

THE VON ROSENBERG FAMILY  
OF TEXAS

June 1979

N E W S L E T T E R

THE 1979 REUNION

DATE: Sunday, July 22nd, 1979

TIME: Register at 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: Knights of Columbus Hall  
Woodway (Waco), Texas

You and your family are invited to the 1979 Reunion of the VON ROSENBERG FAMILY REUNION ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS, the 38th such Reunion, the 40th year of the Association, the 113th year after Peter Carl's death, and the first year the Reunion has ever been held in the city of Waco, Texas.

HEART O' TEXAS

You couldn't ask for a more centrally located city in Texas to hold one of our Reunions. I quote Glenn and Jo von Rosenberg of Waco, this years' Chairman and Hostess: "The von Rosenbergs of central Texas, Waco, Temple, Cameron, and Rockdale invite all you cousins to Waco on July 21 and 22 for the 1979 Reunion" (end quote). As stated above, this will be our first Reunion in Waco and who knows, this could be the one which breaks the attendance record. Your Secretary has received word from several out-of-staters indicating they plan to attend this year and for many it will be their first time.

FOR THE IMPORTANCE!

In addition to our usual good fellowship and visiting with one another, the two other important items to be dealt with at this Reunion will be the election of new officers and the final solution of how we intend to produce "the letters."

Please make your plans to be with us in Waco this year and don't let anything keep you from coming, including gasoline!

Let's all "WIND OUR WAY TO WACO"!

The Host Committee members have obviously been attending the recent past Reunions. They have noticed the popularity (and good attendance) of the Social Evening and have decided to offer you another fine evening, lest they be run from the county (you're right, we can't fire anyone from the Family, can we?)

#### GET SOME LOAD OF THIS

The Social Evening will happen Saturday night, July 21, 1979, 6:00 p.m. at the Budweisser Pavillion in Waco. According to Jo and Glenn "we will be there by 6:00 p.m. and will eat the good bar-b-que at about 8:00. Music will be by accordion playing Jimmy Nemec and his band. We're sure you'll enjoy his music. Beer and soft drinks will be served but if you prefer liquor, please bring your own bottle. The Budweisser Pavillion has a covered dance floor and an excellent fenced picnic and park area for the whole family. If you enjoy a social evening with friends & Family, of good food and drinks, and of music and dancing, you'd better come be with us in Waco on Sat., July 21 at 6:00."

The cost, the ol' "dutch" basis, will be \$6.00 adults; \$3.00 children, including everything but liquor. This will be payable AT THE DOOR do don't be sending your Secretary any money for the Social Evening. BUT DO REMEMBER, however, to fill in the form at the end of this Newsletter and MAIL IT to me because this form will order the food for you and your family. Therefore, NO FORM-----NO FOOD!

#### DIRECTIONS TO A SOCIAL EVENING

The main thing to know about Waco is that the main expressway is Interstate 35 which runs roughly north and south. Towards the northern part of Waco is the Brazos River running under 35. Immediately south of this river is a street called: University Parks Drive, and it actually goes by the north side of the Baylor U. campus. You want to go east on University Parks Dr. from 35. Pretty soon on your right you'll pass an H.E.B. store, a steak house, Bayly's and a veterinary hospital all in that order. Just past the vet. hospital, turn right (just before Kit's Liquor Store). Roll in there to the Bud. Pavillion. As always, please arrive in blue jeans, shorts, or whatever.

#### REUNITE AT THE REUNION

You are asked to register Sunday, July 22nd, 1979, at 10:00 a.m., sober, at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Woodway (Waco) Texas. Please bring food, service, and cold drinks if desired. Coffee, tea, and ice will be furnished by the Committee.

#### TO GET THERE!

This time you come down 35 a little more to the south part of the city and exit on Loop 340 and go west to Franklin Ave. At Franklin, turn left (south) and go to Estates Drive where you turn left (east). Almost on this corner, you'll see the Knights of Columbus Hall. (Franklin and Hwy. 84 are one & the same (to Gatesville))

#### HIT THAT GOAL

The K. of C. Hall is air-conditioned and has a playground for the kids. As stated previously, we will elect a new slate of officers for the next two years and hear the report of "Letters Finance Committee." The ultimate method of printing must be voted upon so that we can get the letters printed. To achieve these goals will mean smooth rolling for another year or two. We need your help and your ideas, as always, and we sincerely hope you'll make every effort to be there with us.

#### HAVE YOU GAS?

There's no doubt many are concerned with the gasoline situation when you think of a Reunion trip. YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY! I checked with Jo von Rosenberg in Waco Sunday night, June 17th, and she had just filled up her car that day. She said there's been no problem in Waco concerning gasoline, no shortage and no lines. The stations are still open and selling on Sundays, can you believe? For the more skeptic, however, I suggest you fill up on the highway just before you get in to Waco on Sat. or Sunday-or-fill up in Waco itself immediately upon arrival. Please don't let the gas situation scare you away from coming because there really is no problem in this regard.

#### PLEASE REMEMBER

The Lord Almighty has blessed our Association with some outstanding Reunions in the past years and I know we can expect some more in the future. See you in Waco

In Case you haven't made your reservations yet (and you'd better hurry), the official motel is the Holiday Inn, 201 Interstate 35E, phone 817-753-0261, where the Sec. will be staying. It is just north of the Brazos River on 35. Here are some others in case Holiday Inn is full:

Holiday Lodge, 4909 W. Waco Drive  
817-772-6640

Quality Inn West, 4809 W. Waco Dr.  
817-772-7830

LaQuinta Motor Inn, University 1110 S. 9th  
817-752-9741

If you need any help in any way during or before this Reunion, please call Glenn von Rosenberg at:

Home: 817-772-4990

Bus.: 817-776-3453

FROM BRANCH V

Florence Helmke, Chairman of Branch V, reports the death of John Paul Warnken on 4-22-79 in San Antonio, age 61, Vol. II, page 263. He is survived by his wife Elizabeth, daughter Patsy Noll and son John, Jr., sister Lorraine Jensen, and two grandchildren, all of San Antonio.

Born to Joan and Forrest (Sonny) Campbell of San Antonio a son, Steven Girard, on March 21, 1979.

Born to Beverli and Jim Helmke of Seguin a daughter, Linneci Renee, May 1, 1979. Grand parents are Florence and Stanley Helmke of San Antonio.

Erna Meerscheidt Weeks Bouillon of Seattle, Wash., wrote the story of her life and has put it into book form about one inch thick and is beautifully written. It will be shown at the Waco Reunion.

Florence also reports she was chosen Honorary Lady Chairman of the State Assoc. of Texas Pioneers during the recent Fiesta week in San Antonio. This is a big honor for Florence and she will show an article of this at the Reunion.

David and Eilleen (Keane Miller) Vinson of 702 Arthur, Davis, Cal. 95615, have a new daughter, name unknown, born Nov. 7, 1978.

It is with great pleasure that we announce the appointment of Ralph Gordon Kirkley as Chairman of Branch 1 (Austin).

Ralph was born in Houston Oct. 14, 1927, the son of Ralph Leonard and the late Grace Lina (Bissell) Kirkley. He married Mary Lee Lundstedt in June of 1946 and they have 2 children: Kent Gordon of Dallas and Karen Grace Hooks of Austin.

Ralph succeeds Alfred Wupperman who served the Family so admirably for the past several years but who had to resign due to failing health.

A Branch Chairmanship is an important position in our Family structure, a position which requires hard work and many hours on the part of the Chairman and a tremendous amount of cooperation from it's immediate Branch members if the Branch itself is going to flourish and be well served.

Branch I is the largest in our Assoc. and I trust the members of this Branch will help Ralph whenever possible. You should report all your family happenings to him so that he can keep his Branch records up to date. I remember Vol. II was unnecessarily complicated due to the fact that some of the Branches were so far behind with their records; the information had to be rounded up all at once and it proved overly difficult.

Write him thusly: Ralph G. Kirkley, 12606 Silver Spur, Austin, Tx., 78758.

Congratulations, Ralph, and if any of us can help you in any way, let us know.

Stanley and Ann Udall have moved from Salt Lake City, Utah, to Gilbert, Ariz., which is 20 miles S. W. of Phoenix. Ann is interested in becoming the next Historian of our Association and she will certainly deserve consideration. Ann will attend the Waco Reunion for her first time. Thanks for the great interest, Ann, and we'll see you in Waco.

Peter and Carol Blyberg, 61 Lockwood Ave. Old Greenwich, Conn., 06870, were in Iran where Peter was head of a branch American bank. Fortunately they were able to get out of there in Dec. of 1978.

## WHERE ARE WE?

Texas 73.2 %  
 Other States 25.4 %  
 Foreign 1.4 %

For those wondering where all the von Rosenberg descendants live, I have at long last prepared an answer for you. We may someday have to change our name to: THE VON ROSENBERG FAMILY OF THE WORLD instead of TEXAS.

Here is a list of the 29 states I mailed Newsletters to in April, 1979, and the no. of households in each state, excluding the state of Texas:

|           |    |           |     |
|-----------|----|-----------|-----|
| Alabama   | 1  | Mich.     | 5   |
| Arizona   | 4  | Miss.     | 2   |
| Calif.    | 18 | No. Car.  | 4   |
| Colo.     | 8  | New Jer.  | 4   |
| Conn.     | 2  | New Mex.  | 7   |
| Florida   | 5  | New York  | 1   |
| Georgia   | 2  | Ohio      | 4   |
| Idaho     | 2  | Oklahoma  | 3   |
| Iowa      | 1  | Oregon    | 3   |
| Illinois  | 1  | Penn.     | 2   |
| Indiana   | 2  | So. Caro. | 2   |
| Kentucky  | 2  | Tenn.     | 3   |
| Louisiana | 8  | Utah      | 1   |
| Maryland  | 3  | Washing.  | 15  |
| Mass.     | 2  | total     | 117 |

So, 117 of the total 460 were mailed to states other than Texas. When they said "Go west, young man," a lot of our Family members took them up on it.

This for the foreign country mailings:

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Vancouver B. C. | 1 |
| Brazil          | 1 |
| Australia       | 1 |
| Germany         | 3 |

So, 6 letters mailed to 4 countries.

I mailed the April Newsletter to 337 households in 100 different Texas cities, the top five of which were:

|             |                                     |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| Austin      | 49                                  |
| San Antonio | 42                                  |
| Houston     | 36                                  |
| La Grange   | 17                                  |
| Dallas      | 8                                   |
|             | <u>152</u> or 33% of the total 460. |

Therefore, of the 460 letters mailed in April, 1979, the percentages broke this way:

So be it for where we all are.

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 The Robert & Barb Mersingers of 730 Wadsworth Dr., Richmond, Va., 23235, report their regrets at not being able to attend the Waco Reunion. Their schedule prevents a trip to Texas at that time of year. Thanks for letting us know, Barb, and remember our hearts will be with you and Bob as we know yours will be with us on that glorious occasion in Waco.

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 Charles W. von Rosenberg of Dallas, our Historian, spent the last two weeks of May, 1979, in Germany. In Braunschweig, he visited the area near St. Aegideon Church where Arthur Meerscheidt grew up. He said many of the old houses were still intact.

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 Mrs. Josephine (Meerscheidt) Aguilar of Bainbridge Island, Wash., gladly reports that for the first time in her life she will be attending the Reunion in Waco. This will be a great occasion, Jo, and we'll all be looking forward to meeting you. Relatives, please don't overlook the distance she will travel to be with us. Love it, just love it!

GUSTAF A. KNEIP

Gustaf A. Kneip, son of Adolph Kneip and Emma von Rosenberg, passed away Dec. 20, 1978, at the age of 90. He was the last survivor of his family and lived to be the oldest of the children. He was living in Victoria, Texas, at Ratama Manor. He had fallen on 12-3-78 and broken his hip and had to have surgery for a pin which proved to be just too much of a shock to his system for his age. His wife, Sidone (Schulmann) is still in the same nursing home in Victoria. She is now 83 and the last survivor of her family and has also lived to be the oldest. They had celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary on April 8th, 1978. Thanks to Mrs. Fred (Melba Kneip) Hall, their daughter, who contributed the above information. She and Fred now reside at: 7626 Callaghan Rd., #2803, San Antonio, Tx., 78229.

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 Let's "WRECK" the "RECORD" in WACO.

THE CAMPBELLS ARE COMIN'

Here's the latest on the two children of Oliver and Henrietta Campbell of San Antonio:

Arlene, wife of Leroy Brown, have just bought a beautiful home on the banks of Cibolo Creek. Leroy is a policeman in Converse, Tx., and Arlene is an Airman 1st Class, U.S.A.F., stationed at Randolph A.F.B. in San Antonio. Their address is: Rt. 2, Box 70A, Marion, Texas, 78129.

Danny Campbell has been living in Austin the past 2 years and is an ass't mgr. at one of the Academy Sales Stores there. The last two Christmases have found him appearing in the store's T.V. commercials modeling clothing. His address is: 4006 Lewis Ln., Austin, Tx., 78756.

Oliver and Henrietta are doing fine and before closing this report on this part of the Campbell clan, the Secretary wishes to inform that Oliver Campbell is the only soul in this world who can explain to you the proper manner in which two black dogs should chase an automobile. If you don't believe me, ask Oliver at the Waco Reunion.

Mary Lee Kirkley of Austin reports 5 that she and hubby, Ralph G. Kirkley, spent two lovely weeks in Germany in Sept. of 1978. She also wishes to purchase two copies of Vol. I if anyone has any they'll part with. If so, please write her at: 12606 Silver Spur, Austin, Tx., 78758.

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Mrs. Marcus H. (Hattie) von Rosenberg of Bellville, Tx., accompanied Charles W. von Rosenberg on the trip to Germany and reported the death of her husband on Sept 9, 1977 in Bellville. Also, that one of her grandsons, either Randall or Gary Marcus, Jr. (the Sec. is not sure which) will graduate from West Point in 1980.

THE "LETTERS" FUND

Our plea for \$20.00 from you Family members for each copy of the "Letters" book you will desire, when printed, has met with only mild success. We have now collected to date some \$1,070.00 from only 45 households and for this we are most thankful; some families have given more than \$20.00.

However, it's obvious that if we mail the Newsletter to some 460 households, then some 415 households haven't come through yet. Please give this matter your serious consideration and mail your checks

(over)

6 immediately because printing-time is right around the corner. I doubt if we have half enough funds for the printing yet, so come on, something's gonna have to break loose--or--we'll have to postpone the printing. Please mail your check to your Secretary.

A REPEAT FROM THE HISTORIAN

In case you need reminding, let me quote what Charles W. von Rosenberg said to you in the June 1978 Newsletter:

"Concerning the "letter," all of the translation is completed and is in reasonable shape for the printer, but not for photocopying. I have also prepared, in addition to the letters themselves, title page, dedication (to who wrote, those who preserved, and those who made available these letters), preface, introduction (with acknowledgments for assistance in translating and other editorial help), a section call "Post-Scripts" which gives information too long for comment in the body of the letters (e. g. a short history of Round Top, the Froelich-von Rosenberg connection since Froelich relatives crop up throughout the letters, etc.), a "Cast of Characters" for more ready identification, and two appendices-

one an explanation of some of the arbitrary arrangements and decisions, since they had to be made, I made; the other describes the sources of the letters, their condition, and a listing of documents which though available were not included in the translation, a bibliography, and excerpts from a journal kept by Arthur Meerscheidt's mother." (End Q.)

CAPPER

So there you have a review of what this years' Reunion will be about. We must decide how we're going to print this very important work. You may think we're at the same stage we were in at last years' Reunion but this is not true. Last year we broke the ice and decided on the plan to finance the printing. It has taken the past year, via the Newsletter, to inform the members not present at last years' Reunion just what we intended to do. It has also taken the past year to begin accumulating the funds we now have on hand. But now we're closer to the goal. We need a little more money sent in and we'll get this worthy task done.

This Newsletter submitted by:

Phil Meerscheidt  
Family Secretary

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VERY IMPORTANT

Cut here and return to: Phil Meerscheidt, 8474 Leawood, Houston, Tx., 77072  
BY JULY 11, 1979  
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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Please order \_\_\_\_\_ adult Bar-b-que plates at the Social Evening July 21st.

Please order \_\_\_\_\_ children Bar-b-que plates at the Social Evening.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed for \_\_\_\_\_ copies of Vol. II at \$13.00 each.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed for \_\_\_\_\_ copies of Emigration booklet at \$6.00 each.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed for \_\_\_\_\_ copies of the "Letters" booklet at \$20.00 each.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed for 1979-1980 donation to the Family Operating Budget.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ check total enclosed.

There will be \_\_\_\_\_ of us at the Social Evening on July 21st.

There will be \_\_\_\_\_ of us at the Reunion on Sunday, July 22nd.