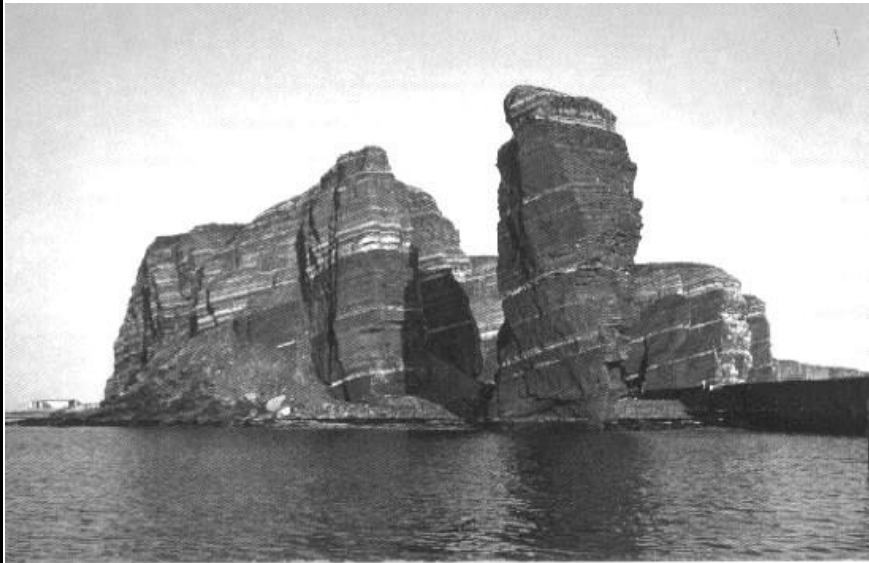




Das Deutsche Echo

Juli 2001

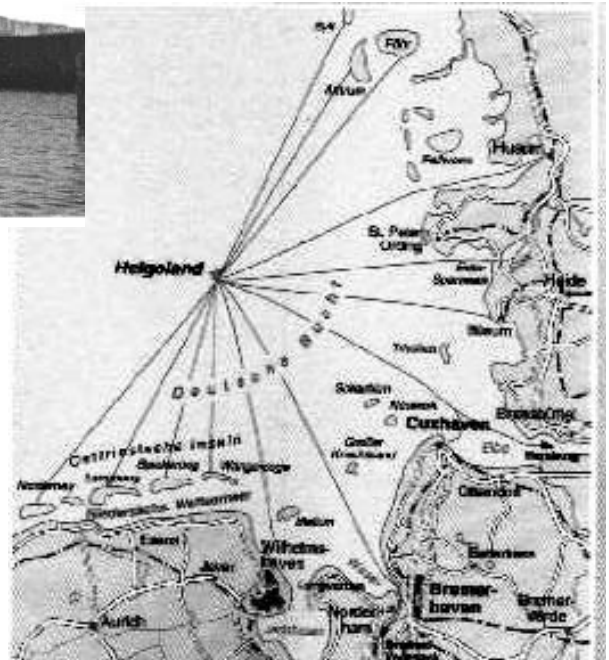
Jahrgang 22/7



Helgoland

The picture shows the famous rock called: "Lange Anna". It is located on the northern end of the island. This giant pillar is in danger of collapsing due to constant bombardment by the sea. Ongoing stabilization efforts hope to forestall the demise of this towering, 71 meter rock.

The map shows Helgoland in relation to the northern coast of Germany, and the many lines that bring tourists to the island from various points along the coast.



Events Calendar

Jun 28	Work Party – see page 5	Nov 30 – Dec 2	Christmas Market
Jul 6	Stammtischrunde	Dec 8	Christmas party
Aug 17	Organ Society recital	Dec 9	Konversationsrunde
Aug 25	ThinkTank – see page 3	Dec 16	Advent Service
Sep 9	Konversationsrunde	Dec 31	New Year's party
Sep 15	Weinfest party		
Oct 7	German-American Day		
Oct 14	Konversationsrunde		
Oct 27	Oktoberfest party		
Nov 10	Coronation Ball		
Nov 11	Konversationsrunde		

This page is sponsored by GAST Members Paul and Hildegard Schaffrin and by the GAST Sanger

The President's Report to the Membership

Viele Grüße,

First, I want to thank everyone for support and encouragement of my election as your president. I am looking forward to your continued support as committees are formed. Please don't wait for me to contact you. If you would like to participate on a particular committee or area, please let me know by phone at 299-2839, by e-mail at d.c.w@att.net or by calling the message center at 744-6998. If you have a suggestion or comment I would also like to hear from you.

I hope to expand committees to increase participation and interest. Since we are a social, cultural and educational organization it is important to have good social interaction as we raise the community's awareness of the German culture. After all, GAST was formed to fill the social needs of German-born Americans and to help preserve their native culture.

Thanks to everyone who helped make Mayfest a success. Even though the weather did not fully cooperate the GAST booth maintained its usual success thanks to all of the volunteers and a fine organizational staff.

The Family Picnic seemed to be enjoyed by everyone. Don and I do enjoy sharing our garden. Sharing seems to make everything worthwhile. We had excellent weather and a very good turnout. There were many new faces and many we had not seen at a picnic in years. There were about 127 adults and more than 15 children and grandchildren. My guests from Gefrees, Germany especially enjoyed visiting with those members who have immigrated recently and sharing experiences. Our members were anxious to hear about their first impressions of America. A long-time member made an interesting observation and related to me that "The GAST picnic", with an all time number of attendees, represented a strong return to

the very reasons that GAST was formed 20 plus years ago. The obvious social inter-action, together with mutual good times was more than evident throughout the affair. One can only believe that two recent additions to the GAST "social scene", namely the Weinkeller Abend and Stammtisch, have rekindled the social health of the Organization. We as GAST are at our finest moment when we enjoy each other's company. To be sure, GAST's many other activities of a community nature are important and fulfill our founding objectives. However, we must not leave our most important founding objective languishing, our own social interaction. When we exert effort on behalf of each other, all other activities of the Society will come to pass.

Even though vacation time upon us, it is "business as usual" for the GAST Board. Committee chairs were appointed and plans for programs are being made. A list of the Committee Chairs will be published in next month's ECHO so everyone will know whom to contact if they would like to "get involved". We intend to finalize a project that began several years ago. We, as in "GAST members" will have a Cookbook published in time for Christkindlmarkt. Please support this project and others planned for the coming year. Everyone's help is needed.

Mark your calendar now for August 25 if you would like to take part in planning the future of GAST. We are having brainstorming session. We will have facilitator to help us stay on track and guide us in determining some long term plans and goals. Watch the ECHO for details.

Till next month,

—Carol Wright

Don't miss the bus!
Echo Deadline is:

July 20



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Die Lange Anna

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News in Arts

Summer is the time to relax, go to the lake, enjoy the back yard or take a trip to get away from it all, visit old friends or make some new ones. You will have a chance to relate your travel experiences during our next *Konversationsrunde* on Sunday, September 9, at the home of **Dr. Charles and Marion Weber** at 2446 E. 22nd Place, at 3 PM. Of course, it will be in German, a great opportunity to brush up on your German language skills. **Helga Greiner** has graciously agreed to co-chair *Konversationsrunde* and I am looking forward to a great afternoon.

Please mark your calendar for the mini-concert by the Sooner State Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society at the GAST Center on Friday, August 17, 7:30 PM. It is certain to be another delightful evening with this talented group of theatre organ enthusiasts. And please, invite your friends!

Meanwhile, have a wonderful summer!

—**Arnold Bieber**, president
Arts Association

ThinkTank

When the German-American Society of Tulsa was formed in 1980 the objectives were:

- To uphold and maintain the constitution and laws of the United States of America.
- To promote and maintain German and European culture, customs and language.
- To establish and maintain a cultural and social organization for the accommodation, recreation and convenience of the members.
- To refrain from any political or religious activity. These areas are not the concern of the Society unless activities of a member in this area tend to bring discredit upon the Society.
- To unite our members into a respected, influential and friendly organization.

For 21 years, we have worked toward achieving these objectives. Perhaps now is the time to expand into other areas while continuing to hold fast the objectives at the time the Society was formed.

Accordingly, on August 25th, at 9:00 A.M. in the Weinkeller, members will have an opportunity to meet with a trained facilitator to discuss ideas for new directions for GAST. Some ideas which have been mentioned are: community involvement, scholarships for students of German language either here in the United States or in Germany, involvement with local companies (i.e., Tulsa Ballet, Tulsa Philharmonic, etc.), how to expand interest in the social activities and ideas to attract and maintain new and younger members and families. Without the input of the membership, our Board is powerless. We are elected to carry out your wishes. After nearly 10 years, our beautiful German-American Society Center is nearing the time when it ceases to take all our resources and we will be able to use some of our funds for other activities.

Won't you set aside some time on August 25th to come and let us know what you are thinking? Please call the reservations number (744-6998) so we will know how many to expect. We'll be waiting for you.

Submitted by **Lois Voeller**
The Board of Directors of GAST,
GAST Arts and GAST Building Corporations

Membership News

We welcome these new members
into the GAST Family

William R. Carroll (Florida)
Teresa Shelley Carroll (Oklahoma)
7004 S. Ash Pl.
Broken Arrow, Ok. 74011
455-2080

Angela Giles-Svendsen (MO)
Otto Svendsen (Norway)
12410 Nuyaka Rd.
Okmulgee, Ok. 74447
356-7494

Michael & Beth Wilcox (Michigan)
4316 E. 83rd St.
Tulsa, Ok. 74137
496-4316



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The GAST Sanger

In Hibernation!



STAMMTISCHRUNDE



Hey, guys!

I hope to see you all on Friday, Jul 6,
starting at 6:30 PM.

Zum Wohl!

—Fred...

Handarbeitsgruppe

The Handarbeitsgruppe will take a rest during July and August. We will resume the first Tuesday following Labor Day. The ladies are working very hard on the hand made quilt to be raffled off at the Christkindlmarkt. It is turning out beautiful and something to be proud of. Come and take a look!

Have a great summer. Come and join us after Labor Day.

Tschuß until then,

—Irmgard Toschik and Helga Roepel

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Folkdancers

The GAST Folkdancers are taking a break till August. On August 4 & 5 several of us will be traveling to Frydek, Texas to attend a Germany Folkdance Workshop. Our teacher will be Reinhold Fink from Stuttgart, Germany. Anyone considering joining the Folkdance Group is welcome to join us for this workshop. Contact Carol Wright 299-2839 or Ursula Mueller 743-4353 for more information. Regular practices will resume the middle of August. Watch the ECHO for details or call the Message Center.

—Carol Wright

Organ Recital

On Friday, August 17, at 7:30 PM, the Sooner State Chapter of the American Theater Organ Society will have a meeting and informal performance at the GAST Center. You and your guests are invited to attend an evening of musical variety including performance on our pipe organ by professional organists and organ enthusiasts. Come enjoy the music and meet the kind people who restored and maintain our pipe organ. Refreshments will be served.

—John Millar

The elusive GAST Cookbook!

Last month I called on you for your favorite German Recipes for our very own GAST cookbook. I am sorry to say I only received **one** from a membership of **435**. Is there no interest? I know everyone is busy and we are trying to make it very easy for you. Copy the existing recipe you have and send it on. Even if it is in your own handwriting it will do. Please, members, let's be proud of our own culinary heritage and have our own GAST COOKBOOK ready to sell at Christkindlmarkt. They make wonderful Christmas gifts. I know we can do it! Please send all recipes to the office, e-mail to gas-tulsa@juno.com, fax 744-6998 or bring them along to any function.

Danke und Tschüß

—Irmgard Toschik

This page is sponsored anonymously by a GAST member

In love with the island of HELGOLAND all over again!

by Claus & Helga Greiner

People who did not grow up in Germany have probably never heard of Helgoland before, the tiny island in the middle of the North Sea. Actually, there are two different islands: the red Rock of the main island, which rises approx. 150 ft straight up from the sea, and the DUNE, a rather flat little island with sand dunes and a South beach and a North beach. That's where you will also find a small airport.

However, most visitors arrive by boat. Every day, 5 cruise ships start to arrive around noon. The local fishermen are already waiting for them in their small open wooden boats. As soon as the ships have dropped anchor, they swarm out to pick up the passengers and to shuttle them ashore. This is a special part of arriving in Helgoland, and it provides extra income for the fishermen. Nowadays, the cruise ships could easily dock right at the quay—but the Helgolandians will not allow that!

The majority of visitors just come for the afternoon. Helgoland enjoys duty free status—so it is a haven for shoppers! Yet Helgoland offers a lot more than duty free shopping, and to really discover all, you have to stay there for a few days. A walk around the top of the island will lead to the steep cliffs, and if you happen to be there in May/June, you will be fascinated by the thousands of sea birds that breed on the tiniest of ledges high above the sea. The “Lummen”, which look like little penguins, keep their chicks between themselves and the cliff's wall for the first three weeks of the chick's life. Then they coax the little one to jump down into the sea—approximately 100 ft! The parents always stay close during and after the jump. This phenomenon is famous as the “Lummen Jump”.

Looking out over the sea to the West while you are above the breeding cliffs, you will see large ocean going vessels in the distance almost all day long. Continuing your walk to the North, you will get to the “Long Anna”. That's what the single, finger-like rock is called. It, too, is covered by breeding sea birds in the spring. This single rock is carefully protected and supported because the people of Helgoland do not want to lose this very special landmark, which is slowly but surely deteriorating.

If you turn away from the sea and pay close attention to the top of the rock of Helgoland, you cannot help but notice the large number of now overgrown craters—a leftover of the darkest hours in the history of the island.

Helgoland is also a bird sanctuary, and there is a special station where migrating birds are carefully being caught, marked and then released again. The island's unique location provides a convenient resting place for those migrating birds. It is amazing how many song birds can be heard on the island at any time! Bird lovers can also watch different species of birds hopping along the beach or nesting in the growth of the Dunes.

One-day/afternoon visitors will not have enough time to walk around the top of the island and to discover the Dune. A small motorboat carries the passengers from the Rock to the Dune every 30 minutes. Strolling along the South beach, you will be surprised by a whole herd of seals resting on the beach. They don't mind if people carefully come fairly close to them to take their pictures! Looking out over the shallow waters, you will see the perky ones happily playing with each other.

Even though Helgoland is called Germany's sunshine island and the Gulf Stream still has a positive influence on the temperature, it is far from being a tropical island with palm trees and tropical flowers. We were very impressed with three scraggly palm-like container plants that tried hard to survive there!

All along the German sea shores “Beach Baskets” (Strandkörbe) are a familiar site. Of course, you can rent them in Helgoland, too. They protect from the cool winds or too much sun—you just turn them in any desired direction.

Helgoland's Flag was inspired by the colors of the island: A green stripe for the land, A red stripe for the rock (in German: Kant), A white stripe for the sand.

Helgoland's size is a mere one square km, the Dune is only 0.7 square km.

Because of Helgoland's clean air—the tiny island allows just a few electric cars! It has long been hailed as a haven for allergy sufferers. In order to attract guests pretty much all year round, there is a heated indoor/outdoor swimming pool and a “Kurmittelhaus”—to improve your health and your beauty.

Visiting Helgoland today, visitors will be made aware in many places of the island's history. A “historic event” has been

the creation of the text to Germany's National Anthem by Heinrich Hoffman von Fallersleben. The islanders have honored the poet with an impressive monument right by the harbor.

In the course of history, Helgoland has been Danish British property, respectively until, in 1890, Germany traded one of its African colonies, the island of Sansibar, against a place a lot closer to home: Helgoland. Due to the island's unique location, this was a strategically important addition to the German State.

Helgoland had long been the site of an important Light House to guide the ships on their passage to the English Channel. This fact made Helgoland a perfect location for a navy fortress. After WW I, all island fortifications had to be destroyed. However, during the Third Reich, these fortifications were rebuilt stronger and bigger than ever. That's why the British tried to totally "blow up" Helgoland during and even after the WW II. Miraculously, the majority of the island survived the "Big Bang" of 1947, it just changed the South Side of the island. They also used Helgoland as target practice for their bombers until early 1952. That's why the top of the Rock is still covered by all those craters.

Finally, on March 1, 1952, the island was officially returned to the State of Germany. Reconstruction began immediately. In July of 1952, the first visitors returned to Helgoland. My (Helga's) relatives were among those first-year visitors, and Claus and I followed in the summer of 1953!

In early 1945, all inhabitants of the island had been evacuated after a severe air attack. Only in 1952 could they finally return and start to rebuild their beloved place.

The people agreed on a special color scheme suggestion to be applied to all houses. This gives the place a very warm "feeling". Adding to the charm of the houses are the always tiny but often profusely blooming front yards. And on Sundays the locals are still wearing their traditional, very beautiful costumes.

Approaching Helgoland from the South you first notice the "Lobster Shacks", all painted in those special colors. Helgoland used to be very famous for their lobsters. Today, the lobsters are not very numerous any more and have become an almost unaffordable delicacy.

Besides a very powerful Light House which even survived all the bombings during WW II, there are now two more Radar and Telecommunication Towers on top of Helgoland. NATO Navy maneuvers are all being controlled from there. The harbor provides shelter from storms for smaller boats.

Evidence has been found that people have lived there as early as 4000 before Christ.

There's a lower part (Unterland) and an upper part (Oberland) of Helgoland. For people who do not like or cannot walk the stairs, there is an elevator available.

Well, this has been our third visit to Helgoland. Again we left with wonderful memories—ready to return any time!

Celle Committee needs help with homestays!

With the Celle Volunteer (Youth) Fire department visit to Tulsa fast approaching, we are still in need to find some homestays. They are arriving July 17 and depart July 31. If you can only take any of them in for one week instead of the two because of your own travel plans, etc., that would help also. Most of the program is taken care of by the Fire department which contains educational, cultural and well as social activities, some of which the host families could possibly be included at times.

Again, please let your willingness to host these youngster and/or one of the 8 accompanying adults known by contacting Debra Bailey, Public Education Officer of the Tulsa Fire Department at 596-7363 or FAX: 596-1297 or E-Mail: dbailey@ci.tulsa.ok.us If you can not host but would like to set an evening aside and invite one or a few for dinner and some fun, please contact: Doris Gallagher (743-5310) or dcghill@aol.com

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Jahrgang 22/7

Approaching Helgoland

As seen from
the boat through
the lens of
Claus Greiner's
Camera.



German-American Society Arts Assoc.

Das Deutsche Echo

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