



Lübeck - Association Newsletter



Hansestadt Lübeck

**PRESIDENT
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Buses, Boats, Brats, Bier, and Brotherhood (Sisterhood too)

The 13th national reunion of the Lübeck Association got off to it's usual fast start with several of the eventual 60 folks congregating in the basement hospitality room in the early afternoon of Sunday September 23rd. Soon most of the folks were present and getting reacquainted and caught up on each others lives. Later that evening we were treated to a fantastic buffet dinner of roasted pork with all the accompanying goodies. Following dinner we were still able to choke down a piece or two of the gooiest chocolate cake in all of Wisconsin.

After dinner, Jim Miller briefly welcomed everyone and introduced the "Newks" Dick Strader, Bill & Pam DeLaittre, and Lee Koss, who were attending their first reunion. Next the names of the nine brothers that have been added to the Association Memorial Plaque were read, a very poignant moment for sure. Our host **Don Johnson** followed, again welcomed everybody, and gave us an overview of what we would be doing during our stay. As usual the rest of the evening was spent in the hospitality room doing what we do best.....smoozing and boozing.

Attendees include:

Don Belanger	Joe & Marlitt Hurst	Lenny & Sue Pittman
Jim & Hildegard Bell	Tom & Besty Infante	Judy Puffer & Jackie Radandt
Frank & Terry Crane	Don & Norma Johnson	Bill & Pam DeLaittre
Tim & Anke Johnson	John & Christa Rickels	Anne & Abe Saloma
Fred & Jacqueline Dwight	Leon Koss	John & Darlene Schwandke
Gene & Lynn Ellis	Art & Jane McEldowney	Renate Setten & Patrick Daigle
Dean & Pat Featherston	Ralph & Rosalie McEldowney	Duain & Joyce Shaw
Phil Hanley & Linda Eastman	Jim & Bonnie Miller	Jim & Heinke Shaw
Chuck & Pat Hartwig	Ralph & Patti Myers	Dick Strader
Dave Hodge & Bernie Clark	Tom & Judy Newhouse	Jack Weber
Bill "Dixie" Howell	Clarence & Nancy Parker	Dave & Barbara Wrench
Jon & Judy Hunter		

Monday - We all loaded into the buses around 9:00a.m. for the tour of Madison and beyond. As we pulled out from the hotel, we made a circle around the Capitol building, which was just across the street. It's a beautiful building, very similar to the U.S. Capitol, all white and domed, and official looking. We stayed in the buses however, knowing we would get "up close and personal" later in the week. The tour, lead by Norma and Don Johnson, one in each bus, took us through the campus of the **U. of W.**, a huge area with an enrollment of over 50,00 students. We then meandered around the three lakes (Mendota, Monona & Wingra) that surrounded the city, while taking in most of the very pleasant neighborhoods of Madison. Next we proceeded

to the University **Arboretum**, "considered the birthplace of ecological restoration," where we strolled around the beautiful flower gardens and fountains. After the Arboretum we made a quick trip to the **Olbrich Botanical Gardens** to view the wonderful Thai Temple that was a gift from the Taiwanese alumni of the University and the King of Thailand. There was also a fantastic quilt display, something that didn't go unnoticed by the Association quilting queen Bonnie Miller. From there we headed for Olin Park on Lake Monona for a scrumptious brat & beer picnic. The food was out-of-this-world, consisting of two kinds of brats, mit senf, karotffelsalat, and a big ole keg of beer. All this was prepared by the entire Johnson/Saloma family, and was waiting for the weary travelers as they got off the buses.....danke!

We were on our own for the remainder of the day, and much later, when we all finally felt like eating again, we sampled some of the fine restaurants near our hotel, followed by cocktails in the hospitality room.

Tuesday - After breakfast we again boarded our buses for the trip to the **House on the Rock** (HOTR), which was some 50 miles out of town.

"Alex Jordan, Jr. wanted to teach Frank Lloyd Wright a thing or two about architecture. The lesson started years ago.

Jordan's dad, a budding architect, had been dismissed at Wright's Taliesin home, near Spring Green, with the declaration, "I wouldn't hire you to design a cheese crate or a chicken coop." Soon after, the senior Jordan chose a pinnacle rock south of Taliesin to build a parody of Wright's fancy-pants architecture, a strange "Japanese house." The ceilings were dangerously low (padded now to accommodate tourists) and the structure seemed to cling precariously to the odd contours of the rock.

*The **House On The Rock** opened to the public in 1961. Today, it is only a small portion of the magical collection that spits in the eye of Mr. Big Deal Dead Architect. When Alex Jordan, Jr. took over the project from his dad in the 1940s he never dreamed where it would end, but with a half-million visitors a year at \$15+ a head, it probably won't end anytime soon. "*

The HOTR is truly amazing and a whole lot weird, with numerous rooms in all kinds of odd shapes, leading here, there, and everywhere. The rooms are full of artifacts, hundreds of Tiffany type lamps, weird furniture, and bizarre wall coverings.....and that's just the main house. The "Infinity Room," probably the main attraction, is about 90% glass, 110 feet long, and hangs out over the treetops like a space needle. Most of us were interested in venturing out into the room, but were happy the damn thing didn't break off.

Once you leave the "house" the fun really begins. There are special rooms like the "Doll Room," the "Circus Room," and the "Cannon Room," just to name a few. Then there's the "Carousel Room," which contains the world's largest Carousel. The merry-go-round for the ages "contains 239 carousel beasts (many bare breasted) from around the world, as well as 182 red chandeliers,"..... looks sort of like a whirling whorehouse. Next we were treated to a nice lunch at the House on the Rock Resort before returning to our hotel.

Again, the remainder of the day was free time devoted to dinner, and did I mention we had a hospitality room? Also this was the night that teetotaler Jack "the Hulk" Weber was reintroduced to his old friend Jack Daniels, a relationship that lasted only until the next morning.

Wednesday - The day started when a large group of us walked just down the street from our hotel to the **Wisconsin Historical Museum** for an unguided tour. The museum was quite nice, with many displays, most interesting to the group being the display of household items and other artifacts remembered from our youth. We then ventured around the corner to the **Wisconsin Veterans Museum** where the attraction that interested most of us was the uniforms and weapons from our own period of service. Another point of interest to our particular group seemed to be The East German Border Guard uniforms and weapons. Many folks lingered within the museum, while others hit the souvenir shop, which did rather well by us.

Next on the agenda was a guided tour of the **Capitol Building**, with its majestic domed rotunda, fabulous marble columns and floors, stained glass and mosaic art works, and last but not least the shiny nose of a brass badger, which is the State's mascot. We were guided through the Governor's conference room, Senate Chambers, Supreme Court, and eventually up on to the top of the Capitol deck for a scenic view of the city. While there, enjoying the view, Miss Wisconsin just happened by to the absolute delight of all us old buzzards. Many pictures were taken with the beauty queen, who is now the official contest favorite of the Lübeck Association.

After a brief rest period, we all loaded into the buses for a trip to Mariners Inn, and a **dinner cruise on Lake Mendota**. Upon arrival we were split into two groups and boarded our respective yachts. The weather was clear, albeit a little cool, however when you can experience a fantastic sunset on one side of the boat, and a full moon rise on the other, who notices the weather?I think the bar might have helped as well. We cruised around the lake for almost three hours, while being treated to views of the city of Madison; its Capitol Building, as well as some very posh riverfront properties....no "fixer uppers" here. The food was to die for, and a good time was had by all. After the cruise, suddenly the hospitality room didn't look so good, but a few of the "hardcore" did have a nightcap...or two.

Thursday - After breakfast a brief Association meeting was held. Items discussed were the "state of the Treasury," which is solid, frequency of national reunions, which remained at every two years, and whether or not we should suspend dues collection for one year. Since it looked like the reunion would have an overrun, coupled with the fact that we're not getting any younger, the decision was made to keep annual **dues at \$25** and not skip a year. Other business included the reinstatement of the current officers, I.e. **Jim Miller, President** and **Harry Walthall, Treasurer**. That brought us to the most important topic of any Association meeting, the whereabouts of the next reunion. After much discussion, the membership almost unanimously chose **Lübeck for 2009**. The reasoning was, "if you're ever going to go back to Lübeck, the sooner the better....again we're not getting any younger." Jim Miller volunteered to be the reunion coordinator, but will have help from Dave Wrench and his old

buddy Al Pitzel, who resides in Hamburg. Several others have mentioned they would also help, so looks like it's very doable.

After the meeting we boarded the buses for one last time and headed for the **Bavarian Sausage Company**, a short ride from the hotel. This is the same place that provided the tasty brats we had eaten earlier in the week. Once inside you can feast your eyes on everything German, from wursts of all kinds, to cheeses of all ages, to sauerkrauts of all colors. Several folks bought huge bags of goodies, while several more promised to order over the Internet. On the way back to town we all noshed at a nice little restaurant, **Quivy's Grove**.

For the evening festivities, we got all dressed up and walked down to the **Madison Club** for the "closing ceremonies." First we were treated to the music of a trio made up of a marimba, drums, and a sax played by Abe Saloma, Don Johnson's son-in-law. The marimba player was a gifted young man named Matt Peters, who agreed to play at our "gig" in trade for Don Johnson being the photographer at his wedding. It wasn't long before dancing broke out with most folks "tripping the light fandango" to some old Johnny Mathis tunes. Jim Miller acting as emcee opened the dinner with a short toast after which everyone dug in. The dinner was excellent, with a choice of Veal Marsala, Chicken Oscar, or Filet Mignon as the entrees. Soon we were into dessert, and that was the signal for the speeches to begin. Jim Bell, who took us back to his days as the Company commander in the late 50's, gave the first talk. Jim expressed how proud he was to lead a bunch of guys whom by all measures were considered one of the best out-stations in Europe. Jack Weber followed with the enlisted man's view of his time in Lübeck, which differed slightly from Jim Bell's recollections. Next it was Jim Miller's turn to give out the attaboys and prizes. One of the accolades went to the four former Officers, Jim Bell, Ralph Myers, Leon Koss, and Bill DeLaittre, all of who are held in high esteem by every member in attendance. The "prize," becoming an honorary enlisted man, it's not much, but it's all we got. The last piece of business was to thank Don and Norma Johnson for all the hard work they've put in over the past two years. Based on some input from the family, a bright shiny new barbecue was suddenly rolled out and given to our hosts. First Norma gave a little thank you speech, followed by Don. Among his comments, Don indicated that he seldom gets nervous, and actually hadn't had a pimple on his face since his high school days. But on the first morning of the reunion he looked in the mirror and there they were....five big ole red pulsating zits!and you thought hosting a reunion was easy.

The remainder of the evening was spent in the hospitality room saying how great the reunion was, how fast the time had passed, and how much we were looking forward to Lübeck in 2009 so we could do it all over again. (Jim Miller)

THE MADISON FANDANGLE!

(From the typewriter of our roving reporter Jack Weber, he's not yelling, he just can't see)

OK, BOYS AND GIRLS, ADD ANOTHER WINNER TO OUR LIST OF LUBECKER REUNIONS! WE CAME WE SAW AND WE WERE CONQUERED BY GOOD OLD MADISON, WISCONSIN. AH YES, IT WAS PARTY TIME IN THE FAIR STATE OF WISCONSIN - ALSO KNOWN AS THE MINI - MICHIGAN. ONCE THE BREAD BASKET, NOW THE MOO JUICE CENTER OF OUR COUNTRY. WHAT A STATE! WHAT A CITY - MADISON! WHAT A REUNION! WHAT A GROUP OF EVER YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN ARE WE! ME BEING ONE OF THE YOUNGEST.

SALUTE TO THE DONJO FAMILY. DON, NORMA, ANNE AND ABE, TIM AND ANKE, ALONG WITH OUR TWO YOUNGEST FUTURE LUBECKERS – FELIX AND GRIFFIN – THE GRANDSONS. THE JOHNSON FAMILY DID IT RIGHT. THE SIGHTS, THE SOUNDS, THE WEATHER, THE FOOD AND MORE FOOD, THE BEVERAGES (YES, EVEN THAT NASTY BOTTLE OF JACK DANIELS ON TUESDAY NIGHT), THE BUS TOURS, THE CAMPUS OF U of W, THE AFTER HOURS BOAT EXCURSION ON LAKE MENDOTA, THE MUSEUMS, THE CAPITOL BUILDING AND AN ABUNDANCE OF "GEMUTLICHKEIT" WISCONSIN STYLE.

IT MUST BE NOTED THAT IN ONE OF OUR SOBER MOMENTS, WE INITIATED FOUR NEWKS INTO THE RANKS OF OUR LUBECKER ENLISTED MEN GROUP. THIS UNIQUE HAPPENING OCCURED AT THE LAST EVENING SOIREE AT THE CLASSY MADISON CLUB. THE NEWKS IN QUESTION ARE OUR ONE TIME COMPANY B COMMANDING OFFICERS. WE MADE THEM HONORARY ENLISTED MEN. I THINK IT WAS THE FIRST TIME IN THEIR MILITARY CAREERS THAT ANY GROUP DID THIS FOR THEM. IT WAS OUR HONOR. NOW, WE CAN ALL GO DOWN TO THE RIVERBOAT AND GIVE EM HELL AS ONE GREAT GROUP OF LUBECKERS. SO, ME HEARTIES, HENCEFORTH, PVT. KOSS, PVT. BELL, PVT. MYERS AND PVT. DeLAIITRE WILL BE WITH US IN ALL OF OUR FUTURE "ESCAPADES." I FOR ONE COULD HAVE USED THIS GANG ON SOME OF MY NIGHTS DOWN IN THE VILLAGE OF LUBECK BACK IN 1959 AND 1960. OH, EXCUSE ME; DID YOU THINK THAT WE WOULD HAVE MADE THEM ALL MASTER SERGEANTS? NYET! THESE YOUNGSTERS GOTTA START OUT AT THE BOTTOM AS DID WE.

THE MADISON FANDANGLE WAS A WEEK TO REMEMBER. EACH AND EVERY DAY WAS FILLED WITH A NEW EXPERIENCE. EACH AND EVERY EVENING WAS SPENT IN THE GOOD OLD LUBECK STYLE CAMARADERIE WHICH WE HAVE EXPERIENCED AT ALL OF OUR PAST REUNIONS. THOSE OF OUR FELLOW LUBECKERS WHO MISSED THIS PARTY (FOR WHATEVER REASON) TRULY LOST ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE THE TIME OF THEIR LIVES. MY SIDEKICK DON (BECKS, LIL' BEAVER, THE ALGONQUIN FLASH) BELANGER ENJOYED EVERY MOMENT AS DID I. PLEASE NOTE: BELANGER NOW HAS ABOUT AS MANY NICKNAMES AS THE BABY DOCTOR ARTIE GEMMELL.

SURPRISE, SURPRISE! I RECALL THAT EVEN SOME OF THE LADIES PRESENT WERE TELLING SOME TALES OF LONG AGO. FINALLY THE TRUTH STARTED TO COME OUT. OF COURSE, WE GENTLEMEN KEPT THE LANGUAGE ON THE CLEAN SIDE. WE DO HAVE OUR STANDARDS OF ETIQUETTE YOU KNOW. HEH, HEH!

I ENJOYED BEING ON THE CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN. STATE STREET WAS A GREAT PLACE FOR SMALL RESTAURANTS, SHOPS, GALLERIES AND SUCH TO RUN AMUCK ON OUR FREE TIME. GREAT SPORT WAS HAD BY ALL. I WAS IN CHARGE OF COUNTING THE GOOD LOOKING COEDS. I LOST COUNT AT A THOUSAND. BE STILL MY HEART.

WE ENJOYED THE OLD "TUNES OF GLORY" STORIES RELATED BY ALL. THOSE FOUR NEWKS HAD A FEW BEAUTIES TO TELL. EVEN OL' DON TOMASO INFANTE SEARCHED HIS BRAIN FOR A TALE OR TWO. BETSY, HIS DEAR WIFE, TOOK ALL IN STRIDE WITH A SMILE ON HER FACE. SHE IS MY KIND OF GIRL.

ALAS, THE KING OF THE STORY TELLERS WAS DIXIE HOWELL. HOW CAN ONE MAN REMEMBER ALL OF THOSE DAMN ACRONYMS RELATING TO ARMY DEPARTMENTS, THE PILES OF SECRET ORDERS, HIS COMMANDER'S NAMES AND TOWNS WHERE HE WAS STATIONED? HELL, I CAN BARELY REMEMBER THE STRASSE, JEDERMANS, THE BOAT, ST. PAULI AND A FEW OTHER HIDEOUTS SINCE THE LUBECK DAYS.

THE PEOPLE THAT WE MET DOWNTOWN AND ON OUR TOURS WERE UTTERLY FANTASTIC. I TOLD DONJO THAT FROM NOW ON I SHALL REFER TO MADISON WITH THE UTMOST OF RESPECT. SHE DOES THE BIG TEN CONFERENCE PROUD. I CAN EVEN FORGIVE THE BADGERS FOR STEALING THE GAME WITH MICHIGAN STATE ON SATURDAY. LIL' BEAVER AND I GOT OUT OF TOWN ON FRIDAY LONG BEFORE THAT SQUEAKER. AH, THE SHAME OF IT ALL. OK, THERE IS ALWAYS NEXT YEAR. COME ON OVER TO LANSING IN 2008 YOU WIRY LIL' BADGER DIABLOS.

SO, WITH A SMILE ON MY FACE, I SAY SALUTE TO ALL OF YOU AND YOUR LADIES. IT HAS BEEN A GREAT TIME THESE PAST YEARS AS A MEMBER OF OUR PROUD AMI'S OF DEAR OLD LUBECK. I HOPE TO SEE MANY MORE YEARS OF REUNIONS COMING OUR WAY. THE GOOD LORD WILLING.

MANY THANKS TO EL PRESIDENTE JIM AND BONNIE (VP) MILLER FOR THEIR HELP IN PUTTING THIS PARTY TOGETHER.

JACK (THE HULK) WEBER ONLY A CORPORAL IN THE GAME OF LIFE.

SHOULDA', WOULD'A', COULDA' BEEN A GENERAL! LOOK OUT

New Blood: Since the last publication of the Newsletter our ranks have increased slightly. The new additions to the organization include William & Gail Averill ('58-'59), Elmer Clemons ('61-'62), Conrad & Lynn Gabbard ('59), Harold & Christa Kersten ('63-'65), Ed & Belva Sherwood ('59), Glen Trumpower ('58-'60), Bernie & Deborah Vail ('60-'62), and Gary & Marjorie Womack ('59-'60). Welcome folks, hope you can attend the next reunion in 2009 and get reacquainted with old friends, and the old city of Lübeck.

In Memoriam: As most of you know, we are forever looking for "lost Lübeckers" to add to the Association. Every year we have more and better ways to track folks down, however not all discoveries have a happy ending. The following five fallen brothers all passed away in years gone by, all but one never knowing the existence of the Lübeck Association. All five have been proudly added to the Lübeck Association Memorial Plaque.

Duane V. Carroll - Fondly called "the roach," was an O58 "ditty-picker" in the '60-'62 time frame, and was known to frequent any and all poker or pinochle games. Sadly, Duane passed away in 1987 at the age of 48 from a massive heart attack.

Thomas Puffer - Tom was a Russian linguist from the '58-'59 era, who succumbed to cancer in 2004. According to Tom's widow Judy, he often spoke of the life in Lübeck, especially the parties at Jurgen Haus. On the brighter side, Judy a career State Patrol dispatcher, has been a huge help with the search for other lost Lübeckers, "something Tom would have wanted her to do."

David Ade - Chester E. Walczak - Gordon E. Hopperstad - All passed away in 2005, however no details are known regarding the causes.

Web Site The Association Web Site continued to grow during the past twelve months. Many photographs have been added, most notable are the almost 100 pictures of Lübeck from the extensive collection of one of our Associate members Michael Weiland. Michael was born in Lübeck, spent some of his formative years at the Wakenitz Kinderheim, and now lives in Oregon. His pictures are under the "Places" tab on the Web Site, labeled "Michael Weiland's Lübeck." Shortly, some 235 pictures of the reunion in Madison will be added under the "reunions" tab, as well as this Newsletter under...guess what...the "Newsletters" tab...Dah!

Future Activities - Coming off the hugely successful reunion in Madison Wisconsin, some folks are suggesting that getting together every two years is not good enough....that age thing again. Well the Midwest folks are trying to do something about it by staging a Midwest "mini" reunion. **Christa-Maria** is planning a get together in the Fall of next year, probably October, in **Traverse City, Michigan**. The plans are still in the early stages, but obviously the number of people attending needs to be addressed first. If anyone is interested in attending the 2008 Midwest "mini," please contact Christa-Maria at cmaria@triton.net or (231) 547-5331.

Want Ads Don Johnson would like to know if someone has some "stories" (and pictures) about the real beginning times of Lübeck, (1954 etc.) please e-mail them to him at doemjo@sbcglobal.net. He's thinking about broadening the scope of his book.

Happy Holiday Season

Hope to see you all in Lübeck in 2009.....Jim Miller