

# GROW Quarterly Newsletter

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

Volume 6 Issue 3

April - May - June 2007

## Message from the President

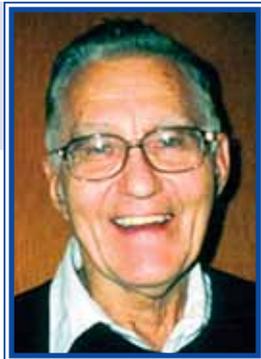
The National GRHS was organized in part to bring people together to socialize, collect, and preserve the rich heritage of our German Ancestors from Russia.

GROW, the local GRHS Portland Chapter, has, in five years plus, done a pretty good job of bringing people together to have "maistub" (fellowship), have excellent programs, enjoy good desserts, make books, tapes, etc. available, share some family/ancestral village information, having off-campus seminars to research and put family histories together.

GROW hosted 2006 GRHS Convention by providing the attendees with information on different regions and areas in Russia, history on writings, music, customs, foods, in South America, Canada and US which celebrate the culture, the archival of records, different sagas and struggles in Russia, various research techniques to help members from sundry ancestral villages and slightly different background & regional experiences, etc. For 2007, the GROW Chapter has committed itself to concentrate in helping individuals to pursue their Family History.

Lola Weber, 2006 Convention Program Chair, did a spectacular job of assembling a historic array of presenters/programs as referenced above and will equally direct all interested persons in pursuing or continuing their Family History quest. Lola has done considerable research on her own, has traveled to Europe, to most of her roots in the US, and just keeps digging and putting together reunions and workshops with the genealogical societies.

If you haven't begun your Family History, this would be an excellent time to obtain help from our experienced GROW people. The same applies if you



Roger Haas, President

have started and may have hit a snag. If Lola and her assembled team, Joni Jundt, Dr. Tim Janzen, Vivian Messenger and others are unable to help, Professional Genealogist Susan Baird will be available. Village coordinators can be sought and online records are available such as Ancestry.com, LDS files, Roots web, Cyndi's List and many more listed below.

A Survey Sheet was given out at the January and February Chapter Meetings. It is also available on page 9 of the newsletter.

Thirty-one have been returned with the following data:

- Twenty-nine desire the GROW membership list indicating the members' ancestral villages and families for whom that they are searching.
- Thirty-one indicated their willingness to share their information, trusting that it will not be misused and for the expressed purpose of research and sharing among members.
- Twenty-three are interested in having help regarding their Family History
- Twenty-one have indicated an interest to participate in Family relationship group meetings.

*Continued on page 3.*

## Inside This Issue

<i>Ed's Corner</i> .....	2
<i>In Remembrance - Billie Michael Usinger</i> .....	2
<i>February Chapter Meeting Summary</i> .....	4-5
<i>Times Lines and Your Ancestors</i> .....	6
<i>How We Came to Live in West Linn</i> .....	7-8
<i>Family History Survey</i> .....	9
<i>Calendar</i> .....	10
<i>In Remembrance - Elmer Haas</i> .....	11
<i>A Dakota Farm Boy</i> .....	11

## Ed's Corner

In the January 2007 GROW Chapter meeting there was an excellent program about genealogy and checking our family roots in Germany, Russia and here in North America.

One of the suggestions was checking the Homestead Records. In 1917 my Dad homesteaded in Corson County, South Dakota near Isabel. Adjoining his homestead was another that was homesteaded by my uncle, my mother's brother.

Six years ago I got a book from the Germans from Russia Heritage Collection, *Tracing Your Dakota Roots, A Guide To Genealogical Research In The Dakotas*. A great number of our GROW members are from The Dakotas and this excellent book can be purchased through our GROW Chapter.

There are 201 pages in the book that are full of information to help you with your personal history research. The opening chapter has the title of *Discovering Dakota* and then proceeds to give a short history of the Dakotas.

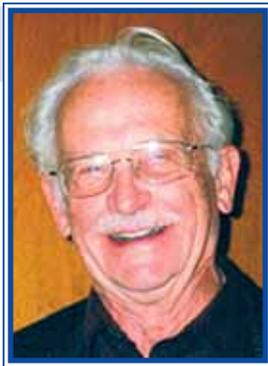
Here is a short article entitled *Two Dakotas*:

"By 1885, Fargo, the largest city of Dakota Territory, had a population of 12,000. Bismark (formerly called Edwinton) had replaced Yankton as territorial capital, becoming North Dakota's capital when Dakota achieved Statehood in 1889. Pierre was chosen as the capital of South Dakota.

In the years of settlement, the ebb and flow of conditions in the Dakotas—either economics or Mother Nature's whims—determined a settler's success or failure. Cycles of drought and grasshoppers, of low farm prices, prairie fires in the summer and blizzards in the winter, led to waves of out migration.

Some influx into Dakota occurred prior to World War I as some Europeans fled the approaching war and mandatory service in the German army. An anti-immigration feeling swept the land following World War I, and immigration laws limited the number and nationalities of immigrants.

When the Great Depression struck in the 1930s, Dakotans left the two states in vast numbers. During this great Dakotan exodus, letters from relatives who had moved to the West Coast



Ed Weber

years earlier prompted Dakotans devastated by the drought, dust, and to pull up their Dakota roots and replant them in areas such as Lodi, CA, and Eugene, OR."

In 1936 my parents moved to Washington State to a farm next door to my Uncle and Aunt who both came to the United States from a German community in Russia. My Uncle in turn had a brother and two sisters also living in the same area of Washington.

That's it from Ed's Corner.

## In Remembrance

### Billie Michael Usinger

March 9, 1936 - January 3, 2007

Billie Michael Usinger found peace Jan. 3, 2007 at the age of 70 years old.

Beloved husband of Margaret (Evans) for 50 years; loving father of Patrea (Gary) Kordosky, Alena (Darby) Heck, Billie Michael Usinger, Jr. and John Usinger; loving grandfather of Gary Kordosky Jr., Jennifer Kordosky, Heather Usinger, Dylan, Nathan & Natalie Heck and Hailey Usinger. Also loved and remembered by sisters Helen Rufer, Mollae Paola; brothers Ronald Usinger, Theodore Usinger, Clifford Haberman and Edward Haberman.

Preceded in death by brothers, Fred Usinger, Alex Usinger and sisters, Emma Usinger, Mildred Whitman and Catherine Ruppel.

Bill was born March 9, 1936 in Mt. Morrison, Colo. to parents George & Helen (Hurst) Usinger. In 1937 he moved with his family to Oregon and settled in Portland. He met and married Margaret Evans on February 15, 1957 and together they raised their family in St Johns.

He was a member of the Bricklayers Union Local 1 and worked for several area masonry companies, mostly Neil Kelly and JA Wiley before becoming disabled in 1975. Bill was a life-long bird lover and raised pigeons since the age of 12. He was a longtime member of the NW Pigeon Fanciers Association and American Roller Club. Bill entered his birds in many a pigeon show and won many trophies in several events.

He was most proud of his Grand National Trophy for "Best of Breed" at the Grand National Pigeon Show at the Oregon State Fair in 1969. Viewing was Tuesday, Jan. 9 and Wednesday, Jan. 10 at Skyline Memorial Funeral Home. Funeral service followed at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 11, 2007 at Skyline Memorial.

## President's Message, cont.

- Twenty would like to participate in Village Cluster Meetings during the Chapter Meeting.
- Sixteen have completed family one-three family lines and nine have completed four or more family lines.
- Fifteen are willing to help others with their Family History
- Thirteen would like a Professional Genealogist help.
- Thirteen indicated the resources they have used—Ancestry.com ranked first with the LDS second.

Other resources named were: Canadian Immigration, Cemetery & Interment, Census, Cyndi's List, Ehrman.net, Family Members, Family Search, Family Tree Magazine, Heritage Quest, GCRA, Google, GRHS.org, IGI, Karl Stump Book, Odessa Digital Library, Odessa 3 Roots.Web, Social Security Registry, State Archives, Stephen P Morse On Line Genealogy, St Petersburg Archives, The Empire that was Russia, US Gen Web and US Naturalization. The above addresses are not complete and you can best be helped by attending a Chapter Meeting to obtain direction from the above experienced members.

Thank you, GROW Members, for your input and willingness to make this 2007 Mission Project a success for those who wish to be engaged.

If you want to participate in GROW 2007 Mission Goal and want to complete a simple 12 line questionnaire on the GROW Membership Family History Survey, please call or send in your request to Roger Haas 503-659-8248 or rahaas@haasfamily.us

The GROW Family is excited about your participation in not only the above 2007 Educational Mission, but in your membership renewals. We had 171 GROW members recorded in 2006 and it appears we have exceeded that enrollment for 2007. Our highest enrollment was 252 in 2002 and it would be nice to exceed that. Arlene Maston is the "super star" and is keeping the records straight with addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, family names, villages and the different classifications, in addition to making newsletter labels and assisting with infinitesimal other demands. You can help in the additional enrollment of new members by inviting your family, friends and others with whom you rub shoulders in the shopping malls, at church or wherever.

GRHS is offering more and more services and archival research. It collects, lists, and catalogues, published materials and personal documents that tell of the European migrations and exodus to the United States and Canada and also about the pioneer life on the plains. But you must be a member to gain access to the more extensive secured areas. Likewise, you must be a member of GROW to participate in our programs, library, research services and receive

our Newsletter and mailings. The \$40 GRHS dues and the GROW donation of \$5 (or more) is "peanuts" when you think of the price of gas to go to the store, library, etc., the price of a book or food.

The cost of printing and mailing the Quarterly Newsletter to those that can't receive it electronically, of course, exceeds that of those who can receive it by e-mail. All the Directors, the Newsletter Editor, et.al. volunteer their services to preserve our heritage. Thank them as you see or communicate with them for their gift of time and talent.

Your children and grandchildren will need your encouragement and your stepping up to the plate in purchasing/paying their National and Local Membership Dues. Make it a gift or use the barter system and do something for them to relieve and free them to come to the Local Chapter Meeting or go to the National Convention. It is not going to happen, unless YOU are the model and set the pace. Your rewards will be greater than you can imagine and you will have the pride double dose. It can't start any sooner than now while you are reading this article and today is not too late.

The youth hunger to know their ancestry and their background. Are you sitting with them around a dinner table, in a restaurant, on a fishing trip, etc. and giving them a little of your life? I don't mean to be "preachy", but time flies and the next thing you know you're about ready for the grave. I just helped to bury a brother and my healthy body has started to "break down". What are you doing to leave a legacy? GROW & GRHS can give you and them a source of joy and happiness, thinking what your parents and grandparents did for you in leaving the "Old Country", sacrificing and doing without, living in poverty to see their offspring have a better life. I have my parents and my grandparents to thank daily for their risks, hard work, and ingenuity. How about you? See page 11 for the Application Form and see how many you can enroll in GRHS & GROW.

You will not be poorer but RICHER many fold by gifting one or more memberships for your family. I have given LIFE memberships in GRHS and AHSGR for all my children and you will want to do no less for yours. They will be carrying on where you leave off. You know the sayings "you can't send it ahead" and "you can't take it with you", so you might as well make a good investment in the family you love. Also, there are a couple of proverbs that apply here: The greatest joy in life is GIVING and the most satisfying work is HELPING OTHERS.

I would like to share more positive good news, but my space is limited so, until the next time,

*Roger*

## GROW Chapter Meeting Summary - 25 February 2007

The wintry Oregon weather was blustery and rainy: a day to enjoy near a fire, but know that when Genealogist Susan Baird is a Presenter, you don't want to miss her presentation, regardless of the weather. Forty-six attendees, which included 43 regular members and three guests, enjoyed a spellbindingly researched history. Susan not only prepared the subject well, which her audience had chosen in January, but totally involved them in bringing out the gems of her research. Further, she brought a slide show of many renowned Germans from Russia who have succeeded in life and have given pride to our ethnic people. After about 75 minutes of intense listening and audience participation, we had refreshments.

Not only did we have desserts, but also some main dish items: Marcine Herinck brought potatoes, sauerkraut, wieners, and pumpkin pie; and Kay Carey brought a cheese-rice-broccoli casserole. Transitioning to desserts, Jane Radke brought a colorful swirl cinnamon cake; Lorraine brought a cheese cake and a bundt cake; Paula Pfau brought banana cake; Arlene Maston brought grapes, cheese, crackers, a fluted sweet potato cake and coconut cupcakes; Katherine Bell brought large oatmeal raisin cookies; Vivian Messenger brought sweet red and green grapes; and Roberta brought apple juice and brownies. Jan Haberman favored us by making the coffee. Marcine and Kay heated their food in the microwave. Jane arranged the table cloths and napkins, plates and cutlery. Arlene, Jane, Roberta and Paula busied themselves with cutting the pies, cakes, brownies and getting things like grapes ready to be served.

Lola Weber proceeded in the second half of the program with Dr. Tim Janzen following, in laying out the proposed plans to help each member desiring to search or help others with their ancestral research needs.

Lola had members chart their family name(s) on a large 3' x 5' map. Kurt Radtke had helped to exhibit the 12 designated major areas/regions that we used at the 2006 GRHS Convention Ancestral Village Night. Vivian Messenger made available Pedigree Charts for those who are starting or are adding to their Family History trees.

Arlene Maston is working in completing the GROW Roster with each member's major Ancestral families and their most immediate family names which they are searching. This is an unending job as GROW and GRHS members don't all renew at once and the Membership Chair can't complete it and be done: with constant recruitment and renewals spanning more than six months. It really helps when GROW members are timely with their renewals. At any rate, a BIG, BIG THANK YOU for all of you who have remitted your donations and submitted your

up-to-date applications. This will be helpful to the club members to know other GROW members searching in the same villages and perhaps even with the same families. This can be a team effort as they connect, hobnob and share.

More Family History Surveys were collected, from the attending members to know their interest in pursuing the emphasized Mission for 2007 of helping GROW members with their Family Histories. The majority replying have expressed a desire to participate in the Village Cluster Meetings. Further, the tallied details thus far reveal a desire to have assistance by others including professional genealogists. So where do we go from here?

You know Lola Weber; she is well underway with the March Meeting dealing with us as members...NO SPEAKER or PRESENTER...just ourselves learning from each other and directing ourselves in a lot of fun and in a structural manner in pursuing our individual goals. We have never done this and YOU will help this Chapter Meeting be exciting with some interesting results.

Joni Jundt who made the beautiful Ancestral Village Convention ribbons and donated \$30, will perhaps be sharing in highlighting computer genealogy programs as well as what is available, the using the different programs with ease and their prices.

Now back to the remainder of the Meeting.

We had a call for any news articles that you would like to contribute to make it Your Newsletter. The deadline for the April-May-June issue is 1 March 2007, but our editor, Jan Prunier, sometimes waives this deadline, especially if she is short on articles. On the other hand, if your article is not time-sensitive, she can hold it for the next edition. Think about what you can add to our GROW Newsletter to make it even more newsworthy!

We had no February Anniversaries, but we were glad to recognize Geraldine Gander and Paula Pfau for having another birthday celebration. Thank you for sharing and letting us enjoy in your special day.

Oscar Geiszler again did the honors of collecting your Building Use donations. You gave \$33 toward the \$40 monthly gift that GROW sends to the German American Society as a token of enjoying the Deutsches Haus' lovely dining facility for our meeting and for the library storage room. Joe and Geri Gander favored us by being in charge of the book display and you favored GROW by purchasing book(s) and/or tapes in the amount of \$17. Thank you, Joe and Geri, for taking charge of our ways and means. Geri also volunteered as our GROW Board secretary to complete Maxine Daily's unexpired term due to health problems. Thank you, Geri.

---

*Continued on page 5.*

## GROW Chapter Meeting Summary - 25 February 2007, cont.

Our membership keeps climbing, thanks to you inviting your friends and neighbors. It looks like we will be exceeding our 2006 Membership of 173. Let us see if we can't exceed the 252 we had in 2002. At this point, Arlene Maston, our Membership Chairman, has recorded 165 warm bodies and we have several more who have indicated their wish to join our family. We gained a new FREE Matching GRHS-GROW member with the great 2006 Convention publicity assistant, Victor Jacobs, from Tillamook, OR. He is still promoting! Thank You. Vic brought his two sisters, Therese Jacobs White and Carol Jacobs. It was Therese Jacobs White who won the February FREE Matching Member for 2007.

NOW, who can you think of bringing for our March meeting to be eligible for our next FREE Matching Member Drawing? In addition to the Jacob sisters, we were pleased to welcome Regina Tang to our Chapter Meeting. Thank you, Glenda & Don Schafer from Boring, OR, for inviting Regina and gracing us with your presence. Also, it was a pleasure to see Harold Lang again with his dear wife, Violet. Then, Leon & Kay Hagen, we were so pleased to see you in Yakima, WA and now are having the pleasure of enjoying you here at our GROW Chapter Meeting. We extend to all of you a warm welcome and invite you back for our coming meetings. We were glad to see Paul Voeller and were sorry to hear that Sharon was under the weather.

The Business Meeting was short with the announcement that the Nominating Committee consisting of Jan Haberman and Arlene, will be looking for interested candidates for five Director Positions: namely three regular and two alternates. The three-year terms of Oscar Geiszler, Geraldine Gander, and Roger Haas are expiring 30 June 2007.

The highest three vote-getters will be awarded the three-year terms positions and the fourth highest will become Alternate Director #1 and fifth highest will become Alternate Director #2. The Nominees must be current GRHS and GROW member in good standing. You can nominate yourself or anyone else, providing that each is eligible, gives his/her consent and is willing and able to serve the GROW Chapter. The Nominating Committee will be sharing the announced candidates at the 25 March Chapter Meeting and those, plus any nominations from the floor on 22 April 2007, will be the slate of Director Candidates from which YOU the electors will be selecting.

Another item of New Business was the announcement that the German American Society had not only invited GROW as an affiliated Club, but also is giving a web page to be placed on their website: <http://www.germanamerican.org/grow.htm>. Each

GROW member will be getting a Free German American Journal The Quarterly Journal will provide you with a Calendar of Events of the Society, Travel tips & sites, German News, Book reviews, etc.

Following the adjournment of the business session, we had the door prize and raffle drawing. The donors were Marcine Herinck and the Dalton Pfaus. Thank you. The lucky winner of the door prize was Marcine Herinck and the raffle winner was Vivian Messenger. Congratulations! If you like the ideas of the drawings please bring your donations to our future meetings. I think our members enjoy this additional excitement. Thank you.

We missed our great song leader, Ed Weber and Anita, his wife and our assistant pianist, but just the same, we closed the meeting holding hands and singing with gusto from memory *So Nimm Meine Hände*.

We had good *gemütlichkeit* following and some helping with the clean up to leave the place as good or better than we found the nice facility. Thank you for all who pitched and helped. The property manager checked us out as we were leaving the place in good condition and he was well satisfied.

Bis bald, (Until our next Chapter Meeting on 25 March), Roger.



**Share Your Stories!**  
Research requested for  
**Germans from Russia  
in Portland in the early years.**  
*Where did they live?  
What were their customs?  
Where did they go to  
school, work, or church?*

We have received this request from  
an individual out of the area.

If you would like to take this on,  
it would be great information to  
put in the newsletter as well.

Please contact: Lola M Weber,  
106 Victoria St, Longview, WA  
98632, or call 360-423-8359 or  
email: [hunter6806@msn.com](mailto:hunter6806@msn.com)

# Time Lines and Your Ancestors—or What Time is IT?

By Lola M. Weber

Sometimes it seems like you end up with more information than you know what to do with (this is a wish of mine) or you don't think that you know much about your ancestor. In either of these cases, using a timeline can be really helpful to the family historian.



Lola Weber

Different time lines may serve one or all of the following purposes:

- Creating a TimeLine with **what you know** about your ancestor
- Help you **analyze the events** in your ancestors life
- **Relating Historical Events** to your ancestors life
- Consider **Social History** in your ancestors life
- **Maps of events** in your ancestors life can serve as a Time Line

Start by examining **WHAT** you know about your ancestor. You may be surprised at what is in your

head and at your fingertips. Take a good look at those letters, pictures, diaries (if you should be so fortunate), postcards, and family heirlooms.

You may expose “holes” or “gaps” in your research—which gives you ideas for what kinds of research you might want to do next. Did you check for military service? There’s a whole list of possible records that might help you check out those holes.

By the time you finish, you may find that ancestor has come to “life” — perhaps by adding social and historical events. What were the social activities at the time that your ancestor was alive? Was it the Depression? WWI or WWII? Did they live on a farm?

The **TIME** to start is **NOW!!**

- Genealogy involves the active study of history and geography.
- Timelines place your ancestor into historical context.
- A timeline is like a ruler to measure chronology.
- The family historian will find timelines to be a useful tool which may simplify, clarify and help solve research problems.

## SAMPLE TIMELINE BELOW

Timeline for: \_\_\_\_\_ Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Calendar Year	Age	Location	Key Events	Record of Events	Notes
_____	0	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	1	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	2	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	3	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	4	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	5	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	6	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	7	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	8	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	9	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	10	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	11	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	12	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	13	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	14	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	15	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	16	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	17	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	18	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	19	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	20	_____	_____	_____	_____

# How we came to live in West Linn, Oregon

By Maxine Daily

Ma & Pa Weber sold the Central Hotel in Brad-dock, ND and followed his son Walter to Oregon City in about 1935-36. They packed up all five kids in the old Graham automobile and drove out to Oregon. They lived in Oregon City for a short time and then moved to Sunset Avenue in West Linn.

Walter & Mable (Wagner) Weber and son Roy were the first of the Weber family to move to Oregon City in 1933-35.

Mom (Ella Lutz Wetzel), sister Carma (3 years), sister Laura (8 months) and I (11 years) followed in June 1939. Mom's Aunt Katie Roesler Lindeman from Linton, ND whose husband John Lindeman worked for Southern Pacific Railroad paid our train fare of \$15 for the one-way trip from Bismark to Portland. My father hitchhiked out later in the year.

We got off the train in Portland and boarded a bus to Oregon City. We got off the bus at the bus station by the old Oregon City elevator. I went across the street to what was then the old CC Department Store on 7th and Main Streets and bought a yard of pink diaper flannel so Mom could change my younger sister's diaper. This is where I found out that people with gray hair spoke English; I thought that all "old" people spoke German.

We waited at the bus station for a city bus to take us up to Sunset Avenue. When we got on the bus Mom told the driver we were going to John Weber's house and the bus driver didn't know where he lived, but a boy on the bus told Mom where to get off the bus in front of their house. The boy was Roy Landis, who lived across the street from them. He became a fixture in our lives and to this day we still keep in contact. Currently he's living on the Oregon coast in Bay City with his wife Fidella Freeman Landis who also lived in Sunset. He's 82 years old.

In Wishek, North Dakota, where I was born, my paternal grandmother, who was a very important person in my life growing up, Elizabeth Remboldt Wetzel Stockberger taught me to write and speak German. Unfortunately, I have forgotten most of what she taught me. This is why it's so important to continue educating our young people in our heritage and the language of our ancestors. The first thing I remember learning from her to read and write was the Lord's Prayer she had embroidered it in black lettering on a flour sack It was quite long and narrow and hung above the kitchen table.



Maxine Daily

During the years of 1934-1936 I have great memories of my step-grandfather Gottlieb Stockburger He used to let me help him make homebrew. He made it in big crocks. We would go down to the basement and he would let me help bottle it. We used a long red hose with a clamp on it to siphon the beer into the bottles. I would suck on the hose to start the flow and the clamp would stop the flow into the bottles. After the bottles were filled I would put the tops on them and he would flip the clips to seal the bottles. I would stand on a stool and he would hand the bottles to me and I would put them on the shelf. I even got to taste it later.

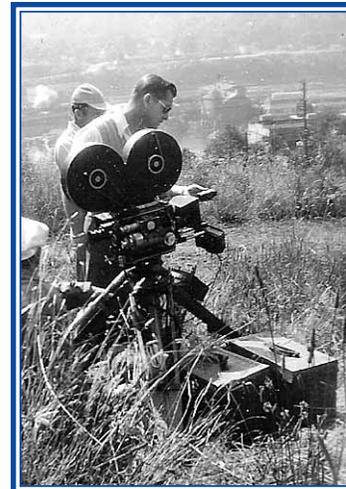
## Movie scenes filmed behind Ma and Pa Weber's home

Part of the movie *Golden Earrings* (1947) was filmed in West Linn on a back road behind my grandparents home (Carolina Roesler Lutz Weber and John P. Weber, originally from Eureka, SD). Ma & Pa Weber's house was located between Sunset Avenue and the old road going to Willamette above Willamette Falls and the paper mills. In the distance of one of the photos you can see the Canehma area of Oregon City and possibly part of Canby. If you look carefully you can see smoke/steam coming from the Publisher's Paper Mill in Oregon City.

Someone in the family took the pictures in 1946 and gave me copies. I was 19 years old. The filmmakers used the Willamette River location to substitute for the Rhine River in Germany.



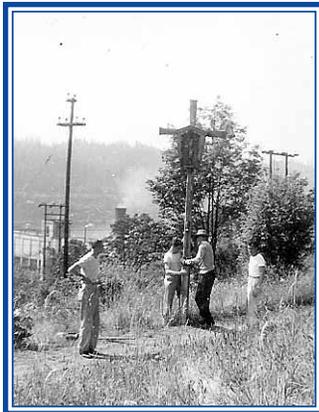
Ray Milland as Colonel Ralph Denistoun in the film *Golden Earrings* (1947)



*Golden Earrings* film crew (left), you can see Oregon City in the background.

Continued on page 8.

## More *Golden Earrings* photos



Look behind the tree to see smoke from the Publisher's Papermill, Oregon City.



From the Wishek book 1898-1998 Centennial Edition.

August 2, 1989. Cow Pie Bingo featured at Crazy Dog Days! Features a live cow penned-up in a area of 100 marked squares. Chances will be sold on where the "pie" will drop.

## 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*

### Geraldine Gander, Secretary

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

### Alice Summers, Treasurer

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

### Arlene Maston, Membership

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 970458  
*Term ends: 2009*

### Eli Schiermeister, Member at Large

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

### Leona Koth Hix, Member at Large

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



*Maxine Daily, Director Emeritus*

*Clifford Haberman, Director Emeritus*

*Robert Majhor, Director Emeritus*

*Ed Weber, Director Emeritus*

# GROW Membership Family History Survey

The 2006 National GRHS Convention is behind us and GROW needs to revisit one of our Mission Goals to assist its members with their Family History collection and composing their Family Histories. Please complete only if you have not previously done so.

To assist, the GROW Board would like to learn the status of our members' effort or desire to pursue their Family History. Please complete as accurately and completely the following and use the space below the questionnaire to address your interest and your desires not referenced in the survey.

Thanks in advance for your help. Also, we are planning to share the Membership Roster with each GROW member which lists your family names whom you are searching and your ancestral villages. This should aid all members in their research with seeing the same name and also the ancestral village or nearby villages. Do you have any objections to remitting that information along with your address, phone number, and E-mail address?

Please mark with an X those items that apply to you. Please add any additional comments in the space allowed.

\_\_\_ Yes, I want a copy of the GROW Roster. (This is FREE with your paid membership)

\_\_\_ Yes, I have no objection to GROW sharing the GROW Roster with its members

\_\_\_ Yes, I am interested in having help regarding my Family History.

\_\_\_ Yes, I would be willing to help others with their Family History

\_\_\_ No, I have NO interest in my Family History

\_\_\_ Yes, I would like to participate in Village Cluster Meetings during our Chapter Meetings

\_\_\_ Yes, I would like to participate in Family Names or Relationships Meetings.

\_\_\_ Yes, I would like to have a Professional Genealogist help me.

\_\_\_ I have done all that I can regarding my Family History Collection

\_\_\_ I have done \_\_\_ One \_\_\_ Two \_\_\_ Three \_\_\_ Four or more Family Line(s) *PLEASE CHECK ONE*

\_\_\_ I have used Ancestry.Com; \_\_\_ I have used LDS files; \_\_\_ I have used others, list below:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Ancestral Village(s), if known \_\_\_\_\_

# GROW 2007 Quarterly Calendar

A P R I L 2 0 0 7						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Easter Sunday	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Board Meeting	19	20	21
22 Chapter Meeting	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

M A Y 2 0 0 7						
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 Board Meeting	24	25	26
27 Chapter Meeting	28 Memorial Day	29	30	31		

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



Chapter Meetings are held at:  
Deutches 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 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 March 2007** Family History Workshop

**22 April 2007** Family History Workshop plus Election of Directors

**27 May 2007** Family History Workshop plus Installation of Directors

**24 June 2007** Family History Workshop

## 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.

## In Remembrance

### Elmer Haas

November 12, 1931 - February 21, 2007

It is with a broken heart that I share with you that my brother, Elmer Haas, has passed away, but he is in a better place with our Lord. His last heart beat was near 5:00 pm Feb. 21, 2007, with his dear wife, Helen at his side.

A brief military service was held for the family only, Friday, Mar. 2 on the Willamette National Cemetery grounds, across from Lincoln Memorial Park and Funeral Home, 11801 SE Mt. Scott Blvd, Portland, OR. A processional was staged at the latter site for a cortege to the Willamette National Cemetery where the service was conducted, a military salute exhibited, the flag given to Helen, his spouse, and where his remains will be buried.

A memorial service, was held at 3:00 pm, Saturday, Mar. 3 at the Wichita Evangelical Church, 9491 SE Wichita Ave, Milwaukie, OR 97222. Memorials will be received at the Wichita Evangelical for the Church and/or for the Rose Villa Foundation for Elder Care, 13505 SE River Road, Milwaukie 97222 in memory of Elmer.

## A Dakota Farm Boy

by Elmer W. Haas

While growing up, I lived on four different farms in the Dakotas. I started school with my aunt when I was four years old. After graduating from Forbes High School, I attended summer school at Ellendale State Normal & Industrial (NI) College.

My first teaching job was in 1950 in South Dakota at the Weber School. From March 1953 to April 24, 1954 I was stationed at XCorps Hdqtrs, Kwandee-ri (Inje) Korea, located north of the 38th parallel. After flying over and visiting outpost cities of Tageu, Wonju and Chun'chan, the peninsula of Korea seemed small. I worked as a clerk for an Army Aviation officer.

When the war ended, I transferred to the Corps Special Services. My former relationships with the Army Aviation personnel served to my advantage. I had become a friend of General White and Chaplain Cooper. I chauffeured many famous entertainers. I even had the privilege of flying an airplane (under supervision) while in Korea.

*Continued next issue.*



## 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: Arlene Maston, 8202 NE Going St., Portland, OR 97220-4860**

Please send email updates and address corrections to Arlene Maston - amaston@aol.com

### 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: [jcprunier@comcast.net](mailto:jcprunier@comcast.net) or by mail at 1218 Pacific Ave., Everett, WA 98201



# Happy Easter



## Newsletter Submissions Welcomed!

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

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

[jcprunier@comcast.net](mailto:jcprunier@comcast.net)

*Deadline for next issue is June 1, 2007.*



Germans from Russia Heritage Society

**GROW Chapter**

8618 SE 36th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97222