes from downtown Kurfürstendamm. The Texas Tech delega-

Reinhold Wolff in conversation with Meredith McClain



Photo: B Preuss

Haragan delivered the official invitation for the Karl May Society to hold its first *International Karl May Symposium* outside Europe on the Tech campus. Dr. Wolff, representing the Karl May Society board, accepted the honor and pledged support for the Lubbock event scheduled for September 2000. Presents were exchanged and greetings were given to the host, “Ben Destry,” to Dr. Wolff (Bissendorf), Mr. Wagner (Radebeul/Dresden), and Thomas Grafenberg (Berlin), all special friends of Texas Tech and enthusiastic fans of the Llano Estacado. The Grafenbergs have hosted entire Tech

René Wagner
Thomas Grafenberg



Photo: M McClain

groups around their garden grill, and the Haragans experienced this generous Berlin-Tech tradition in the company of Karl May Society members who had traveled long distances to honor them.

WUST, a tiny farming village on the Romanesque Road in Saxony-Anhalt, has been the home of the Texas Tech Summer German Program since 1993. One can now leave Berlin heading West by way of Potsdam without hindrance, just like Frederick the Great used to do. His exquisitely tended, tiered gardens at *Sans Souci* Palace (1745–1747) offer a great contrast to the hustle and bustle of downtown Berlin. And they're right on the way to Wust where the delegation got to visit with Tech students and soak up the marvelous atmosphere of the charming, rural setting.

There was time to get a feel for the historic area around Wust by visiting the magnificent Romanesque Cathedral in Jerichow, enjoying a private coffee hour with Museum Director Naumann, and finally dinner on a ship in picturesque Tangermünde on the Elbe just across from Wust.



Photo: M McClain

Dr. Harriett Watts, Ms. Jennifer Kincaid (TTU Presidential Scholar & Hank Smith Scholarship recipient), Prof. Sue Arnold, Dr. Maria von Katte

Friends and supporters of Tech, some of whom had traveled hours to reach Wust, enjoyed the coffee hour with Dr. and Mrs. Haragan, and then heard Arnold and Barrick in concert at

the historic Wust chapel before strolling down the lane to the *Sportplatz* for volley ball, relaxed visiting, and a *Grillabend*. Dr. and Mrs. Dencker, former Director of the Goethe Institute in Houston, and now living near Lübeck, made a surprise entrance, having been alerted to this event by Dr. and Mrs. Robert Moore, Tech graduates from Houston, on a trip to Germany.

Dr. Maria von Katte, the moving force behind the "discovery of Wust" and founder of *Sommerschule Wust*, came from Wolfenbüttel, Dr. Harriett Watts, originally from Lubbock and a Tech graduate, arrived from her home in Quedlinburg, and Frau Reumann, Director of the Wust school, was there with numerous local dignitaries including the Mayor, Mr. Klaus Henke.

Dr. Wanda Merchant, TTU faculty member in charge of the Tech summer program in Wust, had worked out all the details of a very successful day from ordering special cakes at the local bakery to getting masses of sausages grilled for the supper. The great enthusiasm which the Tech students expressed for the summer program reflected very well on Dr. Merchant and on the future of Tech's presence in Wust.

Leaving the countryside, the Texas delegation sped down the *Autobahn* toward the great northern German city of **HAMBURG**. Once there they went to the opera to hear Tech graduate, David Gaschen, singing the lead role in *Phantom of the Opera*.

The next day, while others had time to further explore this historic old Hansa city, Dr. McClain was off to the nearby summer festival town of



Photo: L Young

Village church & cottage in Wust on the Romanesque Road



Photo: S Stimming

Pres. Haragan making a presentation to Wust Mayor Henke as Drs. McClain & von Katte look on. Lower right: Dr. Watts

BAD SEGEBERG. The Karl May work featured this season in the open air theater which seats thousands, was *The Spirit of the Llano Estacado*, which presents the Lubbock region most dramatically.

Within that framework the *Amerika Gesellschaft* had invited Dr. McClain to present a slide lecture on the *History and Landscape of the Llano Estacado*. The Ekkehard Bartsch family of Bad Segeberg (repeat participants of Winnetours II and III) were her hosts.



Photo: E. Bartsch

Father & daughter, Ekkehard & Marion Bartsch in their western clothes procured on the Llano Estacado

Lubbock Mayor Windy Sitton was featured prominently in the Karl May Festival program booklet, so that the 200,000 visitors who didn't all make it to Dr. McClain's slide show, could read in excellent German all about the connections to the real Llano Estacado and its capital city, Lubbock. (See below.)

This was the second year that festival goers entering the theater gate in Bad Segeberg at just the lucky moment were awarded a free trip to.....

Lubbock, Texas, during the National Cowboy Symposium and Celebration. In 1997 it was the **sixth millionth visitor** since the festival opened in 1952, and in 1998 it was the **200,000 visitor** of the season. This promotional award is the result of discussions back in 1995, and the SwCfGS is pleased to support Kalkberg GmbH and the Lubbock Convention and Tourism Bureau in hosting these winners during their Lubbock sojourn.

Viele Legenden ranken sich um den Llano Estacado

Das Herz des Llano Estacado ist Lubbock, Texas. 1540 überquerte der spanische Entdecker Kapitän Francisco Vasquez de Coronado den Llano Estacado, um den Südwesten zu erforschen. Coronado war auf der Suche nach der goldenen Stadt Quivira. Historiker und Archäologen haben Beweise dafür, daß die Entdecker auf dem berühmten Lubbock Lake Site und Yellow House Canyon ihre Lager aufschlugen. Lubbock Lake Landmark, nördlich der Stadt gelegen, ist eines der archäologischen Attraktionen der Vereinigten Staaten. Dort können Fachleute alle kulturellen Menschengruppen, die im Südwesten lebten, chronologisch zurückverfolgen - von den Elefantenjägern vor 20.000 Jahren bis zu den Komantschen vor hundert Jahren.

Diese Region wurde vom spanischen Entdecker Coronado „Llano Estacado“ genannt, was „Bespickte Ebenen“ heißt. Die spanischen Entdecker nahmen viele der geographischen Gegebenheiten als Namen, und sie werden noch heute benutzt. Der Lubbock Lake Site hieß La Punta de Agua oder Place of Water. Den Llano Estacado nannte man Southern High Plains, Canon Casas Amarillos war Yellow House Canyon, und Canyon de Rescate war Canyon of Ransom. In dieser „Schlucht des Lösegeldes“ wurde zwischen den Indianern und den spanischen Händlern über Gefangene und Waren verhandelt. Viele Relikte der Coronado-Periode werden heute in der Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, ausgestellt.

Später siedelten sich Indianer des Komantschen-Stammes in diesem gesamten Gebiet an. Es bot ideale Bedingungen für Büffel, Antilopen, Präriehunde und Coyoten. Dieser Zustand dauerte bis in die 1870er Jahre, als weiße Jäger begannen, den Lebensunterhalt der Indianer zu vernichten. Die Jäger zettelten viele der Indianeraufstände an und waren auch der Grund dafür, daß General N.S. Mackenzie in dieses Gebiet versetzt wurde, um die Ebenen zu befrieden. Als die Büffel ab-

geschlachtet waren, blieben sehr wenige Menschen auf diesen flachen Ebenen, obwohl in den Schluchten und Seegebieten immer noch üppig das Gras wuchs.

Legenden ranken sich um den texanischen Llano Estacado. Er ist berühmt für seine Cowboys, Arbeitsranches, Büffel und schönen „Caprock“-Landschaften. Die auffälligen Landschaften und die sternbehängenen Prärienächte beflügeln seit langem die Fantasie der Bewohner und vieler Besucher aus aller Welt.

Zehntausende von Touristen kommen jedes Jahr zu Veranstaltungen wie z. B. dem National Cowboy Symposium, das jedes Jahr im September stattfindet. Echte Cowboydichter, Märchenerzähler und Liedermacher treffen sich, um wie beim National Chuckwagon Cook Off Ausschnitte aus ihrem Leben zu zeigen und sich auch Wettbewerben zu stellen.

Besucher können noch heute die Geschichte des Llano Estacado im Lubbock Lake Landmark, im Texas Tech Museum und im Ranching Heritage Center hautnah erleben. Einheimische und Besucher genießen das Wandern und Reiten durch die spektakulären Landschaften des Llano Estacado.

Internet:
<http://www.lubbocklegends.com>



Liebe Karl May Fans,

Grüße aus dem legendären Lubbock, Texas! Lubbock ist stolz auf die vielen Legenden, die die Llano Estacado-Region in Texas kennzeichnen. Der Reiz des Llano Estacado, unsere schöne "Caprock"-Landschaften, endlose west-texanische Himmel und ein reiches kulturelles Erbe sind weit über unsere Gemeinde hinaus bekannt, und werden Jahr für Jahr in Erinnerung behalten, wenn Touristen aus aller Herren Länder nach Lubbock reisen.

Im Namen unserer legendären Stadt lade ich Sie ein, uns auf dem Llano Estacado zu besuchen, wenn Sie nach Texas reisen. Erforschen Sie Lubbock Lake Landmark, Texas Tech Museum, das Ranching Heritage Center und den historischen Mackenzie Park. Wenn Sie noch mehr über unsere vielfältige Geschichte erfahren wollen, besuchen Sie die international anerkannte Southwest Collection an der Texas Tech University. Wenn Sie im September reisen, haben Sie die Möglichkeit, echte West-Texaner bei Veranstaltungen wie dem National Cowboy Symposium oder dem jährlichen Buddy Holly Music Festival kennenzulernen.

Ich bin sicher, daß Sie das Erbe, das Lubbock, Texas zu bieten hat, genau so lieben werden wie es die Einheimischen tun.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,

Windy Sitton,

Bürgermeisterin der Stadt Lubbock



Windy Sitton

WILHELMSHAVEN, a harbor city on the North Sea, is also the home of the *Fachhochschule Wilhelmshaven* which is in an 11-year partnership with the College of Engineering at TTU.

After a side trip off the *Autobahn* to the scenic town of Bad Zwischenahn, where the delegation's van driver finally located a restaurant she had visited with Tech students in 1987, the group enjoyed viewing the historic half-timbered farm houses with thatched reed roofs and a huge Dutch style windmill. The flat landscape, dot-



Photo: Archive

1987 TTU German Dancers in Bad Zwischenahn

ted with black and white dairy cows grazing by such structures, was definitely taking on a very North German cast as the group travelled the last several miles to Wilhelmshaven.

Fachhochschule President Egon Hilt and colleagues known to us for years, the Germers, the Linzes, the Strömdörfers and the Kirschs greeted the delegation warmly and opened their homes to the weary travelers. After the official meetings at the *Fachhochschule* (see German newspaper article) there was some time for sightseeing.

The German-American Society Wilhelmshaven-Friesland, under the leadership of Dr. Thomas Anna, had put together a wonderful slate of events for the visit. That evening, the society's Board hosted Tech and *Fachhochschule* representatives at an excellent fish restaurant overlooking a small harbor on the *Jadebusen*.

The second and last night focused on an elegant *Liederabend* by Arnold and Barrick, a "Guest Artists Friendship Concert" in the *Ahnensaal* of

An der amerikanischen Uni den Hochschulabschluß machen

Delegation der Texas Tech University zu Gast in Wilhelmshaven

Besuch aus Amerika hat sich in diesen Tagen in der Wilhelmshavener Fachhochschule angesagt. Dr. Donald Haragan, Präsident der Texas Tech University (TTU) in Lubbock/Texas, kam gestern in die Jadestadt.

Der zweitägige Abstecher nach Wilhelmshaven im Rahmen einer Deutschlandreise hat einen guten Grund: Bereits seit zwölf Jahren verbinden die Fachhochschule partnerschaftliche Bande sowohl auf akademischer als auch auf kultureller und gesellschaftlicher Ebene mit der amerikanischen Universität. Erst im Februar dieses Jahres war eine Delegation aus Wilhelmshaven in den USA.

Zur Begrüßung Haragans und seiner Delegation kamen unter anderem Fachhochschulpräsident Prof. Dr. Egon Hilt und Prof. Thomas Anna, Präsident der Deutsch-Amerikanischen Gesellschaft Wilhelmshaven/Friesland. Hilt erklärte, daß man die Kooperation beider Bildungseinrichtungen mit Leben erfüllen wollte. Das bringt ganz konkrete Vorteile für die Studierenden beider Bildungseinrichtungen: So soll es möglich gemacht werden, an der jeweils anderen Schule einen zweiten wissenschaftlichen Abschluß zu erwerben.

So könnten beispielsweise die Wilhelmshavener Studenten in Amerika einen dem hiesigen Hochschulabschluß adäquaten akademischen Grad bekommen.

Kniphausen castle. The Tech artists performed to an overfilled hall, received rapt attention and then thunderous applause for their superb performance of songs in German and English. Champagne toasts and an exchange of gifts punctuated the festive reception following the concert as the Texans enjoyed the mellow ending of a very successful Germany tour.



Sprachen über Studentenaustausch: Dr. Donald Haragan (links) von der Texas Tech University und Prof. Dr. Egon Hilt von der Wilhelmshavener

Fachhochschule. Seit zwölf Jahren verbindet beide Bildungseinrichtungen eine enge Partnerschaft.

WZ-Foto: Lübbe

Derzeit, so Hilt, werde dies für den Fachbereich Elektrotechnik vorbereitet; die Fachbereiche Maschinenbau und Wirtschaft sollen folgen. Um-

gekehrt sollen auch Amerikaner nach Wilhelmshaven kommen können. Hilt: „Das soll keine Einbahnstraße werden.“ **bz**



Photo: M Borck

Mr. Barrick, Dr. McClain, Prof. Arnold, Wilhelmshaven Mayor Focke Hofmann, Pres. & Mrs. Haragan, Dr. & Mrs. Anna, and Dr. & Mrs. Germer

Germany and America

How did we get here from there?

It all started in 1683, when a ship named the *Concord* set sail from Bremerhaven. On October 6, after 75 days on the stormy North Atlantic, 13 German Mennonite families stepped out onto American soil. This first, large, organized group of Germans to settle in the New World founded Germantown, Pennsylvania. In 1987 U.S. President Ronald Reagan honored this event by proclaiming October 6th *German-American Friendship Day* and urged "all Americans to learn more about the contributions of German immigrants to the life and culture of the United States."

Americans don't usually study U.S. population statistics, so it comes as a surprise to many that the last census shows, once again, that more Americans can trace their ancestry to Germany than to any other country. That is roughly 25% or about 60 million people. In 1983 government officials on both sides of the ocean found the connection worthy of a major celebration: **300 Years of Germans in America.** Many Texans were especially proud that Vice President George Bush was the official U.S. representative at the summer festival in Krefeld, Germany, the point of origin for those 18 German families.



During Bush's visit in Krefeld, one of the central outdoor stages featured attractive young "German Dancers" in the traditional red and black costumes from the Black Forest region. To the absolute delight and amazement of throngs of German onlookers, the dancers moved through a well structured 60 minute program with precision teamwork, individual grace, and, in Germany at least, an unusual charismatic "show business" joy and confidence. The group's secret of success was revealed in the finale, when the dancers put Western gear over their Black Forest costumes and offered a rousing version of a TEXAS square dance.

All hats were off as the group took their bows and presented the Texas flag, a special one sent by then Texas Senator and now Texas Tech University Chancellor John T. Montford. Those spunky performers were not from the Black Forest. They had never even been to the Black Forest. They were from



The 1983 Texas State German Dancers at the finale of their performance on the Marienplatz in downtown Munich



Photo: Rheinische Post

Vice President Bush speaking at the 1983 celebration in Krefeld, Germany

Lubbock, Texas, and, as officially designated by Texas Governor Mark White, they were the TEXAS STATE GERMAN DANCERS of Texas Tech University.

A beautiful scrapbook now documents the details of the Dancers' 1983 itinerary beginning with the official performance in Krefeld. The five-week tour also included appearances in Berlin, Memmingen, Hannover, Elspe, Braunschweig, Munich, Tübingen, Freudenstadt in the Black Forest (yes, finally the Black Forest), Cologne, Bonn, Düsseldorf, and Frankfurt.

The coordination of German family hosts for the 11 dancers, their director, Randy Kirk, and their faculty sponsor, Meredith McClain, the raising of \$10,000 for airfare plus \$5,000 for a rental van—well, all that is recorded history. Eight thick red scrapbooks kept by the students during their decade of dancing (1978–1988) are now stored in the new office of the Southwest Center for German Studies. The hours of rehearsal time, the sewing of costumes, and all the personal preparations for the 125 (!) performances in 1983 are etched

Photo: Archive

only in the memories of the dancers. But their exceptional accomplishments are evident from the volume of pictures, German and English newspaper clippings, congratulatory letters, and high honors bestowed on the group.

Unexpected Benefits

Such a major tour requires tight organization in many respects, and yet some of the very best things were the surprises. After a performance in downtown Munich, the group received an invitation from Bavarian Minister-Präsident Dr. Franz-Josef Strauss, to a reception in the *Residenz*. Randy Kirk also remembers vividly the totally

spontaneous invitation extended to the group by Count and Countess Von Spee to visit their estate, have some champagne and even take a nighttime stroll through the grounds.

This was also the trip on which a German cowboy stepped out of the applauding crowd in downtown Cologne and invited the unsuspecting Texans to visit his cowboy club the next day. And so the German Dancers from Tech met the Cowboys from the “Lubbock Town” Western Club not far from the Rhine. This connection has continued to thrive since then as reported on page 9 in this issue.



Photo: Archive

1985 Germany Tour sponsored by Daimler-Benz, American Airlines, and Texas Tech University

The primary responsibility of the administration is to create and maintain an atmosphere in which students and faculty can excel.”

Randy Kirk, an incoming Freshman at Tech in 1978, was a motivated, energetic student at the bottom, who had a good idea. He also had the discipline and ability to start up his project without any help and absolutely no budget. Then, with encouragement from the faculty and administration, he fulfilled a dream in becoming Director of the Texas Tech German Dancers, and brought unforeseen benefits of lasting worth to his Alma Mater.

Looking back on his years at Tech, Randy wrote: “After a couple of years, the German Dancers teamed up with Dr. Meredith McClain and the Southwest Center for German Studies. This was a natural combination. The German Dancers were starting to travel to the small towns of Texas for local festivals, spreading the ‘visual’ word that Texas was deeply entrenched with German history. This was right in line with the mission of the SwCfGS, and the Texas Tech German Dancers became a promotional unit of that Center.”

This issue of *Umlaut* is dedicated to a different kind of student who truly made a difference. Performances led by Randy Kirk touched literally thousands of people: the many dancers in his troupes and their families, the local, regional, national and international

Additional Tours by the German Dancers

By 1985 Texas was preparing for its Sesquicentennial Celebration in 1986. The Texas State German Dancers found two corporate sponsors to back a promotional tour to Germany advertising Texas as a travel destination. American Airlines, thanks to Karleen Hagan, provided 20 airline tickets and Daimler Benz, thanks to Michael Bassermann, now President of Daimler-Benz North America, provided two stretch limos and one Mercedes jeep.



The three drivers, Paula Hanssen, Mike Vorauer and Meredith McClain, flew ahead of Randy and the other performers to pick up the vehicles at the Stuttgart Mercedes plant. After some practice maneuvers on the parking lot they headed for the Frankfurt airport to load up the dance troupe and begin another extended tour.

Just like the 13 families from Krefeld crossing the Atlantic on the *Concord* in 1683, the German Dancers from Texas Tech in Lubbock had no way of knowing what the long term effects of their friendship tours going the other direction would prove to be. Through excellent representation of America, that land of such importance to Germany, they won the hearts of many, and without realizing it they blazed the trails along which today hundreds of other students, Tech faculty, musicians, German cowboys and conventioners, *Llano Estacado* exhibits, and most recently a University president, move back and forth.

How did we get here? Students!

For ten years, lively, optimistic, bright Texas Tech students crisscrossed Germany from North to South and East to West. Their high quality performances and the personal contact they enjoyed in the homes of their hosts made lasting impressions and opened doors for the future. They are a concrete example of what Texas Tech President Haragan was referring to in his annual fall address to the faculty:

“The true university works from the bottom up not from the top down.

audiences, and the faculty and administrators of Texas Tech with whom he worked. Exactly twenty years



Photo: Archive

Beginning in 1978 Randy Kirk led many performances in the U.S. and in Germany. Here he prepares the audience at the Slaton Wursthfest.

after his energetic beginnings at the bottom, good things are still happening today for Tech in the places he led his troupes. People are moving at high speed along the lanes he helped open.

**Vielen Dank, Randy Kirk.
Hoch soll er leben! Hoch soll
er leben! Drei Mal hoch!!!**



Photo: R. Kirk

Currently Randy & Maggi Kirk reside in Pearland, Texas; he manages facilities at the UT Medical Branch in Galveston.

The Littlest Dancer

When Cres and Cynthia Merrell joined the TTU German Dancers in 1981 they brought along their three year old daughter, Angela. By the 1985 Germany Tour, Angela had her own costume, participated in most of the dances and was even the featured dancer in one of them.



Photo: C. Merrell

Angela Merrell at age 3 watching a rehearsal

Having grown up hearing her grandparents and her great-grandmother speak German, the opportunity to stay with host families in West Germany and Austria by age 7 was a great treat and made a lasting impression. Her

positive experience with the Tech *Kinderschule*, where her teachers included Heidi Münsterer and Randy Kirk of the German Dancers, led to high school study of German under Mrs. Seright, a Tech graduate in German, and membership in the Honor Society for students of German. After two years at South Plains College in Levelland, Angela will enter Texas Tech in January 1999. *Willkommen, Angela und nur weiter!*



Photo: C. Merrell

Angela Merrell, a high school senior, planning to take German at TTU

membership in the Honor Society for students of German. After two years at South Plains College in Levelland, Angela will enter Texas Tech in January 1999. *Willkommen, Angela und nur weiter!*

Humble Beginnings 1978 on Campus...

Stuttgarter Zeitung, 19. Juni 1985

Da kann sich so manche deutsche Volkstanzgruppe eine Scheibe abschneiden. Den Schuhplattler beherrschen die Texanerinnen und Texaner jedenfalls besser als die meisten Stuttgarter. Auf dem Marktplatz zeigte die Gruppe der Texas Tech University gestern, wie deutsches Brauchtum in USA gepflegt wird. Die jungen Leute sind auf einer Tournee durch die Bundesrepublik. Mit den Reisekosten hatte die Gruppe wenig Probleme. Nach dem Motto "es gibt für alles einen Sponsor" fand man bei Daimler-Benz und bei American Airlines Unterstützung.



Photo: Archive

...Peak Performance 1985 in Stuttgart



Stuttgarter Zeitung
Photo: S. Kern

German Cowboys Create Lubbock Town

You can visit Paris, Moscow, Rome, and New London without ever leaving the Lone Star State. But only Lubbock, Texas has a namesake near the Rhine.

During their 1983 tour, the German Dancers from Texas Tech University rediscovered Lubbock Town, a rural Old West village near the Rhine River. Invited to visit the town by a German cowboy who stepped out of the crowd after their performance, they learned that it had been named some ten years earlier for our city on Texas' South Plains. Their visit revived an almost forgotten German-Texan connection and instigated a lively cultural exchange which has been increasing ever since.

Llano Estacado Fascination

Although Lubbock Town was established in the 1970s, the story of its origin begins much earlier with the writings of the prolific 19th Century German novelist Karl May. The author (whose name is pronounced MY) set many of his books on the Llano Estacado, the broad expanse stretching from northwestern Texas into eastern New Mexico. They featured two main characters, a German frontiersman named Old Shatterhand and his blood brother, Winnetou, a noble young Mescalero Apache chief. Vivid descriptions of the exotic terrain accompanied plots in which the forces of good always triumphed.

Best sellers in the 1880s and '90s, the books made May a millionaire and the best-known German author by the time of his death in 1912. Scholars think the popularity of his novels, helps to explain the long-standing German fascination with the American West and the allure of the Llano Estacado.

Old West enthusiasts in Germany founded the first of that country's Western clubs one year after May's death. The pattern became a trend after World War II, when many West Germans, in-

trigued by America, were looking for weekend escapes. Today, hundreds of clubs exist with a total membership of perhaps 50,000.

"Western-Indianer-Freunde" Club

Of those hundreds of clubs, few have been as fortunate as the "Western and Indian Friends" of Cologne, whose members built the village discovered by those Texas Tech dancers. After incorporating in 1957 with the goal of learning more about the American

Lubbock flag, attended a Texas Tech football game, and toured Palo Duro Canyon. Before they returned home, Lubbock's mayor, Morris Turner, proclaimed them honorary city citizens.

German Cowboys in Lubbock & Red Raiders in Germany

Despite the warm welcome the connection was lost for 10 years. Imagine the surprise of the Texas Tech folk dancers in 1983 when they found Lubbock-area memorabilia — Red Raider



Photo: Club Archive

Weekend Residents of Lubbock Town, Germany, approx. 1983

West, the club's original 38 members began spending their weekends at a rural site seven hours away. In 1972, they moved closer to Cologne and, over time, built the elaborate village that stands today. A large saloon, blacksmith shop, sheriff's office, church, bank, printshop and main street bungalows look like a Western movie set.

With horse stables available at an adjacent farm and green fields all around, the theme town provides an ideal setting for practicing Western skills and escaping Cologne's big city stresses. Club members enjoy spending their weekends relaxing in their "hobby outfits," riding, roping, or crafting artworks.

In September 1973, several club members flew to Lubbock, where they received cowboy hats and a City of

bumper stickers, barbed wire from South Plains ranches, the Lubbock flag — decorating the saloon. Club members had never forgotten their '73 Texas welcome, which by '83 had taken on the legendary proportions worthy of a tall Texas tale.

The Southwest Center for German Studies has hosted return visits to Lubbock, Texas, for the Cologne friends in 1993, 1995, 1996 and 1998. Each visit coincided with the National Cowboy Symposium and Celebration, placing the guests in their 1890s attire "right at home." The 1998 visit marked their 25th anniversary as honorary citizens, and the city's hospitality once again embraced these loyal Germans who think "there's just no place like Lubbock, Texas!"

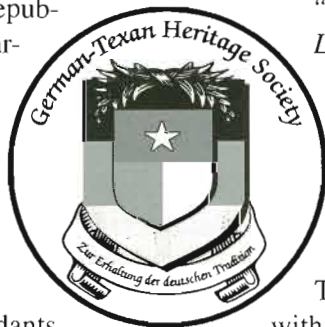
GERMANS AND TEXANS

A Long History — A Deep Affinity

Germans were among the Texans, as they were called then, who died in the Battle of the Alamo. Their names are on display in San Antonio and in Berlin near the gate of Ft. Steuben in Ben Destry's "Old Texas Town." In the early years of the new Republic, shiploads of Germans arrived near Galveston at "Carlshafen," later named Indianola, and began the arduous trek to "The Texas Hill Country," the corridor between Austin and San Antonio.

In 1978 proud descendants of these and other immigrants formed the German-Texan Heritage Society (GTHS). Twenty years later they can boast of one of the best ethnic heritage networks in America. With almost 2,000 members, annual conventions held each of the 20 years in various parts of the state, a journal published three times a year, a newsletter, and beautiful headquarters in the original "German Free School" (erected 1857) in downtown Austin, the organization is a force to be reckoned with throughout the state of Texas and beyond. The society can be contacted at the following address: 507 East 10th Street, P.O. Box 684171, Austin, Texas 78768.

In September of 1996 the Southwest Center for German Studies organized the 18th annual GTHS convention around the theme *The German Spirit of the Llano Estacado*. With the generous help of speakers from Texas Tech and from area German-Texan families, the convention garnered top reviews from the leaders of the society. They found the conference papers so interesting and so well coordinated in theme that they were published in abstract form in the society's journal.



This convention was also documented in the following excerpt from the GERMAN-TEXAN BRIEF, the newsletter of the German-Texan Heritage Society (1996, No. 3), under the title: Lubbock Annual Meeting.

"The German Spirit of the Llano Estacado was in full force this past September 6-8 when over 125 people gathered in Lubbock for the 18th Annual Meeting of the German-Texan Heritage Society.

The weekend kicked off with a taste of Lubbock wines and continued with a series of presentations highlighting German influence found in the Lubbock area. The weekend's itinerary also included chuckwagon meals, a banquet, sing along and dance music, awards, our business meeting, and the election of new board members and officers. In addition to our Annual Meeting, Lubbock also played host to the National Cowboy Sym-

posium and Buddy Holly's 60th Birthday Celebration—both within walking distance of the hotel."

Joining a convention to Lubbock's main tourist event, The National Cowboy Symposium and Celebration, found



much favor with the members of the GTHS and is the format projected for September 9-12, 2000 when the Karl May Literary Society (KMS) will hold its first Symposium in America on the campus of Texas Tech University. Thanks to President Haragan's personal invitation delivered in Berlin and the strong backing of the leadership of the KMS in Germany, there are 65 German participants already registered for the symposium in 2000. Twelve paper topics have also been submitted.



Photo: M McClain

An international mix during the Cowboy Symposium: 12 Germans from Lubbock Town, 2 Bad Segeberg winners, 1 Professor from Wilhelmshaven, 1 rancher (TTU grad)/entrepreneur from Eldorado with 3 friends from Spain, 2 Yellowhouse Canyon artists, 1 Saloon owner from Germany and 2 lady friends, 3 Prairie Heirs, Washtub Jerry and Mr. Handsome (on stilts with guitar), plus someone's little girl.

WINNETOUR I (1995) • WINNETOUR II (1996) WINNETOUR III (1998)

As reported in the 1995 *Umlaut*, members of the Karl May Society have been coming to the Llano Estacado to participate in Winnetours.® These are literary conferences and tours along the trails of Karl May's fictitious novels set on the Llano Estacado and in Indian Territory. What we didn't know to report at the time was that the KMS published a 30 page booklet written by participant Frau Annelotte Pielenz detailing each day of the two week tour. Her culminating paragraph of praise did much to encourage the organizers and the participants to consider repeat performances.

Keine "akademische Reisegesellschaft," keine noch so gut geführte Studiengruppe könnte uns je den Eindruck dieses Landes, seiner Menschen und Geschichte, so vermitteln, wie Frau McClain es tat. Wir haben unendlich von ihrer großen Erfahrung, Beliebtheit und ihrem großen Bekanntenkreis profitiert, wurden aufgenommen wie langerwartete

Familienmitglieder: die Mär von uns reiste schneller weiter als wir mit dem Bus vorankamen. So etwas werden wir nie mehr erleben!

As a result, in the spring of 1996 and 1998 two smaller Winnetours were organized for KMS members by the SwCfGS. Each of these groups included major personalities of the Karl May scene in Germany and their family members. Again positive reviews appeared in the German press along with a 32 page booklet and a video documentary reviewing Winnetour '98. Thus evolved the idea of an International Karl May Symposium at Texas Tech in the year 2000, including an optional Winnetour IV.



Chief Runkles welcomed the group in Post, Texas

Photo: courtesy Runkles



Blue Corn telling traditional tribal stories in Palo Duro Canyon

Photo: E Bartsch



Photo: E Bartsch

A highlight of Winnetour II: Thomas Grafenberg, Berlin, and René Wagner, Radebeul, present gifts to Verna Anne Wheeler, Executive Director of the Crosby County Pioneer Memorial Museum in Crosbyton. As a sign of friendship from the KMS and the Karl May Museum, an entire set of May's works, donated by a press in Berlin, were given to the Crosbyton museum along with video tapes and other publications on Karl May.



Photo: Post Press

"Winnetourists" with Mrs. Zoe Kirkpatrick (2nd from R), their rancher friend in Post

A surprise snow in Post, TTU van and U-Haul in front of historic Garza Hotel



Photo: M Roub

Willkommen auf den Llano Estacado! Amarillo & Lubbock

The successful combination of Amarillo and Lubbock as dual bases for exploring the Llano Estacado has been repeatedly tested and approved by hundreds of German visitors. Promoting regional awareness and collaboration with neighbors throughout the area accomplishes one aspect of the mission of the SwCfGS.

The development of exchange relationships between both Lubbock and Amarillo with the German-American Institute of Saarbrücken, Germany, serves as one example.

exhibit, *The Llano Estacado Experience*, which has been in Germany since 1993. It was first on display at the Karl May Museum in Radebeul (René Wagner, Director), and then in the museum of May's birthplace, Hohenstein-Ernstthal (André Neubert, Director).

This Llano Estacado exhibit has drawn large crowds and excellent press. When it moved to Saarland in 1998, the

SwCfGS suggested the addition of the *Palo Duro Suite* by Amarillo photographer Jim Jordan. His series of pictures documents the breathtaking beauty of Palo Duro Canyon. Thanks to the generosity of American Airlines in providing transportation for both of these excellent exhibits, many Germans are sampling the modern Llano Estacado without even leaving home.

Musicians Coming and Going



Photo: M McClain

German Hunting Horns at Palo Duro

The first official event sponsored by the SwCfGS in the ICC was an evening with 10 musicians from Saarland, the Siersburg Hunting Horn Corps. After several days in Amarillo performing at the 10th annual International Week, the horn players were transported by Tech van through Palo Duro Canyon (where they played a fanfare on the last lookout, see above picture), to a ranch reception, and on to Lubbock for a Sunday evening performance in the totally filled ICC Theater.

The Prairie Heirs from Amarillo & Canyon

An outstanding ambassador of goodwill from Amarillo/Canyon is German-speaking, washtub-plucking, cowboy-diplomat Jimmy Northcutt, better known to German guests as Mr. Tumbleweed. Jimmy opened ranch gates, rode his paint

pony alongside wagon loads of German guests while giving pointers in German through the dust, and organized surprise events in Palo Duro for Winnetours I and II.

In addition to their regular program during the 1997 Cowboy Symposium, he and his music group, *The Prairie Heirs*, played special serenades to visiting Germans, Kristina Schultze and Fritz Walter (alias *Ben Destry*, Sheriff of Old Texas Town in Berlin) who were flown by American Airlines to be honored guests in Lubbock.

It is most fitting that *The Prairie Heirs* plus their Indian friend, Billy Turpin (see program cover at left),



Photo: M McClain

The Prairie Heirs performing for Kristina and Ben

EINLADUNG zur Ausstellungseröffnung



Das Deutsch-Amerikanische Institut
Saarbrücken e.V.
und das Kulturamt der Kreisstadt Merzig
präsentieren
in der Stadthalle Merzig

vom 15.-30. Oktober 1998

die Ausstellungen

**Der Geist des Llano Estacado
&
Palo Duro Suite**

Traveling Exhibit

For the past year the Institute's Director, Hartmut H. Gimmler, has been advertising the Llano Estacado throughout the state of Saarland. He accepted the responsibility of promoting Texas Tech University's traveling



Photo: Bad Segeberg Press

Blue Prairie trio, Sheriff Ernst Reher, Meredith McClain, Aimee Martin, Gary Terrell, and Bad Segeberg Mayor Udo Fröhlich, at the entrance to the Karl May Festival outdoor theater

toured Germany last summer, lending their authentic air and unique flair to openings of the Lubbock/Amarillo exhibits in Saarland.

By popular demand and generous coordination of the German-American Institute staff, the musical ambassadors from Amarillo/Canyon will make a return tour in '99. They will perform along the Karl May trail from Hohenstein-Ernstthal to Dresden, and then move on up to Old Texas Town in Berlin. Who knows, Jimmy & Co. may even end up in the Saloon with the Milz family out in Lubbock Town near the Rhine. *Viel Spaß & gute Reise!*

Additional Representatives of the Llano Estacado

Blue Prairie and members of the Fourth Cavalry have also made special contributions to Winnetours and other German groups visiting the Llano Estacado. Following up on the tremendous response of German visitors to our local attractions, the Lubbock Convention and Tourism Bureau sponsored a 1997 performance tour celebrating the 4th of July at Berlin's Old Texas Town,

and on from there to other venues including the main stage of Bad Segeberg's open air Karl May Festival.

To the delight of thousands of on-lookers in Bad Segeberg, Gary Terrell representing the 4th Cavalry, made a dramatic entrance on a borrowed German mount, and presented Sheriff Reher and Mayor Fröhlich a Texas flag. Then Blue Prairie kept the festive spirit going with their musical salute.

Following their first evening performance in Berlin Blue Prairie was booked by a German agent who arranged two subsequent concert tours for them in Germany with plans for more for the future.

German & Tech Bands Comin' and Goin'

Last, but not in any way least, it is important to remember the German musicians who came over to march down Austin's Congress Avenue in the 1986 Texas Sesquicentennial Parade holding the Bavarian and Texas flags high over their 45 umpah horns. They were the *Musikkapelle Markt Erkheim* under the direction of Eddy Mikusch.

This fun-loving troupe had such a successful tour of German heritage towns in Texas, staying in the homes of host families in each place, that they

have made six, or is it seven, return tours! At the bottom of Eddy's Christmas card the P.S. reads: "I come back to Texas in 2000!"

At home in beautiful Unterallgäu, where they're known as "The Texas Band," the *Musikkapelle* has generously hosted numerous Texas groups including the Texas Tech German Dancers, Gordon McMillian and the



Photo: Musikkapelle

Musikkapelle Markt Erkheim/Unterallgäu

First Methodist Choir of Lubbock, and most recently the 135 members of Tech's "Goin' Band from Raiderland" under the direction of Keith Bearden.

While in Bavaria the Tech Band also renewed the connection with another German band they had hosted in Lubbock in 1996, the *Musikverein Kaufering*. All three bands got together for a marvelous evening. After dinner Mr. Bearden (trumpet) and Prof. Alan Shinn (drums) sat in for a few numbers with the *Musikkapelle*.

Thanks for the hospitality, Eddy & friends, and see you in 2000!



Photo: TTU Bands

Members of the "Goin' Band From Raiderland" pose in front of Linderhof castle on their trip to Germany and Austria.



Photo: K Bearden

Marcus Mikusch, *Musikkapelle* euphonium player; Keith Bearden, Director, Texas Tech marching band; Eddy Mikusch, Director, *Musikkapelle Markt Erkheim*

GERMAN CULTURAL AWARENESS

Special Recognition

For years the SwCfGS has observed German-American Friendship Day which falls officially on October 6th. This year the ceremony was quite a private one, but it carried significance for many people of the area.

With the Texas sun shining on the American, German and Texas flags above him, Hubert Heichelheim received a poster from Bernard Winter of Wilhelmshaven. The poster is of a famous bridge in the Wilhelmshaven area and represents the

WHEREAS: Texans of German descent were among the first to settle the area of the Llano Estacado, the first ranch being established in Blanco Canyon by Hank Smith (Heinrich Schmitt) in 1877 and numerous Catholic German communities of our area, including Slaton and Nazareth, being founded by Father Reisdorff, and,

WHEREAS: hundreds of German-Texan families labored tirelessly under harsh conditions to establish and maintain their farms and ranches on the High Plains, ultimately passing down to third and fourth generation members a love of the land and a loyalty to place; and,

WHEREAS: German Americans comprise the largest ethnic group in the United States and one of the largest in Texas; and,

WHEREAS: Lubbock, Texas, enjoys a very special relationship with present-day Germany through the on-going popularity of the writings of Karl May, who has immortalized the Llano Estacado in the German fantasy and through the deep interest Germans have in the history of the Native Americans, of the pioneers of the American West, especially the cowboy, and of the evolution of Democracy;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Lubbock, Texas, do hereby recognize the first week of October as

"German Cultural Awareness Week"

and ask all citizens to join us in this celebration of German culture during this week.

Dated this 8th day of
October, 1998



Photo: M McClain

Bernhard Winter, visiting Professor from the *Fachhochschule Wilhelmshaven* with Hubert Heichelheim, President of the Llano Estacado German-American Freundschaftsgesellschaft

bridge of friendship between the German-American Association Wilhelmshaven/Friesland and the newly formed Llano Estacado German-American Freundschaftsgesellschaft (LIGAF). The German-Texan Heritage Society sent its blessing for the new organization and congratulations for its strong start.

In response to a brief notice in the *Avalanche Journal*, 70 people arrived at the ICC Theater to express their interest in founding a German-American Club. Now, with over 60 paid-up members, Hubert Heichelheim as the President, and a solid slate of

Windy Cotton
Mayor
Victor Hernandez
Councilperson
Max L. Ince
Mayor Pro Tem
T. J. Patterson
Councilman
Marc McDowell
Councilman
J. David Nelson
Councilman
Kick "Ty" Cooke
Councilman

Photo: R Westbrook

officers and volunteers/supporters, the club is up and running.

For starters there was a grand *Octoberfest* party held in Blanco Canyon at Georgia Mae Smith-Ericson's home. Then, on November 11 at 11 minutes after 11 o'clock, LIGAF members raised their glasses in the traditional *Fasching* kick-off toast in Skyview Restaurant.

With this happy and energetic cross section of German-Americans identified

to each other and organized through Heichelheim's e-mail system, we predict that future October 6th German-American Friendship celebrations in Lubbock will not be a private affair for only a few people.



Photo: M McClain

Dr. Idris Traylor and Mrs. Erika Hoeve



Photo: M McClain

Slaton members of the newly formed German-American club in Lubbock