

THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF MARYLAND

DIE DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT VON MARYLAND

VEREINSNACHRICHTEN

SEPTEMBER, 2000

VOLUME 1, Issue 28

ECUMENICAL SERVICE SET FOR SEPT. 29 AT ST. MICHAEL'S

The German Society will hold its annual ecumenical service at St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Perry Hall at 7:30 PM on the feast of St. Michael, September 29th. The feast day of St. Michael the Archangel was selected because he is the patron of Germany. The date was changed from Thanksgiving Eve because that holiday conflicted with the schedules of so many of our members who spend that evening preparing for family events.

The ecumenical service began in 1989 as an event to commemorate the end of communism, evidenced by the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the freedom of all German speaking lands to practice religion, a privilege which had been denied to them under communist controls. When the Society decided to change the date of the service, it learned that Zion Church, where the event was previously held, was not available because Zion hold its own denominational St. Michael services, together with two other Lutheran congregations.

The people at St. Michael's Church, with its pastor, Rev. Donald Beutel, consented to allow us to use their church for our event. The pastor is a member of our Society and will participate in the services.

Members are urged to bring their families and friends to this service, which falls on a Friday evening. Afterwards there will be a social function for all the attendees, with food and drink provided by the Society. St. Michael's Church is located at 9534 Belair Road, approximately 4 miles north of the Baltimore Beltway.

100th ANNIVERSARY BANQUET OF MD BÜRGERVEREIN - SEPT 15TH

Der Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein von Maryland will celebrate its 100th anniversary with a banquet at the Sparrows Pont Country Club on September 15. The German Society of MD is a Bürgerverein member. We are planning to take several tables at the banquet to participate in the event. Tickets are \$52.50 per person. Please plan to attend. If you wish to sit with the German Society, call our office and leave a message on our answering machine. Tickets are handled through Esther Scheffel at 410-737-0112. The event is likely to sell out early, so arrange for your tickets immediately.

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET SET AT PIKESVILLE HILTON NOV 3

The Society's annual banquet will be held for the first time at the Pikesville Hilton on Friday, Nov. 3. The hotel's large and luxurious facilities raises nostalgia for the days when the banquet was held in the massive ballroom of Baltimore's defunct Emerson Hotel. Brigitte Fessenden, Chair of the event, has arranged for the banquet to reflect a German aspect by its decor, style of food preparation and ballroom music. Tickets for the banquet are \$60. Tables of 8 are available, and seating will be assigned in advance. Invitations will be mailed by Oct. 1, requesting prompt responses due to deadlines for reservations imposed by the hotel. The banquet commemorates the 217th year since the founding of our Society in 1783.

"The purpose of the German Society of Maryland is to preserve and promote the German heritage, language and traditions through educational, social and benevolent programs; and to develop the unity and continuity of the German American community in the State of Maryland."

KALENDER

September

- 9 Defender's Day at Fort McHenry
10 German Heritage Festival - Garden State Center
Holmdel, NJ
15-17 Oktoberfest - Delaward Sangerbund
15 Burgerverein 100th Anniversary Banquet at
Sparrows Point Country Club
16 Steuben Parade, New York
29 Feast of St. Michael the Archangel, Patron of
Germany: ecumenical service

October

- 5 Board of Directors meeting
6 German-American Day
7-8 Maryland Oktoberfest - 5th Regiment Armory
10 German-American Day at Western MD College
14-15 German Fest - Thurmont, MD
(Call Vicki Grinder 301-271-4301
21-22 Oktoberfest at Schifferstadt (301-663-3885)

November

- 3 German Society Annual Awards Banquet at the
Pikesville Hilton
12 Martinsgans (Feast day of St. Martin)

Tune in to the Sunday German Radio hours

Edelweiss: Radio 730 AM Sunday 9 am

Radio Klub: Radio 730 AM Sat. 3 pm; Sun. 2 and 8 pm

Also, check the web sites of the organizations
of which our Society is a member:

Deutschamerikanischer Burgerverein von Maryland:

www.md-germans.org

STEINBRENNER NAMED GRAND MARSHALL OF STEUBEN PARADE

George M. Steinbrenner, owner of the New York Yankees baseball team, will be Grand Marshall of the 43rd Annual Steuben Parade on Saturday, Sept. 16. The parade begins at noon on Fifth Avenue, from 63rd to 86th Street. The event honors Revolutionary War hero Baron Friedrich Wilhelm Steuben, the German general who made soldiers out of George Washington's army of volunteers. To learn more, visit the Internet at <http://www.gasp-ny.org>

N.J. GERMAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL

The 27th annual German Heritage Festival at the PNC Bank Arts Center (off the NJ Turnpike), sponsored by Lufthansa and various NJ institutions is set for Sunday, Sept. 10. Featuring a soccer tournament, gymnastics, folk dances, brass bands, cultural exhibits, mass chorus, German food and all-day entertainment at the mall. Free parking. For information call 609-585-6757.

WESTERN MD COLLEGE TO HOLD GERMAN-AMERICAN DAY OCT. 10

German classes of high school students from this region will participate in Western MD College's German American day on Oct. 10, in workshops, seminars, educational events, dancing and fun. A fee of approx. \$12 includes lunch and a T-shirt made for the event. The theme is "Germany 10 years after Unification". Members of our Society are invited to attend with the students. For reservations, call our office. Last year's event, featuring the fall of the Berlin Wall, was a huge success. A "replica" of the Wall, made by the students, was exhibited at the Society's annual awards banquet last November at the Adlersaal.

SOCIETY NOW HAS 955 MEMBERS; APPROACHING GOAL OF 1000

The Society is rapidly approaching its goal, set in 1994, of reaching 1000 members by the end of the 20th century, on January 1, 2001. The 1990's have seen many changes in the functions of the Society and the methods of attaining its purposes. The chief purpose of the Society is unchanged, namely the preservation of our Maryland German heritage and culture and the promotion of the German language; however, a much greater emphasis is now being placed on the encouragement of young people to study the language and culture. Much of this has been accomplished by forming a close relationship with the Maryland Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) at the high school and university levels, as well as promotion studies in the elementary schools.

The membership committee asks that each member take an active role in promoting the Society. A good way is to send a copy of our newsletter to friends who may have an interest in the goals of the Society. Call our office with the name and address of a friend or acquaintance and we will mail him or her a copy of the news-letter, with your compliments.

ZION GERMAN SCHOOL BEGINS

Saturday German language lessons for children and adults begins Sept. 16. Registration is Sat., Sept. 9 from 10-12 at Zion Church, City Hall Plaza. Children as young as 4 years old are accepted. Adult classes include 5 levels from beginners to literary studies. Call 410-727-3939 for information. Eva Maus Kelleher, a director of our Society, is the school's principal.

Members in the news

GERD H. PETRICH, D.D.S.

Dr. Petrich recently returned from a 6-week tour as a volunteer in a hospital in Santarem, Brazil on the Amazon River. The medical compound was in the midst of a busy town with non-stop blaring of horns, radios and church bells. Along with the routine dental work, there were many unusual patients: one man had been bitten by a snake 20 years earlier and still suffered with open sores to the bone. A co-worker was an 86-year old local dentist. Other volunteers included an Indian anesthetist from Norway who assisted Dr. Petrich in difficult cases. Dr. Petrich accomplished a great deal during his tour, struggling through muddy dirt roads and overcoming the problems of great heat, humidity, torrential jungle rain and the Portugese language. He hopes to return in the future. Last year Dr. Petrich served as a volunteer for 5 weeks at St. Jude's Catholic Hospital in St. Lucia, West Indies. Dr. Petrich maintains a dental practice on Joppa Road in Towson.

ANN VON FORTHUBER

Ann, one of our directors, has raised the profession of "auctioneer" to a new high in Maryland real estate. Articles and ads in local papers announce the auction, on October 6, of a newly-built, high-tech residence in central Harford County which has the looks of a small castle. With a gym, two theaters and 7 bathrooms, the sale may set a record price for Maryland homes. Ann is the owner of Auction & Estate Representatives, which deals in many unique and historic properties.

WILLIAM C. FRANZ, 76

William Franz, of Lutherville, a member of our Society, died May 21. He was a founder of the McCleary-Franz Co., a supplier of industrial equipment. He was born in East Baltimore, graduated from City College and Johns Hopkins Univ., where he received an engineering degree. He served in the military in the Pacific during World War II. He was affiliated with the Boys Scouts and was active in the Parkville American Legion. He was a traveler and visited 60 countries. He was recruited as a member by director Dan Brooke.

CONGRATULATIONS

.... to **Dr. Daniel F. Whiteford**, who has retired from the faculty of the University of Maryland, College Park and moved with his wife Bea, to Wake Forest, North Carolina. Their children, Dorothy and Dan, Jr. continue to reside in Maryland.

MANY THANKS

....to **Lottie Schaefer** for her recent very generous gift to the Society. Mrs. Schaefer, widow of our former director and honoree, Paul Schaefer, is our most loyal and generous benefactress.

BEST WISHES

....to **Marie Potthast** who has just moved to the Marriot Brighton Gardens Assisted Living from her Rodgers Forge home. She will have her 91st birthday this year.to **Frank Pramschüfer**, one of our lifetime directors, for a prompt recovery from a lung operation.

HOUSING NEEDED FOR OLDENBURG STUDENTS FOR SIX DAYS IN OCT.

Towson University will sponsor a festival to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of composer Kurt Weill. Students from Oldenburg University, Germany, are coming to Maryland to participate. Housing is needed for 20 students from October 24 to Oct. 30 and our Society has been asked to solicit our members to take in a student. The students will be at Towson U. most of the time but need sleeping accommodations and some meals. If you can take in one or more students, please call Dr. Armin Mruck at 420-833-5862. Dr. Mruck is a director of our Society and a faculty member at both Towson and Oldenburg universities.

Kurt Weill was a German refugee who came to New York to escape the Nazis. A famous composer while in Germany, he furthered his career in America by writing 10 musicals. One of his most popular songs is "Mack the Knife" from his Threepenny Opera, which ran three years on Broadway. He collaborated with Berthold Brecht, another playwright-refugee. Weill was born in 1900 and died in 1953.

The main event will be a lecture and concert on Sunday, October 29 at 2 pm at the Concert Hall at Towson University. Tickets are approx. \$6. A pre-show lecture entitled "Weimar's Berlin's City im Licht", followed by a serious presentation of Weill's American popular music entitled "On the Weill Side." Our members are urged to attend. Afterwards university president Hoke Smith will hold a reception from 4:30 to 6 for the hosts of the German students.

SKOWRONEK DANCE GROUP

Richard and Maria Skowronek have a long history of teaching and exhibiting folk dances in Maryland. For ten years they visited the public schools of Harford County, resulting in a renaissance of interest in the study of German. Their group's activities have brought widespread acclaim. Maria and Richard are active members of our Society. The group recently performed on June 10th in Zion's Adlersaal.

NEW CHURCH NAMED FOR JOHN NEUMANN, MD-GERMAN PASTOR

A newly constructed Catholic Church in Annapolis was dedicated in early May and dedicated to Saint John N. Neumann, a former pastor of several churches in Maryland in the 1840's. The new church is an outgrowth of Saint Mary's parish in Annapolis, where Neumann also served. Neumann was a German-speaking priest of the Redemptorist Order, born in Bohemia. He was Pastor of St. Augustine's in Elkridge, MD and St. Alphonsus, Baltimore, as well as serving as the Provincial of the Redemptorists, which then was headquartered at St. James Church in Baltimore. While serving as pastor of St. Alphonsus Church in Baltimore, John Neumann was appointed as bishop and sent to Philadelphia to try to unite the Catholic German community which was then in a state of internal disputation (a usual state of temperament of Germans, even today). A church in Ocean City, MD and a school in Baltimore are also named after St. John Neumann.

CHICAGO SEMINARY NAMED FOR SEELOS

Another German Maryland pastor, Francis Xavier Seelos, was also honored this month by the naming of the Redemptorist seminary in Chicago after him. Seelos followed Neumann as pastor of St. Alphonsus in Baltimore and also served as pastor of St. Peter and Paul Church in Cumberland and St. Mary's, Annapolis. He was born and grew up in Füssen in the Bavarian Alps. He served 11 of his 23 years in America in Maryland. Seelos was "beatified" in April by Pope John Paul, II (Beatification is the last step before the process of canonization in the Catholic religion.) The designation of the seminary in his honor was appropriate, as he was the director of the Redemptorist seminaries in Cumberland, MD and in Annapolis.

While in Baltimore, both Neumann and Seelos served as chaplain to the School Sisters of Notre Dame, most of whose members were from Bavaria.

VOLGA-GERMANS AT EMBASSY

Forty young musicians, ages 14 to 24 will give a concert at the German Embassy on Sept. 12, 7:30pm. Their group, DIE GOLDENEN TRUMPETEN, will march in the Steuben Parade in NYC and come to Washington with the help of the Washington Sangerbund. These are the descendants of the German farmers imported by Russian Empress Catherine the Great in the 1700's. Under German law, the Volga Russians are entitled to be German citizens and return to live in Germany.

NEW PASTOR FOR ZION CHURCH

REV. DR. HOLGER ROGGIN has accepted the pastorate of Zion Church, succeeding Rev. H. S. Siegfried Otto. Dr. Roggin studied theology at the Universities of Kiel and Tübingen and at Keble College, Oxford, England. He recently served as pastor in Hamburg/Hamm He is a specialist in the life and work of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and in the history of the church under Hitler. Dr. Roggin was born July 25, 1962 in Lübeck, Germany. He is married to Rev. Alexandra Mattern, who is also an ordained pastor. Our Society extends a hearty welcome to both of these newcomers to America.

PICNIC DRAWS OVER 200 MEMBERS

This year's German Society picnic, held on Preakness Day drew a crowd of 260 stalwarts, despite the overcast, drizzly, chilly weather, in harsh contrast to last year's sweltering 100° racing day heat. Blob's Park catered the event and supplied an abundant and excellent supply of wurst, burgers, kraut, German potato salad and the rest. Families contributed a lavish table of desserts, which alone made the day memorable. Children ran freely through the park's 280 acres of wet grass, and joined in the games and garnered prizes. Music by Das Meister Duett kept the feet tapping and young and old dancing throughout the afternoon and made us forget the dismal weather. And we all got home in time to watch Red Bullet crossing the finish line to win the Preakness.

Kudos go to Art Nieberding, picnic chairman, for his Germanic attention to minute details, making the affair a great success...and to the many Nieberding brothers, spouses, and nephew Mike (our pres.) for their hard work in organizing and executing the operations. Thanks to Linda Butt for leading the contingent of student members from Loyola Blakefield and to Dr. Mohamed Esa for bringing his students from Western Maryland College, along with his wife and young sons.

AFS OFFERS STUDY IN GERMANY TO AMERICAN TEEN-AGERS

The American Field Service, has asked our Society to publicize the availability of studies in Germany for American students age 14-18. The program offers an all-expense-paid year in Germany. Students will live with a German family. If you know of any high-schoolers who could benefit from this program, have them contact: AFS-USA, Southeast Regional Service Center, 1610 West Street, Suite #202, Annapolis, MD 21401 Phone: 410-280-3000.

MARYLAND OKTOBERFEST OCT 6TH TO 8TH AT 5TH REGIMENT ARMORY

The annual Oktoberfest at the Fifth Regiment Armory will be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 5-8. Good music, fine food and drink and a jovial atmosphere. Plenty of parking on the streets around the armory. We encourage our members to support the event and the clubs which sponsor it.

100TH BALTIMORE GERMAN FESTIVAL - THE NATION'S OLDEST

The Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein von Maryland held its 100th German Festival August 18-20. The Baltimore German fest is the oldest such festival in the USA. This year's event was outstanding in its array of ethnic food, music and variety of vendors of articles imported from Germany. Workers for the event came primarily from the Baltimore Kickers, the German Radio Klub, Edelweis Club and they are to be congratulated for the wonderful job.

A VISIT FROM THE GORCH FOCH

The Gorch Foch was among the tall ships coming to the Baltimore Harbor in June. Members of the German American community entertained the crew. The "Blaue Junge", a choir from the crew of the ship performed German sea songs and folk songs on Sunday for us in Zion's Adlersaal.

MILWAUKEE: JULY GERMAN FEST

Some of our members visited The 20th Germanfest on Milwaukee's waterfront the last weekend of July. The festival grounds cover 78 acres, featured 6 bandstands with continuous music and 8 giant tents of cultural exhibits and entertainment. The city of Milwaukee owns the fenced festival park and the permanent restaurant facilities as well as outdoor grills with pits to roast 5 pigs and 500 chickens at time. Beer tents were everywhere and Miller's brewed festival beer just for this occasion. The event featured bands from Germany, each day opened with a parade of a dozen marching bands, German food, fireworks and continuous entertainment from noon to midnight.

A stopover at Frankenmuth

En route to Milwaukee, our members stayed overnight at the Bavarian town of Frankenmuth, Michigan. The town, founded by missionaries from the Franconian region of northern Bavaria in the mid-1800's, gives the appearance of a typical German town and its many stores specialize in German merchandise and its restaurants feature German food as well as American chicken dinners. It has the largest Christmas store in the world, covering 5 full acres.

NOTES OF INTEREST

HANSA HAUS will be rededicated and reopened in October after extensive renovations. Located at Charles & Redwood Streets in Baltimore, it is a "fachwerk" building whose exterior is decorated with the coats of arms of each of the cities of the Hanseatic League, a group of mercantile German city-states which controlled commerce from the late middle ages into the 1800's. In the 1700's the Baltimore harbor was filled with Hanseatic ships. Hansa Haus was once the American headquarters for the North German-Lloyd steamship line which brought immigrants to Maryland.

The **Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society** will conduct a seminar at the Best Western hotel in Leesburg, VA on Oct. 28 entitled "Searching for your Ancestors in Germany". \$35 registration fee includes meal. To register, call Diane M. Kuster at 732-606-6032 by Oct 13, The main speaker is Trudy Schenk, a consultant at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

The Zion Forum for German Culture will present a **supper and lecture** entitled **Life in a Parsonage**, the daily life in the home of Martin Luther. 7-9 pm on November 12, at the Zion hall. Rev, Dr. Eric Gritsch will make the presentation. A hearty supper of bratwurst, beer, cider, bread and potatoes. \$8.00. Reservations required. Call 410727-3939 by Nov. 6.

CHRISTKINDLMARKT sponsored by Baltimore Kickers and the Zion Forum will be held in the Adlersaal on Nov. 25 from 11-6 and Nov. 26 12-5. Admission \$1. Authentic German food and Glühwein. Lebkuchen, Stollen, Christmas decorations and gift while listening to German Christmas music in a festive setting.

The **OKTOBERFEST** of the Delaware Sängerbund will be held on Sept. 15, 16 and 17. Bavarian bands, folkdancing, food, amusement rides and games. 49 Salem Church Rd Newark, Delaware (rts 4 & 273) For info call 302-366-9454. \$5 admission includes unlimited amusement rides.

OUR "GERMAN" SOCIETY IS A TRANSNATIONAL MIXTURE

When our Society was founded in 1783, there was no "Germany" - but a conglomeration of German-speaking states. Our vice-president, General John Stricker, was a Swiss. The German culture which we in America share is derived not only from the German-speaking central Europe, but from Liechtenstein, Austria, most of Switzerland, Luxembourg, Alsace and South Tyrol. Our heritage is not defined by political boundaries, but by language and culture. - the "deutsche Kulturnation."

WICHELSHAUSEN, EARLY SOCIETY MEMBER WAS BREMEN'S CONSUL

The name H. D. Wichelshausen appears on page 178 of the History of The German Society of Maryland, published in 1909. It is contained on a list printed by John T. Hanzsche, of deceased "Life Members of the Society from its commencement." Our "History" contains nothing else about him. Modern research published in the 1999 edition of "Yearbook of German-American Studies" reveals the background of our ancient member, who came to Baltimore in the late 1700's. There was no Germany in those times, but individual Hanseatic cities sent representatives to American cities.

Hieronymous Daniel Wichelshausen became Bremen's consul in Baltimore. He was from a merchant family, and he himself became a successful merchant and an influential member of the community, serving on the boards of most of the local German-American associations. Bremen and Hamburg were then governed by senates which were comprised of representatives of the most influential merchant families. Hieronymous' brother, Friedrich Jacob Wichelshausen, later served as U. S. Consul to Bremen for 34 years. Hieronymous was one of a dozen Baltimore notables who raised funds for the "Baltimore Horse Artillery" (presumably for the War of 1812),

The "Yearbook" is published by the Society of German-American Studies. Volume 34, just released, contains an article entitled "*Merchant Culture in Germany and America in the Late Eighteenth Century*", which mentions our early member, Hieronymous.

MARYLAND STUDENT COMPLETES FULLBRIGHT YEAR IN GERMANY

Vanessa Cisz, a 1999 graduate of Loyola College, has completed a year as a Fullbright Scholar at the Christian-Albrechts University in Kiel. She studied North Frisian linguistics and the culture of North Frisia, a strip of land and islands along the North Sea. Frisian is a separate language which bridges English and German and includes 9 dialects. There are only 8000 remaining speakers of Frisian. Ms. Cisz writes in the current issue of the Loyola College magazine: "My gratefulness for my Fullbright fellowship extends beyond its scholarly aspects - here I am, 22 years old, being paid to live in Germany. Not only am I thrilled to study a specific part of German - North Frisia - but I'm also enjoying the opportunity to improve all of my language registers and enrich my knowledge of German culture." Vanessa graduated magna cum laude and earned Loyola's Language award in German.

SCHLEY, GERMAN-AMERICAN MARYLANDER, FREED CUBA

Admiral Winfield S. Schley, whose family came from Germany to Maryland before the revolutionary war, commanded the American fleet in the naval blockade at Santiago, Cuba in 1898. Spanish admiral Cuerva tried to break the blockade, which resulted in the destruction of the Spanish fleet, thus ending the Spanish-American war and four centuries of Spanish rule over Cuba.

MUSIC IS GERMAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE: MENDELSSOHN, BACH, HANDEL ALIVE IN MD

Not until German-speaking immigrants arrived was music alive on the American scene. The English settlers, Puritans and other rigid religious sects, excluded music from their services. Both liturgical and profane music had been part of Germanic culture for centuries and it was only natural that those immigrants brought it along when they came to America. That heritage is living and breathing in Maryland. The Washington Bach Concert performed in Baltimore's Basilica of the Assumption. The Baltimore Choral Arts Society performed Mendelssohn's "Elija" at the Meyerhoff; and the Handel Choir of Baltimore gave a concert at Old St. Paul's Church. Classical music is synonymous with German composers: Bach, Brahms, Beethoven, Mozart, Handel, Hayden, Schubert, Schumann, Strauss, Wagner, etc. Christel van der Berg, a director of our Society, wrote an article about musicians from Austria and Germany who are revered in America, as illustrative of our musical heritage. Her article will appear in an upcoming newsletter.

GERMAN BREWER IS ANCESTOR OF 4 GENERATIONS OF MD DOCTORS

Charles ("Chad") Hobelman, III graduated from the University of Maryland School of Medicine last month to become the fourth generation of medical doctors descended from a German-American Baltimore brewer. All four generations graduated from U of MD and have practiced medicine (or plan to) in Baltimore. Chad, who attended Loyola Blakefield, has two younger brother, Greg and Todd, who are now attending medical school at Maryland. Their great-grandfather, Dr. Frederick W. Hobelman, graduated in 1901. When their grandfather, Charles, graduated in 1943, the tuition was \$125 per year. By the time their father graduated in 1971, it has risen to \$600 per year. Today's tuition is \$15,000 p/a.

TALES OF IMMIGRANTS EVOKES MEMORIES OF "THE CAPTAIN"

by Ted Potthast

Reading of the long journeys of early immigrants in *The Report #40* (the periodical of The Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland) reminded me of Captain Theodor Fehr, a German sea captain who made Baltimore his home. The article described the plight of those German immigrants of the 1700's, spending 2 to 5 months at sea. In one case the trip lasted 9 months and many died of starvation en route.

Theodor Fehr went to sea as a cabin boy at age 13 at the turn of the century, sailing from Bremerhaven in a bulky merchant ship (not like the swift tall ships which recently visited our Inner Harbor). As he told me many years later, his first voyage lasted a full year, from Germany to Santiago, Chile. The trip to Chile took 7 months and 5 months on the return trip. His was one of the last of the sailing ships, soon to be completely replaced by steamships. He persevered in his seafaring vocation and by the 1930's was captain of his own vessel. He became a US citizen and served in the American merchant marine during World War II. Captain Fehr became a close friend of my grandfather and when his ship was in town, stayed at his home. As a boy, I could not wait until he came to port. He brought gifts to us children from Africa, Italy and European ports where he had carried provisions to our fighting men. We always called him "Captain" and when the family gets together and his name comes up, he is still called just "The Captain". He sometimes attended the events of our Society.

GERMAN-AMERICANS IN THE NEWS

The name of baseball immortal **HONUS WAGNER** still makes sports headlines. A baseball card issued by the American Tobacco Co. in 1901 for its Piedmont brand of cigarettes is expected to bring \$1,000,000 at an upcoming auction. Previous owner Wayne Gretzky sold it to WalMart for \$500,000 in 1964. Present owner Mike Gidwitz paid \$640,000 for it in 1996.

The **LEHRER** family of Baltimore County is restoring the 100-year-old paddle-wheel boat "Lange Syne" which formerly plied the Chesapeake. The steel-hulled boat is 70' long and 27' wide, 3 stories high and holds 150 passengers and crew. Joseph Lehrer, his wife, Marty, their sons Mickey and Mike, and a few friends restore ancient boats as their hobby. ("Lehrer", as all students of German learn on their first day of class, means "teacher".) When restoration is completed, the Lehrers may place the boat back into its former role for excursions on the bay.

TOLZMANN BOOK SHOULD BE IN EVERY GERMAN-AMERICAN HOME

The German-American Experience, Dr. Don Heinrich Tolzmann's newest book is a "must" for every American whose ancestors came to our shores from a German-speaking country and who want to know why they came here and what they and their compatriots did after they arrived. The book is an encyclopedia of information on the German contribution. It is easy reading but may also serve as a quick reference book. It puts flesh and blood on the skeleton of data which has been passed down to many of us by word of mouth from our family elders. And for the couple of generations whose youth spanned the 1920-1950era, whose families played down and sometimes hid their German heritage because of the anti-German sentiments before and after the two World Wars, the book will fill in many details which our families brushed into the background. To facilitate your acquisition of this excellent work, we print the following ad:

THE GERMAN-AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

Don Heinrich Tolzmann

The German-American Experience provides a comprehensive record of the essential facts in the history of this group, from its first U.S. settlements in the 17th century to the present, including anti-German hysteria and sentiment, and the internment of German-Americans during World Wars I and II. The author also analyzes German-American influences on agriculture, industry, religion, education, music, art and architecture, politics, military service, journalism, literature, and language.

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GERMAN DOGS POPULAR IN MD.

Ads in a recent local Sunday newspaper attest to the popularity of German dogs in Maryland. The number of ads for the dogs were: German Shepherds 14; Dachshunds 9; Rottweilers 6; Poodles 6; Schnauzers 3; and Weimareiners 2.

SEPTEMBER 2000

Founded 1783
Incorporated by Act of the General Assembly
of Maryland, Chapter 100, Feb. 3, 1818



The German Society of Maryland

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2000-2001

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