

October 2015

♪ The stars at night are big and bright....deep in the heart of Texas ♪

That's a bunch of "longhorn kaka!" Actually we did have mostly good weather for the reunion, however during one of the nights we were rocked to sleep by some pretty raucous thunder and lightening. Of course three weeks after we had departed all hell broke loose "deep in the heart," and the only boat on the River Walk was Noah's Ark!

The Drury Hotel Riverwalk, downtown San Antonio, acted as our base of operation, and on Sunday evening most folks started assembling in the hospitality room. For the umpteenth time, Jim Miller opened the gala event by welcoming all in attendance, including first timers, family members and guests. (attendees on last page of trip report).

Next up was our host ("stuckie"), Ross Crawford who gave an overview of what was in store for all of us during our visit. Before all the "hospitality hoopla" started, Jim & Ross asked



Jesse Ellisor forward and presented him with a special plaque in recognition of his "above and beyond" efforts in helping with the reunion. Ya see Jesse had never been to a reunion, but because he lived in San Antonio he was quickly pressed into service. He enthusiastically embraced every assignment, went far beyond what was expected, all the while fighting health issues which included chemo therapy. A plaque hardly covers our appreciation. More regarding Jesse later in this Newsletter.

Monday April 13th:



After breakfast at the "gain a pound a day buffet," we all loaded onto a couple of buses for a tour of the city. First stop was **The Alamo**, where we all strolled around on our own for a hour and a half, taking in the Mission, it's rich history, as well as the beautiful gardens.

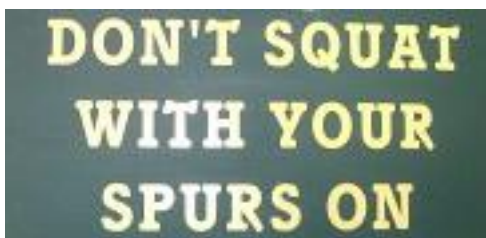
Next stop was a market square known to the locals as **The Mercado**, two square blocks of quaint Hispanic shops where everything from pottery to piñatas' are on display. Before the shopping however, a yummy Mexican lunch was served at **La Margarita's.....ole'**.

After a couple hours of shopping/strolling/smoozing, it was back on the buses for more touring of the King William District. We then toured the **Steves Homestead**, a 19th century Victorian-era mansion, centrally located in the elite old German district, on the banks of the San Antonio River. After a hour or so of taking pictures of the many "chamber pots" in the old house, it was back to the hotel. The remainder of the day was free time and of course fun and frolic in the hospitality room, which include nightly sessions of Bill Delaittre on the keyboard.

Tuesday April 14th;

After a rather long bus ride through The Hill Country of Texas, and all the bluebonnets you'll ever want to see, we arrived in **Fredericksburg**, which was settled over 150 years ago by German immigrants. The first item of business was a self tour of the **National Museum of the Pacific War** (AKA the Nimitz Museum), the premier military museum of that part of WWII.

Museums make a body hungry, so it was off to the **Friedhelms Bavarian Inn** for an Authentic German lunch....and oh yeah some bier "war betrunken.". After lunch we had the rest of the afternoon to explore the town. Many of us found a nice bier garden and continued that "betrunken thing," while soaking up some Texas philosophy.



Wednesday April 15th;



All morning and afternoon were free time to do whatever folks wanted to do on their own. However around 7:00 p.m. we all gathered at the rear of our hotel and embarked on a "**Sunset River Cruise.**" We were unceremoniously packed in two "riverboats" and were floated along the San Antonio River as it meanders throughout the city. No episodes of seasickness or scurvy were noted, as we made it back to port without incident.

Thursday April 16th;



This the last full day of the reunion dubbed "Mission Day," started with a tour of **Mission San Jose** - known as the "Queen of the Missions." Established in 1720, this mission became the most beautiful, most prosperous and best fortified of all Texas missions.

Next stop was the the **San Juan Capistrano**. First established in East Texas, the mission made its permanent home on the banks of the San Antonio River in 1731.

And finally **Mission Concepcion** - the oldest unrestored Catholic Church in the U.S. Her twin towers are visible from miles around.

Later that afternoon the Association meeting was held in the hospitality room for Lübeck veterans only. After the mundane issue of the Treasurer's report was adopted, nominations for officers was held. Without objection the current slate of officers (Jim Miller and Barry Brown) were reinstated.

As always the best and most argued topic is always "where are we going in 2017"? A few ideas were floated by various members, The Smokey Mountains, a Mississippi River paddleboat cruise, Lübeck again, and another cruise on the St. Lawrence (Montreal to Boston or vice versa). After the dust cleared, the **St. Lawrence Cruise** won out with **Dick Gauthier** being the host/coordinator. There was additional conversation from folks that do not like to cruise, but would entertain the possibility of 2 or 3 days at either end of the cruise for a brief get together. The reunion would most likely be in the late May early June timeframe.

Later Thursday evening the closing dinner was held at our hotel. Jim Miller opened the ceremonies by introducing Bill Delaittre, who offered a stirring 20 minute musical invocation that included all the old popular war time songs. Lyrics had been placed on each table, and it was not long before all 80 of us were doing a Mitch Miller sing along. It was thought impossible for any invocation to top the one Bill delivered in Charleston, however this one did.

Our hosts had selected some good ole Texas cuisine of beef brisket or BBQ's chicken for dinner and Blue Bell ice cream for desert, all of which was accompanied by some fine wines.

Last but not least it was time to thank the folks that did all the work. Ross Crawford was presented with a very good bottle of brandy his wife Donna had told us he had lusted over for forever. And Jesse Ellisor was given gift cards.....a hint from his wife Elke.

As is so often the case the week seems to fly bye, soon all of us adjourned to the hospitality room one last time for fond farewells and promises of "see ya in 2017."

Attendees:

Mickey Bean	Jon & Judy Hunter
Barbara Clement & Tony Santare	George Koch
Bill & Carol Bessel	Dick MacDougall
Dave & Marion Black	Art & Jane McEldowney
Barry & Nasrin Brown	Jim & Bonnie Miller
Kelly Clark	Tom & Judy Newhouse
Dennis & Andi Coelho	Ken Nystrom
Frank, Terry & Cori Crane	Fess & Nancy Parker
Ross & Donna Crawford	Lenny & Sue Pittman
Tom & Rosemary Dankesreiter	John & Christa Rickels
Bill & Pam Delaittre	John & Peggy Riordan
Don & Patricia Dietz	Stanley & Kay Roark, Pam & Raleigh Koch
Harry Dusenberry	Jim & Connie Roth
Jesse & Elke Ellisor, Evelyn & Grey Parrish	Duain Shaw
Dick & Geri Gauthier	Fred Slack
Pete Grizzell	Phil & Patricia Staples
Phil Hanley & Linda Eastman	Bob & Irmgard Swiecicki
Bob & Judy Harris	Jerry & Cecilia Tyler
Chuck & Pat Hatwig	Harry Walthall
Gerald Hause	Gary & Becky Weil
John & Hannelore Herd	Peter & Patricia Weinreich
David & Bernie Hodge	Dave & Barbara Wrench

In memoriam:

Sadly we have lost the following fellow Lübeckers, some having passed a few years ago but not known until recently.

2010

Allen Goldfine

2011

Wallace Sundquist

2013

Roy Clark - Truly Lübeck's "most unforgettable character," Roy's time in Lübeck spanned many years, he was a noted Russian "back room guy," but is most know for the many Bierstube's he was involved in over the years. Dave Black said it best, "you could have gotten some really long odds on Roy Clark living until he was 83 years old."

2014

Harry Broxson

Tom Gremling

Jon Lutz

2015

William Culhane

Robert Edsall

Jesse Ellisor - So sad we lost Jesse just 5 months after most of us got to meet him in person during the San Antonio Reunion. I'm sure he felt his time was limited, but still worked feverishly to ensure the reunion was a huge success.

Paul McCormack

John Riordan - John passed just 6 weeks after seeing his old buddies at the San Antonio reunion.

John Walsh - Col. Walsh AKA "Johnny Dollar" was the first on site Commanding Officer, and probably the most beloved and respected of all our CO's.

Dues:

The Association funds are at the lowest in over 10 years. If what the Association does (I.e. donations to charities of members who have passed, reunion hospitality rooms, other reunion expenses/overruns, Newsletters, Webpage), is important to you, please make out a check for \$25 to the **Lübeck Association** and mail it to Jim Miller, 341 Kentfield Dr., San Marcos, CA 92069. Also it was decided at the last Association meeting that if anyone remits \$150 they will be in the much appreciated "paid for life" category.

The following are **exempt** from further dues this year, having already donated for 2015. Coelho, Crane, R. Crawford, Dietz, Hanley, Petty, Roark, Ruiz and D. Shaw. **Paid for life**, Brown, Dusenberry, Grizzell, Harris, Rogers, Gemmell and Dean.

Jim Miller