



This newsletter is a publication of Sister Cities of Arlington, Texas

www.arlingtontx.gov/sistercity/index.html

AUGUST 2014

NEWSLETTER

NO. 25

GREETINGS

Sister Cities of Arlington Friends,

The year is moving fast and we have had some exciting events so far including several visits to Rahr Brewery in Fort Worth, a visit to German Deli.com in Southlake, Greenwood's German Restaurant in Fort Worth and more to come....

We were fortunate to participate in this year's Fourth of July parade on a float promoting the new Texas Christkindl Market with signage from our sister city Bad Königshofen on one side and the other side Rothenburg to promote that city's relationship with the market.



Our big news to help promote our Fall picnic will be the partnering with the City of Arlington's Park Dept. Food Truck Fridays to

kick off at our picnic at S.J. Stovall Park on September 19th from 5pm to 10pm. Please see Ellen's note on how this great partnership came into being. The Oktoberfest will be awesome. The German Band of North Texas will be performing. The evening will also feature a Polka Dance Contest, a Strudel Baking Contest, Special Raffle items and lots of fun!!!! Please make plans to attend this wonderful event. With attendance estimated between 500-700 people we have a great opportunity to spread the word about our sister city relationship to a new audience!!!

We have scheduled our general meeting Saturday, Sept. 6th at 10am at The Division Street Diner where we will discuss the picnic plans and get ready for this year's 4th Annual Texas Christkindl Market. We need to start planning for the market, opening November 28 and running through December 21, 2014. More information about the market can be found on the website:

arlingtonchristkindl.com/2014-texas-christkindl-market

We look forward to more field trips to local German restaurants and Rahr Brewery!!!

See you next month at the meeting.

Bruce E. Maxwell
Sister Cities of Arlington President.

BAD KÖNIGSHOFEN: 40 YEARS

By Martha Liehse

Our sister city's history dates all the way back to the 8th century, but this year our German friends are commemorating an important 40th anniversary in their history, for it was on September 14, 1974 that Königshofen became Bad Königshofen. The addition of "Bad" to the town's name designated it as an official mineral baths health resort.

Even though the actual anniversary date is September 14, the city has celebrated already this year as part of its annual festival in July. Numerous speakers at the event praised Bad Königshofen for its attention paid to continually adding to and improving the resort facilities over the years, from the Trink- und Wandelhalle, where patrons could gather and drink the mineral water, to the FrankenTherme resort center, as well as the RV campground and Germany's first mineral water lake for swimming. Plans have been drawn up now to replace the Wandelhalle with a more accessible and energy-efficient building.

But it is actually many more than four decades that our sister city can look back at its spa resort history. It was in 1896 that mineral water was discovered when drilling was taking place for a new hospital. Just a few years later, mineral baths were available and a park was added. Bath facilities were expanded over the years, and in 1968 the Trink- und Wandelhalle was built.

Forty years ago, on September 14, Bavaria's Minister-President Dr. Goppel presented to Bürgermeister Wolfgang Mack the official document adding the title "Bad" to the town's name. The ceremony was the culmination of many years of hard work during the application process for that title, and the event was witnessed by several hundred people, including Arlington resident General Willard Latham, who was stationed in Germany at the time. He was invited to the ceremony, and congratulated Bad Königshofen. Also on that day the cornerstone was laid for the new resort center, the FrankenTherme. A week of celebratory events followed.

One speaker at the 1974 ceremony remarked that one could only wish that it would be possible someday for the health resort to be visited by citizens from both parts of Germany together. That wish, of course, came true 15 years later with the end of East/West division in 1989, already 25 years ago now. That is another anniversary being marked this year.

EUROPEAN VACATION

By Shelia Gibson

My husband Don and I and a good friend Cheryl Renteria enjoyed a wonderful vacation trip to Europe, extending from April 17 to May 13. We independently traveled through four countries: Germany, Austria, Italy, and Slovenia. We were joined by Cheryl, who had a timeshare in Schladming, Austria, allowing us to enjoy two weeks in the same location as a home base and travel in all directions. The trip included planes, trains, and two different rental cars.

We left DFW Airport April 17 and arrived in Frankfurt, Germany, where Gail Olney, wife of Doug Olney, Don's friend and work associate with the Army & Air Force Exchange Service, met us and took us to their home in Mainz, west of Frankfurt. The next morning Doug took us all to the train station in Frankfurt and we, along with Gail, rode the train to Salzburg, Austria, where we picked up a rental car. It was nearly dark when we left Salzburg, but we arrived safely after dark in Schladming, with the help of Gail's GPS. Our timeshare was the Alpine Club Resort, located high over the town, yielding a full view of all its splendor, as well as the majestic, snow-covered Austrian Alps from three different third floor balconies. When we arrived in the resort and settled into our suite, we ventured out in the rain to satisfy our raging hunger at a local restaurant, one of very few open at that hour. It was a local hangout for the young people in the town, and we enjoyed visiting with the "kids" at the next table.

The next day we journeyed back to visit Salzburg in the daylight, wandering the streets and marveling at the size of the castle on the hill overlooking the city. We had lunch in the

Modern Art Museum and enjoyed panoramic views of the city below--a must-see at lunch per Rick Steves.

From Salzburg our exploits took us as far down the Autobahn as Graz to the east, with Gail encouraging Don to keep the speed down, even though there was no speed limit in many locations. Kill joy! Soon after our trip to Graz, and 5 days with us, Gail took the train from Schladming back to Mainz. We wandered to the north to visit Linz and south to visit Italy, spending the night in the Friuli Hotel in Udine. Shelia invited some friends in Udine to dinner with us. We had met Maddy and Mauro Ferraro on a previous trip to Italy with Martin High School in 2011. We walked the city with them, making a stop in a B&B where I had stayed before, and visited over the evening meal in a nice restaurant, recommended by Maddy.

The next day we drove to Trieste, on the coast of Italy, and walked the streets along the waterway. While trying to find our way around the city, we found ourselves in a reducing width street. When we drove between two high masonry walls, we had to fold back both side mirrors to clear the walls. What a relief to get to the other side!

We proceeded on to Grado where we toured the Basilica de Acquillia. Acquillia was the second largest city in Italy during the Roman Empire. The Basilica was very unusual and had ceramic tile floor patterns throughout, showing images of life during the Roman era. Clear Lexan walkways were constructed above the tile floors to preserve the original historic floors.

After Grado, we drove back to Udine for another night at the Friuli Hotel. The next morning we drove to Slovenia. While on our way, we diverted from our straight path to seek out what we thought was a historic building, only to find ourselves on a winding road that we thought was going nowhere. We saw an old church, and needing a rest from driving, decided to go into the church. It was locked and when we started back to the car we saw a gentleman caring for his flowers, with his

beautiful black cat nearby. We asked if we could take photos, but the gentleman did not speak English and called his grandson to interpret. Before we knew it, we were invited into their house for drinks. The grandson learned English from watching movies and Facebook. He wanted to be an engineer and I suggested that he consider the U.S. and UTA. They are now Facebook friends. We eventually arrived in Ljubljana, Slovenia. We marveled at the difference in the architecture there and had lunch at an outdoor restaurant, while braving a thunderstorm under large umbrellas.

The visit to Slovenia was short and we proceeded back to Schladming. After two weeks in Schladming we turned in our car, took the train to Munich, rented another car and drove to Freising. We traveled from Freising to visit with Nina Bayer and her fiancé Tom Dunka at the annual Scheyern Farmer's Market and Festival. Our trip was originally planned for us to be at their wedding, but another wedding at home was one we could not miss. We visited Hallstatt, Austria and toured the Salt Mine noted in the movie "The Monuments Men." Two nights in a Marriott property in Freising and we proceeded on to Bad Königshofen.

On our arrival in Bad Königshofen on May 5th, we received a warm welcome from our host family, Albin and Elvira Heumann



Don, Shelia and Albin in Bamberg at the famous smoked beer haus.

Also welcoming us were Bürgermeister Thomas Helbling, former Bürgermeister Clemens Behr and other Bad Königshofen friends. We gathered at the Kino owned by the Hahns and daughter Barbara where we enjoyed snacks, drinks, and entertainment provided by former Mayor Behr and sang along.

Lorenz and Barbara picked us up the next day and took us to Würzburg. Albin and Elvira took good care of us for five days. We expected that we would see more of Bad Königshofen this trip, but Albin wanted to give us a better guided tour of other areas of Germany nearby. He rode with us and changed almost all the directions given by our GPS. We saw the remains of the former East/West border and visited many churches, all out from Bad Königshofen, as well as the city of Bamberg, where we met Eric English's sister and her husband at the restaurant where they serve smoked beer. Albin also gave us a tour of other places, including the Wartburg and the town of Meiningen.

Dagmar Lurz, treated us with drinks and explained many more interesting aspects of early life in Königshofen. We were very grateful that he and Dagmar shared so much time with us.



Don, Shelia and their hosts Elvira, Albin and Monika Heumann on their last day in Bad Königshofen.

On May 9 we left Bad Königshofen and headed back toward Frankfurt. We stayed three nights in the Sheraton Offenbach/Frankfurt Hotel. During this time we visited with my German-American family, cousin Karen and her husband Robert Thompson and sons Jake and Austin. On our last day in Offenbach, we were privileged to be picked up by Hanny and Reinhard Jaeger, Christian Jaeger's parents, who offered to take us on a tour of the German wine country and Heidelberg, and there we celebrated our friend Cheryl's 70th birthday -- a memorable day for all of us.

On May 12 we moved to the Sheraton Frankfurt Airport Hotel and turned in our rental car. This made it easy for us to be ready for our 7:30 am flight to London Heathrow Airport and on to DFW Airport the same day, arriving at DFW on May 13.

This trip was a great experience we will always remember. We were able to see beautiful scenery as well as visit with more friends and family in Europe than we had ever done. All was accomplished safely and without a great deal of stress, creating more beautiful memories for a lifetime.



Buergermeister Helbling with Don and Shelia (standing) and Cheryl Renteria and Dagmar Lurz (seated)
Photo by Hanns & Andrea Friedrich

Our experience in Bad Königshofen ended with a farewell visit to the Rathaus where Bürgermeister Helbling and his secretary,

EARLY VISITOR TO ARLINGTON

By Lynda Freeman

In 1987, the Mayor's Office learned that the long time resident and retired owner of the VW Dealership in Bad Königshofen, Max Hölzer, was coming to visit his Sister City, Arlington. Ursula Brooks, also a City of Arlington employee, and I prepared to meet his flight at DFW Airport. We had no idea what Mr. Hölzer would look like, only that he was of an age to be retired. I remember, however, that Ursula said she would recognize him because foreign visitors, especially from Germany, "had a look." And true to her word, she immediately picked him out from the crowd disembarking the aircraft. Ursula was critical to making Max feel welcome in Arlington because she could speak fluent German. My contribution was negligible; I could stand by smiling and shrugging a lot while Ursula and Max got acquainted.

We had arranged a room for Mr. Hölzer at a local hotel, and Ursula, being our spokesperson, interfaced with the hotel staff and Max, assuring both that she would be available 100% of the daylight hours, which was also assuring to me. So, for the days of Max's scheduled visit, she and I met him at his hotel in the morning and accompanied him throughout the day, showing him all that Arlington had to offer, especially the parkland that was to be developed as Bad Königshofen Recreation Area, which at that time was simply a designated part of S.J. Stovall Park.

Max immediately told us with great enthusiasm that he was a tandem jumper, having taken up the sport at age 80, and he would like to make a jump to raise funds for the park's development. It seems that he had successfully raised funds for various efforts in and around Bad Königshofen, and knew he could do the same in Arlington. City of Arlington management quickly nixed his idea however, and I had to explain to Max that I could not find a "jumping school" opportunity anywhere near our city.

Aside from his sincere disappointment of not having the opportunity of making this contribution to the park, I think Max found that

Arlington lived up to his anticipation. He had explained early on that he had always wanted to visit his Sister City in America, but could not find the time until after his retirement.

All too soon, this dear man's visit came to a close, and we checked him out of the hotel and drove him to the airport. He had previously arranged a flight to a city in the mid-west to visit a long-time friend from Germany who had previously moved to America. On the way to the airport I was breathing a sigh of relief that his visit had gone so well, and that the three of us, Max, Ursula and I, after spending a number of days together had become great friends. When we arrived at DFW, however, we learned that Max's flight had been cancelled because of weather conditions and was rescheduled for the following day. Another concern met us when we arrived back at the hotel where he had been staying to learn there were no rooms available for that night. What to do?

With a bit of trepidation, I agreed that Max would spend his extra night at my home, but our constant companion and translator, Ursula, although she agreed to stay through dinner, would be unable to spend the night. That would mean that in the morning at breakfast, I would be alone with Max and communication would have to depend on my limited skills. Although I still didn't know a word of German, and Max was equally non-conversant in English, we had begun to communicate by gestures and gyrations rather successfully. Maybe we could get through breakfast.

The next day dawned with high skies, a beautiful Texas morning, and I decided to cook Max a typical American breakfast with bacon, scrambled eggs, toast, juice and coffee, and because of the temperate climate, set the table on our patio. He looked very pleased. So far, so good.

However, Max did not know what the lump of fluffy yellow stuff was that occupied a good portion of his plate. I could tell by the confused look on his face and his vocalizations and gestures that he thought it might be butter. I kept shaking my head no and repeating, not butter....eggs. He just kept repeating....butter?

All of the sudden it occurred to me that if I flapped my elbows like a chicken and made cluck-cluck sounds, he would understand. So I commenced to flap my "wings" and cluck like an idiot. Max got the message, and ate my scrambled eggs with enthusiasm. We were both still laughing, flapping and clucking when Ursula arrived to accompany us to the airport.

But the epilogue to this story was to come. After Max returned to Germany and for a number of weeks following, he would call me just to say, "Hallo Lynda, Max," and then cluck vigorously like a chicken! At that point we would both dissolve in laughter. Max died in January 1992, but I sometimes think I can still hear him clucking and laughing.

MAX HÖLZER REMEMBERED

By Ursula Brooks

A tragic incident occurred during Max's visit, which I remember quite well, and his response to the tragedy speaks volumes regarding his character. It seems a house fire broke out in central Arlington, and the grieving family, who were members of St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church, lost several of their children in that fire. Max learned that the family was trying to raise funds to help bury their children, so he quickly wrote out a check for \$500 and I delivered that check to the Church. His generosity and love for children and animals was unmatched.

His generosity to Arlington continued when he returned to Bad Königshofen. Since he had been unable to tandem jump to raise funds for the development of Bad Königshofen Recreation Area while he was visiting his Sister City, he began fundraising at home. His successful collection netted \$1000. His desire was for that money to be spent on planting trees in the park. Bürgermeister Wolfgang Mack presented the check to Mayor Richard Greene at the dedication ceremony of the Bad Königshofen Recreation Area in April 1988, and in anticipation of the generous donation, and true to Max's wish, a beautiful live oak tree and plaque to honor him had been arranged

and was central to the ceremony. The plaque identified the tree as the Max Hölzer tree.

Next time you visit the park, look around. A lot of the development you see today is the result of one man's generous gift in 1987 inspiring others to recognize the wonderful ongoing friendship between Arlington and Bad Königshofen, now in its 63rd year.

THE HOELSCHER FAMILY OF TEXAS

By Eric English,
6th Generation Hoelscher

Anton and Mary Catherine Hoelscher left Olfen, Westfalen, Germany (Prussia) and emigrated with their five sons to the recently formed (28th) State of Texas, on December 31, 1846. There are no formal records of the arrival, but family lore has us arriving at the port of Galveston. You may ask the reason for no records? Well, it was New Year's Eve!

The main factor for the Hoelschers' immigration, as it was for most Germans and people even today - opportunity. OK, there is a little more than casual evidence to suggest that my Great-Great Grandfather Joe and his brother were also trying to avoid conscript into the Prussian army. "Geh mit ins Texas" (Go with us to Texas) became the inspiration for a new life being offered by a society of wealthy noblemen known as the Verein (or Adelsverein). This group of businessmen obtained the rights to settle a three million acre tract between the Colorado and Llano Rivers, known as the Fisher-Miller Grant. The Verein sponsored over 7,000 Germans from 1844 to 1846. But their underfunded venture went bankrupt in 1847, stranding many settlers along the trail between the coast and New Braunfels. In 1850, the Hoelschers' daughter along with her husband, Theodore Bukemper, arrived in Texas. That year the patriarch, Anton, along with sons Anton, Jr., Joe and William, all received the promised 640 acres. It didn't take long for them to realize that the land was in remote areas of Texas, more accurately referred to as Comanche Indian Territory. The

tracts were roughly 30 miles north of present day San Saba. So like many of their kinsmen, the family elected to stay within the existing settlements. Their first home was near the town of Frelsburg, between Houston and San Antonio.

In 1850 Joe, then 23, married Katherine Sommer. I supposed he married to get the full 640 acres, as a single man only received 230 acres. They had six children before the War Between the States. Although he was successful in avoiding service in the Prussian army, Joe was obliged to fulfill his service to the South. He was Unionist in nature, as were most Germans, so he became a member of the Texas State Troops. This was a group organized to go anywhere in the State and to defend the border at the Governor's instruction. Joe and Katherine had six more children after the war and eventually settled in present day Westphalia, Texas. All twelve of the children were very large. A 1914 article in the Corpus Christi newspaper reported that Mr. and Mrs. Hoelscher had the largest family in the state, going on to say that the combined weight of the 12 offspring was 3,060 pounds, for an average of 255 pounds per person (hey, this included the five girls). I suppose it is now obvious who to credit for my stature.

The eleventh of the twelve children was my Great Grandfather John. He married Elizabeth Beimer. The Beimers emigrated to Texas from Ascheberg, Germany in 1835 (their name was changed from Silkenbaumer). As a result, our daughters have the right to be called Daughters of the Republic of Texas. John and Liz had three children; the youngest was my Grandmother, Christine. All three children were born in Westphalia, but John soon moved to an area between Corpus Christi and Robstown. He contracted with a man from Louisiana to sell 1,030 acres. He advertised the land in German-language newspapers and after selling all of the tracts, used the \$500 commission to build the first church and school in the town he named - Violet. I attended the first grade in Violet. It was the same three-room school house that my mother attended for her education.

The Hoelscher family has grown. In 1978 there were about 14,000 relatives documented. The family meets biannually and recently celebrated our 31st reunion. There are even more relatives now. These relatives, up to the year 2003, are documented in a 1,400 page book.

P.S.: The name Hoelscher (Hölscher) is reportedly common in the German areas of Westfalen and Sachsen. The name roughly translates to the "maker of wooden shoes". Wooden shoes were famous in the Netherlands, but it is interesting to note that they were also commonly worn by peasant farmers in northwest Germany.

REMINDER

German Charity Gala

Commemorate German Day in Texas with members and friends of North Texas German organizations at this year's German Charity Gala on Saturday, **October 4**, at the Hotel InterContinental in Addison. The Gala will be the 52nd annual event sponsored by the nonprofit Texas German Day Council, and proceeds this year will benefit the Dallas Goethe Center German Language School and the German International School of Dallas.

You can find further information about this year's Gala and also make your reservations at www.GermanCharityGala.com. (Note that the ticket price of \$89 will increase to \$99 on September 1.)

German Classes in Arlington

The nonprofit Dallas Goethe Center has announced that beginning on September 6, two German language classes (Beginning & Intermediate) will be taught in Arlington every Saturday morning for 15 weeks. The teachers will be native speakers of German.

For many years the Dallas Goethe Center has provided German instruction for children and adults in Dallas, and the organization is now

branching out into Tarrant County with classes for adults. For further information about the classes this fall, go to the web site **DallasGoetheCenter.org** and click on "German Language School," "Curriculum" and "Class schedule." There you'll also find an e-mail address for further information.

[This will get your toes a-tapp'n !!](#)
Looks like they sure are having fun.

[Click here: Bavarian Flash Mob in Munich](#)

DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday, Sept. 6

Sister Cities General Meeting, 10 am, at The Division Street Diner, 1800 W. Division St.

Friday, Sept 19

ANNUAL PICNIC / OKTOBERFEST!

S.J. Stovall Park – 2800 W. Sublett Rd.

5:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Food trucks and music by Naturally Fun Radio

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM – German Band of North Texas

Raffle*****Music*****Food*****Fun

Exciting changes are in store for this year's anniversary celebration! For several years Sister Cities of Arlington members have talked about turning our annual picnic into an Oktoberfest, and each year it has gotten a little closer. This is the year we formally change our Annual Picnic to Annual Oktoberfest!

The Arlington Parks and Recreation Department has offered to partner with Sister Cities for an Oktoberfest celebration on Friday,

September 19th at S.J. Stovall Park. This past Spring, the Parks Department held their first Food Truck Fridays at River Legacy Park. The attendance was overwhelming! For the fall, they are bringing it down south to S.J. Stovall Park. With our annual Sister Cities gathering already scheduled for the 19th, they offered to start a week early – a great kickoff to their Oktoberfest Food Truck Fridays and an opportunity to get the message out to the masses about our special and enduring friendship with the citizens of Bad Königshofen! The Parks and Recreation Department is generously donating the income they would receive from the food trucks to Sister Cities of Arlington!

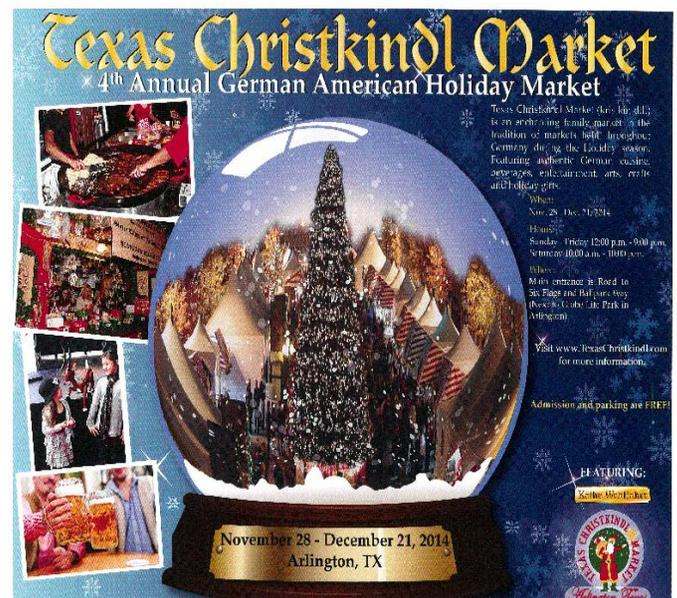
We will be cooking our brats & sauerkraut for those yearning for our traditional meal. There will also be 5 food trucks, including Ketzler's Schnitzel Shack, 2 dessert trucks, and craft beers.

Look for the reserved area in the Bad Königshofen Pavilion for Sister Cities members.

So plan to come out and join the celebration of 63 years of friendship with Bad Königshofen!

November 28-December 21

4th Annual Christkindl Market



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