



Lübeck - Association Newsletter



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14th National Reunion - Lübeck, Germany

We came, we saw, we pigged out on pork & potatoes....a lot of pork and potatoes!

The intrepid travelers (see last page for list of attendees) began arriving the weekend before the official start of the reunion, and by Monday the 29th of June were 86 in number. After meeting and re-meeting all of our old and new friends, the group proceeded from our hotel, the Excelsior, to the Movenpick Hotel for the kick-off dinner. Jim Miller officially welcomed all in attendance including the Association special guests, Ilse Campbell (widow of Del Campbell), Uschi Bennett (widow of Ron Bennett) and her son Frank Bennett, Margitta Von Holt (former Mrs. Jim Griffin), and her son Mikel, all of whom live in and around the Lübeck area. Other "friends" in attendance were Frauke D'Amico, Lotti Edgerton and our future guide Inge Schön. After a few more announcements, i.e. introducing the first time reunion folks, Jim went on to mention that Jim and Heinke Shaw were celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary along with their grown children, grandchildren and friends. Dick Gauthier also made a brief speech about how he had attended the Shaw wedding in June of 1959. After all of the boring pontificating, a fantastic German buffet was served, and I mean fantastic...did I mention there was pork?

Tuesday, June 30th:

After breakfast all 86 of us loaded on to buses for a motor tour of Lübeck, the quaint fishing village of Gothmund, and Travemünde. Following that, we were dropped off in the city itself and continued on foot for the remainder of the tour. Also during that time we were interviewed by the local paper, the Nachrichten, which later published a headline that when translated read, "The spies that loved Lübeck." Needless to say, the article was a little "over the top," but did a good job of telling our story of 50 years ago. Next the weary tourists made their way to The Brauberger restaurant for a late lunch of pork, potatoes, salad and beer....lots of beer. The remainder of the day was free time, and most folks split up into smaller groups and continued to take in the sights of the city.

Wednesday, July 1st:

We began the day by boarding a canal boat, the "Wakenitz" for a 4 hour nautical cruise through the estuaries and canals to the Ratzeburger See (lake), and back. The weather cooperated very nicely, hovering around 85° for the whole trip. The boat took us past some very nice homes, some beautiful gardens, and natural habitat, before making a "potty break" at a Gasthaus near the small town of Rothenhüsen. We were all looking forward to a nice *light* lunch aboard ship on the return leg of the cruise, but were surprised when more pork, potatoes, and sauerkraut were served, enough already! Who planned this this frapping thing? Towards the end of the cruise we passed by Jügen Haus from the Wakenitz side, and could see what a beautiful place the house had become over the years. Later in the week we would see much more.

After a few hours of rest we boarded the buses for a scrumptious dinner at the famous restaurant, Schiffergesellschaft ca. 1535. The place has not changed since way before we were stationed in Lübeck, still had the long wooden tables and many nautical relics hanging from the ceiling. The meal was great, no pork this time....schnitzel, salmon, or steak.

Thursday, July 2nd:

This might have been the most enjoyable day to most, it was for sure a walk down memory lane. The first stop was Zwingli Strasse 8, the home of many a "trick worker." Frau Höven-Meyer and her son Henrik were very gracious hosts, allowing us all to inspect the house and grounds of the place we, for many years, called home. Next we stopped off at Jürgen-Wullenwever Strasse 10 (Jerk Haus) for a very memorable visit. Frau Tollgreve, our host, had arranged a unexpected garden party, with fruit juices, and pastries. We then toured the beautiful grounds of the grand estate, as well as the very well appointed rooms of the house. Sadly "the bar" is no longer in existence, and there were no four handed pinochle games going, however I think all concerned enjoyed our visit to both houses.

Next we rode out to Krummessa for a look at where the old "Area II" site was located, and just like yesteryear, found it was still a rather large cow pasture. From there we proceeded to the area where the "Site" was located. Unfortunately the grounds were locked up, however being resourceful ex-2nd story men, soon the fence was scaled, and those who dared were walking towards that green, and now overgrown place were most of us worked some 50 years ago. From there we made a quick stop at "the apartments" on Blankensee before retiring to St. Hubertus for a tasty lunch and grog. The rest of the day and evening was again free time

Friday, July 3rd:

After breakfast a brief Association meeting was held for the purpose of choosing a place and coordinator (stuckie) for the 15th national reunion in **2011**. Almost immediately it was decided that a cruise was probably the best bet, since sightseeing on foot has gotten difficult for many of us old timers. A few destinations were discussed with an **Alaskan cruise** hosted by **Dave Wrench** winning the day. Dave will look into several packages in the next few months, and will have suggestions after the first of the year (2010). The remainder of the morning and afternoon was free time, with some folks going to Schwerin, some to Hamburg, and some back to bed.

In the evening all folks walked or rode to the one and only Riverboat for dinner and the "closing ceremonies." The good ole Riverboat has moved at least twice since the mid sixties, was actually abandoned for a time, but now is alive and well, having been completely remodeled a few years back. It has three decks now, the top deck being "open air" (thank God, the heat wave is still with us). The infamous "slide" no longer takes you to the dance floor, however one can still "trip the light fandango" down on the bottom deck. We enjoyed a delicious Italian buffet, did some dancing, before the last piece of business was conducted. Dick & Geri Gauthier presented the reunion hosts, Jim & Bonnie Miller, with a gag gift of a brick, a bottle of Lübeck water, and a baggy of local soil, before getting down to the real payola...a very generous gift certificate from Pottery Barn.

The dancing continued but soon it was time to take the buses back to the hotel and start saying our last goodbye's, not only to the many old friends we have enjoyed during the past week, but to the town of Lübeck itself. Most of us, in all probability will never return, so it was not easy to say goodbye to the seven steeples, the Burgtor, the Holstentor, Zwingli Haus, Jürgen Haus, C-Strasse, The Riverboat, Schiffergesellschaft, Blankensee, and all the other places that have become so special to us. Auf wiedersehen "Pearl of the Baltic," **Auf wiedersehen Lübeck.**

New blood: During the past year there have been several "new" old Lübeckers found. In one fell swoop our roster increased by no less than eight people. Seems a bunch of the '54-'55 guys have been meeting periodically over the years without knowing about the Association. Then one day **Carl Dresel** found our Web Site and brought along the following: **William Culhane, Craig Blackman, Henri Charlifour, Curt Hanes, George McLeod, Russell Miller, and Paul McCormack**. Another "old timer" that has been added to the flock is **Robert Figulski**, also a '54-'55 era Lübecker. Welcome guys.

In Memoriam: In addition to the new members that were added to our roster, we were also informed that the following brothers from the '54-'55 era have passed on:

Ernie O'Fallon (1980)

Donald Bux (2008)

William McKeon (2009)

Others that have passed on since our last Newsletter are:

Gerald C. Klug (2004)

James G. Maghery (2009)

Arthur Marciel (2009)

All of the above will be proudly added to the Lübeck Association Memorial Plaque.

Web Site: If you haven't visited our Web Site (www.lubeckers.com) in a while, please feel free to do so. It will soon be updated not only with this Newsletter, but with some 300+ pictures of the recent reunion in Lübeck, as well as a few more "people" pictures.

Since this will be the last Newsletter until next year, when I have more information about the 2011 reunion, may I be the first to wish you all a Happy Holiday season, and prosperous New Year. Please stay well, keep in touch and plan on "cruisin" to Alaska. Jim Miller



Those wayfare travelers that attended the Lübeck reunion from June 29th to July 4th, 2009

Barry Brown ('63-'64)
Frank & Terry Crane ('60-'62)
Irv & Myrtle Deranger ('57-'58)
Harry Dusenberry (64-'65)
Bob Edgerton & Lynn Knott ('60-'62)
Gene & Lynn Ellis ('60-'62)
Jack & Trish Gardner ('59-'60)
Dick & Geri Gauthier ('58-'59)
Phil Hanley & Linda Eastman ('58-'59)
Robert & Judy Harris ('55-'56)
Chuck & Pat Hartwig ('58-'59) & Kris Shaver (Chuck's daughter)
Joe Hewitt & Susan Nutter ('61-'62)
David & Bernie Hodge (55-'56)
Don & Norma Johnson ('57-'59)
Art & Jane McEldowney ('59-'62) & Tara Hartley, Eric, Tanya & Mackenzie McEldowney
Ralph & Rosalie McEldowney ('60-'62)
Leon Meuwissen ('60-'62)
Jim & Bonnie Miller ('60-'62)
Ralph & Patti Myers ('61-'62) & Joshua Myers-Johns (Ralph's grandson)
Leonard & Renee Nack ('62-'63) & Melissa Williams (Leonard's daughter)
Clarence & Nancy Parker ('60-'62)
Debro Pulley ('61-'63)
John & Christa Rickels ('59-'64)
Stanley & Kay Roark ('57-'59)
Wes & Lily Roche ('57-'58)
Leo & Christa Rogers ('55-'57)
John & Darlene Schwandke ('62-'63)
Joe & Sue Self ('57-'58)
Renate Setten & Pat Daigle (Renate a Lübeck native)
Duain & Joyce Shaw ('56-'57)
Jim & Heinke Shaw ('57-'59) & Jerry & Marian Shaw, Terry & Linda Shaw, Cliff Shaw,
Mike, Sandy, Erika & Mason Neill, all Shaw family members, and Margaret Tippy, friend
Noel & Christa Stanton ('64-'65)
Dick Strader ('56-'57)
Robert & Irmgard Swiecicki ('58-'59) & Hildegard East (Irmgard's sister)
Paul & Karen Vielle ('60-'62)
Leonard & Wilma Will ('60-'62)
Dave & Barbara Wrench ('59-'62)

What a time we all had!