

# YES!

I'd like to support the 1999 Fundraising Efforts for the Swiss Nationality Room. Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

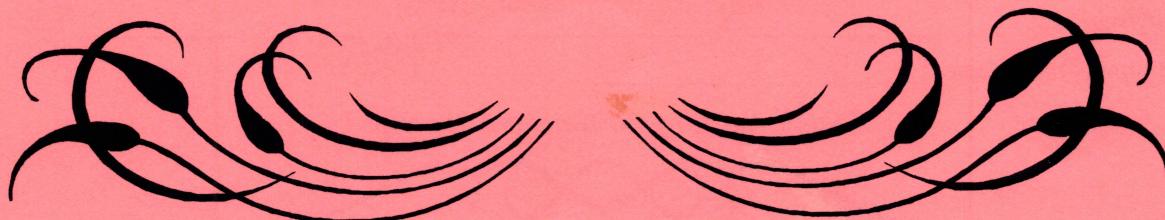
Town/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: **Swiss American Society of Pittsburgh Nationality Room Fund**

My Silent Auction Form is also enclosed

Return to:  
Swiss American Society of Pittsburgh  
118 Monticello Drive  
Monroeville, PA 15146-4837





### SWISS AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

## SILENT AUCTION

### ENTRY FORM

What is a Silent Auction? How can I help the Swiss Society in their fundraising efforts in 1999? Well, read on and find out! A Silent Auction is a no-pressure, high reward fundraising technique that's also lots of fun. Fill out an item, good, service, or other auctionable entry on the form, and bring it or deliver it to the Swiss Picnic on July 31, 1999 at Rose Barn in North Park, where people will read about or look at the item on our auction table and write down their bid. As the afternoon goes on, we'll close off certain of the entries and the highest bidder on the sheet wins!

For instance, maybe you could donate a week of vacation time at your second home in the mountains. Our prospective bidder would pay the Swiss Society their winning amount, get a tax deduction, raise monies for the Nationality Room, and you would contribute a week of time to those folks as your donation. Maybe you could donate a few nights of babysitting to one of the younger families in the Society who would appreciate paying the going rate for that service as well as supporting the efforts of the fundraiser. If the kitchen is your second home perhaps some Swiss cookies might be baked for the event. The possibilities are as endless as our imaginations! Music lessons to a youngster? A Swiss wall decoration? Have fun and let us know what you'll be bringing forward on July 31, 1999!

Name of item/service \_\_\_\_\_

Description \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*(if you have more than one entry, please photocopy this form for each item)*

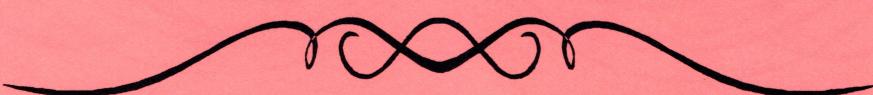
Name of donor: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/state/zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Minimum bid accepted: \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for your time and donation!*





SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH  
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

12 Feb 99

To: Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh Board

From: Fred Carlson/President 1999

Re: Winter Board Meeting

Greetings! Grueti! Salut! Ciao!

Looking forward to seeing all of you for 1999 planning.

Date: Wednesday night, 3 March 99

Time: 7:15 pm

Where: Carlson home, 118 Monticello Dr, Monroeville PA  
412 856 0982 call for directions

Agenda: Review October minutes

Membership Report

Treasurer's Report

Christmas Luncheon Review

Old Business. Newsletter, welcome officers, Swiss Room update

New Business. Spring/ Fall activity?

Early Aug 1 Picnic plans (7/31 - Rose Barn)

Sommerfest volunteers/German Alliance

Early Christmas Luncheon plans

Dues Increase?

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature of Fred Carlson in black ink.

12 Feb 99

CC: Dr. Kunz; Honorary Consul

Membership Report  
from  
Trudy Kuezi, Membership Secretary

I sent 14 last reminders for non payment of dues.  
Received 4 responses. To date we have 193 members.

12 Honorary Members

5 Life Members

5 Golden Age Group Members

7 New Members

2 deaths - George Cline and Tanya Ostertag

14 Members dropped due to Non Payment of dues for 1999

The following members are dropped due to non payment of dues

Larelle DiPalma

Robert Gloor - Frank to check

D. J. and Catherine Hebert ?

Jerry and Rosemary Karl Kon

Violet Kielman

Ken and Donna Limmer (iv)

Barbara Macquown ?

Isabel Pflugstel - Frank to check?

Joseph and Judith Schravi Kon - pd dues 6/3/99 Kon

Karl Sieber

The above is why I don't approve raising dues. If members wish to donate extra monies when sending in their dues it would be greatly accepted. We won't lose more members if dues stay the same. We lose more members than we get new members usually.

Rose Reinhard-Staiger recently celebrated her 100th birthday May 7, 1999 at Concordia Lutheran Home. She's the first woman in our Society to accomplish this although her quality of life is not good. She enjoyed her party at the Home with several relatives friends & members from our Society. Hans Meier added a Swiss touch with some songs and yodeling. The Consul General of Switzerland Jacques Reserdiun Ambassador acknowledged her 100th birthday as did the President and his wife

Bill and Hillary Clinton.

Mr. Fred Henze was the first member and male of our Society to reach 100 and he lived to be 104. His quality of life was very good. He knew something about every member.

**Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh  
Board of Directors  
March 3, 1999**

The board meeting was called to order by President Fred Carlson at 7:40 PM at Carlsons'. Present were President Fred Carlson, Membership Secretary Trudy Kuenzi, Secretary Nancy Flury Carlson, Director Charles Claudon, and Director Koni Ostertag.

**REPORTS**

Minutes of the meeting of October 14, 1998 were read and approved with the amendment that the Christmas dinner prices were raised two dollars after the minutes were published, to incorporate dessert which had been overlooked.

**Membership**

Trudy Kuenzi reports that the current membership is 177. George Cline passed away. We discussed the issue of the cutoff date for new members; for example, if someone joins in September, should they have to pay dues starting in January? It was moved and carried that anyone joining prior to October 1<sup>st</sup> is subject to renewal in January of the following year. Membership report was accepted.

**Treasurer**

Walt Schaller sent the treasurer's report, indicating a current balance of \$3965.64. The Nationality Room Fund's current balance is \$7,971.13. Additional income from the shirts sold at Sommerfest is not yet deposited and will be reflected in the next report. The report was accepted as read.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Welcome Officers**

Charles Claudon was officially welcomed back to the Board. In addition, Koni is welcomed back in his new term as Director.

**Christmas Lunch Review**

The seating was cramped, the food was excellent, the Tombola crew was superb (75 prizes in 35 minutes). The staff at Tambellini's was wonderful to work with. The board decided that we should return to Tambellini's, keep the Saturday luncheon format, and ask for a larger room, preferably with tables for eight or ten, instead of booths and long tables. We will try to schedule this for December 4, 1999. Fred will ask Al or Rosan to be the contact person for Tambellini's.

**Nationality Room Status**

On Friday December 15, 1998, Heinz Kunz, Fred Carlson, and Nancy Carlson presented the \$5000 check and the Declaration of Gift to Pitt for the kickoff of the Nationality Room effort, and Room 321 was selected as the site of the future Swiss Nationality Room.

The Room Committee also met on February 12, 1999, with Hannah Widrig, the Swiss Cultural Attache to the Washington DC embassy, to provide her with information about the Nationality Rooms and seek her input as to some strategies for the concept of the room, how to approach the process of seeking support from Swiss sources, and other ideas. A letter has gone out to the Room Committee members asking for ideas for a fundraiser.

**Newsletter**

The next newsletter will be prepared in time to send out with the Picnic mailing. If anyone has information that should go into the newsletter, forward the information to Fred.

**NEW BUSINESS**

## **Spring/Fall Activity?**

Ideas discussed included:

- Helvetia, West Virginia: wonderful food, but not many activities unless 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of September trip to their Swiss Festival.
- Sugar Creek, Ohio: Paul Lienhardt sent a summary of activities, hotels, etc. in the Sugar Creek area.

If any board or other members have an interest in a trip or other activity, please inform Fred but someone is needed to organize such an effort.

## **August 1 Picnic**

Rose Barn is reserved for July 31, 1999. Koni will ask Max Badertscher to take responsibility for the catering. Nancy and Fred will prepare and mail out the responsibility checklist.

## **Sommerfest/German Alliance**

Sommerfest is planned for August 27 (5PM-12Midnight), 18 (12Noon-12Midnight), and 29(1PM-8PM), 1999. Fred outlined the various committees being formed for the event, to see if the Board had suggestions for Swiss-American Society members who might be willing to serve on these committees. Are there vendors of Swiss food that can be approached? Can we find Swiss beer? Charles will look into the beer distribution options.

## **Dues Increase?**

Dues of \$5.00 per family are very low, compared to other Swiss societies as well as other organizations in general. There is also a Y2K problem with the membership cards in that the cards are preprinted with the date "19\_\_." Dues history: 1962=\$2.00 / 1975=\$3.00 / 1984=\$5.00. A quorum was not present at this meeting for action on this topic. We will put out a communication to the membership with the next mailing, and table this action until the next board meeting.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Fred received a mailer from Rolf (Esprit de Cuisine), a Swiss chef in New York City.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Trudy's mother, Rose, will be 100 years old on May 7, 1999. Fred will check to see if the Consul has a means to recognize this milestone.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn at 9:30.



**SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH**  
**PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA**

3 March 1998<sup>X9</sup>

To: Board of Directors/Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh  
From: Frederick H. Carlson/President

Re: Spring Board Meeting

Roseann Habegger will host the Spring Board meeting of the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh. The agenda will include specifics related to in my letter enclosed and other progress relating to the Nationality Room planning. We will also finalize specific tasks for the May 2 Fundraiser, the August 1 picnic, and make decisions regarding the Christmas luncheon. Please contact me at 412-856-0982 if you cannot attend.

Place of meeting: Roseann Habegger residence  
Address: 211 Hastings Street Pittsburgh PA 15206

(near intersection of Fifth and Penn Ave; Point Breeze area)  
contact her at 412 661 2316 if you need exact directions

Date: Wednesday evening March 25, 1998

Time: 7 PM

Thank you for your attention to this announcement!

Sincerely,

Frederick H Carlson

cc: Dr. Heinz Kunz/honorary consul  
Swiss Board members

## GERMAN AND SWISS

### The Atlantic Crossing

During the greater part of the oppression. The English ships carrying freight, employed even had lived in Pennsylvania. The most exaggerated statements of "Newlanders," were generally without labor, as if the mountain victims of these blandishments frequently obliged to borrow passage. Before leaving they had, during the passage, the captain property, and, on arrival in port passengers arrived in Philadelphia freight. Those who had enough. The condition of the redemption law, and at the end of their service decided advantage being a sort

Traveling two hundred years ago

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Nancy -

10/6/99

I picked this up at the Allegheny - Kiski Valley museum in Tarentum. It's a very interesting article - never read of the early Swiss & German immigration problems.

Thought you would enjoy reading it. They certainly had their problems.

Chuck Ehr

and their ship at Rotterdam would set sail for the New World. In addition to their fare, each person was required to purchase the food for the first leg of their journey, typically 70 pounds of peas, a measure of oatmeal, and the necessary beer. When they arrived in Holland one half of the fare must be paid and additional provisions secured--24 pounds of dried beef, 15 pounds of cheese, and 8-1/4 pounds of butter. They were advised to provide themselves still more liberally with edibles, with garden seeds,

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# CHRONICLE

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May/Jun

A Bimonthly Publication of the Allegheny-Kiski Valley Historical Society

1999

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## GERMAN AND SWISS SETTLEMENTS OF EARLY PENNSYLVANIA PART 2 of 2

### The Atlantic Crossing

During the greater part of the eighteenth century, German and Swiss emigrants were the victims of fraud and oppression. The English shipowners, realizing that the profit of transporting emigrants was even greater than carrying freight, employed every means to induce emigration. Chief among these were the German adventurers who had lived in Pennsylvania. They would travel luxuriously throughout Germany, inducing their countrymen, by the most exaggerated statements concerning the riches to be found in the New World. These agents, known as "Newlanders," were generally men of the most unscrupulous character. They spoke of America as if the crops grew without labor, as if the mountains were laden with gold and silver, and as if the rivers ran with milk and honey. The victims of these blandishments, on arriving in Holland, often having to wait a long time before leaving, were frequently obliged to borrow money from the contractors themselves in order to buy provisions and pay their passage. Before leaving they had to sign an agreement in English which they did not understand. If the parents died during the passage, the captains and the Newlanders would act as guardians of the children, take possession of their property, and, on arrival in port, sell the children for their passage and their dead parents' freight. When the passengers arrived in Philadelphia, they were obliged to pay the total amount of money loaned for passage and freight. Those who had enough money were set free. All others were sold as "redemptioners" for servitude labor. The condition of the redemptioners was usually not very difficult. They were usually well treated, protected by the law, and at the end of their service received a certain outfit. Indeed, for a single man or for children, it was often of decided advantage being a sort of apprenticeship in which the customs of the new land were learned.

Traveling two hundred years ago, whether on land or sea was no easy matter. The prospective emigrant must first transport himself, his family, and his goods to the nearest river. This was,

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of course, in the vast majority of cases, the Rhine. An interesting picture of the Rhine journey is given in the description of the party of 400 Swiss Reformed to Pennsylvania. They left Zurich October 4, 1734. At Basel they had to wait a week to get passes through to Rotterdam. At that time France was at war with Austria, and the armies of both countries were on either side of the river. This was fraught with more or less danger to the travelers, who literally had to sail between two lines of fire. They were constantly hailed and ordered to stop, were boarded, searched, forced to open their chests, and were allowed to proceed only after being fined or rather, robbed. All of this in addition to the various tariff stations located along the Rhine, thirty-six between Heilbronn and Holland. Weeks and sometimes even months would pass from the time a family left their home until their ship at Rotterdam would set sail for the New World. In addition to their fare, each person was required to purchase the food for the first leg of their journey, typically 70 pounds of peas, a measure of oatmeal, and the necessary beer. When they arrived in Holland one half of the fare must be paid and additional provisions secured--24 pounds of dried beef, 15 pounds of cheese, and 8-1/4 pounds of butter. They were advised to provide themselves still more liberally with edibles, with garden seeds,

(Continued on Page 3)

Allegheny-Kiski Valley Historical Society  
224 East Seventh Avenue  
Tarentum, PA 15084 (724) 224-7666

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James Thomas  
Marie Thomas  
Betty Lou Valley  
Tom Zenewicz, Sr.

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Cathy Wencel, Museum Manager  
Marge Anderson, Secretary

## SOCIETY NEWS

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The Allegheny-Kiski Valley Historical Society is now on the Internet. You can find us at : <http://www.akvalley.com/akvhs/>

## Books Needed for Reference Library

The Allegheny-Kiski Valley Historical Society needs reference books for its library. Please consider donating any old local town histories or western Pennsylvania history books, books on antiques, yearbooks from the local high schools, or telephone directories before 1950.

## FLEATIQUE SCHEDULE for 1999:

May 16  
June 20  
July 18  
August 15  
September 19  
October 17

## NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERSHIP FOR 1999

**SUSTAINING**

Allegheny Valley School  
District  
Deer Lakes School  
District

**PATRON**

Allen Ferree

**FRIEND**

Rudolf Keller  
Alcoa Retirees Local 302

**FAMILY**

Charles Culleiton  
Anthony & Vera Ginocchi  
Paul & Maxine Wallace  
Jim & Cathy Wencel  
Ruth Johnson  
Helen Strzesieski  
Dave Taylor  
Norris TV Sales & Serv.  
Larry F. Trentin  
Fritz & Barbara Emmerling  
M/M Ward K. Wilcox  
Mary & William Oktela  
Joseph & Wanda Buhl  
Mary A. Kralik  
Michael Davidek  
David & Isadora Ferraro  
David & Jean Cooper

**INDIVIDUAL**

Jack Owens  
Nancy Paulsen  
Edward C. Scott  
Juliet Drennan  
John Manga  
Victorian Vandergrift  
Museum & Historical  
Society  
Margaret Cameron  
James Clark  
Rita Kutsch  
Lawrence E. Mackun  
Thomas C. Culleiton  
Theo P. Kronen  
James A. Blackhall  
M. M. Wichelm  
Timothy L. Beckes  
William Wait  
Steve Skuta  
Janice Alter  
Eleanor A. Kovach  
Audrey Wood

## HELP!

We need your old stuff! Our Flea-tique was such a success this past year that we depleted our merchandise. We need your old Christmas decorations, Easter Bunnies, Nick Knacks (dust catchers), and anything else that you dig out of the attic that you would like to recycle, like that awful lamp you hate, it may be something wonderful to someone else. You can bring your donations to us at 224 E. 7th Avenue, Tarentum (M. W. F. from 9 AM to 3 PM), or call us and we'll pick up. Remember--"Someone else's trash is another man's treasure!" Call 724-226-7666 to arrange for pickup.

(Continued from Page 1)

agricultural implements, linen, bedding, earthenware, stoves, and especially money to buy "seeds, salt, horses, swine, and fowls." Unfortunately, many were not so well provided. However, even in the best of cases the food was likely to give out or spoil, especially if the journey was unusually long. And in the days of sailing this frequently happened. Sometimes the trip was made in a few weeks, while at other times, many months would pass. Often the ship had to wait days or even weeks for favorable winds or the necessary escort. In 1732, one ship sailed about the sea 24 weeks, and of the 150 persons who were on board, more than 100 miserably languished and died of hunger. On account of the lack of food the passengers caught rats and mice, and one mouse was sold on the ship for 30 kreuzer.

The actual sea voyage was invariably fraught with fear and danger. Sickness did not fail to declare itself and the mortality rate was often excessively high. On the vessel in which William Penn came, over thirty-six people died of small-pox. Of the three thousand who sailed for New York in 1709, nearly one-sixth died on the voyage. Children especially suffered, and those from one to seven years old rarely survived the voyage. The danger of shipwreck was always at hand. So too, was the fear of meeting a war ship from an enemy country or one of the many vessels flying a skull and cross bones. In general, the days passed much as they do now, in alternation of storm and calm, sunshine and rain. Human life went on in this little floating world, tossed about by the waves of the sea; the two poles of human existence, birth and death, were in close proximity. Amid the hardship and sadness there was still room for courtship and marriage. Various means were employed by the English passengers to pass away the time--boxing (by the sailors), singing worldly songs, mock trials, etc. In general, the Germans had other means of passing the time. In almost every account they were deeply religious, holding divine service daily, and were particularly fond of singing the grand hymns of the church.

#### THE PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN FARMER

The majority of the eighteenth century German emigrants were poor. This of course was through no fault of their own; the devastation's of the Thirty Years' War, and especially the wanton destruction ordered by Louis XIV had reduced to poverty thousands who had once been prosperous farmers and tradesman. Whatever property they had been able to gather was used up in the expenses of descending the Rhine and crossing the ocean, or was stolen by the

unprincipled shipowners and their parasites, the Newlanders.

It was not long, however, before this poverty was transformed into prosperity and plenty. This was especially true of the Mennonites who came when the land was cheap and purchased large quantities. Later, property in the immediate neighborhood of Philadelphia and the adjacent counties became more expensive, and finally could not be obtained at all. Those who came towards the middle of the century had to move further and further into the wilderness beyond the Blue Mountains or across the Susquehanna.

This prosperity was not entirely due to the peculiar conditions of Pennsylvania at that time. Others who came before or after, to the same kind of life, did not succeed. It was largely due to the indomitable industry, the earnestness, the frugality, and the consummate agricultural skill of the Germans. While living in the Palatinate, they had been bereft of all, houses, barns, cattle, and crops, but one thing they still possessed was the skill inherited from thirty generations of land-cultivators, a skill that once made the Palatinate the "garden spot" of Germany.

This same skill, brought to Pennsylvania, soon changed the unbroken forest to an agricultural community as rich as any in the world. It is doubtful if any colony was so perfectly adapted to its settlers as Pennsylvania was to the Germans of two hundred and fifty years ago. The soil, though heavily timbered, was fertile and only needed the hand of the patient farmer in order to make it blossom. While their English and Scotch-Irish neighbors usually followed the course of the rivers or larger streams, the German and Swiss would plunge boldly into unbroken wilderness, often fifty or sixty miles from the nearest habitation, knowing well that where the heaviest forest growth was, there the soil must be good.

The best soil in Pennsylvania for farming purposes is limestone, and it is a singular fact that almost every acre of this soil was in the possession of German farmers. It is due to this fact that Lancaster County is especially rich in limestone soil and was largely inhabited by Mennonites that it became the richest farming county in the United States.

The farmer's first care after getting his field well cleared was to build an immense barn in which no expense was spared to make it comfortable and ample. This was invariably done before any thought

was taken of building a permanent home for himself. The earliest barns were built of logs, afterwards of stone, frame, or brick, from 60 to 120 feet long, and from 50 to 60 wide. The lower story contained the stables with feeding passages opening on the front. The upper story projected 8 to 10 feet over the lower level and contained the threshing-floors, mows, and lofts for the storing of hay and grain. These great "Swisser" barns, as they were called, are to the present day one of the characteristic features of the landscape in the eastern counties of Pennsylvania.

The houses at first were temporary structures built of logs. The preparation for the permanent dwelling was the business of a number of years before the actual building operations began. Stones had to be quarried, lumber sawed and allowed to season; frequently two generations assisted in erecting the family homestead. These houses were generally built of stone, two stories high, with pitched roof and cornices run across the gables and around the first story. A large chimney in the middle, if modeled after the German pattern, or with a chimney at either gable-end, if built after the English or Scotch idea. Many were imposing structures having arched cellars underneath, spacious hallways with easy stairs, open fireplaces in most of the rooms, oak paneled partitions, and windows hung with weights.

One of the most interesting features of these old stone houses are the quaint inscriptions which adorn most of them, usually high upon the gable wall. Many inscriptions consist simply of the initials or names of man and wife, with the date of the building. Others, however, are proverbs or quotations from Bible and hymn-book.

Next to the barn and dwelling-house, the most important architectural product of the Pennsylvania Germans is the great Conestoga wagon which was often called the "ship of inland commerce." Before the advent of railroads these wagons were the chief means of transport between the farms and towns of Pennsylvania. In them the wheat, vegetables, fruit and whiskey (a side industry of many a farmer), were carried for miles to Philadelphia. With his wagon, the farmer could convey to market over the roughest roads, 2000 to 3000 pounds of produce from his farm. The teams usually consisted of five or six heavy horses wearing good harness, and sometimes adorned with bows of bells, fitted to form an arch above the collar. These bells were carefully selected to harmonize or chime, from the small treble of the leaders to the larger bass upon the wheel-horses. The wagon body was, by necessity, built stanch and

strong. The running gear was invariably painted red and the body, blue. A stout white linen or hempen material, shaped like a bonnet, protected the contents of the wagon.

In addition to the labor in the fields and the larger interests of the farm, the cultivation of the garden, with its flowers and vegetables was of prime importance.

Even the superstitions of the early Pennsylvania Germans largely clustered about their agricultural life. These superstitions which they brought from the Fatherland can be traced back to the early twilight of German history. Many of the customs of the eighteenth century, both in Germany and in Pennsylvania, are survivals of heathen customs. One of the most widely spread of these beliefs is the position of the heavenly bodies at one's birth and the influence they have on the remainder of our life. Among the Pennsylvania Germans the signs of the heavens were always noted at the birth of the child, and we are told that many hermits gained their living by the casting of horoscopes. In the old German almanacs certain days were marked as lucky or unlucky; any one born on these days was doomed to poverty; engagements or marriages contracted then were sure to be failures, and the wise man would begin no legal or other kind of business.

Of special interest to farmers was a knowledge of the times and seasons. The different phases of the moon had to be carefully observed from the almanac, for all cereals planted in the waxing of the moon grew more rapidly than in the waning. Things planted when the moon was in the sign of the Twins would be abundant. When the horns of the moon were down, onions must be planted; beans, and early potatoes were planted when the horns were up. Apples should be picked in the dark of the moon, else they would rot. Hogs should be slaughtered during the waxing of the moon, otherwise the meat would shrink and be poor. Even the thatching of houses should be done when the horns of the moon were down, or the shingles would curl; and when fences were built, the first or lower rail should be laid when the horns were up, while the stakes should be put in and the fence finished when the horns were down. Such are a few of the affairs of life which were supposed to be done literally "by the book."

Omens were frequent. It was a sign of death if a bird entered the room, if a horse neighed or a dog barked at night, or if a looking-glass were broken. The same

thing was supposed to be true of dreaming of having teeth pulled, or of seeing someone dressed in black.

As water was one of the most important things for every house, it is not surprising that supernatural means were employed to discover it. The following device of "smelling" for water was once common: "Hold a forked willow or peach limb with the prongs down, and move over the spot where water is desired. If water is present, the stick will turn down in spite of all you can do; it has been known to twist off the bark. The depth of water may be known by the number and strength of the dips. Ore can be found the same way."

Also curious in their way were the weather signs. If the ears of corn burst, a mild winter would follow; but it will be cold if they are plumb. If the spleen of a hog be short and thick, the winter will be short, and vice versa. If, on February 2nd the groundhog comes out and sees his shadow, he will retire to his hole and six weeks of cold weather will follow. So when the snow is on the ground, if turkeys go to the field or the guinea-hens halloo, there will be a thaw. If cocks crow at 10 P.M. it will rain before morning.

Witches were believed to be more or less extant, and not only human beings, but cattle, inanimate objects, and even operations such as butter-making were more or less subject to their malign influence. Horseshoes or broomsticks laid across the door were supposed to keep them out. Silver bullets shot at a picture of a supposed witch would bring about his or her death.

The use of amulets and incantations was more or less common. As doctors were few and far between, superstition was largely predominant in medicine. It was believed that old women were endowed with curative powers and those born on Sunday had the power to cure headaches. Among the strange methods of healing may be mentioned the following: To remove warts cut an apple, a turnip, or an onion into halves and rub the wart with the pieces and then bury them under the eaves of the house. A buckwheat cake placed on the head will remove pain, and breathing the breath of a fish will cure whooping cough. To cure "falling away" in a child, make a bag of new muslin, fill it with new things of any kind, and place it on the breast of the child, letting it remain there for nine days. In the meantime feed the child only with the milk of a young heifer. After nine days carry the bag by the little finger to a brook that flows toward the west and throw it over the shoulder. As the contents of the bag waste away the child will recover.

Even in religion these superstitions had their place, and the opening of the Bible at random and taking the verse which fell under the finger as the direct word of God--a custom which, more or less, has lasted for nearly fifteen hundred years--was once employed by the Moravians in all the affairs of life including marriage.

The life of the Pennsylvania farmer was one of unremitting toil; few recreations came to break the monotony. Up before sunrise and to bed soon after sunset, such was the ordinary routine, day after day, year after year. Industry was the highest virtue, idleness and sin went hand in hand. Later in the century came the more usual rural festivities--butchering, quilting, husking parties, markets, and county fairs. In general, life was uneventful, "one common round of daily task." The three great events of life--birth, marriage, and death--were the occasion of more or less celebration. The weddings and funerals were attended by large concourses of people who came in wagons from far and near. The following account describes a typical funeral. "In this manner such an invitation to a funeral is made known for more than fifty English miles around in twenty-four hours. If it is possible, one or more persons from each house appear on horseback at the appointed time to attend the funeral. While the people are coming in, good cake cut into pieces is handed around on a large tin platter to those present; each person receives then, in a goblet, a hot West India rum punch into which lemon, sugar, and juniper-berries are put giving it a delicious taste. After this, hot and sweetened cider is served.....When the people have nearly all assembled and the time for the burial is come, the dead body is carried to the general burial place, or, when that is too far away, the deceased is buried in his own field. The assembled people ride all in silence and sometimes one can count from one hundred to five hundred persons on horseback. The coffins are all made of fine walnut wood and stained brown with a shining varnish."

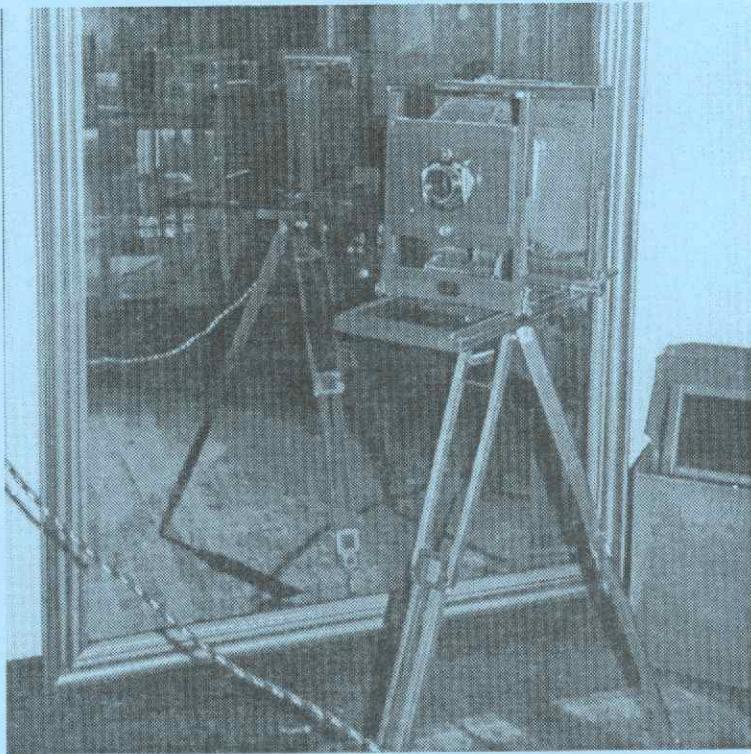
The houses of the simple folk whom we are discussing, their furniture, clothing, food, and all the accessories of life, were marked by plainness and comfort rather than by elegance. Hard work, good health, an easy conscience, independence begotten of possession of a comfortable home, and land enough to provide for all their wants--this was the life style of the earliest German and Swiss emigrants in Pennsylvania.

## Photography Exhibit

The Allegheny-Kiski Valley Historical Society has merely scratched the surface of photography and cameras with a small exhibit at the Heritage Museum at Seventh Avenue and Lock Streets, Tarentum.

The intent was to present some very early examples of cameras and various photographic processes - tintype, calotype, daguerreotype, etc.

The Eastman View No 2 Camera owned by Freeport photographer, George Burtner (1867 - 1952) is one of the featured cameras in the display. It was donated to the Society by Burtner's grandson, Edward C. Scott of Rome, New York. Included with this accession were a collection of 538 glass negatives, many having scenes from the towns in the Allegheny-Kiski Valley. We are very fortunate to have acquired this valuable camera and accessories.



We are also pleased with an example of a camera obscura and a calotype camera constructed by AKVHS board member, Skip Culleton. These models demonstrate how far back the conception of photography goes - the camera obscura's earliest use dates to the 1500's and the calotype to the 1800's.

Also on exhibit is a magic lantern, a light box displaying some of the Burtner glass negatives along with their developed photographs, a collection of press cameras from the 1950's, courtesy of William T. Larkin, Staff Photographer of the Valley News Dispatch, a number of cameras from Soebener's Studio of Tarentum, plus a variety of cameras from the early 1900's.

Make plans to visit the camera and photography exhibition which concludes on September 26, 1999.



Photos of the George Burtner camera and Mr. and Mrs George Gatto provided by Allen Ferree.

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## GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC AND MEMORIAL DAY

It was on May 1, 1868, that general John Logan, Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, issued the following General Order No. 11 from the organization's national headquarters in Washington, DC; "The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades, who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is presented, but posts and comrades will, in their own way, arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances will permit. Let us then, at the time appointed, gather around their sacred remains and garland their passionless mounds above them with the choicest flowers of spring time; let us raise above them the dear old flag they saved from dishonor; let us in this solemn presence renew our pledge to aid and assist those whom they have left among us, a sacred charge upon the nation's gratitude --the soldiers' and sailors' widows and orphans."

A little booklet, outlining the form of a ceremony to be used at cemeteries on Memorial Day was issued by the Headquarters of the Department of Pennsylvania, Grand Army of the Republic whose commander was Chill W. Hazzard of Monongahela, PA. School children were encouraged to take part along with comrades of the local post; appropriate prayers and martial music, including a dirge, perhaps, were suggested as a part of the proceedings. Finally there was a stern admonition that absolute silence should be observed; no applause or disorder was to be permitted

Such is the origin of our observance of Memorial Day as a national holiday. It was also a custom which had been inaugurated by Southern women during the closing days of the Civil War. They had already begun to decorate soldiers' graves each year, usually on May 30, and shortly after the war a newly founded group of Union veterans of the same war instituted a similar practice. After General Logan's proclamation in 1868 the GAR assumed the responsibility of decorating the graves; it was not until after World War I, when the ranks of the GAR were beginning to dwindle rapidly, that another new veterans organization, the American Legion, took over the duty.

The Grand Army of the Republic was an organization of all honorably discharged servicemen who had served in the Union army, navy or marines. It was established to provide fellowship for the veterans and to care for the widows and orphans of their fallen comrades. The staunchly patriotic organization was founded at Decatur, Illinois, on April 6, 1866, and the first of dozens of national encampments was held at Indianapolis the following November. Within a short time each state had a department of the GAR and hundreds of posts were soon established at the local level.

A number of interesting by-laws were adopted by many of the posts. Meetings were usually held twice a month. Applicants for membership were expected to pay a muster (initiation) fee of \$4.50, and annual dues were set at \$3.00 per year. The dues were paid in equal quarterly installments in January, April, July, and October.

It was regarded as the duty of every honorably discharged veteran, "after service during the late rebellion," to join a local post and involve himself in its activities. Members regarded charitable work for needy families to be one of their most important functions. Some posts agreed that "outside relief" would be granted to "worthy soldiers" in amounts not to exceed \$2.00 per family.

Penalties for non-attendance at meetings or other misdeeds, especially for officers, were rather stiff. Absence without a reasonable excuse brought a fifty cent fine, and any officer who failed to bring along his books and necessary papers to the meeting was liable for a fine of \$1.00. Repeated offenses could result in a court-martial. Profane or indecent language, disrespect to an officer, or refusal to obey a call for order by the commander could cost the offender \$1.00. A second offense brought expulsion from the meeting and/or trial by court-martial.

Other offenses which might result in court-martial included intoxication, black balling an applicant for membership without cause, preferring false charges against a member, or proposing "unworthy characters" for enlistment. It was the duty of the adjutant to draw up charges for court-martial; the post commander then had the responsibility for detailing a court to try the case.

One of the most important committees set up by the post was one with the sometimes touching duty of visiting the sick. It was up to the committee to

designate one of its members to visit an ailing comrade within 24 hours after learning of his illness. Visits were to continue at least once a week and failure to carry out visiting duty resulted in a fine of \$1.00 for the offender. If necessary, a member of the committee could be detailed to sit up at night with the patient. In cases of contagious diseases the members were excused from visiting duty; however, the post then assumed responsibility for paying for the services of a nurse. When a comrade died it was up to the post commander to contact the family and determine whether military ceremonies would be welcomed at the funeral. If the family so desired, members of the post were then detailed to assemble at a specified time, dressed according to general orders, and to attend the services in a body.

At the national level the GAR was responsible for establishment of soldiers' homes and during its heyday it was active in lobbying for pension laws. The society also became involved in relief work. In September 1886 after an earthquake had caused widespread destruction in the vicinity of Charleston,

South Carolina, the commander-in-chief, Lucas Fairchild, journeyed to the stricken area for a personal inspection. He then directed all departments of the GAR to collect funds for the relief of the citizens in the Charleston area.

It was during the 1890s that the GAR achieved its peak of influence and membership. At that time the membership was more than 400,000. Of course the number dwindled steadily at the local and national levels, until the last member of the grand old organization died in 1956.

From 1873 to 1935 post members met regularly in accordance with the by-laws. During the twenties and thirties, declining membership was boosted by participation of the Daughters of Union Veterans. Meetings generally included a musical program or a talk by a visiting speaker. But by 1935, the number of surviving GAR veterans had been drastically reduced. One by one the remaining posts vowed to disband until finally the last minute book was closed.

Postcard (circa 1910) showing members of the Natrona GAR Band #495.



Mardelle Kopnick

CLU, Ch FC



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## WHO'S WHO IN THE AK VALLEY

**George W. Forsythe**, a popular Natrona druggist, justice of the peace, and one of the foremost citizens of the town, was born in Butler County on January 9, 1859. As a boy he attended the local public schools and the academy at Sharpsburg, which was then conducted by Rev. Alexander Calvert. His education completed, he taught school for four years, studied medicine for a time with Dr. F. V. Brooks, of Evans City, and after that took up pharmacy. In November, 1881, he began in Natrona a long and successful career as a druggist with his store and residence at 5 Pond Street. In politics he was a republican and always took a keen interest in the affairs of his party, served as delegate to the various district conventions, and in 1900, was delegate to the national convention which nominated William McKinley for president and Theodore Roosevelt for vice-president. Mr. Forsythe was a tax assessor for fifteen years and was elected justice of the peace in 1897. He was clerk of the township commissioners of Harrison Township. He was one of the organizers of the First National Bank of Natrona and the Tarentum Savings Fund and Loan Association. He was



also a director and stockholder in the J. H. Baker Manufacturing Company and the Hamilton Coal Company. On September 1, 1881, Mr. Forsythe married Mary M. Liken, a native of Butler County and had three children, O. Lloyd, De Lorma D., and Carleton R. Mr. Forsythe was a great-grandson of Patrick Harvey, a native of Ireland who first came to Westmoreland County and then moved to Butler County before 1791. He served there, in those hardy pioneer days, as a member of Brady's famous band of Scouts. He married Jane Burns, a Scotch lady and reared a family of three sons and eight daughters. One son, Patrick Harvey, Jr. had a daughter, Annie, who married William Forsythe and was George's grandfather. William Forsythe was born in Ireland but emigrated to America and spent the latter part of his life in Butler County. Robert Forsythe, George's father, married Mary A. McCracken in 1863. She was born in Scotland in 1846 and came to America in 1849 with her parents, settling on a farm near Freeport. He was a carpenter by trade but in later life devoted his attention to farming. With his wife and family, he belonged to the United Presbyterian Church. In addition to George W., the family had six additional children, Samuel N., John E., Lewis N., Robert A., Annie M., and Viola N. George W. Forsythe died of tuberculosis in Kane, Pennsylvania in February 1911.

Postcard (circa 1912) of Forsythe's Drug Store and Home at 5 Pond Street in Natrona.



ALLEGHENY-KISKI VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1999 Membership Application

"to preserve, interpret, and promote the heritage of our valley"

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please check:

Address \_\_\_\_\_

<input type="checkbox"/>	Student	\$ 5
<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual	\$ 15
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family	\$ 25
<input type="checkbox"/>	Friend	\$ 50
<input type="checkbox"/>	Patron	\$ 100
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sustaining	\$ 250
<input type="checkbox"/>	Trustee	\$ 500
<input type="checkbox"/>	Benefactor	\$1000

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Area Code \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal  New Member

VISA  MASTER  ACCOUNT NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
EXPIRATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to: ALLEGHENY-KISKI VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mail to: 224 East Seventh Avenue, Tarentum, PA 15084-1513

Phone: 724-224-7666; fax - same number; e-mail address: <http://www.akvalley.com/akvhs/>

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# Swiss-American Chamber of Commerce

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Mr. Frederick H. Carlson  
President  
Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh  
118 Monticello Drive  
Monroeville, PA 15146-4837  
U.S.A.

May 10, 1999

Grüzi! Marianne!

Thank you!

Fred

Yearbook 2000 - Swiss and American-Swiss Organizations in the U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Carlson

We are currently updating our data for the Yearbook 2000 to be published in September, 1999.

The YEARBOOK, the reference publication on Swiss-American business relations, also includes a directory of Swiss and Swiss-American organizations in the United States.

May we kindly ask you to verify and amend the foreseen entry of your organization and return it to our office, preferably by fax, before **May 31, 1999**.

## Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh

Frederick H. Carlson, President  
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Thank you for your cooperation.

213

Sincerely yours,

*M. Vontobel*

Marianne Vontobel  
Editor-in-Chief

Please verify/amend and return, preferably by fax to 01141-1 211 95 72, by May 31.

*Only 1 change noted - membership # 213 now.*

verified by: *Carlson, President*  
date: *5.20.99*

## **Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh**

### **Board of Directors**

**June 2, 1999**

The board meeting was called to order by President Fred Carlson at 7:40 PM at Gloor's. Present were President Fred Carlson, Vice President Frank Gloor, Secretary Nancy Flury Carlson, Directors Charles Claudon, Rosann Habegger, Koni Ostertag, and Al von Arx.

### **REPORTS**

Minutes of the meeting of March 1999 meeting were read and approved.

#### **Membership**

Trudy Kuenzi sent her report stating that the current membership is 193. It was noted that Tanya Ostertag passed away. Address changes include:

Ruth Michaels  
Longwood at Oakmont  
165 Woodlands Drive  
Verona, PA 15147-3879  
412-826-4753

Robert Gloor  
c/o Dennis & Arlene Hoffman  
154 E. Wedgewood Dr  
Pittsburgh, PA 15229

Rose Lienhardt's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday was celebrated at the Concordia Lutheran home in Cabot, PA. She received a congratulatory letter from the Swiss consul.

Membership report was accepted.

#### **Treasurer**

Walt Schaller sent the treasurer's report, indicating a current balance of \$4010.14. The Nationality Room Fund's current balance was not reported; however, we have sent an additional \$7000.00 to the University of Pittsburgh for the Room. Additional income from the shirts sold at last year's Sommerfest is not yet deposited and will be reflected in the next report. The report was accepted as read.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Newsletter**

The next newsletter will be prepared in time to send out with the Picnic mailing. If anyone has information that should go into the newsletter, forward the information to Fred by June 15.

#### **Fall Activity**

We discussed the opportunity to plan a fall bus trip to a location of interest. Paul Lienhardt's overview of tour locations in Ohio was distributed. There was general agreement that a trip to one of the Swiss locations would be a nice event. Frank will contact Paul to determine if Paul is available to coordinate and plan one of the events. The Sugar Creek Swiss Festival in Ohio, the last week of September.

#### **Swiss Nationality Room**

On March 1, a letter soliciting room concepts was sent to the room committee members. Six proposals were received and are currently being summarized by Heinz Kunz. Heinz will call a Room Committee meeting in June. It was noted that Heinz gave a talk at the University Club to all the room committees about the Swiss Room.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Picnic Checklist**

Fred has distributed the list of picnic responsibilities (attached).

Max Badertscher has agreed to cater hot Swiss/German food. Options included Bratwurst (\$6.00), Schnitzel (\$10.00) or Rouladen (\$12.00), each with various accompaniments. The Rouladen was chosen. We decided to keep costs the same as last year's picnic costs, with Catered Picnic at \$16.00/adult or \$10.00/child, and for those who bring a basket, \$5.00/adult and \$2.00/child.

Koni reported that beer will be available from the Penn Brewery. Fred will contact Koni and Walter regarding the number of registrants about a week before the event.

For 2000, we decided to hold the picnic on July 29 (Saturday).

We will host a silent auction at the picnic, and send a form for the auction with the registration materials.

It was decided that we will donate the picnic tombola net proceeds to the Room fund.

#### **Sommerfest/German Alliance**

Sommerfest is planned for August 27 (5PM-12Midnight), 18 (12Noon-12Midnight), and 29(1PM-8PM), 1999. Volunteers already identified include: Charles Claudon (Friday), Frank Gloor (flexible), Fred Carlson (flexible), Trudy Kuenzi, Bruce and Beth Kuenzi, Walt Schaller, Josef Shaller. Other volunteers are needed for the information booths. Fred will forward names and numbers to the staffing coordinator.

The board approved placing a half-page ad for \$60 in the program.

Last year's attendance was about 8000. Fred will contact vendors of Swiss items to see if there is interest in having a booth.

#### **Christmas Luncheon**

December 4, 1999 is now reserved at Tambellini's Restaurant. We will arrange for a larger room than last year's room, or plan accordingly for sufficient space based on attendance. The board will plan the menu at the fall board meeting.

#### **Dues Increase**

The board revisited the discussion of a dues increase initiated at the March 1999 meeting. It was discussed whether to raise the dues from \$5 to \$10. Membership Secretary Trudy Kuenzi sent a note outlining her concerns and advising against increasing the dues. Of primary concern is the danger of losing members. The board discussed Trudy's views and also discussed reasons for raising dues, which include keeping up with inflation (the last dues increase was in 1984 from \$3 to \$5), allowing more working capital and flexibility with event planning, increase in postage, and the ability to consider events beyond our normal scope such as sponsoring cultural or musical events. The board also discussed the possibility of using a portion of the dues to raise funds for the Swiss Nationality Room, using a tier concept with levels of giving. Ultimately the motion remained to increase the dues from \$5 to \$10, and not include tiers or attempt to use dues for room fundraising at this time. The dues increase from \$5 to \$10 per year was voted on and passed unanimously.

#### **Bylaws**

The board will review the club Bylaws at the fall board meeting. This will be done to determine if any revisions are needed to ensure that our mission is clearly defined and appropriate, and to update any components which are out of date.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn at 9:15. It should be noted that Betsy Gloor's fruit tart was the culinary highlight of the board's 1998/1999 meetings to date.

Membership Report  
from  
Rudy Kueugi, Membership Secretary

I sent 14 last reminders for non payment of dues.  
Received 4 responses. To date we have 193 members.

12 Honorary Members

5 Life Members

5 Golden Age Group Members

7 New Members

2 deaths - George Cline and Tanya Ostertag

14 Members dropped due to Non Payment of dues for 1999

The following members are dropped due to non payment of dues:

Larelle DiPalma

Robert Gloor

D. J. and Catherine Hebert

Jerry and Rosemary Karl

Violet Kielman

Ken and Donna Limmer

Barbara Macquown

Isabel Pfingstel

Joseph and Judith Schiavi

Karl Sieber

The above is why I don't approve raising dues. If members wish to donate extra monies when sending in their dues it would be greatly accepted. We won't lose more members if dues stay the same. We lose more members than we get new members usually.

Rose Lienhard-Staiger recently celebrated her 100th birthday May 7, 1999 at Concordia Lutheran Home. She's the first woman in our Society to accomplish this although her quality of life is not good. She enjoyed her party at the Home with several relatives friends & members from our Society.

Hans Meier added a Swiss touch with some songs and yodeling. The Consul General of Switzerland Jacques Reverdin Ambassador acknowledged her 100th birthday as did the President and his wife

Bill and Hillary Clinton.

Mr. Fred Henze was the first member and male of our Society to reach 100 and he lived to be 104. His quality of life was very good. He knew something about every member.

## Former Wilkins resident prepares for celebration

Fred I enclose 2 newspaper releases & you can use what you want in the newsletter plus my membership report. The pictures of my Mother are when she was 90 or so.

Sorry I have to miss the meeting but I will be attending my 2 granddaughters Graduations in N. Carolina.

Respectfully submitted by

Trudy Kuenzi  
Membership Secretary

P.S. Picture enclosed can go to Nancy for her machine.

Former Wilkins Township resident Rose Lienhard-Stager will celebrate her 100th birthday on May 7, 1999.

She was born in 1899 in Canton Bern, Switzerland, and grew up in Lauterbrunnen.

Mrs. Lienhard-Stager is one of six sisters and one brother.

She learned bobbin lace making at the age of 3. Along with gardening, cooking and sewing, lace making became one of her favorite hobbies.

On Nov. 9, 1919, she came to New York and then traveled to Pittsburgh where she met her sister in Sewickley, Pa.

After moving to the United States, she worked as a domestic in Sewickley and in Squirrel Hills.

Mrs. Lienhard-Stager was a member of the Swiss Singing Society of the North Side.

She met Herman Lienhard in Pittsburgh in the fall of 1922. They were married on Oct. 12, 1924, and moved to Cleveland, Ohio.

The couple had two daughters: Trudy Kuenzi of Wilkins Township and



Rose Lienhard-Stager

Ruth Blank of Williamsburg, N.Y.; six grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

In 1988, she returned to Pittsburgh and lived in the Churchill Square Apartments in Wilkins Township for five years. In 1993, her health began to fail so she moved to Concordia Lutheran Home in Cabot, Pa.

Mrs. Lienhard-Stager spent many years volunteering at church and with senior citizen groups.

Swiss American Society of Pittsburgh

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance 2-22-99	\$3965.64
Interest	1.28
Dues	35.00
Dues—Alliance of Germanic Societies	< \$10.00>
Interest	4.01
Dues	10.00
Interest	4.21
Balance as of 4-30-99	\$4010.14

---

No activity other than interest to the Mellon Nationality Room Account.

Respectfully Submitted



Walter Schaller  
Treasurer

# ANNUAL SWISS INDEPENDENCE DAY PICNIC

WHEN: Saturday, July 31, 1999

WHERE: Rose Barn, North Park

SCHEDULE:	11:30 to 1:30	<b>Registration</b>
	12:30 to 3:30	<b>Children's and Adults' Games</b> Including Turtle Game and Steinstossen!!
	3:30 to 4:00	<b>Schweizer Maennerchor Helvetia</b> Will put you in the mountain mood!!
	3:00 to 7:00	<b>SILENT AUCTION</b> benefiting Swiss Nationality Room
	4:00 to 5:30	<b>Dinner and Speeches</b> Reflect on the anniversary of the Swiss nation.
	5:30 to 6:00	<b>Tombola</b> Donations will be appreciated!! Net Tombola proceeds support Nationality Room Fund.
	6:00 to 9:00	<b>Swiss Music</b> Music from all cantons - bring CDs and tapes if you wish.

MENU: **Catered Picnic:** Rouladen/Provencal, Spaetzli with Gravy, Green Beans, Zupfe/Butter, Fruit Bowl, Coffee/Tea

-or-

**Bring your own Picnic Basket**

Soft Drinks and Beer will be available for all.

COST: **Catered Picnic:** \$ 16.00/adult \$ 10.00/child  
**Picnic Basket:** \$ 5.00/adult \$ 2.00/child

WHAT TO BRING: Your own Pitcher, Glasses and Lawn Chairs, Tombola donations, cameras.  
Pets are not permitted.

HOW TO REGISTER: Send check payable to SWISS AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH to  
Nancy Carlson, 118 Monticello Drive, Monroeville, PA 15146  
(412)856-0982  
by Saturday, July 24, 1999.

## REGISTER BY SATURDAY JULY 24, 1999

Names (Please list the names of all persons attending):

9  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Dinners: 67 Adult Catered @ 16.00 \$ 1072.00  
6 Child Catered @ 10.00 \$ 60.00  
47 Adult Basket @ 5.00 \$ 235.00  
10 Child Basket @ 2.00 \$ 20.00

130 Total!

Total Enclosed: 130 \$ 1387.00

## FETE NATIONALE SUISSE DU 1er AOÛT 1999

### Piste A

**Cloche „La Clémence“ Cathédrale St-Pierre Genève  
Message de la Présidente de la Confédération Madame Ruth Dreifuss  
Hymne national**

### Piste B

**Une ballade musicale à travers la Suisse**

Titre / Interprètes	Durée	Auteur / Compositeur
1. Berniaiseries „La Brante“ de Bernex	1'43"	Patrick Bielser
2. Le Vieux Châlet „Les Armaillis de la Gruyère“	3'07"	Joseph Bovet
3. Frohe Wanderer Chapella Erni, Scuol	2'54"	Casimir Geisser
4. Meiteli, wenn d'tanze witt Zürcher Sängerknaben	2'31"	Trad./ André Scheurer
5. Tousser Fürwehr Kapelle Gebrüder Müller/Toni Bürgler	2'58"	Leo Kälin
6. Valzer dell'Aldo Trio Malcantonese	3'11"	Trad.
7. I fioo e r'amur „Vox Blenii“	2'36"	Trad.
8. Walpeni Marsch Kapelle „Bergkristall“, Binn	2'41"	Joseph Walpen
9. Sils -Maria „Ils Trais Fluors“	2'28"	Pius Baumgartner
10. Dorma bain Zürcher Sängerknaben	2'41"	Nuot Vonmoos
11. Pervenche Orchestre „Rentrée tardive“	2'13"	Julien Chaillet

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## SCHWEIZERPSALM

Trittst im Morgenroth daher,  
Seh' ich dich im Strahlenmeer,  
Dich, du Hocherhabener, Herrlicher!  
Wenn der Alpen Firn sich rötet,  
Betet, freie Schweizer, betet.  
Eure fromme Seele ahnt  
Gott im hehren Vaterland!  
Gott, den Herrn, im hehren Vaterland!

Kommst im Abendglühn daher,  
Find' ich dich im Sternenheer,  
Dich, du Menschenfreundlicher, Liebender!  
In des Himmels lichten Räumen  
Kann ich froh und selig träumen:  
Denn die fromme Seele ahnt  
Gott im hehren Vaterland!  
Gott, den Herrn, im hehren Vaterland!

Ziehst im Nebelflor daher,  
Such' ich dich im Wolkenmeer,  
Dich, du Unergründlicher, Ewiger!  
Aus dem grauen Luftgebilde  
Bricht die Sonne klar und milde,  
Und die fromme Seele ahnt  
Gott im hehren Vaterland!  
Gott, den Herrn, im hehren Vaterland!

Fährst im wilden Sturm daher,  
Bist du selbst uns Hort und Wehr,  
Du, allmächtig Waltender, Rettender!  
In Gewitternacht und Grauen  
Lasst uns kindlich ihm vertrauen!  
Ja die fromme Seele ahnt  
Gott im hehren Vaterland!  
Gott, den Herrn, im hehren Vaterland!

## CANTIQUE SUISSE

Sur nos monts, quand le soleil  
Annonce un brillant réveil,  
Et prédit d'un plus beau jour le retour,  
Les beautés de la patrie  
Parient à l'âme attenârie:  
Au ciel montent plus joyeux  
Les accents d'un cœur pieux.  
Les accents émus d'un cœur pieux.

Lorsqu'un doux rayon du soir  
Joue encore dans le bois noir,  
Le cœur se sent plus heureux près de Dieu.  
Loin des vains bruits de la plaine  
L'âme en paix est plus sereine:  
Aus ciel montent plus joyeux  
Les accents d'un cœur pieux,  
Les accents émus d'un cœur pieux.

Lorsque dans la sombre nuit  
La foudre éclate avec bruit,  
Notre cœur pressent encore le Dieu fort;  
Dans l'orage et la détresse,  
Il est notre fortresse.  
Offrons-lui des coeurs pieux,  
Dieu nous bénira des cieux,  
Dieu nous bénira du haut des cieux.

Des grands monts vient le secours,  
Suisse, espère en Dieu toujours!  
Garde la foi des aîeux, vis comme eux!  
Sur l'autel de la patrie  
Mets tes biens, ton cœur, ta vie!  
C'est le trésor précieux  
Que Dieu bénira des cieux,  
Que Dieu bénira du haut des cieux.

## SALMO SVIZZERO

Quando bionda aurora  
Il mattin c'indora,  
L'alma mia t'adora  
Re del Ciel.  
Quando l'alpe già rosseggiava  
A pregare allor t'atteggia,  
In favor del patrio suol,  
Cittadino Iddio lo vuol,  
Cittadino Dio, si Dio lo vuol.

Se di nubi un velo  
M'asconde il tuo cielo,  
Pel tuo raggio anelo,  
Dio d'amor.  
Fuga o sole quei vapori  
E mi rendi i tuoi favori  
Di mia patria deh, pietà!  
Brilla, o sol di verità,  
Brilla sol, o sol di verità!



## SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

29 Sept 99

Gruezi!

To: Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh Board of Directors

From: Frederick H. Carlson / President

Subject: Next Board Meeting — 20 Oct 99 7 PM (wed eve)

Location: Al von Arx home — 7001 Edgerton

(corner of Edgerton & Murfield in Pt. Breeze)

412.242.6651 for exact directions

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Agenda: Minutes (N. Carlson)

Treasurers Report (W. Schaller)

Membership Report (T. Kuenzi)

President's Report (F. Carlson)

- Picnic, Sommerfest, Directions, Utility Room progress

Event Planning

- Christmas luncheon - Dec 4 at Tambellinis (F. Carlson)

Committee volunteers to be assigned  
contract/menu selection

- Sami Klaus info (W. Schaller)

Year 2000 Board nominations

- Nominating Committee

- Ballots, Christmas, Sami Klaus info to be mailed  
by Nov. 1

Old Business

New Business - CDS

Please contact me at once to plan ride-sharing  
or if you can't be at the meeting.

Qiao!

Frederick H. Carlson



## SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

*October 99*

### PRESIDENTS LETTER

As my term as President of the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh (SASP) comes to a conclusion, I would like to thank many veteran and newcomer members of the Society who have worked together when called upon to make my two years as President productive and enjoyable. I believe we have achieved a lot the last two years in invigorating the presence of the Swiss community in Western PA and some people deserve recognition for their efforts.

Konrad Ostertag and Walter Schaller (along with Helvetia Maennerchor president Bob Bayer) had the workings of the May 98 Room Fundraiser going when I came on board as President in December 1997. We worked hard as a committee with dozens of SASP members, our entertainment, and consul Kunz to create that successful event. We learned what it takes to do a successful event like that and promoted it widely in the region. This learning experience will help immensely in the future as we plan even more ambitious events. This event proved that the local Swiss ethnic community WANTED the Nationality Room project to become reality and put the official Swiss Nationality Room Committee in a position to donate the gift bequest to the University of Pittsburgh later in 1998.

The SASP members who have taken on additional work as official members of the Swiss Nationality Room Committee also deserve thanks. This committee, a legal partnership with the University of Pittsburgh Nationality Rooms and International Exchange Program (NRIEP), will be working on finalizing concept and creative development, public relations, and fundraising from major contributors as the next few years unfold. The next Board of Directors of the SASP will not have the task of formation of a room committee to deal with, but I expect they will continue to inform you of the progress of the Room Committee and to prompt your generosity from time to time regarding this project. The entire membership of the SASP has been generous as the room fundraising has begun in a serious way and I thank all of you from the SASP for that support.

Konrad and Walter were also instrumental in establishing contact and promoting our group's membership in the Alliance of Germanic Societies of Pittsburgh. We Swiss understand the multilingual reality of Swiss life with the influences of German, French, Italian, and Romansch so we don't consider Switzerland a "Germanic" country but the opportunities to introduce our Society as an outreach to new members, both in the traditional Pittsburgh ethnic circles and to the region through our representation at the August SOMMERFEST event was too good to pass up. As your President, I have worked hard as delegate to the Alliance meetings to represent the Swiss interests in Pittsburgh. I have discovered German and Austrian cultural groups very supportive of us and our parallel Room Project as well. I only hope that we continue to utilize the opportunities of Sommerfest to bring more and better Swiss vendors and entertainment to the current mix. If you are called upon to help with our efforts to promote the SASP impact on SOMMERFEST, please give of your time to help. This is an extremely fruitful possibility for our efforts to grow as a Society.

We have altered the format of the Christmas event to a luncheon and this has served our members well. All who are part of the event planning for this are thanked, especially the SASP board and last year, Dave Vissat, who in his role as art director with Blattner-Brunner advertising created the award-winning series of posters for our club pro bono. The two August 1 picnics in my term were well-attended, with the 1999 picnic drawing the most participants (130) in 15 years. The teamwork for the picnic has made it a seamless job to manage and I thank all who attended and helped.

As we look ahead together, I am excited by the prospects of our new Board, with new and old members who will be responsible for the SASP moving into the new millenium. The purpose of the society must continue to highlight

Switzerland, and as our members who were related by family and used the social opportunities of the Society for certain benefits age and move out of active roles it is prescient for the new members to get active and keep a calendar of events promoting Swiss culture and comraderie to continue and expand. We have gained about 10% increase in membership the past two years by outreach to the Pittsburgh community and we need to continue a multi-faceted effort highlighting Swiss art, music, languages, and professional relationships with our beloved Switzerland to continue this growth. Please don't hesitate to volunteer your time to our Society when asked, it really does matter.

Members Bruce and Beth Kuenzi, Charles Claudon, Rosann Habbeger, Florence Jacob, Heinz Kunz, Ernest Gubser, Evelyn Ruffing, Frank Gloor, Sandy and Henry Tengowski, Lizann Maddamma, Bette & John Fankhauser, Art and Fran Rudolf, Dave Vissat, and Valerie Harvey have graciously served the Society the past two years when called upon. Many thanks to you and to countless others who have pitched in for our events. Nancy Kunz warmly hosted our consular representatives the past couple of years from NYC. If we can maintain our teamwork the next few years, we can expand our calendar of events, perhaps publish more frequently the SWITZERLAND newsletter, have more impact on the Sommerfest, and make easier the task of serving the Society as a volunteer.

Finally, kudos to my wife, Nancy Flury Carlson, who has served the past 3 years as secretary to the Society and has been instrumental in making precious all things Swiss, including our children who are proud of their Swiss heritage. Trudy Kuenzi, membership secretary the past 10 years and gracious volunteer in all forms for the past 30 years, is also stepping out of active service with the SASP and they both deserve our heartfelt thanks. It has been a joy to work with both of them as we keep our commitment to the Swiss community here a priority.

Please support our events, our fundraising efforts, our officers, and Switzerland. With this combination, our new Board will prosper and Pittsburgh will again be a center of Swiss culture in the US. Without your personal contribution, whether attending, sponsoring, communicating to, donating, or serving the SASP, we look forward to uncertainty as a Society. The Swiss have been choosing for themselves for 708 years; let the Pittsburgh Swiss choose as well for the better. Thank you for your support the past two years and your attention to this letter.

Sincerely yours,

 28.X.99

Frederick H. Carlson

President 1998/1999 Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh

**Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh  
Board Meeting  
October 20, 1999**

Board members in attendance included Fred Carlson (president), Walt Schaller (treasurer), Trudy Kuenzi (membership), Al von Arx (director), Frank Gloor (vice president), and Nancy Flury Carlson (secretary). Meeting was called to order at 7:25 PM.

**Approval of Minutes of June 2, 1999 meeting**  
Minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer's report was approved as submitted.

**Membership Report**

Currently have 201 members. Trudy proposed that Robert Gloor be added to Golden Age membership group. The board voted in favor of this proposal.

**President's Report**

- August First Picnic was attended by 130 people and was a great success. The fee for the Rose Barn has been paid for 2000 (July 29).
- Sommerfest was also a successful event. The club extends thanks to the members of the Swiss-American Society who participated with contributions of time and effort, and those who attended the event.
- German Alliance participation: is this a relationship we should continue and grow? Should we increase the presence of Swiss culture and sale items? How? The club should dedicate a liaison to the German Alliance who would spend the needed time and effort to leverage this relationship. Ideas include: cultivating Swiss vendors, creating PR information, etc. **Board will include a targeted letter in the next mailing describing the needed efforts and soliciting volunteers.**
- Nationality Room – September 30 1999 meeting to discuss the room concept further, and to receive additional feedback from Swiss cultural attache Hannah Widrig. A fundraising brochure is being created to impart the vision and theme of the room. Pestalozzi and Rousseau will be featured thematic characters. An architect has been identified (Zoelli) who satisfies the requirements for nationality room design construction. Dr. Heinz Kunz is currently visiting Switzerland and holding meetings with the architect, Ms Widrig, and others.

**Fundraising**

We did not have a specific fundraising event this year. Volunteers are also needed for this type of effort.

**Christmas Luncheon**

- Saturday **December 4, 1999**
- We have requested the larger room at Tambellini's so that we will not be so cramped.
- The board passed the menu around and each member voted on preferences for entrée and starch. Rib eye steak and chicken marsala, along with whipped potatoes, will be on the menu.
- Poinsettias will be purchased for table centerpieces, and will be added to the tombola prizes at the end.
- Tombola donations will also be requested on the registration form.

**Sami Claus**

The event is planned for Saturday December 11. The event will be at the Teutonia. Trudy will ask Bruce to contact the usual Sami Claus.

**Year 2000 Board Nominations**

Next year the **board should be more proactive at gathering information about membership interest in serving on the board. Ideas include:** sending a form in the picnic mailing to ask people what offices they are willing to volunteer for; posting a signup/interest sheet at events, soliciting the same information;

naming the nominating committee at the picnic so that their work does not have to be done under such tight time constraints. Also, this mailing could include a survey regarding what types of activities people want the club to arrange, and whether they would be willing to help organize these activities. The following people agreed to serve on the nominating committee: Bruce Kuenzi, Ernie Gubser, and Joan Gloor. (Frank left message for Joan.)

**Old Business**

No old business was identified.

**New Business**

Fred asked the board if we could purchase some Swiss music CDs from Swiss Radio International ranging in cost from \$23 to \$40. This was approved.

In addition, Fred requested the board approve \$76 Federal Express charges for delivery of the Swiss posters, brochures, etc from the Swiss Tourism Bureau to support the Sommerfest Swiss booth. This was approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Swiss American Society of Pittsburgh

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance 4-30-99	\$4010.14
Interest Income May-September	\$18.93
Dues Income May-September	\$65.00
Picnic Receipts	\$1397.00

Expenses:

Picnic Flyers	\$78.48
Personalized Envelopes	\$185.20
Stamps	\$91.42
Advertisement in Sommerfest Booklet	\$60.00
Caterer Swiss Picnic	\$730.00
Tombolla Purchases	\$62.84
Childrens Games	\$32.21
Beer	\$92.94
Pop	\$30.05*
2000 Permit Rose Barn	\$250.00
Misc. Picnic Expense	26.53
Balance as of 9-30-99	\$3851.40

\* Check # 519 to Konrad Ostertag not yet cashed

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New Deposits of \$3722.25 to Mellon Nationality Room Account	Balance as of 9/30 \$5205.48
Current Balance in University of Pittsburgh Swiss Room Account	\$12273.27

Respectfully Submitted

Walter Schaller  
Treasurer

# Membership Report

October 20, 1999

To date we have 202 members

12 Honorary Members

5 Life Members

3 Golden Age Group Members

14 New Members

4 Deaths - George Cline, Tanya Ostetrag  
Martha Stabie, Ernest Jacob

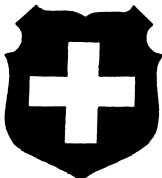
11 Members Dropped - Lorelei Di Palma, Robert Gloor  
D.J. and Catherine Hebert, Jerry and Rosemary Karl  
Violet Keelman, Ken and Donna Limmer,  
Barbara Macgown, Karl Sieber

I would like to have Robert Gloor to be put on  
our Golden Age Group as he's been a life long  
member and the Gloor Family has many  
members in our society and are of Swiss descent.  
This is the largest family group in our society.  
Robert Gloor was made a member of the Golden Age Group  
thru a motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by

Trudy Kuenzi

Membership Secretary



# SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

## Annual Swiss Christmas Luncheon

**WHEN:** Saturday, December 4, 1999

**WHERE:** Louis Tambellini Restaurant (Route 51)  
860 Saw Mill Run Blvd.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15236  
(412) 481-1118

**SCHEDULE:** **NOON** **Cash Bar & Luncheon - Choice of two entrees:**  
Fresh Boneless **Chicken Breast** a la Marsala, stuffed with Prosciutto and  
Cheese in Mushroom Sauce **-or-** Broiled Fresh **Rib Eye Steak**.  
The luncheon also includes: Fresh Fruit Cup, Tossed Salad with House  
Dressing, Rolls and Butter, Whipped Potatoes, Coffee or Tea, Dessert.

**AFTER LUNCH** Business Meeting  
Tombola  
Your donation of a craft item, wine, baked goods, or other gift item will  
be gratefully accepted for the Tombola prizes.

**REMINDER:** Please also include your 2000 dues (\$10.00) with your reservation and ballot. If you do not plan to  
attend the luncheon, please send your dues directly to Trudy Kuenzi, 207 Churchill Road, Turtle  
Creek PA 15145. [(412) 823-1867]

**COST:** **\$19.00**

**HOW TO REGISTER:** Send check payable to Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh to:

Nancy Flury Carlson, 118 Monticello Drive, Monroeville, PA 15146 [(412) 856-0982]

**By: Saturday, November 27, 1999.**

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**REGISTER BY SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1999**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CHOICE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CHOICE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CHOICE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CHOICE: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please list additional names and choices on the back)

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken @ \$19.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Steak @ \$19.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Dues @ \$10.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Nancy Flury Carlson, 118 Monticello Drive, Monroeville PA 15146 [(412) 856-0982]