

# GROW Quarterly Newsletter

Area Chapter of the Germans from Russia Heritage Society (GRHS)

Volume 5 Issue 4

July-August-September 2006

## Message from the President



**Roger Haas, President**

When you receive this Newsletter, our First Pacific Northwest GRHS (Germans from Russia Heritage Society) Annual Convention will be just a little more than a week away. I hope all of you are going to take advantage and invite your family and friends. The array of topics will interest all ages and will intrigue you whether you are of German origin or not.

The Registration of \$40 is more than reasonable for the 3½ day festival and if you are only interested in one day, the registration is \$25. We have more than 60 speakers and all topics are most interesting and different. Just believe me; you will not have been at such a valuable celebration in your life. In our Evaluation Form we have listed almost 100 areas in which we are hoping that each attendee will rate the performance. The evaluation form begins on page 9 and continued on the back cover for your perusal and understanding of the valued program planned for your enjoyment.

As you will see from the Workshop titles, they will include subjects of interest to people of the Volga, Black Sea, Volhynian, Mennonite, Prussia, etc. as well as time periods of prior to Catherine the Great's Invitation to the very present day. There will be people there who will just have returned from journeys from the "homelands" of Russia and Europe.

If you like entertainment, we have a Vienna formal Opera star, Johanna Oh, talented Art Flegel, the Janzen Family Ensemble, and the 8 Emter Family Accordion players who will be performing at our cobbler breaks and other times. Moreover, we have the 65 Member Liedertafel Harmonie Choir, the Polkabeat Dance band, and much more. The Registration fee is more than worth it for any one of the above.

The Banquets will feature Dr. Larry Metzler, Professor and former AHSGR President, and Renown German Pastor, Horst Gutsche, with current connections of members working in Siberia and Europe concerning our ethnic origins. Order your dinners prior to the opening of the Con-

vention as the hotel requires at least 72 hours for adequate food preparation, accommodations, etc.

You can see the entire 36th Annual GRHS Convention Program on the website <http://www.grhs.org/grow/06convention.htm> as well as the Registration form, Speaker synopses, their pictures and brief biographies, etc. If you want to talk to live bodies, you can call Maxine Daily 503-253-8388 or Roger Haas at 503-659-8248. If you want to email, contact Geraldine Gander [neatfamily@verizon.net](mailto:neatfamily@verizon.net) she will also provide you with answers and will send you registration forms.

At the local GROW Chapter level, Alice Summers and Maxine Daily have been sewing vinyl and cloth handbags, one per family, for your added convenience and as a memento included are added promotions in the bags.

We are pleased to install at the 25 June 2006 Chapter Pre-Convention Rally/Meeting, Board Member Arlene Maston, retiring from Providence Medical in Administration on the 9 July, Board Member Jenice Gibson, Red Cross RN, & current Director of the Convention Tours, and in absentia, Kurt Radtke, Past President of the German American Society and traveling in Germany, Denmark, Holland, etc. for a month until almost the eve of the Convention. We are also pleased to have Ell Schiermeister,

*Continued on page 2.*

## Inside This Issue

<i>Ed's Corner</i> .....	2
<i>Unknown Photographs</i> .....	2
<i>GRHS Chapter Banners</i> .....	3-4
<i>Pride Observations From Two Cultures</i> .....	5
<i>The Vincent Jacob Family</i> .....	6
<i>South Dakota Days and Beyond</i> .....	7-8
<i>Convention Evaluation</i> .....	9, 12
<i>Calendar</i> .....	10
<i>Sunshine News</i> .....	11
<i>In Remembrance, Esther Louise Reiss</i> .....	11

## Ed's Corner

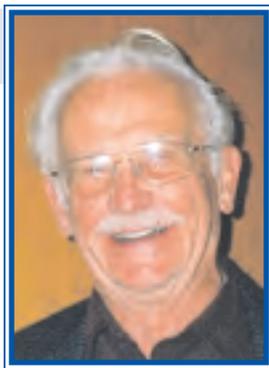
As I'm writing this Ed's Corner, I have just come from a very satisfying GROW picnic on Sunday, May 21, 2006. There were enough "Old Timers" at the picnic table where we were discussing wages that were paid on our first jobs. The time period when this took place was 1930s to early 1940s. Most participants in the discussion lived on farms where there was some access to food. During the height of the national depression it was possible to get jobs with the WPA and that paid \$12.00 per month. My first job away from our farm paid 25 cents an hour for pitching hay. One of the ladies at the table said that when she was in high school in North Dakota she got a job loading stones on a **stoneboat** and she was paid 25 cents per hour.

My last *Ed's Corner* made this opening statement. "We people of German and European heritage are great travelers and pioneers. We have used whatever transportation facility was handy and affordable at whatever time period we lived in. At the time Lewis and Clark were exploring the travel accommodations from St Louis to the Pacific Ocean, a lot of our predecessors were traveling from Germany to new homes in Russia. Often they traveled by boat down the Danube River or rivercraft on Russian Rivers to South Russia and the new German colonies. The accommodations were on par with those for Lewis and Clark."

I think most of us can identify with rowboats, sailboats, tugboats, fishing boats, ferryboats and steamboats, but what is a **stoneboat**? It certainly isn't a barge constructed of concrete that is used in building the floating bridges on Lake Washington in Seattle. Just ask any old time Germans from Russia farmers who settled in North Dakota for the answer. The land once was the edge of a giant glacier that mixed rocks of all sizes and deposited them in North Dakota when the ice melted. To farm the land it was necessary to clear off the rocks. The rocks were loaded by placing them on a small platform constructed on sled runners. This was back breaking work, as often the rocks were large enough they had to be rolled onto the sledge called a **stoneboat**.

Here is another boat story. I have a desk calendar with a page for each day of the year. The calendar for this year poses a US history story. A recent page said, "What happened at East River New York City on June 15, 1904? The answer: "More than a thousand German immigrants boarded the steamer General Slocum for a weekday outing. More than a thousand of them died, in view of the shore, as a barrel of straw and a carelessly thrown match sent the ship up in flames. The crew had no training in fighting fire; the ship's rotten canvas fire hoses burst; the life jackets didn't float. It was the worst disaster in New York City history until September 11, 2001; 1,030 lost their lives."

That's it from Ed's Corner



Ed Weber

## Unknown Photographs

by Lorraine Werner

Most avid genealogists have old photographs in their collections that include people that they have not been able to identify up to now.

Lorraine Werner will be hosting a table on which convention attendees could display photocopies or reprints of old photographs that include people of German Russian ancestry so that other people may look at them during the convention and hopefully identify the people in the photographs. If you plan to bring duplicates of old photographs to place on this display, please bring as much additional information about each photograph as possible that would be helpful to others attempting to identify the people in the photographs, such as the locality where the photograph was taken, the approximate year the photograph was taken, and the first person known to have been in possession of the photograph, if this information is known.

Here's an example of a photo I need help with identification. Curtis Weber is the young fellow right front and he knows that he was visiting "cousins" in ND (probably Emmons County) in 1933. Can you identify who the cousins are?

Picture in possession of Lola Weber, 106 Victoria St., Longview, WA 98632 email: [hunter1@scattercreek.com](mailto:hunter1@scattercreek.com)



## President's Message, cont.

Convention Co-Chairman of Food/Facility and Chair of the Honor Guard as 1st Alternate and Leona Koth Hix, Name Badge Co-Chair & current Director as 2nd Alternate.

If you haven't renewed your membership, you can certainly do that and show that continued support to GROW, your Host Chapter for the Convention and GRHS for its continued excellence in publishing those superb Journals, providing a most resourceful library of books, family histories, jubilees, and much, much more. You can appreciate/view much of the Library at the Convention at the Portland Airport Holiday Inn 13 thru the 15 July. Your Local Chapter of \$5. and your National dues of \$40. is more than well spent for such national archives and for a local enthusiastic Hosting Chapter.

Plan to clear your schedule, attend each session of the Convention either in person or possibly get a DVD for those sessions you can't take in, four sessions each hour and help us WELCOME our guests to the Pacific Northwest. Thank you. All the best, we're looking forward to seeing you.

Roger Haas

## GRHS Chapter Banners

by Lola M. Weber

As we celebrate our heritage together I wanted to highlight the banners representing each of our chapters. Over the past several months, I have been contacting the chapters and asking for a description of their banners and perhaps any history that might represent their area or chapter. We are still gathering information and hope to have each chapter represented at the convention in Portland. As the banners are presented at the Welcoming Ceremony, I will be reading their descriptions and plan to have photos taken of each banner.

### **Alberta Chapter, Calgary, Canada**

*Chapter started: 1981*

A large outline map of the Canadian province of Alberta is mounted on a blue background. Above the map are four provincial crests portraying the prairies, the foothills and the Rocky Mountains that are features of our province. On the left side of the map are symbols to represent the city of Edmonton, our capital city, the oil capital of Canada. To the right of the map are symbols of the city of Calgary, the business centre of our province and home of the world renown Calgary Stampede. The bottom of the banner is fringed with golden tassels to represent our golden grain fields.

### **Black Hills Chapter, Rapid City, SD**

*Chapter Chartered: July 10, 1993*

The banner was a result of a chapter contest. Bruce Mehlhoff who was an active chapter member but now lives in Seattle, won the contest. It is his creation. The three rings represent the three countries which the Germans from Russia were involved with. The colors are the colors of the countries' flags. The countries are, Germany, Imperial Russia and the United States. The green tree represents the trees in our beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota and also the Black Forest of Germany.

### **Dakota Pioneer Chapter, Bismarck, ND**

*Chapter started: 1971*

The history of the banner is tied to the history of the North Dakota heritage. It is navy blue velvet with a gold fringe and it has a picture of our state capitol embroidered in the center and also a picture of the pioneer statue that is on the capitol grounds. With the wording "Dakota Pioneer Chapter" are on the banner and an outline of the state of North Dakota and Bismarck on one side of the banner.

### **Das Schwarze Meer Stammhalter Verein, Strasburg, ND**

*Year Started: Nov 1987 Emmons County, ND*

Black velvet-gold lettering and fringe with a tassel plus Germans from Russia insignia.

### **Die Deutsche Glieder Chapter, Pierre, SD**

*Chapter organized Dec 17, 1989*

The banner for our chapter is much like Germans who settled northern South Dakota—simple and sturdy. Gold letters on heavy black cloth spell out "Die Deutsche Glieder Chapter, Pierre South Dakota."

### **Deutsche Leute Chapter, Dickinson, ND**

*Chapter started 1975 and was named "Helden der Prairie".*

*The Chapter name was changed in 1983.*

The banner is in royal blue heavy fabric trimmed in gold colored fringes. The chapter name "Deutsche Leute" is at the top. The banner is embossed in the center with a round decal which depicts a picture of the Stone House Museum that the chapter members erected in Dickinson in 1980. Also on the banner are stalks of wheat done in gold metallic embroidery and a one share walking plow. At the bottom of the banner, embroidered in gold metallic are the initials: G from RHS - meaning, "Germans from Russia Heritage Society" under that is "Dickinson Chapter"

### **Deutsche Freunde, Elgin/New Leipzig, Grant County ND**

*Chapter started May 1983.*

Our banner has a background field of blue. The outline of Grant County is the center design in gold with the lettering of the organized date May 1983. The two prominent designs of the heart are the little country church to the left of the county emblem, and to the right is the little country farm home and barn. Highlighting the extreme importance of our ancestry is love of God, Home and Country. Two large wheat sheaves grace the banner bottom, as we are people of the soil and a gold braid trims the edges with fringe of gold along the bottom. Our banner represents our grateful hearts for our German Russian Heritage and our active organization.

### **Deutsche Kultur, Aberdeen, SD**

*Year started: 1986*

On a black banner is gold lettering and across the top is written "Deutscher Kultur Verein" (means German Culture to Unite) and right under that is written GRHS. Centered in the middle is a large circle with a smaller circle inside that looks like wheat stalks bent into a round shape and inside the circle a man and woman are facing each other. On the left side of the circle is 1976 (indicating when Bismarck GRHS started.) and on the right side is 1986 (indicating when the Aberdeen Chapter began). At the bottom of the circle are the words: "Aberdeen, South Dakota."

### **Die Deutsche Stammhalter , Beulah ND**

*Chapter started: 1971*

Designed by chapter member Ervin A. Schielke and made by chapter women in the winter of 1984-85. It's a collage of our ancestors' journey from Russia across the ocean to homesteading in the Dakotas.

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*Continued on page 4.*

## GRHS Chapter Banners (cont.)

### **Germans from Russia Oregon and Washington (GROW), Portland Oregon**

*Chapter started: 2001*

This banner was designed for the GROW chapter in 2003 by Jan Prunier, with assistance from Maxine Daily, who also did the quilting and sewing of the banner. The banner tells the story of our ancestors. The background is royal blue with the phrase "Freiheit, Glaube und Familie" (Liberty, Faith and Family) in red inside a pale yellow ribbon at the top. Under the ribbon on the left is the shape of the State of Oregon with a jumping salmon, fir trees and a rose (Portland's nickname is the Rose City). At the top right in an oval with a wood-toned frame is a photo of John Lutz, Greenway, SD and Carolina Roesler Lutz Weber from Eureka, SD, Maxine's grandparents. At the center of the banner is the GROW logo...a circle with blue mountains (Mt. Hood and Mt. St. Helens) and the sun setting behind them. The chapter name "Germans from Russia Oregon and Washington" is at the top in the light blue sky and G.R.O.W. is in white over the mountains. To the right under the photo is the shape of the State of Washington that is known for the Space Needle, apples and fir trees that are symbolized there. Under this is a sod house in tribute to the last standing sod house in Greenway, SD. The bottom left of the banner is to honor our ancestors for working the land. There is a windmill, furrowed field, iron plow and haystacks. Just to the right of this at the bottom of the banner is a farmer leading oxen that are pulling a wagon full of the fruits of their labors.

### **Inland Northwest Chapter of Germans from Russia, Spokane, WA**

*Chapter started: 2003*

Hunter green satin background representing the evergreens abundant in our area, with golden yellow wheat stalks on either side of our chapter's circular silhouette logo, which is the mighty moose standing in a NW forest. Gold tassels hang from the banner's bottom tips.

### **James Valley, Jamestown, ND**

*Chapter started: 1977*

The banner is a maroon velvet color with the words in gold: "James Valley Chapter No 9" (they were the 9th chapter organized) and the initials are NDHSGFR (for the original name of the chapter when they were organized: North Dakota Germans From Russia Heritage Society. A buffalo representing the area is handpainted on canvas.

### **New Mexico Chapter, Albuquerque, New Mexico**

*Chapter started: 2004*

The flag is yellow representing New Mexico's sunshine and a red sun symbol with New Mexico Chapter on a turquoise background. The four corners of the flag represent aspects of the state of New Mexico: a Native American Kokopelli plays music and dances, pottery depicts local arts and crafts, a chile ristra represents a major agricultural crop, and a hot air balloon represents fun and the spectacular sport of ballooning as it carries the state motto of "Land of Enchantment."

### **Northern California Chapter, Sacramento, California**

*Chapter started: 1994*

The background is light blue with gold trim. State of California is outlined in black with "Northern California Chapter" across the top and "California" down one side. The capitol building with its gold dome is located at the spot indicating Sacramento. There is a poppy which is the state flower.

### **Puget Sound Chapter, Tacoma, WA.**

*Chapter started: 1989*

The Puget Sound Chapter of Germans from Russia Heritage Society has a green banner depicting the Evergreen State of Washington and the numerous islands in the Puget Sound. The mountains are to show the many mountains and several mountain ranges surrounding our area. The blue water stands for not only the salt water which covers a wide expanse of our shores, but also for the numerous lakes and rivers with which we are encircled. The green trees represent the thousand of acres of fir tree forests that we see on every side. Last, but not least, the royal blue lettering reminds us of the stately march of our ancestors, whether royal or peasant, who carved whole villages out of nothingness in a foreign land and who exhibited such great courage when they came to the North and South American continents so that we all have freedom and a better way of life today.

### **South Dakota Stamm, Menno, SD**

*Chapter started: 1980*

The name SoDak Stamm was chosen because a vast majority of the earliest Dakota and Canada German-Russian immigrants came first to our local areas of Menno, Freeman and Tripp in Hutchinson County before spreading farther north in the Dakotas and Canada. The banner was designed by Margaret and Harley Bittner and depicts a tree stamm (trunk & branches) imprinted with German Russian family names of this area. It also depicts a sod house, school, the towns of this settlement region, a covered wagon and the James and Missouri Rivers.

### **Vorväter's Kinder Chapter, Glen Ullin-Hebron-Richardton, ND**

*The name of the chapter translates to "forefathers children."*

*Chapter started: 1986*

The banner has a purple field with white letters. The insert in the middle of the flag is surrounded by wheat which was the staple which kept our forefathers alive on the prairie. It still is one of the main commodities of the Dakotas. The quilted insert bears a picture of the sod house, a one-bottom horse-drawn plow, and a wagon wheel, all set on the North Dakota prairie.

## **NEED 3 PERSONS INTERESTED IN OPERATING A VIDEO CAMERA**

**for taping the Convention Presenters on 13, 14 & 15 July  
YOUR HELP WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED!**

**Call Roger Haas 503-659-8248 or  
email: rahaas@haasfamily.us**

## Pride Observations from Two Cultures

Growing up with parents who were raised by the Germans from Russia ways of the "old-country," I was always taught to have pride and to do things "the right way," regardless of what others around me were doing. As a child this often meant doing more chores than my friends, and doing them to a greater level of expectation. It hardly seemed fair to have to do so much more than my friends. At first I wondered why I had received the meanest parents on earth. I remember wondering where this overbearing sense of pride came from.

Around grade school age we began making treks to South Dakota every other summer. Those were fun times, visiting farms and seeing so many new sights. During those visits I soon learned where my parent's pride came from. It seemed that most of the folks we met were German-Russian folks. Some lived on farms and some had moved to the towns or cities to make their living there. It seemed that wherever we went and whoever we met, I noticed a great sense of pride in being German-Russian. I also noticed a great sense of pride in the homes and farms of the folks we visited. Some of the folks did not have much, but what they had always seemed so well cared for. When visiting some folks it did not take long before we learned what they were most proud of.

Growing up in Oregon, I remember my father always keeping busy fixing something or making something. It seemed that he could do anything. We built storage sheds in the backyard for our tools and toys (part of the pack-rat culture), rabbit hutches for our pets, a chicken coop for some chickens we raised, put up our own fencing around the yard, built a couple of carports and patios with yards and yards of cement that we poured ourselves, turned our garage into a family room, installed our own fireplace in the newly converted family room, converted our attic space to storage space, fixed our own bicycles and cars as well as those of some of the neighbors, built our own custom captain's beds for our bedrooms, and so much more. The neighbor kids often came by to see what our latest project was. We had a lot of fun with our many projects. The one underlying theme with all of these projects was to always do the job right. Be proud of what we did. Try not to cut corners. Do the best job we can do. Build it to last. I can remember some of the neighbors questioning whether or not we were going overboard on some of the projects. My father often replied that he was doing things the right way.

Fast forward many years and I now find myself living in Tokyo with my wife and two boys in the neighborhood where she grew up. When I go to work in the morning I walk about 10 minutes to the nearest train station. Along the way I see the small shop owners outside of their shops sweeping the street and sidewalk. Some are washing their windows and doors to keep their shop appealing. In many of the homes along the way there are several generations



**Terry Wagemann**

living together. Often one of the grandparents is outside sweeping the street or sidewalk or other surrounding areas, regardless of what is there or where it came from.

As I walk through a large apartment complex, the grandmothers are outside cleaning up as well, regardless of whose mess it is. They take time to plant flowers on the grounds around the buildings and spend each morning weeding, trimming and caring for the flowers. No one asks them to take such care of community property. They are merely showing their pride for their surroundings. And in the train stations there is a cadre of cleaners sweeping stairs and floors, washing windows, emptying trash containers, picking up cigarette butts, and tidying up the area.

In the schools the children are taught to have pride for their school. They clean their own classrooms, including scrubbing the floors on their hands and knees. They are taught to take pride in their school by singing the school song. They are taught to have pride in their work and do their best every time. They practice for field day and music concerts far beyond what I witnessed in the schools in Oregon.

In the workplace, many employees are still employed for life. In many of the factories the workers do exercises together every morning to stay in shape, and to build community and pride in their daily habits. They have ownership of their work space and show their pride by keeping it spotless and organized.

In the office most of the workers show their pride in the company by voluntarily wearing the company uniform. Workers show their pride in their work by making sure their work is complete and error-free. Errors are a sign that focus and pride have been overlooked. Employees take great pride in being the expert at their job. Sometimes a project is delayed because a worker is going back over their work one last time to make sure it's perfect. And at least once per year all employees in a group work together to clean and organize their work area, including scrubbing and polishing objects around the area.

And probably the biggest sign of pride here is the immaculate taxi cabs. I cannot recall ever being inside of a dirty taxi cab. They are always highly polished and cleaned inside and outside, including the trunk.

Looking back at the German-Russian pride I witnessed growing up and observing the Japanese pride currently around me, I see a lot of similarities. I see the drive to do things the right way and to be proud of one's actions. I am happy that my children are able to witness this sense of pride and to learn it from an early age. It certainly helps out my parenting duties when the schools and community around me are all in sync on issues like this.

<http://www.terryandmio.blogspot.com>



**Picture of Tokyo Tower taken from the 15th floor of my office.**

# The Vincent Jacob Family from Selz Colony

by Vic Jacobs

The Vincent Jacob Family from the Selz Colony were the first Germans from Russia to settle in Tillamook County, OR. They bought a huge homestead three miles east of Tillamook, the county seat, which spanned both sides of the Wilson River, in 1896. Family members still farm part of it.

In September 1892, Vincent and Walburga Jacob, both age 37, and their three sons: Barnhard 13, Peter 9, and Pius (?), came to America aboard the *Scandinavian* and landed at Ellis Island. They lived four years in Pittsburg, KS before moving to Tillamook, OR. It is unknown what kind of work Vincent did in Pittsburg. All that is known of those four years is that Barnard, my grandfather, was sent to work in the coal mines when he was 13.



**Jacob Family. Photo taken between 1892-1896, Pittsburg, KS.**

Vincent was the second of five children of Barnhard and Marianna Jacob, one of the wealthiest families in Selz. They lived in the center of town. His older sister was Eva (Usselmann) b. 1853; younger than Vincent were: Margaretha (Becker) (Salway) (Vetch) b 1861; Barnhard b. 1871; Regina (Rissling) b. 1873. Vincent only came to America after his younger brother Barnhard, who was required by colonial law to inherit their father's estate, became of age to do so. Of the three sisters, only Margaretha with second husband John Salway and family came to American in 1908; they had four children: Mary Magdeline b. 1896; Alexander b. 1900; Helina b. 1905; and Rosa b. 1907. Also Margaretha's three children by her first marriage came to the US. They were: Peter Becker, only 21 in 1905, then John and Marzelina (Becker) Hoffert and family came in 1909, and finally in 1913, Wendelin and Marian (Diebert) Becker with their family came to Tillamook, OR.

It is believed that Vincent made numerous trips back to Russia. One of the times was in 1905 and it is well recorded in the Tillamook County Pioneer Museum as when he went back to Seltz to find a head cheesemaker for the Elwood Creamery east of Tillamook. He hired Sylvester Werner, who at the time was working for Vincent's father Barnhard Jacob, hauling produce from Seltz to Odessa. Sylvester with his wife and family immigrated that year to Tillamook. The two older sons later moved to North or South Dakota and settled there. (Their son Weldelin's tapes in museum records this.) Also during his 1905 trip, his nephew Peter Becker had just deserted from the Russian Army and Vincent helped him through Europe and get to America.

My grandparents Barnhard "Ben" and Rosette "Rose"

(Wyss) were married on July 1, 1900. Rose came from Switzerland in 1898 with her parents and nine brothers and sisters when she was 15. For the first 19 years of their marriage they lived on various farms throughout Tillamook County. It is believed that Vincent would purchase the rundown homesteads and dairy farms and have my grandparents move onto them and repair fences and farm buildings and houses for resale. Some relatives from Russia bought some of these dairies when they came to Tillamook, as did other Germans from Russia like the Georg Zerr Family who moved to Tillamook from Selz in 1909, and other families who moved here from the midwest. Also, some of Rose's brothers purchased farms from Vincent. In 1919, my grandparents finally bought their own dairy a mile south of Tillamook where they lived and raised their nine children. My father Herman Jacobs, the eldest, bought it; and my mother Dorothy Jacobs, still owns nearly 15 acres that remain.

Little is known about Vincent's sisters in Russia, Eva and Regina, other than Eva married an Usselmann and lived in another colony and Regina married (Pius?) Rissling and lived across the street in front of the cathedral in Selz and had a lot of children. All that is known of Walburga (Stroh) Jacob's background and/or relatives is that a sister of hers was married to Wendelin Usselmann and they lived next door to the hospital in Selz. This was all Ida (Jacob) Kriener remembered about them of when she was a child in Selz.

Ida was the youngest of the six children of Vincent's brother Barnhard and Cecilia (Hauser) Jacob. She and her husband Leonard Kriener and daughter Elsa and Ida's two sisters Rosa and Magdelina, and Magdelina's husband Eugene Kiefel and son Eugene and daughter Rosa got out of Russia in 1944, and all but Magdelina's husband came to America in 1952. From 1998 until her death in 2002, Ida had written to me of her father and her oldest brothers Alexander and Pius being shot in the Selz cemetery in



**Jacob Family. Photo taken 18 August 1990. First Row: 1) Ruth, 2) Elaine, 3) Steve. Second Row: 1) Vic, 2) Myra, 3) Mom, 4) Barb, 5) Don. Third Row: 1) Madelon, 2) Lois, 3) Carol. Fourth Row: 1) Bernie, 2) Ray, 3) Therese, 4) Phil, 5) Jim**

August 1919, along with Walburga's brother-in-law Wendelin Usselmann and many others in Selz that day. Her other brother Vincenz and Rosa's husband were arrested in 1937 in Odessa by the NKWD and were never heard of again. Along with many of the other trials the rest of them lived through in Russia.

## South Dakota School Days and Beyond

by Del Usselman

The first grade was quite a year for me. One of my first memories was when the older boys cut a big circle in the ice and then told me to jump on the circle to break it free well I guess you know I ended up in waist deep water then spent the rest of the afternoon trying to dry off. Speaking of ice it was always very exciting to see water suddenly forming a small river, which of course froze before soaking into the floor boards. This was the result of a small boy sitting behind me having an accident again while in school. Then of course there was the time the teacher's boyfriend came to visit. Well I never said I was too bright so again the older boys talked us first graders to circle the car while repeating certain taunts they instructed us to say. Well it wasn't long before I was spending the rest of the break at my desk. When I stop to think about it I've been very lucky.

One of my first memories was a big blizzard which developed midday. The teacher became concerned and dismissed school early. Not waiting for our parents she sent us home, of course we all walked, no cars those days. We started out on a two mile walk led by a boy in his late



Del Usselman

teens, not being able to see where we were going he lined us up single file with one hand on the fence to keep us from getting lost. We had traveled better than a mile when Dad found us. I'm sure that if Andrew hadn't taken care of us, we would never have made it as the snow was so heavy we couldn't see.

As the years progressed my memories and experiences changed. We moved to a school on our property. The walk now was not a two mile

hike but a 10 minute walk. My first paying job was starting a fire in the potbellied stove each morning before the teacher arrived. Then there was the time we had skunks under the school. Well, skunk pelts were selling for big



Del, Gerald and Geraldine (Geri) the twins.

*Continued on page 8.*

## Raffle Tickets For Sale

# Win a Twin-Size Quilt

\$2.00 each

3 for \$5.00

*Originally Designed and Quilted by Alice Summers (shown right) who has donated it to GROW for Raffle at the GRHS Convention July 12-16, 2006*

Tickets available at Chapter Meeting or call Maxine Daily (503) 253-8388.

Sales proceeds will go toward convention expenses.

Tickets are Tax Deductible



## South Dakota School Days and Beyond (cont.)

money. (I think about five cents each.) This was an opportunity I couldn't pass up. I became the big white hunter and trapped seven from under the school house. I didn't tell the teacher until after the fact, this was my good fortune, because she became very angry as it could have left a



**Mike Usselman (left) and Del.**

very bad odor and probably closed the school for a time.

Oh, it got so cold in the one room school house that we would keep our overcoats on all day, then if it really got cold we would circle around that old stove, standing in a circle we would continue with our studies, of course. That little country school had no running water which required our bringing water from home and this was stored in a water crock which everybody drank from. There were many times when we would have to melt the ice before we had any for drinking. Let me tell you about my sister, she didn't take a backseat to anybody. She would play softball with the best of them and I always tried to select her to play on my team. Why I remember one time, we were out playing in the snow, I made a snow ball to throw and it hit Sis by accident. She looked around to see who threw it, looking around she saw this boy laughing, thinking he threw it she walked over doubled her fist and hit him as hard as she could. Well that boy's Dad was over to talk to our Dad about that mean girl who hit his son.

No story would be complete without mentioning some of the other students. Of course there was Andrew who mothered all of us. Before he grew out of school (never did graduate) he wiped many of our noses and did everything needed to help us. All the students were farm families and nobody had much money therefore the mothers sewed most of our clothes. Well the girls wore flannel bloomers (underpants) and nobody wore anything but dresses. Now there was this one family who did not use elastic and the poor girl kept loosing her bloomers, good old Andrew kept pulling them up for her. The school house which we attended consisted of only first and second cousins, with the teacher often being a cousin through marriage.

*Continued next issue.*

## 2006-07 GROW Board of Directors

### **Roger Haas, President/Liaison**

8618 SE 36th Ave. (503) 659-8248  
Portland, OR 97222 rahaas@haasfamily.us  
*Term ends: 2007*

### **Jan Haberman, Vice President**

8110 SE Madison (503) 252-5480  
Portland, OR 97215 haberman988@msn.com  
*Term ends: 2008*

### **Maxine Daily, Secretary**

454 NE 69th Ave (503) 253-8388  
Portland, OR 97213-5504 max\_627@msn.com  
*Term ends: 2009*

### **Alice Summers, Treasurer**

130 SE 155th Place (503) 775-9929  
Portland, OR 97233 sewsum4u@msn.com  
*Term ends: 2008*

### **Geraldine Gander, Membership**

14926 SE Lowell Lane (503) 625-3070  
Sherwood, OR 97140-7014 neatfamily@verizon.net  
*Term ends: 2007*

### **Arlene Maston, Membership Assist**

8202 NE Going St. (503) 255-5493  
Portland, OR 97220-4860 amaston@aol.com  
*Term ends: 2009*

### **Oscar Geiszler, Fundraising**

803 5th Ave (503) 656-1802  
Oregon City, OR 97045 oscarandlorraine@msn.com  
*Term ends: 2007*

### **Kurt Radtke, Member at Large, Programs**

20023 Quinalt Dr. 503-518-8181  
Oregon City, OR 97045  
*Term ends: 2009*

### **Ell Schiermeister, 1st Alternate**

12010 SE McGillivray 360-253-2499  
Vancouver, WA 98683

### **Leona Koth Hix, 2nd Alternate**

2704 Haworth Ave. 503-538-4508  
Newberg, OR 97132-1918 JWHIX@comcast.net

## Fundraising Opportunities— At No Cost To You!!

- **Electronic Newsletters.** Receive your newsletters via email, and save GROW in postage costs. Thank You!
- **Albertson's Scan Cards** - Contact **Roger Haas** for your card if you don't already have one. Thank You!

### **Other Opportunities to Help...**

- **Oscar Geiszler** is recycling inkjet and laser cartridges. Bring your empty cartridges to Chapter Meetings or contact Oscar directly. He can also help you receive approximately 50% discount on refilled cartridges.
- Visit **Joe and Geri Gander** before/after the Chapter Meetings to view the fascinating collection of books, audio CDs, videos, etc. that are available for sale. Also take a look at the tote bags, key chains and magnets, all with GROW logo.

# 2006 GRHS Convention Evaluation Form

Your convention planning committee is interested in your evaluation of this year's convention. As you participate in various workshops during the conference, please take a moment to evaluate those experiences. Your input and further suggestions will be taken into consideration to

help improve future conventions. Please mark each presentation with a checkmark, rating each presentation on a 1 to 5 scale, with 5 being the best possible score and with 1 being the worst possible score. Bring this completed evaluation to our 23 July Wrap-up Chapter Meeting.

	5	4	3	2	1
Registration					
Bookstore					
Library					
Tour 1: Columbia Gorge					
Tour 2: Portland City with three Gardens					
Tour 3: Mt. St. Helens					
RIG (Regional Interest Group) Annual Meeting of Beresan District Odessa (BDO)					
RIG (Regional Interest Group) Annual Meeting of Bessarabia					
RIG (Regional Interest Group) Annual Meeting of Crimea					
RIG (Regional Interest Group) Annual Meeting of Germany to Prussia-Poland to Russia (GP-PR)					
RIG (Regional Interest Group) Annual Meeting of Grossliebental (GDO)					
RIG (Regional Interest Group) Annual Meeting of Hoffnungstal					
RIG (Regional Interest Group) Annual Meeting of Kutschurgan					
Annual Meeting of Glückstalers (GCRA)					
A Brief History of Germans in Bessarabia					
An Illustrated History of West Prussia					
An Overview to Estate Planning & Asset Management					
A Tale of Two Anabaptist Families					
Awards: Joseph Height Literary					
Awards: Lane Alton Nusz					
Awards: Life Membership					
Awards: New Chapter/RIGS					
Awards: Pride in Your Heritage Youth Essay Contest					
Banquet Speech: Friday Night~Reach Out and Touch					
Banquet Speech: Saturday Night~Germans from Russia in W. Canada-Preserving the Culture					
BDC/EWZ: What is it? What can be Found There?					
Boosting our Membership/New Chapters					
Business Meeting GRHS Annual					
Business Meeting GRHS Quarterly					
Chapter Officer's Breakfast Meeting					
Convention Opening Welcoming Ceremony;					
Did They Come Here Through a Canadian Port?					
DNA and Family History: Synergy at Work					
Entertainment: Emter Family Accordionists					
Entertainment: Janzen Family Ensemble					
Entertainment: Oregon Polka Beats Dance Band					
Escape and Survival: The Last Train out					
EWZ Records Extraction Project					
Family Photos Restored Using Your Computer					
Family Tree Maker 2006, advanced					
Family Tree Maker 2006, basic					
Flemmer Family Saga: Moldova to North Dakota and Siberia					
From Ukraine to Spokane [Washington]: Three Ways of Telling a Family History					
German American Golden Oldies Tunes					
Germany to Hungary to Russia					
German Immigration & Development of Mt Angel, Oregon					
German Migration Motives from 1700 through 1900					
Grandma's Käse Knepfle					
GRHS Clearing House/Town Meeting					
GRHS/RIG Webpage Show and Tell					
HFGR (Heritage Foundation for Germans from Russia) Annual Business Meeting					
How to Understand the Characteristics of a German from Russia					
I dream of you so often... Ethnic Germans in Russia write their American Relatives					
Master of Ceremonies: Brady Adams & Del Beck					
Miracle Town: Leavenworth (Washington)					
Microfilm Acquisitions from the Odessa Archives and Related Mennonite Research					
Movie: ...and When they shall Ask: A Docu-Drama... of the Russian Mennonite Experience					
Movie: A Soulful Sound: Music of the Germans from Russia					
Movie: From the Russia Steppe to the Pacific NW: The Germans from Russia					

Continued on back cover.

# GROW 2005 Quarterly Calendar

J U L Y 2 0 0 6						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4 4th of July	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
			GRHS CONVENTION			
23 Chapter Meeting	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

A U G U S T 2 0 0 6						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 0 6						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4 Labor Day	5	6	7 Newsletter Deadline	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Board Meeting	21	22	23
24 Chapter Meeting	25	26	27	28	29	30

**Chapter Meetings are held at:**  
**Deutsches Haus**  
**7901 SE Division, Portland, OR**  
**Doors open at 1:00 pm**  
**Meeting starts at 2:00 pm until about 5:00 pm**

**Coming from I-205 South take Exit 19 Ramp and turn West on Powell Blvd to 82nd Ave. Go .5 mile North to Division St., then turn left and go to 7901.**

**Coming from I-205 North take Exit 19 Ramp onto Division St. Go West on Division to 7901.**

## Chapter Meetings

**25 June 2006** Pre-convention Rally and Installation of Elected Directors..

**23 July 2006** Convention Wrap-up. Bring your completed evaluation form found on pages 9 and 12

**No Meetings in August**

**24 Sept. 2006** Recollections of the 2006 GRHS Convention.

**28 October 2006** Humorist & Historian Ell Schiermeister who will honor us with his self-deprecating wit.

## GROW Annual Picnic

A big thank you goes out to Kurt and Jane Radtke for opening their home in Oregon City for our annual picnic. on 21 May Everything was great. Even the rain stayed away.

We had a great turnout this year, 29 people brought wonderful food to share for a meal and fellowship at the Radtke's beautifully landscaped yard.

Many of the ladies joined in turning the bags that Maxine Daily and Alice Summers are sewing for the convention. They are ready for stuffing. Thanks gals for doing a great job!



**Kurt and Jane Radtke in their beautifully landscaped backyard during the GROW picnic on 12 May.**

# Sunshine News

by Jan Haberman



Our prayers go out on behalf of Gene and Doris Magee. Gene is suffering from a fractured tailbone due to osteoporosis. Doris took a fall and has a hairline fracture of her left pelvis and possibly her shoulder.

Amelia Lybarger has moved to West Seattle to be with her daughter. We all love her and will miss her being so far away,

Paul and Sharon Voeller for the loss of Sharon's mother.

Roger and Roberta Haas, both are suffering from back and leg pains. Roger has recently had an MRI and will be seeing an orthopedic surgeon for further evaluation.

## In Remembrance

### Esther Louise Reiss

March 2, 1915 - May 22, 2006

Recitation of the Rosary followed by Mass of Christian Burial was held on Thursday, May 25 at St. Johns the Baptist Catholic Church in Milwaukie, OR. She died May 22 at the age of 91.

Esther Louise Kennel was born March 2, 1915 in Campbell, MN.

She moved to Portland in 1942 and was a Scope Technician for Tektronix. She retired in 1974 to Rockaway Beach and moved to Milwaukie last October. In 1936 she married William F. Reiss, who died in 1996.

Survivors include her daughters Sharon L. Voeller and Carol A. Baughman; sons David B. Reiss, Michael J. Reiss, brother Wilbur O. Kennel, sister Edith L. Kath, 11 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren.

## Newsletter Submissions Welcomed!

Please send articles, photos, stories, anecdotes, recipes, etc. to:

Janice Prunier, Editor • 1218 Pacific Ave., Everett, WA 98201

jcprunier@comcast.net

Deadline for next issue is October 1, 2006.



## GROW Membership Application

Germans from Russia Oregon and Washington



Years of Membership \_\_\_\_\_  New  Renewal

Birth Month (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ Anniversary Month (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (include area code) \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Name of ancestral village(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Family surnames \_\_\_\_\_

Names of adults in household desiring membership cards \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my remittance of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Membership fees are due annually on January 1.

### GROW Newsletter/Operation Donation (minimum \$5.00)

GRHS Membership \$40.00 • GRHS Lifetime Membership \$650.00 (\$130.00 per year)

Make checks payable to GROW - US Currency Only • Mail to: Geri Gander, 14926 SE Lowell Lane, Sherwood, OR 97140-7014

Please send email updates and address corrections to Geri Gander - neatfamily@verizon.net

### GROW Quarterly Newsletter Deadlines: September 1 • December 1 • March 1 • June 1

All submissions are welcome. If you would like any materials returned, please include a SASE.

Send articles to: janice.prunier@verizon.net or by mail at 1218 Pacific Ave., Everett, WA 98201

	5	4	3	2	1
Movie: Prairie Crosses Prairie Voices ~ Iron Crosses of the Great Plains					
Movie: You, Land of My Forefathers' Choice ~ Bessarabia Story					
Non-denominational Memorial Service					
Odessa, Washington: Deutschesfest					
Organizing and Creating a Genealogy Treasure Book					
Our visit to the Mennonite Germans from Russia in S. America: Paraguay & Brazil					
Prussia to Oregon by Way of Russia					
Reading Cyrillic Script					
Russia to China: The Way Around					
Shortcuts to Reading Russian Census Documents Yourself					
Sing-A-Long – Friday					
Sing-A-Long – Saturday					
Singing by Art Flegel Welcoming Ceremony, "Old Man River" & Memorial Service					
Singing by Johann OH, International Opera Soprano Soloist					
Singing by Liedertafel Harmonie Portland Choir					
Stalin's Secret Files					
The Works and Projects of the Germans from Russia Heritage Collection					
Two Dozen (or more) Ways to Research Germans from Russia					
Use of the Computer for Genealogical Research					
Visiting the Land of Our Forefathers					
Voices of the Future, Reading from this year's Winning Youth Essays					
What is Behind the names					
Hotel Accommodations: temperature; parking; site map; session seating; site map, etc.					
Food: (quality and quantity)					
Fresh Cobbler Breaks accompanying the Emters Accordionists					
Thursday Barbeque Buffet					
Friday Luncheon					
Friday Banquet					
Saturday Officers' Breakfast					
Saturday Luncheon					
Saturday Banquet					
Comments:					
Suggested Future Workshop Presenters:					



*Germans from Russia Heritage Society*

**GROW Chapter**

8618 SE 36th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97222