



April 2014

The Jasper Deutscher Verein was founded in January, 1980 to promote, preserve and celebrate our proud German Heritage in Jasper and surrounding area. The Club is intended to be primarily Social and Not-For-Profit.

Frohe Ostern!

Happy Easter!

Message from Mike.....

Our thanks go out to County Historian, Art Nordhoff, for our March program. Art's ability to paint a picture in our minds using only a story line is truly a gift that kept our membership interested and engaged. The tale of the Reeves brothers from the 1800s provided us with a different perspective of life for our ancestors in the county.

Our April 24 meeting will feature Kathy Mott discussing genealogy. Kathy's presentation will include a review of the many tools available through our libraries. Whether you are deeply entwined in the process or just thinking about how to get started, Kathy's program promises to provide you with the tools to aid your success.

This year's Strassenfest theme is "Alive with the Arts". Arts can take on many meanings, from theatre, to paintings and sketches, to architecture, to food prep, to dance and customs. For our May meeting, our clubs services are being offered to the Strassenfest Committee members and other interested individuals who want to learn how to Polka. We will need members with this skill to partner up with our "students" to keep the art of Polka alive through teaching others.

We are working to provide extra opportunities for our club beyond our Thursday meeting dates. Please save the following dates to join us:

On Sunday April 27, we are organizing a caravan to make a trip to the Chapel of the 14 Holy Helpers at New Boston. Vince Lueke provided our club with a presentation on this chapel constructed on his family's farm. This will give us an opportunity to see his work first hand. To round out our trip, we will plan to include a stop at Monkey Hollow Winery for some wine tasting and a picnic.

Darren Patterson has volunteered to lead a group of interested members to make our own homebrew for our

club's September picnic. Save the dates of Saturday May 10, Sunday May 18, and Sunday June 22 in your schedule. Plan to join us to learn a little about this art and to have a hand in the production of a signature product for our club to enjoy at our picnic. Pack a cooler with your favorite beverage to enjoy as we socialize.

Anyone interested in taking a trip to Hermann, Missouri for their wine festival? We have had a recommendation for doing a trip the weekend of October 11-12. If we have only a small group, this may be a caravan trip with several small vehicles. If we get enough interest, we can explore doing a bus. If you have interest, please let us know at the April/May meeting.

Mike Ackerman,
VP, Deutscher Verein

Deutscher Verein Maerz Meeting in Review

The Jasper Deutscher Verein met on Thursday, March 20th, at VFW #673. President Bridgette Bartley opened the meeting by welcoming the 70 members and guests present. She then had everyone with birthdays in March stand and she led in singing Happy Birthday.

Vice President Mike Ackerman then led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ein Prosit and the prayer before the meal. He then mentioned some dates for some activities for the members to participate in.

On Saturday May 10th and Sunday May 18, Darren Patterson will lead anyone who wants to be involved in making our own version of Kolsch beer to be served at the September Picnic. We will then meet on June 22 to keg our brew. More information will be provided at our April meeting.

On April 27th, the club is planning a trip to New Boston to see the Chapel of the 14 Holy Helpers hosted by Vince Lueke. We will then stop afterwards at Monkey Hollow Winery for some wine tasting. More information will be at our April 24th meeting.

He also mentioned that at our May 15th meeting, we will be given instruction on the Polka. He asked anyone who knows how to polka to please help.

After the meal the meeting continued. Bridgette asked for the minutes to be approved from the previous meeting which were in the March newsletter. Leo Eckerle made the first motion, Linda Wehr made second motion, all approved.

Rita Egler gave the treasurers report.

The drawing for door prizes was then held. Winners were Phyllis Boeglin and Steve Schmitt. Special prizes was won by Ray Lechner and Linda Wehr.

Bridgette then introduced the program for the evening which was Art Nordhoff, our official county historian.

The rest of the evening was spent socializing.

Please note date change for April meeting. Because Holy Thursday is on regular meeting night, our meeting will be the following Thursday. April 24th.

Doors open at 6:00 pm. Meeting will start at 6:30. We will be having spaghetti. Members with last names beginning A-C bring bread (Italian, garlic, rolls etc.) D-O bring salad or vegetables, P-Z dessert.

Submitted by
Barb Schmitt

Upcoming Event – Mark Your Calendars

April Meeting

At the Jasper VFW

With Program by Kathy Mott discussing genealogy

Donnerstag (Thursday) , April 24, 2014

Time: 6:00pm Doors Open

6:30pm - Welcome and Call Meeting to Order

The Club will provide Spaghetti and refreshments.

Members with last names beginning

A - C – Bring a Bread (Italian, garlic, rolls, etc.)
D- O – Bring a Salad or Vegetable
P- Z – Dessert

Golf Scramble Sponsored by Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc. to support the JHS German Exchange Program

Saturday, May 17th, at Buffalo Trace Golf Course
(formerly known as Muni)
Lunch at noon

Shotgun start at 1:00pm

Cost is \$50 per person - \$200 per team of 4

Cost includes lunch, cart, and green fees

Hole sponsorships are available for \$100

If anyone would like to register to participate, donate a prize, or sponsor a hole, please contact Sandy Wehr at 482-2055.

Strassenfest – July 31 – August 3, 2014

Special Vistors to Pfaffenweiler, Germany

In November, 2013, Mr. Sven Schumacher, Honorary Consul Federal Republic of Germany, lead a group of fourteen from Indianapolis to Germany. The group visited the Christmas Markets in the Black Forest and in southern Germany. Mr. Schumacher wished to showcase the Partnership between Jasper and Pfaffenweiler. On December 3, 2013, the group visited Pfaffenweiler. The group toured the Pfaffenweiler Museum and the winery. Mr. Schumacher noted that this Partnership is exemplary when compared to approximately 300 other German-American Partnerships.

The group visited Pfaffenweiler on their way from Titisee to Freiburg.

From The Herald

Noteworthy

March 4, 2014

Consul visits Pfaffenweiler

The American General Consul Kevin C. Milas and his wife, Eileen, visited Jasper's Sister City Pfaffenweiler on Feb. 20. They were accompanied by Dr. Kirsten Gerstner, official in charge of the Department of Culture and Exchange Programs, as well as Mrs. Schulte, manager of the Freiburg Carl-Schurtz-Haus.

The Carl-Schurtz-Haus (German American House) in Freiburg had organized the visit to Pfaffenweiler, as well as Jasper High School's partner school, Faust Gymnasium Staufen. The group arrived in armored vehicles, accompanied by a police escort.

Buergermeister Dieter Hahn and Archivist Eddy Weeger gave the delegation from the American Embassy in Frankfurt, Germany an extended tour of the town, including the Emigration Monument above Pfaffenweiler on the Duerenberg. The group saw the Rhine River Valley and Alsace Loraine, France.

Also included in the tour were the historic quarries. In the late afternoon the American delegation was welcomed in the Museum Building by Pfaffenweiler's City Council and a pre-invited group of Snail Valley citizens, who represent the tight bond to Jasper. Former Buergermeister Fritz Gutgsell with his wife, Brigitte, were included in the group.

Buergermeister Dieter Hahn expressed his pleasure to have the honor welcoming an official representative from the American Embassy to their small wine growing community. He introduced all attending and went into details about the history and current status of the partnership between Pfaffenweiler and Jasper.

The U.S. General Consulate in Frankfurt employs about 900 people and is responsible for the German states of Hessen, Baden Wuerttemberg, Rheinland Pfalz and Saarland. The visit was not made public until after the departure of the delegation. The representatives from Pfaffenweiler, except three, had no idea why they had been invited to the Rathaus that afternoon. A heavy security detail accompanied the American delegation, and the visit was prepared with a pre-sweep of the area and the Pfaffenweiler Rathaus by the Secret Service.

Mrs Bärbel Hilger Honored With the Golden Badge of Honor

On Sunday, March 16th, during the annual meeting of the Federal Theatres and Folk Life, Mrs. Bärbel Hilger was honored with the Golden Badge of Honor. This is the highest honor given. Since 1979, Mrs. Hilger has designed and created costumes for the female performers. She is the costumes seamstress. She manages the entire costume inventory of the Batzenberger Winzerkapelle. There are numerous costume changes for the performers.

Congratulations to Mrs. Hilger for all of her contributions.

It should be noted that Mrs. Hilger and Martina Eckert began the first cultural exchange between Pfaffenweiler and Jasper. Mrs. Hilger made complete Trachts

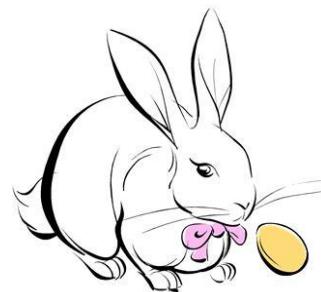
(traditional native costume of Pfaffenweiler), including the hats for Claude and Martina Eckert and Mrs. Eckert quilted a quilt for Franz and Bärbel Hilger.

Claude and Martina Eckert's Trachts are on display at the Dubois County Museum.

Steffen Fidler



Steffen Fidler arrived in Jasper on July 29, 2013 at the age of 16. He is from Ballrechten-Dottingen, Germany, a community near Pfaffenweiler. In Germany, he attends Faust-Gymnasium – Staufen. At Jasper, he is a Junior at Jasper High School. He enjoyed snowboarding and goes places with friends. A difference between his school in Germany and JHS is that he could choose his classes at JHS. He states that the size of JHS is about the same as his in Germany. He wanted to come to Jasper because of the Sister City relationship and he wanted to participate in American culture. His host family is Tom and Lana Fierst and his host brother is Adam Fierst. Steffen will leave Jasper around May 30th.



News from the Dubois County Suds Club

The Dubois County Suds Club is a group of local homebrewers who get together once a month to share beer and stories. We meet most months at the Schnitzelbank, Mill House or Snaps in Jasper, where we are allowed to bring bottles of homebrew and homemade wine to share. Other months we get together to brew, tour area breweries and hold an annual contest. If you are a homebrewer, or want to learn, come join us at any of the events listed below.

Justin Rumbach — President
justinrumbach@gmail.com

630-8433

2014 Schedule

May 4 - Big Brew Day @ Patoka
June 3 - 7pm - Snaps
July 1 - 7pm - Snaps
August 2 - Strassenfest Contest
Sept 2 - 7pm - Mill House
Sept 27 - Tasters Fest @ River
Oct 5 - Homebrew Day @ Ferdinand
Nov 4 - 7pm - The Schnitz
Dec 6 - Holiday Party

Justin Rumbach

From *The Herald*
By Jason Ragan
Herald Staff Writer
April 9, 2007

Shake, rattle for dough

Mariah Hill — With a loud clack of wooden rattlers, a group of altar servers from Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church continued a decades-old tradition of egg rattling Saturday morning.

More than a dozen servers, divided into three groups, went from home to home spinning the wooden rattlers.

Each home owner knew exactly what the rattle-wielding altar servers were after.

"You lay your money out the night before," said Ruthie Koenig, who walked to the door holder her dog, Rusty, and money for the kids.

"They really give us a lot during the year," she said of the dedicated servers.

The kids said it is an opportunity to be with their friends, ride their bikes and raise a little money. The money is

used for trips for the servers, and they also were given some cash to spend at the summer picnic.

"We usually go 13 miles," Eric Kern, 16 said.

His group usually makes it almost to Santa Claus and has been out as long as six hours before. Others, especially those who stay a little closer to town, are usually done in three or four hours.

Matt Kern and cousin Valerie Kern, both 19, are too old to be altar servers, but they still enjoy the tradition and went out Saturday.

Their visit to the home of Louie and Vernida Jochim revealed that the annual event goes back nearly a century. Louie, 82, who has lived in Mariah Hill all his life, remembers egg rattling in the mid-1930s. It was already an entrenched tradition at that time, he said.

Back then it was all done on foot. Other than that, very little has changed except maybe "the amount of money," Vernida said.

A quarter was the norm and a dollar was rare back then. Last year, the servers gathered nearly \$500.

Some of the rattlers have been used for years and the newer ones are patterned after the older ones.

Each handmade rattler consists of a slotted wheel. A thin piece of wood smacks on the grooves when it is spun around and produces a very loud noise.

LeRoy Dilger, who grew up in Mariah Hill and now lives in Evansville, recently gave his rattler to one of his nephews. He wrote down the meaning and purpose of the custom and attached it to the rattler so it would not get lost.

He was an altar server from 1944 to 1951. He told The Herald by e-mail that the servers used to receive eggs that they would sell and the money was given to the pastor and then used at the picnic. The donation of eggs turned into just a monetary donation but the tradition kept its name of egg rattling.

Bobby Gogel, 75, also remembers going egg rattling in the 1940s and those seeking donations say a phrase in German. He remembers it to this day.

Translations vary but the key elements of the phrase are always the same. "We have watched the entire night, this holy Easter grave, for three dozen eggs or 6 pounds of bacon, or we'll not leave this house."

It is hard to say exactly how old this tradition is, or exactly where it came from.

Father Bill Dietsch, pastor at Mary, Help of Christians, has a few ideas. Until 1979 the parish was served by Benedictine priests from Saint Meinrad Archabbey. The German Benedictines brought some customs with them. This was probably one of them.

Erika Brady, professor of folk studies at Western Kentucky University, has never heard of this specific custom but said it is in line with many mendicant, or begging, customs. The most common of these traditions is trick-or-treating on Halloween.

All of these types of customs usually have certain similarities, one being a reversal of roles. Altar servers usually don't go out to beg for money. It often involves some kind of saying or phrase and it is almost always connected to a certain event or day.

The rattlers also speak to a tradition in the Catholic Church.

Between Holy Thursday and Easter, the church bells aren't used and songs are sung a cappella. Fr. Dietsch remembers prior to the 1960s a wooden clacker was used during Mass to symbolize the sadness of the death of Christ.

He believes that may be how the rattlers factored in.

Ray Kern participated in egg rattling in the late 1960s. On Saturday, four of his and wife Sylvia's eight children – Valerie, Eric, Kevin, 15, and Emily, 12 – carried on the tradition.

As Valerie and her group canvassed town they ran into Brian Peters, 35, Lamar, who was out reading meters. He grew up in St. Meinrad and also went egg rattling.

He gave them a couple of bucks and shared with them the saying he and his friends used to recite: "We are the altar boys. We come to bring you Easter joy."

They then asked for food, candy or any donation – and if a contribution wasn't forthcoming, "We'll rattle, rattle, rattle until your ears ring."



Endowments at the Dubois County Community Foundation

Jasper Deutscher Verein (German Club) German Heritage Endowment

A donor-advised endowment to benefit generations in ensuring that our German heritage is preserved and enriched in Jasper and Dubois County.

Claude and Martina Eckert Sister Cities Endowment

A designated endowment to provide support to Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc. to support the Jasper/Pfaffenweiler relationship.

A gift to the Jasper Deutscher Verein (German Club) German Heritage Endowment or to the Claude and Martina Eckert Sister Cities Endowment is a wonderful way to remember that special someone. A gift in honor of someone or in memory of someone may be given. The Dubois County Community Foundation will send a letter of acknowledgment to the individual being honored or to the family of someone being remembered.

Send your gift along with the appropriate information to the Dubois County Community Foundation, P. O. Box 269, Jasper, IN 47547-0269.

Envelopes are also available at the greeting table at each club meeting.

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

to the _____
(Please specify appropriate Endowment)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

I want my gift to be in memory of / in honor of:

Please acknowledge my gift to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

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