



PERSPEKTIVEN

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Summer 2006

Es macht nichts - it does not matter

By Dr. Samuel P. Scheibler

Somehow, the current Congressional discussion over immigration reform segued into the passage of a clause establishing English as our national language.

The tag line of the media melodrama and street theater protests stimulated by this latest salvo in our culture wars is: "We are a nation of immigrants."

If these are the terms of the debate, it is necessary and proper for the voice of the nation's largest immigrant community to be heard.

Forty-seven million German-Americans share the same concerns about the future of our republic as our fellow citizens, but we also bring a unique historical perspective to any discussion surrounding national language.

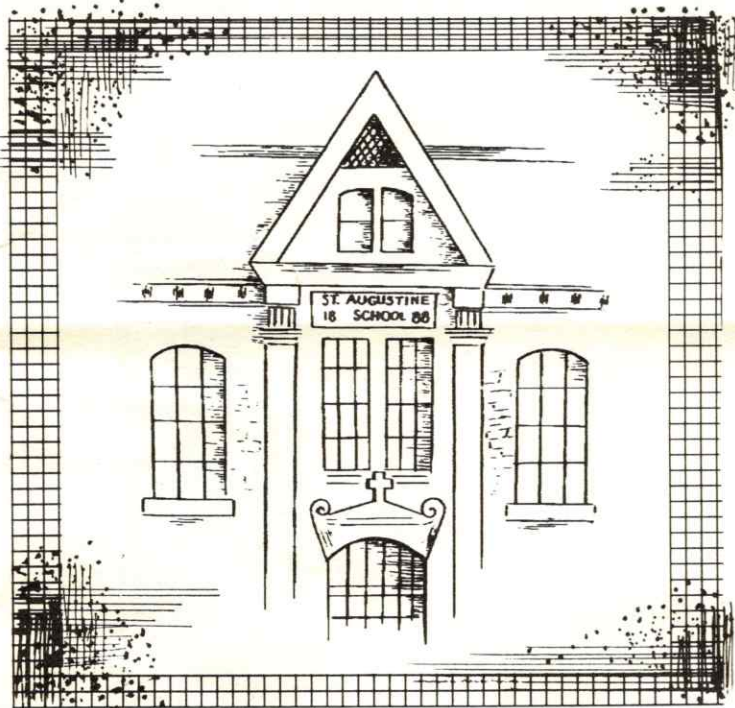
The English-as-official-language-movement did not begin with militias along the Rio Grande.

Its roots grew out of the organized suppression of German language and culture in early 20th century America.

As veterans of the language wars, German-Americans have valuable lessons to share with more recent arrivals as they cope with this most current burst of patriotic nativism.

German and Hawaiian share the distinction as the only languages beyond English officially established in this country (German in Pennsylvania until 1950; Hawaiian currently in the 50th state).

[Please turn to German, Page 5]



**A sketch of the entrance of St. Augustine
parish church and school, built
in Bay View in 1888.**

German-speaking Catholics in Bay View in 1887 wanted a parish of their own, so they bought land, won approval from a Bavarian immigrant archbishop, and a year later were able to celebrate Mass in German in their new church.

Story on Page 10



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From the President

Goethe Haus lost a great friend on May 12, 2006 with the death of Gerhard Rohr. As reported, he died peacefully at his home surrounded by members of his family.

As a young man in pre World War II Germany he was a Hamburg city police officer. He was expected to join the National Socialist Party and when he refused he lost his job. Shortly thereafter he was drafted into the Luftwaffe and before his capture by Allied forces he progressed to the rank of captain.



Gerhard Rohr

After his release from a prisoner of war camp he returned to Hamburg but was unable to find any work. It was then that he decided it would be best to move his family to the United States where he felt he would have more opportunities and freedom. He arrived in America in 1950. He not only brought himself, his lovely wife, Lotte, and three children, Klaus, Christel and Gerhard, but also an all consuming desire to reaffirm all the advantages of a strong relationship between
 [Please turn to Rohr, Page 11]

PERSPEKTIVEN

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An exciting package from across the Atlantic

**By Katharina Hren
Executive Director**

As I write this, the World Cup has started and my son Gustav is in soccer camp, wearing his Team Germany outfit (just like the uniform of the Germany players, I might add) sent by my aunt in Rothenburg ob der Taube (who was so excited about the World Cup that she got up extra early to line up for this popular and hard to find item). This was the most exciting package to reach our family from across the Atlantic in years! This weekend I was reminded once again of little things that take place here in Milwaukee - brief scenes which can quickly transport you into a German scene for a moment. I stopped in at a local bar at 3 in the afternoon just to check out the score because I was out doing errands and couldn't wait. It could have easily been a bar in Germany, for the mood was a familiar one to me. There are bars and cafes all over Germany, where all kinds of people from all walks of life and cultures are glued to the games. Since I don't understand American football, these are my "Super Bowl moments". The only bad thing about people knowing about

my passion for soccer is that I was told the score of Germany's first game before I could see the game that I had taped!

Mark your calendars for our annual picnic! It will take place on Saturday, August 19th from 11 a.m. to 1:30/2.00 p.m. in Lake Park, site #1. Goethe House provides the brats, buns, and potato salad, and we encourage members to bring potluck offerings (which don't have to be German). Feel free to bring soccer balls...your au pair...or German treats! Every year this is a time when Goethe House board members can meet our membership: young and old, tall and small, and everybody in between.

Please be sure to read about the work of the Education Committee of Goethe House in this issue (Page 6). I truly have felt privileged to work with this committee; for I have enjoyed the idea exchange of this wonderful group headed by the amazing (and extraordinarily organized) Jan Beger. I am excited that we continue to grow with our programming. We greatly appreciate the feedback of our members and students, past and present, as well as the countless German educators with whom we work.

Goethe House of Wisconsin is a non-profit German-American cultural institute serving Wisconsin since 1958. Our mission is to serve as a statewide resource for information about the past and present culture of all German-speaking people - especially those in the Federal Republic of Germany. Goethe House of Wisconsin invites the financial support of individuals, companies and organizations who share our mission and recognize the value of this important cultural exchange. Goethe House of Wisconsin is a not-for-profit (501) (c) (3) organization. Donations are tax deductible as the law allows.

Goethe House of Wisconsin is now online.

Visit us at and send your friends to:

www.goethehousewis.com

Information available on Goethe House events, membership and other resources.

Satisfy your need for German culture 24 hours a day.

Use our web site or e-mail address to send Letters to the Editor:

Goethe@execpc.com

Keep the children busy with summer fun

Spielplatz



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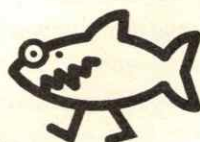
Zungenbrecher



Zehn zahme Ziegen zogen zehn Zentner Zucker zum Zoo



Fischers Fritz fischt frische Fische,
frische Fische fischt Fischers Fritz



Apple Ladybug Treats

2 red apples
¼ cup raisins
1 Tb. peanut butter
8 pretzel sticks

Slice apples in half from top to bottom. Remove core. Use dabs of peanut butter to fasten raisins to the skin of the apple for spots & eyes. Stick a raisin on one end of a pretzel & stick the other end in the apple to make an antenna. Repeat. Use remaining pretzels to make legs.



Website Activities

www.labbe.de/zzebra/index/asp?themaId=&titelId
children's activities auf Deutsch

www.haringkids.com art & games

www.grimmfairytales.com/en/main
interactive fairy tale site

www.bbc.co.uk/print/languages/german/cool/football/shtml
{ click on Cool German } for World Cup Soccer Slang

Es macht nichts-it does not matter

[German, from Page 1]

German alone, however, holds the dubious notoriety of being the only language ever officially outlawed in the United States.

Feeding on decades of growing xenophobia, the wartime fervor of World War I led 22 states to prohibit German language education, German language publications and, in some cases, the speaking of German in public.

At the time, 6% of America's children were schooled in German, 800 German newspapers and magazines were in circulation and hundreds of churches prayed in a tongue that was now illegal.

While the Supreme Court overturned many of these statutes in 1923, the damage to German language instruction and cultural expression was catastrophic.

Subtle forms of discrimination replaced direct assault. Many scholars credit the passage of the Volstead Act creating Prohibition to the movement to suppress beer-swilling Teutonic culture. To this day, a common dramatic device for establishing sinister character is a German accent.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe wrote: "Do not be troubled by what seems absurd, but concentrate your energies to the creation of what is good. Do not demolish, but build."

The German-American response was to concentrate our energies on building lasting, private institutions to preserve our language.

We discovered that we could join the English-speaking mainstream without sacrificing our personal ethnic identity if we were willing to sacrifice time, energy and wealth in creating organizations, clubs and foundations dedicated to safeguarding our heritage.

In doing so, we experienced an unforeseen and remarkable benefit. If we could not expect the state to endorse, support and advance our language and heritage, then the privilege and responsibility fell to us.

Every battle does not end in victory. Even in the face of advancing globalization, school boards continue to cut German language instruction.

The trend toward comprehensive social studies squeezes many of our contributions to American history and culture out of the classrooms.



Dr. Samuel P. Scheibler

But we continue to build. The efforts to build a beautiful new cultural center in Menomonee Falls exemplifies our dedication to the task thrust upon us by our nation's uneven past.

How does the German-American community respond to legislation making English our "national language?"

We answer: *Es macht nichts* - it does not matter. Despite the best efforts of the ignorant for a hundred years to outlaw us, marginalize us and embarrass us, we are still here and going strong.

We are too busy building a future for the next generation, firmly grounded in our heritage, to be distracted by election-year political posturing.

Speaking from experience, we encourage other ethnic communities to concentrate on what they can build themselves and leave Congress to debate the language in which they will regulate it.

Dr. Samuel P. Scheibler is vice president of the Goethe House of Wisconsin and distinguished lecturer in general studies at Milwaukee School of Engineering.

*From the May 28, 2006 editions of the
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*

New adult German classes debut in September

By Jan Beger

In October 2005, the Goethe House of Wisconsin board of directors appointed a committee to evaluate the adult German classes and to create new Kinder camps for Summer 2006.

The committee was asked to determine how to increase enrollment, how to retain students, should different types of classes be offered, and should classes be offered at additional sites.

These points were researched and discussed and we came to the conclusion that a sequential curriculum for all classes had to be the starting point.

We also previewed the Langenscheidt textbook series, Berliner Platz, the text used by many Goethe Institutes across the country. The textbook appealed to the committee in many ways. It is designed for adult learners and uses situations they might encounter in business or leisure travel.

Each textbook comes with a workbook section and a CD. These provide opportunities for independent study or review. The text is not instructor dependent; students may follow the text and keep up with course work if they miss a class. It also moves at a steady pace.

Midway through Beginners II, students should be able to order in a restaurant, shop in a grocery store, ask directions and carry on a simple conversation about themselves.

Each objective in the curriculum has an assessment to test the student's mastery of the concept. Some assessments are oral or written tests that come with the textbook. But the majority are practical applications aimed at increasing student participation. They include writing assignments, partner dialogs, class discussions, oral reports, games and projects.

Sample assessments:

Beginners I (partner dialog) Write & present a dialog between a salesclerk & a customer.

Beginners II (oral test) Using an actual U-Bahn schedule the student is given a starting point, destination and describes his route.

Intermediate I (writing assignment) The student is shown two ads for apartments in a German city and explains in a few sentences which apartment he chooses and why.

Intermediate II (class discussion) "Sollen Jungen & Mädchen in dieselben Schulen gehen?"

Classes based on these new curricula will be offered this September. Each class will run 12 weeks and cost \$ 125.00, plus the cost of the textbook (approximately \$35).

As the same textbook is used for an entire level (Beginners I, II, III), the need to buy a new text for each new class has been eliminated.

Classes offered in this series are:

Beginners I, II, III

Intermediate I, II, III, IV

Advanced I, II, III, IV

How does a perspective student determine in which class to enroll? A placement self test will be on the Goethe House web site. A committee member used a similar placement test from the Goethe Institut, Chicago, and tested into Intermediate II. He then tried some of the activities in the Berliner Platz 2 text and felt the test had placed him at the ideal point for his skill level.

The committee decided that implementation of these new classes would be the goal for Fall 2006. Additional sites and adding boutique classes would be proposals for Fall 2007.

Committee members are chairwoman Jan Beger, Sabine Beirold, Katharina Hren, Eileen Johannsen, Helga Nikolic, Dorothy Smaglick & Dan Sweeney.

Gus Azinger

On May 4, 2006 the Goethe Haus lost its second live, strutting, gregarious Professor Umlaut, in Gus Azinger. Gus succumbed after a long bout with diabetes. We shall miss his vivacious drive to sell a creative concept the quality for which he had no doubt. During his life, Gus not only donned the corpulent attire of Professor Umlaut at GermanFest, but he also wore many other hats. He was the perennial master of ceremonies of the Miss Wisconsin and Miss Milwaukee pageants. He became the first manager for the popular vocalist Al Jarreau. Known for his creative genius, it didn't take long for Gus to be known as "the Hot-Shot" ad man in Milwaukee advertising circles. After his retirement, he was proud to be designated the traveling "Ambassador to the Alumni of Concordia University." On the more subdued side, he served as an Elder and program director for Mt. Olive Lutheran Church.

Goethe House's Bausteine asks teachers: "What do you really want to know?"

By John Pustejovsky

What makes a classroom a place for real discovery? Internet access to the great museums? Live video of the ocean floors or the moon's dark side?

On May 6, German teachers from elementary levels to university gathered for Goethe House of Wisconsin's third *Bausteine* workshop to explore a learning tool more engaging than webcams, and more powerful than a computer.

Bausteine, Goethe House's own professional development workshops for area German educators, focused on making discussions exciting and productive by just asking very good questions. John Pustejovsky, associate professor of German at Marquette University, and Nicolet High School German teacher Mark Wagner introduced teachers to shared inquiry, the discussion method that was made famous by the Chicago-based Great Books foundation.

The participants learned the rules that set this discussion experience apart from a typical discussion: No one participates who has not read the text. The group discusses only the text everyone has read (but not, for example, a movie version, nor a similar story from television). Opinions must be backed up by the text. The discussion leader may only ask questions, never answer them.

Both Pustejovsky and Wagner recounted the ways these rules change what happens in the classroom. Students begin to pay closer attention to what they have read, knowing that others may ask how the text supports their view. Students begin to talk to each other, rather than trying to please the teacher with a "correct" answer. And teachers learn to listen much more carefully, and to help students listen better to each other.

Pustejovsky encountered shared inquiry in a Junior Great Books program run by the PTA in his children's school. He soon discovered, he says, that fourth graders could have a much livelier discussion than the students in his college literature classes. "I learned to quit asking 'teacher questions' (looking for answers that everyone already knows) and start asking questions that I really wanted answered. The amazing thing was that when I did, I could see that the nine kids in my group were

working together to find answers to my questions. And some of the answers were astonishingly insightful."

The Bausteine participants spent a full Saturday morning discussing a variety of German short stories using this approach, and recognizing how the discussion rules change the ways students and teacher interact. Wagner explained that he'd begun using the approach in his German classes, and had seen students moved to greater critical thinking, better listening, more careful reading, and better argumentation.

Shared inquiry asks a teacher to give up some deeply-ingrained habits, says Pustejovsky. "You give up trying to lead students to the correct point of view. You give up the opportunity to hold forth as the authority."

Hardest of all, he suggests, may be the tendency to ask "teacher questions," just to show who's in charge. "You learn not to come in and begin by saying, 'OK, we've all read Goethe's Faust. Who can tell me the name of the main character?' What makes this method work is that your students see that there's something you yourself still wonder about—maybe after reading Faust eight or 10 times."

The second half of the day was devoted to creating writing assignments that build and reinforce linguistic skills, rather than serve as ends in themselves.

Both Wagner and Pustejovsky agree that shared inquiry is not a new way of teaching literature. There's much more that students must learn, both before and after discussion. Historical context, literary history, even German vocabulary—all are jobs to be done in other ways. But shared inquiry reminds everyone, teachers and students, that great literature is still about wonder, and that we appreciate it more intensely when we explore it together.

Bausteine is an initiative of Goethe House's Academic Advisory Committee to build professional networks among German language educators in southeastern Wisconsin. It is offered twice yearly at no charge to participants.

For more information:

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John. Pustejovsky@marquette.edu

or Mark Wagner

Mark_Wagner@nicolet.k12.wi.us

GermanFest 2006: More of what you're looking for!

By Helga Nikolic

Take a look at...German Fest...more of what you're looking for!" touts the advertising campaign, once again inviting people to enjoy the 3-day event July 28, 29, and 30 at Henry Maier Festival Park on Milwaukee's Lake Michigan shore.

From past experience, an appreciative public knows that slogan to be true. In a city known for its summer ethnic festivals, German Fest seems to build upon its strengths and provides, year in and year out, "more of what you're looking for".

Tapping a competitive market to draw summer visitors, German Fest's reputation for friendliness, food and fun involves fest-goers in a celebration of culture that sets a high standard among the festivals.

Magrit Heitmann, in her 25th year of German Fest involvement as a director and German Fest board corporate secretary and her 10th as director of volunteers, outlined some of the areas of activity during the three-day run of the Fest.

Always looking for improvement and maintaining those high standards, the 2006 physical layout will have some new locations for familiar attractions, she said. The Cultural Area has been moved back to the south end of the grounds, with the Bookstore at its entrance. There will be a "Süd Marktplatz" (south marketplace) nearby, and a "Nord Marktplatz" (north marketplace) in last year's cultural spot. The central "Williamsburg Markt" has been newly remodeled. Last year's popular "Jägermeister Bar" has seven locations this year, and Mader's will have a sit-down restaurant, "Mader's am Michigan See".

The German Fest Parade "officially" kicks off the festivities at 2 p.m. Saturday, July 29.

The 3,000 volunteers Mrs. Heitmann oversees run German Fest from food to culture to entertainment. "We have about 40 participating clubs this year, and they work very hard to make sure all areas are manned and running smoothly," she explained.

From Spanferkel to Bratwurst to funnel cakes (they're offering a new blueberry one this year), the food booths are some of the most popular stops for those strolling the festival grounds, and the various clubs proudly present their palate-pleasing specialties, such as potato pancakes and a "German Sampler" plate, featuring a variety of national delicacies.



Magrit Heitmann and friends

In the Cultural Area, historical and genealogical exhibits always attract visitors. This year, two exhibits, among the many, to "take a look" at are "2,000 Years of German History" and "How German is America?"

Don't forget to stop in at the Goethe House booth and look for Professor Umlaut.

Saturday's "Trachtenschau", an annual fashion show of regional costumes, is always a favorite, and the daily live Glockenspiel performances remind you you're in the right place!

Ten stages of live entertainment are featured this year, with five musical groups from Germany performing: the "Schlossberg Quintet", the "Schwarzwälder Vagabunden", "Q-Stall", Edith Prock, and "Die Sandler". Other performances are by local music and dance groups.

A highlight of this year's entertainment is an appearance by the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Andreas Delfs, performing Beethoven's 9th Symphony in the Marcus Amphitheater on Saturday evening.

The Children's Area presents a "Butterfly Museum" to tempt youngsters and families, in addition to the Pretzel Park activities and the Children's Parade Sunday at 3 p.m.

GermanFest 2006: More of what you're looking for!

As a Friday feature of German Fest, "St. Ben's Run", with WTMJ Radio sportscaster Bill Michaels, will be sure to draw crowds of participants. ("St. Ben's" is St. Benedict's Catholic Church, long involved in feeding the hungry.)

Sunday's church service at 10:30 a.m. will be Protestant, with the Rev. Kenneth Klaus preaching.

Admission to German Fest is still \$8.00 advance sale, \$10.00 at the gate. A 3-day "Passport" is again available for \$15.00. Special "deals" include: free admission all three days with military IDs, as well as for those who have Brewers game tickets from the series playing the same weekend; free admission Friday from 1-3 p.m. for physically challenged guests and their accompanying escorts at all gates; free admission Sunday for those attending church services at 10:30 a.m.; also

German Fest

July 28 • 29 • 30, 2006

from 1- 3 p.m. with a donation of non-perishable food item at the North Gate, and from 2-4 p.m. with a Journal Sentinel Press Card at Mid-Gate.

German Fest 2006 is certainly worth a "look" – or maybe two or three – and you'll be sure to find ALL you're looking for! For more information, go to: info@germanfest.com

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German-speaking Catholics in Bay View start their own parish in which to pray

In 1868, a great iron mill located on the Lake Michigan shore south of Milwaukee blazed into life and began serving the nation's growing railroad systems.

The establishment of the Milwaukee Iron Company transformed this corner of the rural Town of Lake into a bustling, enterprising village known as Bay View.

Today, Bay View is a distinctive neighborhood within the City of Milwaukee, a neighborhood with a rich and unique heritage. -

"The Story of Bay View"

by Bernhard C. Korn



There was only one Catholic parish in Bay View in 1887, the year the village was incorporated into the city of Milwaukee. That parish was Immaculate Conception - dedicated in November 1871 at Kinnickinnic and Russell - and the parishioners consisted almost only of English-speaking members.

The German-speaking Catholics had to go to St. Anthony's on Mitchell St., Sacred Heart in St. Francis, or Holy Trinity in Walker's Point to hear a German sermon or go to confession. For the children who attended a German Catholic school as also for the older people this constituted a great hardship.

Besides this, St. Anthony's parish had grown to such an extent that there were no empty places in the church. It was also dangerous for the children to cross the railroad tracks to attend school at either St. Anthony's or Holy Trinity.

Therefore, some of the German Catholics of Bay View called a meeting June 17, 1887, to take steps for the foundation of a German Catholic parish in Bay View. A committee was appointed to ask Archbishop Michael Heiss for permission to establish a parish.

Now the members of the to-be-established parish were visited and their number at the beginning was 46. In a meeting on June 23, 1887, 23 lots were planned for on which to erect the church. On July 14, 1887, Archbishop Heiss gave his permission.

On July 16, 1887, the parish was incorporated under the name of St. Augustine. The parish received the name of St. Augustine because Msgr. Augustinus Zeininger contributed most to the permission for the erection of the church from the archbishop.

The first directors of the parish were the archbishop, Rev. A. J. Decker, Adam Krill, and Elias Stollenwerk, a patriarch of a long-standing Bay View family.

Now it was necessary to collect funds. Already there was a debt of \$13,000 before building started.

On Feb. 7, 1888, Rev. P. A. Schumacher was appointed pastor. On Feb. 29, 1888, a meeting took place and it was decided to erect a two-story building. At Homer and Graham streets. The lower floor would be the school and the upper, the church.

On May 2, 1888, the contract for the building was given for \$10,050 and work started. A contract for a parish rectory was negotiated for \$3,100. During this time, Rev. Schumacher celebrated mass at St. Anthony's.

On August 25, one classroom was finished far enough that Rev. Schumacher, who now lived with his

[Please turn to St. Augustine, Page 11]



Bishop Michael Heiss

German-speaking Catholics start parish in Bay View

[St. Augustine, from Page 10]

young community, celebrated mass for the first time in that classroom. On the following Sunday, the zealous pastor celebrated for the first time the patronal feast with the members of his community. By September 25, the second floor was finished and could be furnished for church services.

Archbishop Heiss consecrated the church area on September 23, 1888 and blessed on the same afternoon, one bell.

On September 24, 1888, the school was opened with about 80 children. It was staffed by the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

-From a "Short History of St. Augustine's Parish 1888 - 1913"

In a footnote to the history of Catholics in Bay View, on February 16, 2004, Archbishop Timothy Dolan announced the formation of a new Catholic school for the Bay View, St. Francis, and Cudahy area. St. Thomas Aquinas Academy is a Catholic school run jointly by St. Augustine, Immaculate Conception, Nativity of Our Lord, St. Paul, Sacred Heart of Jesus, and St. Veronica parishes.

Gerhard Rohr: *An honored builder of understading among nations*

[Rohr, from Page 2]

Germany and the United States. He was an accomplished advocate of soft diplomacy, firmly believing that language and culture were an indispensable means for effective exchange and mutual understanding. His commitment is no better expressed than a statement attributed to him some years ago:

As Americans of German descent,
we believe that our efforts not only
benefit our youth and the community,
but are also a contribution to the
greater task of rebuilding and
maintaining a better understanding
between nations.

As evidence of the success of his efforts, he was awarded the Officers' Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Order of Merit of the State of Hesse, the German American Friendship Award and the American Association of Teachers of German Award to mention just a few symbols of gratitude. This recognition of his achievements was in no small way the part he played in helping to establish the German Language and School Society of Wisconsin (Deutscher Sprach und Schulverein), the Milwaukee German Immersion School and his long term service as director and treasurer of the Goethe Haus of Wisconsin. He retired as an accountant for the Gugler Lithographic Company.

Rohr is survived by his wife, Lotte, children Klaus (Angela), Christel Mildenberg, Gerhard H. (Louise) and grandchildren Dante Rohr (Christine), Karl Rohr (Erica), Alexander Mildenberg and Christopher Mildenberg, as well as five great-grandchildren.

Memorials in Rohr's name can be made to the Gerhard Rohr Goethe House Scholarship Fund, Goethe House of Wisconsin, 814 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53233.

A kind, gentle man, a raconteur of unparalleled talents, that was Gerhard Rohr!! His example will not be forgotten.

Ted E. Wedemeyer Jr.

German-speaking Swiss in Wisconsin: Settlements in the Nineteenth Century

"No matter how good you have it in Switzerland, you have it better here."

*Jakob Bühler, a Swiss immigrant,
who settled in Sauk County,
Wisconsin in 1847*

By Maralyn A. Wellauer-Lenius M.A.

Approximately 12,000 Swiss immigrants came to Wisconsin in the 19th century, according to the U.S. Federal Census.

In 1870, three large concentrations of Swiss appeared in Green County with 1,246, Buffalo County 941, and Sauk County with 601. These figures are likely quite conservative, since many Swiss were enumerated in censuses according to their respective language groups. For example, German-speaking Swiss often were identified as Germans.

The Swiss were a relatively small group in comparison to those who came from Germany, Ireland, Poland, and Norway.

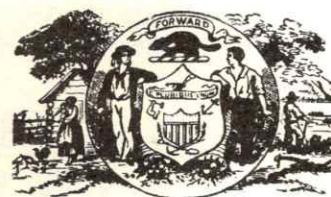
Although Wisconsin attracted immigrants from every German-speaking canton in Switzerland, the majority came from Bern (BE) and Graubünden (GR), Glarus (GL), and Zürich (ZH). At the same time, lesser numbers of French- and Italian-speaking Swiss settled in the state. Many Swiss from Canton Valais (many from Bagnes) resided in Manitowoc (Gibson and Mishicot townships) and Langlade Counties during the late 1840's. Italian-speaking Swiss (Ticinese) from Canton Ticino settled along the Mississippi River at Genoa in Vernon County.

The first Swiss to acquire land in the Wisconsin territory (then part of Michigan and Illinois) migrated from the Red River of the North beginning in 1823. A group of 174 Swiss emigrants left Europe in 1821 and traveled together to Lord Selkirk's colony in Western Canada (present-day Winnipeg, Manitoba) where they wanted to make a new home. However, almost immediately after their arrival, many found the land, climate, and the associated hardships insurmountable and decided to relocate in the Minnesota and Wisconsin

[Please turn to Swiss, Page 10]

WISCONSIN

What it offers to the Immigrant.



AN OFFICIAL REPORT

PUBLISHED BY THE

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1879.

Title page, in English, of pamphlet advertising opportunities for immigrants in Wisconsin. The pamphlet, also printed in German, is in the collection of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

German-speaking Swiss in Wisconsin: Settlements in the Nineteenth Century

[Swiss, from Page 9]

territories, Illinois, and Missouri. Some left shortly after their arrival, while larger groups began their exodus in 1822 and 1823. Others remained in the colony until 1826, when they too left for the United States, after a devastating flood destroyed their homes and property.

The majority of this first group originated in Bern and Neuchâtel. The families included: Aeberli, Aebersold, Chatelain, Guinand, Hofmann, Marchand, Monnier, Quinche, Rindisbacher, Scheidegger, and Stramm. A number of professional soldiers of German, Swiss, and French origins, who were formerly attached to the Swiss de Meuron and de Watteville regiments, intermarried with the Swiss and accompanied the group -- namely, Paul Gerber from Zürich and the Schmid (Schmidt) brothers (Matthias and Bernard) from Solothurn (SO). Many of these families lived in Gratiot's Grove, southwestern Wisconsin, and in communities near (and just over) the Illinois border.

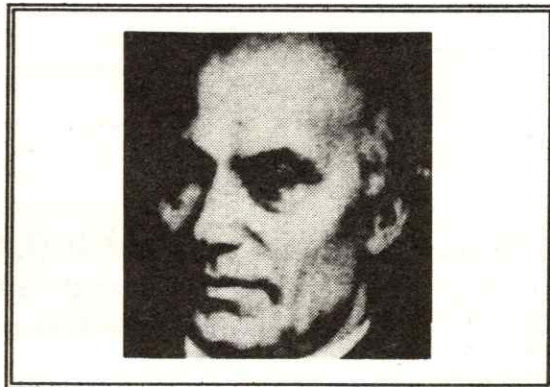
It was not until the 1840's and 1850's that the greatest numbers immigrated. This coincided with years of famine and economic depression in Switzerland, causing them to leave their homeland. There was a significant increase in immigration during the 1880's as well.

Several prominent national figures in religion, politics, and art had Wisconsin-German-Swiss connections.

For example, the religious leader Jacob Stucki (1857-1930) was a missionary, whose work with the Winnebago Indians earned him widespread praise. He translated the four Gospels into their language.

John (Johann) Martin Henni (1805-1881) was born in Misanenga (GR.) He was the first bishop of the newly created Diocese of Milwaukee in 1843 and the first Roman Catholic Archbishop in Wisconsin when Pope Pius XI raised the status of the diocese to archdiocese. Historian, Richard H. Zeitlin, states that the presence of Reverend Henni gave Wisconsin wide publicity in the Catholic states of Germany and Switzerland and did much to attract potential settlers.

In politics, the Governor of Wisconsin from 1915 to 1921 and leader of the Stalwart faction of the Republican Party was Emanuel L. Philipp (1861-1925.) The son of Swiss immigrants, he was born in Honey



Archbishop John Martin Henni

Creek, Sauk County.

John Luchsinger, born in 1839, was elected to the State Legislature in 1872 and served several terms. Subsequently, he was elected mayor of Monroe.

Dr. Nicholas Senn (1844-1908) was a prominent figure in medicine. He was one of the most renowned surgeons in the United States and the first to use roentgen rays to treat leukemia. Senn was the 49th president of the American Medical Association and founded the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States.

Peter Rindisbacher (1806-1834) was a talented young artist who left the Red River with his parents in 1826 and settled near Gratiot's Grove. His sketches and watercolor renditions of Wisconsin natives and wildlife remain one of the best visual records of the period. He recorded the signing of the peace treaty that ended the Winnebago War of 1827.

No comprehensive, in-depth study of Swiss immigration to Wisconsin has been compiled. The author has been working on a long-range project since 1980. The goal is to produce brief biographical and genealogical studies of all persons of Swiss birth who resided in Wisconsin prior to 1900. The purpose of the research is to identify individuals by name, age, and occupation; locate immigrants, communes and cantons of origin; chronicle their settlements; and identify their descendants.

Any information is appreciated:

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Ted E. Wedemeyer Jr.

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