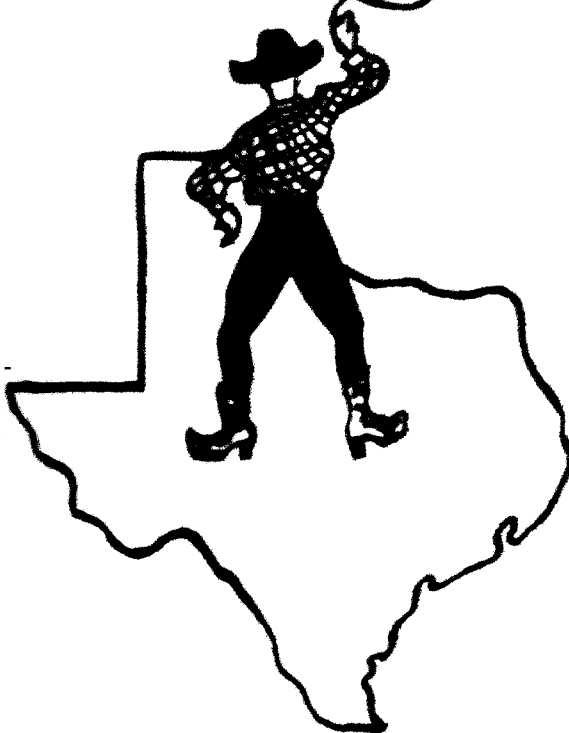
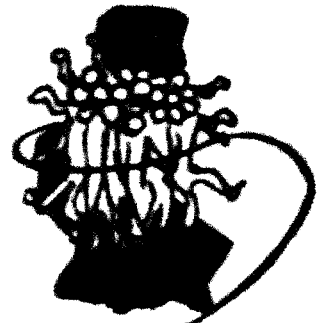


From West-
GERMANY



To Southwest -
TEXAS

SWTSTC San Marcos

THIS IS THE STORY of our stay in Texas, at the Southwest Texas State Teachers College at San Marcos.....

Here as participants in the Educational Exchange Program of the Department of the State were nineteen of us, elementary school teachers from all over West Germany, from Konstanz on the south to Cuxhaven on the north:



Reading from left to right are:

Men, rear:

HEINZ HOPPE, Krefeld; HUBERT KLEMP, Frankfurt/Main; ROLF HULKE, Muenchehagen; HARALD KOTTHAUS, Remscheid-Luttringhausen; JOACHIM WINKLER, Konstanz; HEINRICH von STUCKRAD, Post Hasbergen; FRIEDRICH WILHELM WIRTH, Solingen-Ohligs; GERHARD GEHRMANN, Cuxhaven;

2nd

URSULA SCHWENK, Weingarten/Wrttgh; RENATE THOMA, Nurnberg; URSULA ORTMANN, Herdeckel/Ruhr; DOROTHEE FLEISCHMANN, Nulheim/Ruhr; EVA HOLZHAUER, Reutlingen; GERTRUD BRACHAT, Rastatt/Baden;

Front:

LIANE KOCH, Bensberg; RENATE STACHEL, Bremen; ANNELIESE KOENIGSTEIN, Ludwigshafen/Rhein; CHRISTEL TOEWS, Hattersheim/Main; HANNELORE SCHLOEDER, Sigmaringen/Hohenzollern.

We hope that this booklet will help us remember this interesting and challenging time together, and at the same time will show our friends, in the U. S. and in Germany, some of the things we did.

The story begins before our arrival on the scene - - -

Twelve faculty members had been chosen to "look after us" :



Dr. J. Lloyd Read
Dr. Wm. Poole
Pres. J. G. Flowers
Dr. E. O. Wiley
Dean H. E. Speck
Mr. Jack Cates
Mr. Joe Vogel
Dr. Mildred Sayre
Dr. J. Lloyd Rogers
Miss Laverne Walton
Dean A. H. Nolle
Dr. Buford Williams
(not shown)

Two of them, Dr. Rogers and Miss Walton had been appointed as coordinators, and together with President Flowers and other committee members, had already done considerable advance planning.

We found later that they had been studying our individual data sheets and had given the entire faculty some information about us.



50 - -

when on Saturday October 3, 1953

we

stepped

off

the

train - - -



There was a group of the faculty to meet us, and we had the novel experience of having a college president and a college dean to carry our luggage!



We were surprised--and pleased--to be called by name by some of these people who had never seen us before (we didn't know then that they had been studying our pictures!)

We went next to our first meal in The Commons Dining Hall, then to our new residence to unpack and rest. On Sunday afternoon we met the remaining members of the faculty at a coffee in the Student Union.

This was the first of several receptions. On Monday evening the girls had teas in the dormitories; Tuesday evening we were welcomed by the Student Association for Childhood Education; Thursday evening the entire faculty had a reception for us. As one of our members put it (remember that our English was not then so good as now): "We were well received!"

On Monday morning, Oct. 5, we met in the College Conference room and started eagerly to work.



Later we moved to more attractive surroundings to a Seminar Room of our own, which was the scene of many lively and interesting discussions, such as when Dr. Grusendorf here discussed "American Family Life."



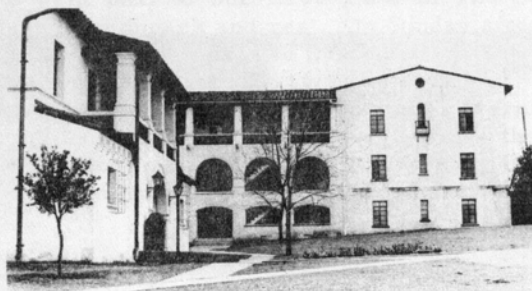
Among the people whom we should like to thank for contributing to these seminars are these:



Dr. Nolle, for helping orient us to the College, and to higher education in general;
Dr. Grusendorf, for the information about American family life;
Dr. Flowers, for his discussion of "The Place of Religious Inspiration in Public Schools", and of some of the general problems of teacher Education;
Dr. L. N. Wright, for his lecture on "American Life as Revealed by the American Novel";
Dr. D. F. Votaw, for his presentation on "Objective Measurement in American Education";
Mrs. Verna Deckert, for enlightening us about "The Place of Art in American Life";
Mr. Maurice J. Erickson, for discussing some American economic problems;
Dr. William Poole, for telling us, in an unbiased (?) manner about American political parties;
Miss Elizabeth Sterry, for opening our eyes about Texas geography (also an unbiased discussion, of course);
Dr. Joe Wilson, (not shown in the picture) for his talk about Parent-Teacher Associations and other educational topics;

In our remaining seminar meetings our coordinator, Dr. Rogers, attempted to tie these various topics together and to show what they meant to American schools. Before each trip we usually discussed with him what we were to see, then on our return we generally had more questions. In addition he talked with us about the organization of American schools, about the philosophy which guides this organization and determines methods, about practices in particular subjects, about promotional policies, relationships between pupils and teachers, between teachers and parents, with the community, and related problems.

OUR HOMES FOR FOUR MONTHS

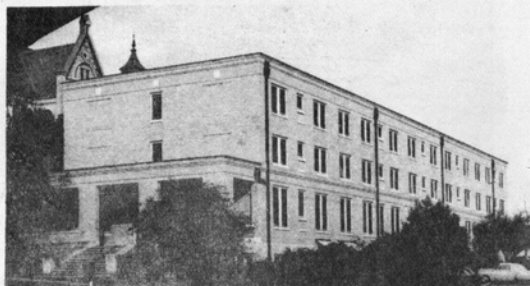


BERETTA HALL
Dorothee Fleischmann
Eva Holzhauer
Renate Stachel



COMMONS HALL
Liane Koch
Hannelore
Schloeder
Christel
Toews

SAYERS HALL
Gertrud Brachat
Anneliese Koenigstein
Ursula Ortmann
Ursula Schwenk
Renate Thoma



HARRIS HALL
Seven Men



PRESIDENT FLOWERS' HOME
Two men in turn for a
month each.

But on many days
we wandered
from
home - -



To the NORTH

Dallas and THE STATE FAIR

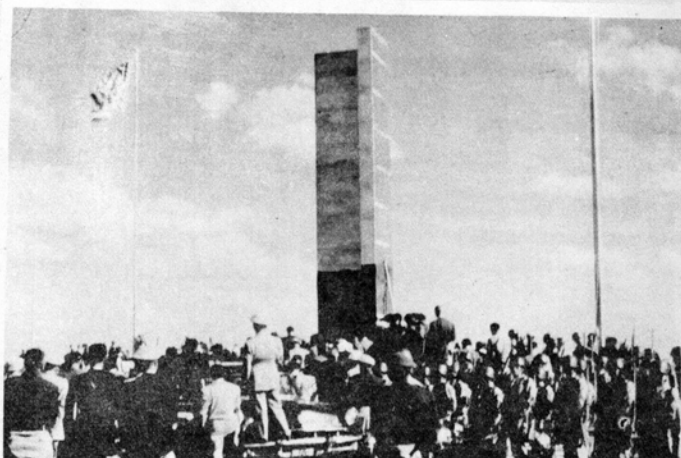
For a glimpse of the Midway

and a look
at "Big Tex"



To the SOUTH

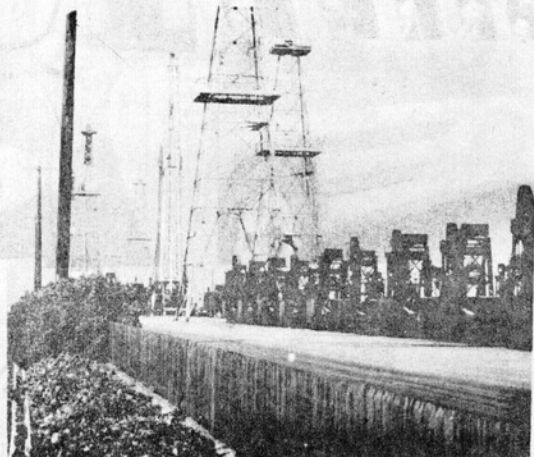
To see President
Eisenhower dedicate
Falcon Dam



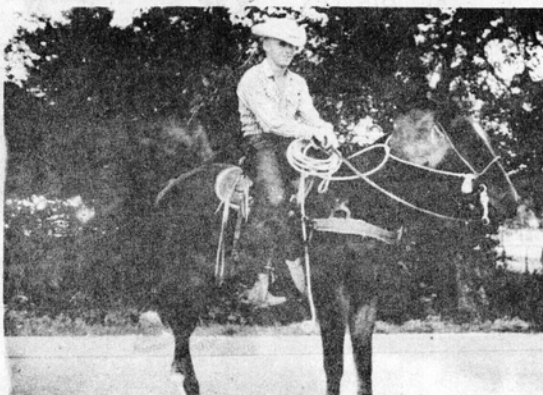
And in between, to Austin, Burnett, Kerrville,
Lockhart, New Braunfels, Randolph Field,
San Antonio, Wimberley

When early in our visit we were asked what we expected to see in Texas, our reply was: "Cowboys, cotton, oilwells, rattlesnakes!"

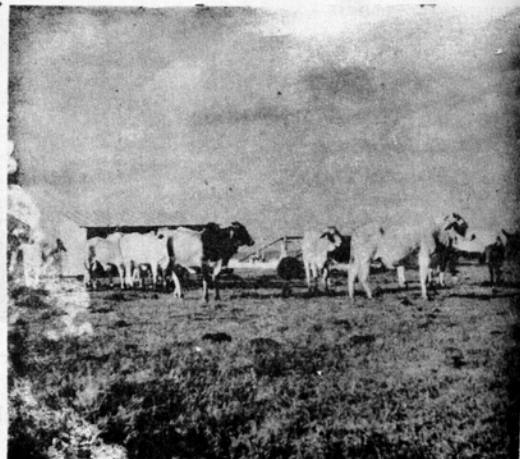
We soon got to see the first three and started to revising our impressions.

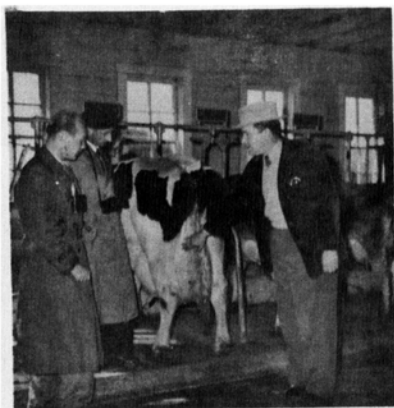


Not at all
like the
Movie
Cowboys



We later had opportunity to visit other farms and ranches, and discovered that these were not the only products of Texas. There were, for instance, goats and cattle.



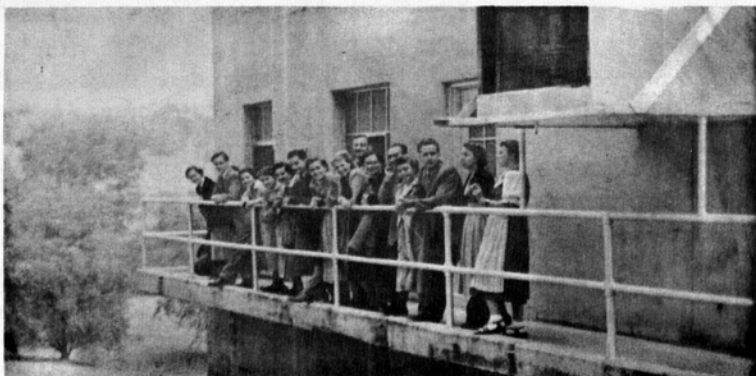


Dairy cows, too

- - and
broadbreasted
turkeys



We visited Lake Buchanan, learned how flood control was managed. We also visited the power plant here, where electric power is produced for this area through the Lower Colorado River Authority.

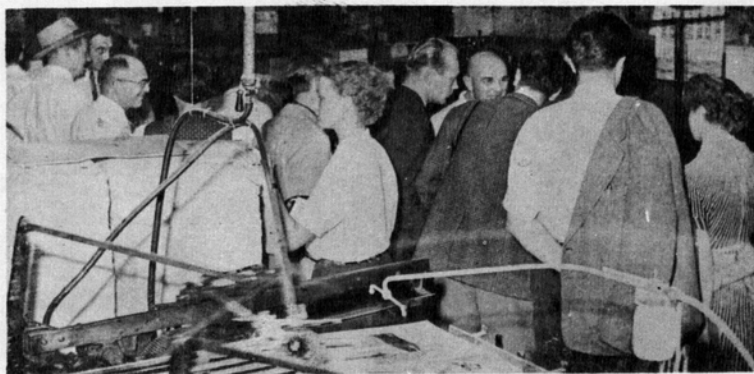


Some of us wanted to see points of historical interest, such as Texas' famous ALAMO, "The Cradle of Texas Liberty".



We discovered that Americans had a "NATIONAL WEEK FOR _____" (everything)!

During Newspaper Week, Mr. Walter Buckner showed us how a small newspaper is operated.



"MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME"

"MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME!" - - This was a new expression to us but we soon found that Americans meant it literally, and we in turn learned to take it so--we soon were able to feel "at home" in many homes.

Some of the homes were typical American homes such as that represented here by the home of our "Papa", the coordinator. But we were



also in the home of a near-millionaire, and we saw the interior of the home of a Latin-American tenant farmer. We remember the ranch homes, the city homes, the small towns. We stayed only for a meal in some, several days in others, overnight in some. But whether rich or poor, for only a meal or for several days, we shall never forget the hospitality of Texas families as represented by that "Make yourself at home".

One member with a weakness for figures found that altogether we had stayed at least overnight in 72 different homes, an average of four each; we had been invited for meals a total of 193, an average of ten each! In addition, nineteen families were brave enough to have all nineteen of us at once. We would remember these people without writing the names, but we want to record the Bartholomews, Buckners, Diettrichs, Ericksons, Flowers, Hahns, Houstons, Nolles, Penningtons, Powells, Richans, Rogers, Schulzes, Votaws, Walton and Eakle, Wilsons, Wrights, Zedlers.

We became acquainted with American "teas", and even became fairly skillful at balancing a plate and cup while standing. We enjoyed them all, such as Mr. Sample's "Dollar-a-pound coffee" in this picture.





In addition to the hospitality we received at homes, we were also the guests of many organizations. We found what the expression "groaning tables" meant, as in the above pictures when the Tilmon and the Maxwell communities fed us. The same was true when we went to Wimberley to see what their Boosters' Club meant when they said, "Wimberley is not only a place to live; it is also a way of life !"

Besides these communities and the churches mentioned elsewhere, we were also the guests of the San Marcos Business and Professional Women, the San Marcos Kiwanis Club, the local Association for Childhood Education, The San Marcos Academy, the Bexar County Junior Red Cross, Gary Air Force Base, the Better Business Bureau of Texas, and the schools at Harlandale, Bertram, Burnett, Marble Falls, and Randolph Field. We had so much food that one of the women was heard to remark that now she knew why they say, "travel is so broadening !"

When people weren't serving us meals, we were stopping for coffee and doughnuts, as here when Mr. Claude Hearn of Randolph Field School was serving some of us.



Naturally we were more interested in schools than in anything else and spent time in schoolrooms than anywhere. . . .



One reason the group shown here on the steps of the very modern new high school at Harlandale is so happy is that Mr. Dillard McCollum, the Superintendent, and Mrs. "Mac" have just served coffee! But the rest of the visit was enjoyed, too.

One of our most vivid memories is that of our visit to Casis School, a model school in Austin, especially noted for its provisions for the special education of the handicapped.



Here Mr. Bowden, the principal of Casis explains to the group what they will see. And he didn't exaggerate!

Here Mr. Hearn, Superintendent of Randolph Field School, shows one group how a "TV" device is used to interest pupils in reading.

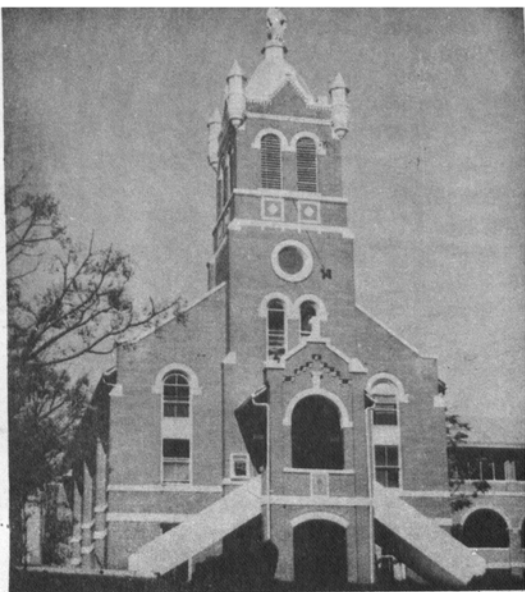


At times it was difficult to tell who was observing who!



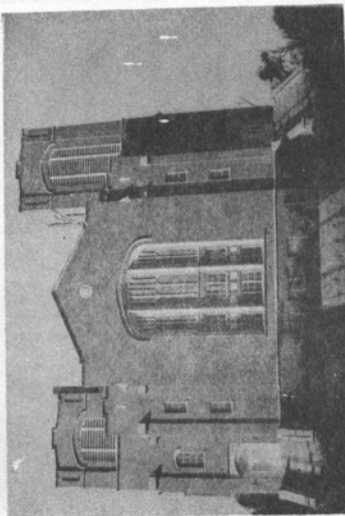
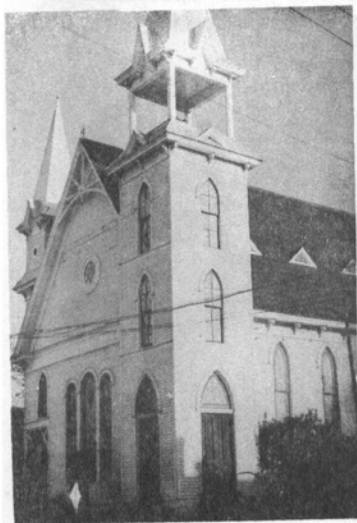
We were interested in everything that was going on, and found boys and girls glad to explain what they were doing.





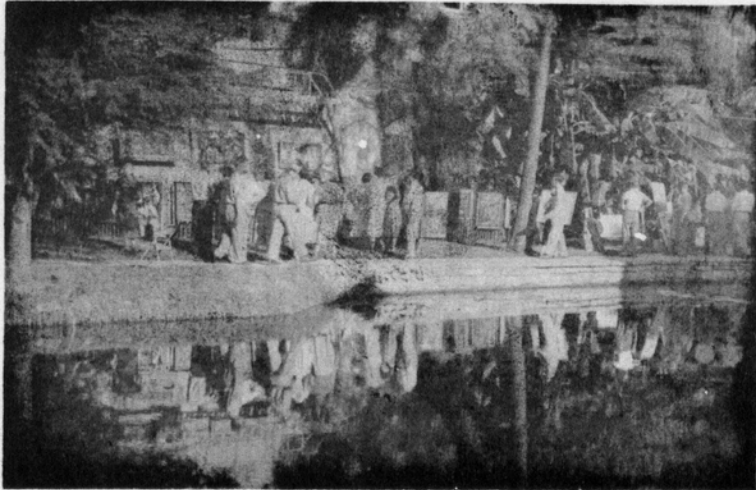
We were amazed at the number and variety of churches in America. Most of our group attended one or the other of the two shown here: the First American Lutheran, or the Roman Catholic. But we learned that besides these, there were twenty other churches in San Marcos; 22 churches for about 12,000 people!

We found all the churches very hospitable; we remember with pleasure the opportunities for fellowship in many churches. We also have fond memories of the invitations which were extended to us for meals. Sometimes this was an invitation to a church supper, such as the First Methodist's Church Night, the Lutheran Church, and the rural Baptist church at Kyle; sometimes it was an invitation to separate church families, as in the case of the First Christian Church, and of St. John's Evangelical and Reformed Church at Uhland.



NOR were we in a cultural wilderness, as many Europeans had lead us to expect about Texas.....

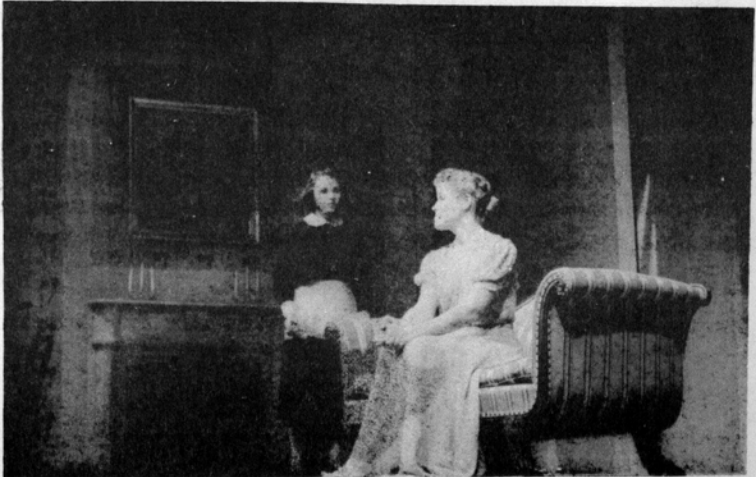
There were art exhibits, such as the unique San Antonio River Art Show pictured here



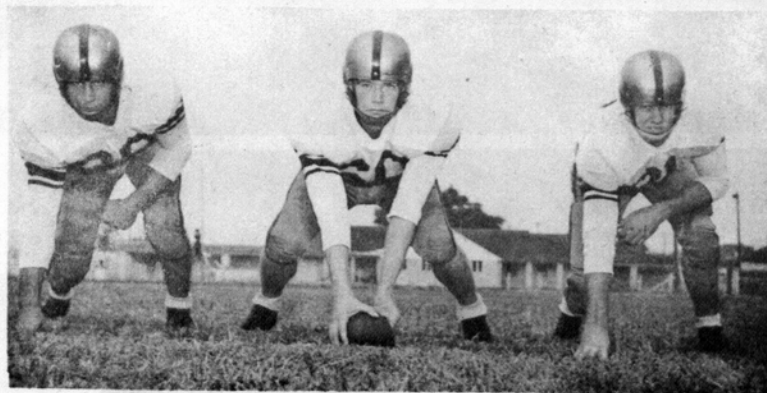
--and concerts, many concerts, of all types. One of our happiest and proudest memories is of the evening when "our" college choir sang with the San Antonio Symphony



--and plays, professional and amateur. We particularly remember the College Players' production of "Pygmalion", which was professional, in our opinion.



We were astounded at the big part athletics play in American life !



It was difficult for us to understand what was happening in the football games we saw (even after Dr. Wilson explained), but it was even more difficult for us to understand why it was so important to everyone!



We soon learned about
Yell Leaders...



And about Twirling
Corps and
Majorettes

Not everything was work and study; there was relaxation and fun, too!



The College "LAIR" had a welcome for us; we learned a new meaning--a "break" for coffee. Here was the scene of some of our most interesting discussions



And we soon discovered
"Cokes"



Sometimes just resting was good-----sometimes fishing



And sometimes a
little "horseplay" was appreciated





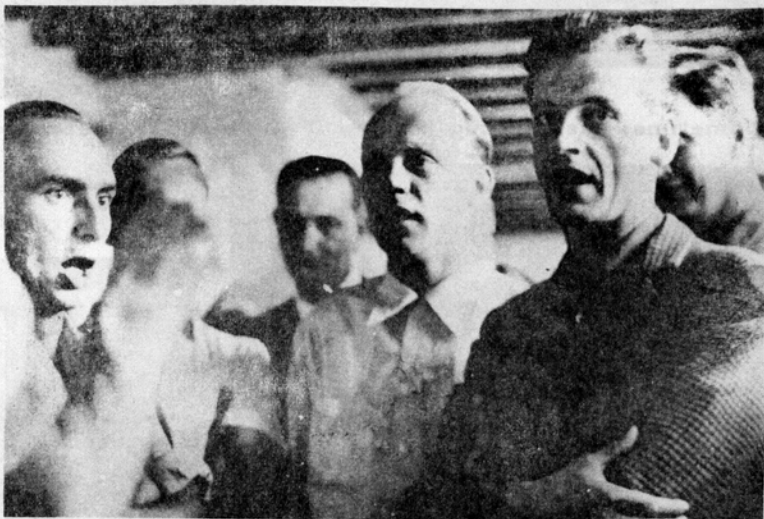
Motto over ECHO HALL at New Braunfels: "German songs sound in Texas" -- and we added our bit.

We sang, from the first minutes when we stepped off the train.....

We even serenaded a Senator !
(Senator Lyndon Johnson, when he visited his alma mater. SWTSTC)



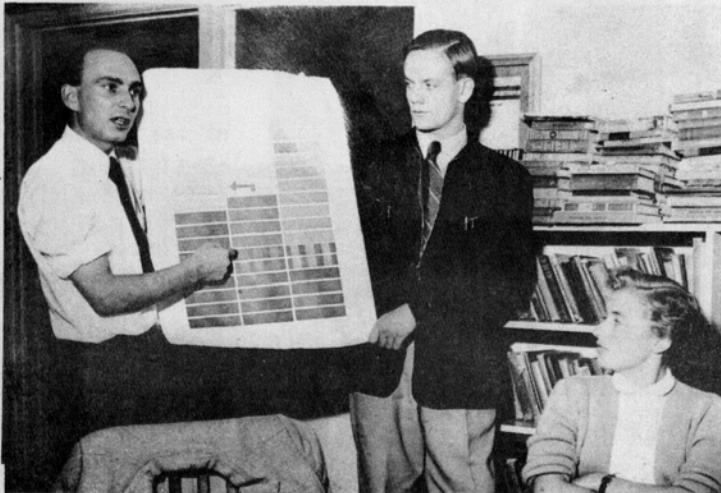
We sang - -
...to the college faculty...to public school groups...to church groups...to service clubs...at the 100th anniversary of The Saengerfest at New Braunfels... on the bus...to college student groups



We are sure that Texans are now convinced that the Germans are a singing people !

Soon after we arrived we began to give talks --

Gerhard and Anne-liese are shown here, in the first week of our stay, after they had told the Rotary Club about their experiences with UNESCO. With them are the Rotary president, Mr. W. A. Staudt and the Rev. John Deschner.



Hubert, with the help of Harald and Gertrud, explains the German school system to the A. C. E.



Everyone had his turn - - - we gave talks to other college clubs, service clubs, church groups P. T. A. 's, college classes, public school groups.

Our statistician again got busy and figured that we gave 85 talks altogether.



When we started to give talks, we found that we needed some help with our English. So we were very happy when Dr. Empress Zedler volunteered to give help. She worked with us patiently for two hours every week, not only improving our accents, but even



teaching us to talk "American" and "Texan", and helping us in many other ways.

Our thanks go also to Miss Walton and to the Bartholomews for helping "Americanize" us on our speech.



We had a rather busy schedule. We met Dr. Zedler on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11; from 1:30 to 3:30 on the same days, we met our regular seminars. In addition we were permitted to audit at least one college class; many of us (we learned to call these "eager beavers") attended more than one.

We sampled and enjoyed Dr. Houston's American Literature, Dr. Poole's and Miss Eakle's History, Dr. Wright's American Novel, Dr. Grusendorf's Sociology, Mr. Erickson's Economics, and some worked in Mr. Suckle's Ceramics workshop. In Miss Bruce's Saturday course in Child Development, some made the acquaintance of older students, who were actual classroom teachers like us. Others attended Miss Bruce's and Miss Shepherd's classes on Curriculum and Methods, and Mr. Allen's Audio-Visual Education class.



By the 26th of October, we were true Texans, and ready to welcome a "foreigner" from Washington----- Mr. Kenneth Bateman, the "big papa" of our program.



Mr. Bateman sat in on our seminar meeting, and brought us up to date on plans for our program.



He visited with us, sang with us, and everything about his visit would have been wonderful, except for his insistence on taking us on a hike, because he knew that Germans liked to walk. (What he didn't know was that we were already like the Americans and were riding everywhere!)



We had the pleasure of sharing with Mr. Bateman our discovery of SCHWAMPKRUGS in New Braunfels, where we were able to give him some real German food, and show in a small way our appreciation for what he was doing for us.

Soon after Christmas we had a pleasant surprise in the form of a visit from our new German Consul at Houston, Dr. MARGARETE SZ-TOLLARGROEWEL. She had only a short time with us, but after our lunch together and her inspirational talk, we were bragging like Texans about having the first woman Consul from Germany.



We often wondered how so many people knew about us and why we got so many interesting invitations. We found that another group, the Advisory Committee, had been working quietly in the background, making plans and easing our way. Shown here at the farewell dinner are some of the members of that committee.

Shown standing are: Mr. JOE HUTCHINSON, Supt. of schools in San Marcos; Mr. FREDERICK OHEIM, publisher of the New Braunfels Zeitung; Mr. WALTER BUCKNER, of the San Marcos Record; Mr. GEORGE WENTZ, Hays County Superintendent; the Rev. PAUL GEIGER, representing the Kiwanis Club; Mr. A. J. BRIESEMEISTER, Seguin Supt.; and Dr. BUFORD WILLIAMS, Principal of the San Marcos Elementary School.



Seated are Mr. PARKS JOHNSON, representing the Wimberley Community; Mrs. R. C. VAN GUNDY, President of the local P. T. A.; Mr. R. E. HARRIS, President of the Regional Administrators Association; Miss RUBY BENNETT, of the Texas Education Agency; Dr. E. A. SAHM, New Braunfels Superintendent.

Not present for the picture, but also helpful members of this committee were: Mrs. ZEB FITZGERALD of the American Association of University Women; Mrs. NORMAN L. DONALSON, of the Business and Professional Women; Mr. BERT JOHNSON, Hays County Agent; the Rex. KARL KLUGE, of the Lions Club and the Uhland Community; the Rev. JOHN DESCHNER, of the Ministerial Alliance; Dr. LEE WILBORN of the T.E.A.; Dr. HENRY J. OTTO, of the University of Texas, and Dr. ROBERT REED, President of the San Marcos Academy.



We have so many memories, so many impressions! Some of them we didn't take pictures of, many couldn't be caught by any camera. Most of them as we write them down will mean something only to us, as does this picture of a "Texas bad man" from Frankfurt. But DO YOU REMEMBER, "children"? - - -

that ride with 20 in a Ford pickup truck--that fountain in the pool at Wimberley--how many Texans replied in Deutsch to our greetings in English--even that Indian, and that Chinese (?)--WINCKLER'S struggle to convert English speech to American--the roping by Mr. RICHARDS, and MR. BROWN riding the calf--the flood that PAPA arranged for us on the Dallas trip--the response WIRTH got as a cheerleader in Harlandsale--HEINRICH'S Junior Red Cross speeches--the earrings URSULA won at Bingo--those piled tables at Wimberley, Tilton, Maxwell--how good sweet potatoes weren't--learning to eat hot dogs on the BSU hayride--the new alphabet we had to learn: BSU, ACE, TEA, TSTA, LOU, PDK, and the rest--how CHRISTEL interpreted the letter at the Luling Foundation Farm--URSULA'S using her wiles on the Air Force officer trying to get a ride in a B-29--the roar of the jets--and of the football crowds--the promptness (?) of the women--our Christmas away from home--those cookies EVA cooked for our parties--the white Santa Claus at the Negro school--how LIANE was finally able to sing "California, here I come"--when DOROTHEE went into the manufacture of ashtrays--HUBERT'S Texas-like brags about Frankfurt--Addison Buckner's clowning--HANNELORE'S teasing--the family scrap at the state P. T. A. meeting--"BUCK" WINN at work on his murals--when someone said, "That's a lot of bull! when we saw the \$40,000 bull"--how CHRISTEL got lost--and GERTRUD and RENATE were missing--when ROLF turned out the cave lights--Mr. MAC'S guided tour of San Antonio--the hit our farewell program made--and it turned out that GERHARD was a poet (?)--Papa Rogers success in getting "volunteers"--and how he loved committees--and how he lost his dignity at his service club--when THOMA learned to "Put your little foot"--the men trying to discover what a "pajama party" was--ANNELIESE'S worries before her trunks showed up--how HEINZ added 57 as his middle name--when HARALD got the Texas shirt as a birthday gift--the U. S. senator with his arms affectionately around the janitor

Happy memories, all of these---but all too soon that date which had seemed so far off back in October: January 29, 1954 and time to say goodbye. This was the hardest task of all--to say goodbye to these friends who four short months ago had been total strangers. They had told us so often, "MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME", that this is just what we had done, and this was like leaving our second home. But we like our expression better than the English goodbye, so

AUF WIEDERSEHN

Our thanks to all of those who have had any part in giving us these happy memories which we have tried to record herein. We left feeling that, in the words of the song we had learned: "THE EYES OF TEXAS ARE UPON YOU, TILL GABRIEL BLOW! HIS HORN"



As can be seen, there were several photographers in our crowd, so many of the pictures in this booklet we took ourselves. Our thanks for the others, to the College photographers, the San Marcos Record, the Austin American, Mr. Reagan Brown, Mr. Claude Hearn.

Footnote to MEIN KINDER:

Since I had to finish this booklet after you left, I could not ask your advice about some matters. I hope I have included what you wanted, have properly translated your expressions and your feelings. Auf Wiedersehn.

"Papa"
J. L. R.