

The Von Rosenberg Family of Texas

June 1990

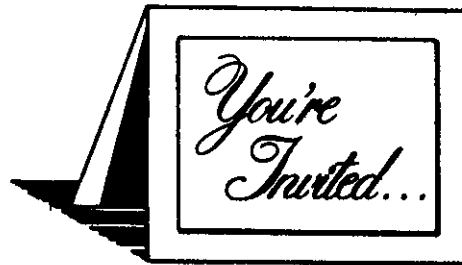
NEWSLETTER

THE 1990 REUNION

DATE: Friday July 20, 1990
Saturday July 21, 1990
Sunday July 22, 1990

TIME: Register anytime after
Friday noon.

PLACE: Camp Lone Star
La Grange, Texas



You and your family are cordially invited to the 1990 Reunion of the

VON ROSENBERG FAMILY REUNION ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

the 49th such Reunion, the 51st YEAR OF THE ASSOCIATION, the 124th year after Peter Carl's death, and the 8th year (back-to-back) the Reunion has been held in the friendly city of La Grange, Texas.

Established May 7, 1939

"It is not what we read, but what we remember, that makes us learned. It is not what we intend, but what we do, that makes us useful. It is not a few faint wishes, but a lifelong struggle, that makes us valiant."

With that beginning, I think it is proper to warn the members of our Association that we face a great challenge this year. That challenge is probably best known as "the great letdown." For many years, momentum in this Family has definitely been on the incline. Furthermore, you should know that our best Reunion was held last year at the fiftieth. A Golden Anniversary excites everyone because of the prestigious tradition gained by the Association. Our problem this year, as I see it, is a possible letdown following that particular Reunion. We cannot afford a decline because as I have said so many times in the past, momentum begets momentum.

Momentum is a very satisfying feeling. It's like the feel of clean clothes, it's like the smell of rain, it's like climbing up a hill and looking down, it's like rain on your cheeks, it's like the smell of new-mown hay.

While this may explain our recent good fortune, we must not become like the great deceiver, that being one who deceives only himself. Stagnation is as stifling as a cheap cigar.

Abraham Lincoln said it thusly: "If I were to try to read, muchless answer, all the attacks made on me, this shop might as well be closed for any other business. I do the very best I know how--the very best I can; and I mean to keep doing so until the end. If the end brings me out all right, what is said against me won't amount to anything. If the end brings me out wrong, ten angels swearing I was right would make no difference." Please review the 2nd sentence by Mr. Abe and let's apply it to our own Association. "We will do the very best we know how--the very best we can; and we mean to keep doing so until the end." This means no letdown, folks. Our Association must proceed into infinity.

Therefore, I'm asking each of you to gather up that family of yours and attend this year's Reunion at Camp Lone Star. We are purposely curtailing planned activities because we want our members to enjoy the freedom of visiting with their relatives and family members. Trifles make success--but success is no trifle. We can't make it without YOU.

Remember that old Indian prayer: "O Great Spirit, Maker of men, forbid that I judge any man until I have walked for two moons in his moccasins." We are asking you to come and walk two moons in the moccasins of this Association. No brain is stronger than it's weakest think and I think that you should think that the Association thinks you should be there.

DIRECTIONS TO CAMP LONE STAR

Quickly now! What has the Colorado river, Camp Lone Star, and our Family Association have in common? Why, that's simple enough! They will all come together July 20, 21, & 22. For the benefit of our first-time attenders, learn that immediately south of La Grange, on Hwy. #77 south to Victoria, is a bridge spanning the Colorado river. About 150 yards from the southern end of the bridge is a sign saying "CAMP LONE STAR." Turn east on that road and go 2 miles to the Camp, simply following the signs. $\frac{1}{2}$ mile is paved, the other $1\frac{1}{2}$ is dirt but usually in good condition. Clothe yourselves in your charming personality, fortitude, and vigor and come be with us.

COST

The cost at Camp Lone Star is reasonable and compares favorably with any other manner of financing your Reunion expenses. The cost is prorated and is determined by your arrival time. If you spend the full $2\frac{1}{2}$ days there, you'll have 5 full meals (all you can eat), 2 nights lodging, plus full use of all facilities for around \$63.00 per adult and \$40.00 per child. However, the maximum charge per family will not exceed \$180.00 for all $2\frac{1}{2}$ days. Age 5 and under--no charge! If you arrive Sat. or Sun., your charge will be prorated from the above figures. Vans and campers are not recommended; no place to park them. If you have questions of the host, write: Mr. Garland Midgget, Mgr., Camp Lone Star, P.O. Box 8, La Grange, TX., 78445, or call: 409-247-4128.

TRANSPORTATION

If you need transportation to and from the Reunion this year, please let your Secretary know about it immediately and I'll do everything I can to find someone who can come by and pick you up. Not attending the Reunion because of transportation is no longer an excuse, so let me know if I can help you.

ROOMS

Being a 1st class retreat, the rooms sleep either 4 or 6. You'll want to choose some room-mates and fill these rooms up because the more in each room, the lesser the charge per head in the room. The rooms are air-conditioned and very nice. Linen, blankets, and pillows are furnished. Bring no food!

PLAN-TED

As previously stated, we have purposely curtailed planned activities this year hoping our members will have more time to mingle and visit with each other. I still believe this is the greatest asset to be gained at any Reunion--good ol' communication. As always, the business meeting will convene Sat., July 21, 1990, at 4:00 p.m. The Sunday meeting commences at 11:00 a.m. HOWEVER, you do have one glittering treat in store for you, in fact a rare opportunity. Ted von Rosenberg of San Antonio, Vol. II, pgs. 307-309, has finally consented to address us at the Sat. 4:00 meeting. I humbly suggest you read about him in Vol. II and let your appetite be wetted. This man has many important and interesting things to tell about, not the least of which was his association with Mr. Howard Hughes. I doubt seriously if you'll ever have this opportunity again and I'd make every effort to hear him. Ted has that certain charisma that highly satisfies, you know, like water being cut at the bow of a boat, or climbing up a hill and looking down, or that hot-water bottle in bed. This man has had many experiences in life and he knows how to relate them to a group, an ability as slim and startling as an exclamation point! You now know who, what, where, and when; the rest is up to you.

DON'T FORGET PLAN-TED

THE 1989 REUNION REVISITED

The business meeting was held Sat., July 15, 1989, at Camp Lone Star in La Grange, Texas. President Roger von Rosenberg called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m. with 146 members present. We gave the pledge of Allegiance, had self-introductions, the minutes were dispensed with, and Treasurer Robert Hein gave his report. Historian Dale U. von Rosenberg reported he gave a copy of our Vol. I to the La Grange Library and gave a short talk on how he intended to gather pertinent information for Vol. III.

The following slate of officers were elected to serve the Association through the year 1991:

President-----Darlyn Bechtol of Austin.
Vice-President-Oscar Paul Lytton of New Mex.

Secretary-----Phil Meerscheidt of Houston.³
Treasurer-----Robert Hein of San Antonio.
Historian-----Dale U. von Rosenberg of Dallas.

It was moved and seconded that the 1990 Reunion be held again at Camp Lone Star on July 20, 21, and 22 in La Grange, Tx. We then enjoyed fine speeches by 3 members of the Assoc.: Rives Meerscheidt spoke on the translation from German to English of the names von Rosenberg and Meerscheidt; his father, Leo Meerscheidt, Jr. spoke of his experiences flying the transport plane for the famed Blue Angels Naval Precision Flight Team; and Rodney Koenig of Houston read an important article about Amanda Fallier, composed by his wife, Rebeca, contained elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Darlyn Bechtol spoke about "T" shirts with the Family coat-of-arms imprinted upon them, which will become available for sale to Family members after which Glenn von Rosenberg gave us instructions on going to the cemetery where we held a short service at Peter Carl's grave, presided over by Historian Dale U. von Rosenberg, and about the big dance Sat. evening.

Outgoing President Roger von Rosenberg received a fine ovation for his fine leadership and service to the Association for the past two years, as did the Secretary. Many members then rose to their feet and gave complimentary plaudits for this festive 50th anniversary, the plans, the fine turnout, and the significance of it all. The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 pm.

SUNDAY MINUTES

The annual Sunday morning service was called to order by President Roger von Rosenberg on July 16, 1989, 11:00 a.m., at Camp Lone Star. The oldest member in attendance was Jennie von Rosenberg of Austin, the youngest was Alexandra Marie Holtzer, daughter of Matthew and Karen Marie von Rosenberg Holtzer of Columbia, SC, and Paul Dyer Meerscheidt's group traveled the greatest distance to attend, from Seattle, WA. A memorial service was given in honor of our deceased members since the last Reunion (see June, 1989 Newsletter) by Arthur J. von Rosenberg of San Antonio.

Charles W. von Rosenberg, past Family Historian, then read us two letters from Inge Schmidt, Ohkampring 12, 2000 Hamburg 63, Federal Republic of Germany, asking for important genealogical questions concerning some of our Family members in an effort to trace some of his. This was very interesting. Jo von Rosenberg, wife of Glenn, then presented the idea that we form a Family cookbook composed of recipes from all Family members who wanted to contribute their favorites. This motion was

4 passed and it was decided that all recipe contributors send same to Mrs. Arthur J. (Edna) von Rosenberg, Box 177, Cameron, TX, 76520. This will be a delicious enterprise.

After a standing ovation for Pres. Roger von Rosenberg and the very successful 50th anniversary of our Association, Roger dropped his gavel for the last time, and became a has-been, at 11:37 a.m. A very well-done to you, Roger. Everyone then ate, packed their cars, and got!

MAY I HAVE THIS DANCE?

You folks who were not present at the Saturday Reunion dance last year really missed a good one. The "Once In a While" country band played and boy, did we have a good attendance and a lot of fun. We had over a hundred there and proved again how much a swinging group our clan really is. Special thanks are in order to Glenn von Rosenberg who arranged for every detail at that party as well as many other things he and his family did for this Reunion. Yeoman service, all you Glennites!

RECENTLY ANNOUNCED DEATHS

- Frank Dexter of San Antonio, 11-88.
Vol. II, p. 258.
- Annie Laurie Hornberger Jackson of Austin,
8-26-89 Vol. II, p. 76.
- Edith Amy Lawrence Hornberger of Austin.
4-13-90 Vol. II, p. 80.
- Kathryn (Katie) Schoomaker Hellmuth of Dallas.
12-4-89 Vol. II, p. 122.
- Arthur Meerscheidt Scholz, Jr. of San Antonio.
5-6-86 Vol. II, p. 260.
- Dewey Frank Mueller of Austin.
11-10-83 Vol. II, p. 81.
- Eli Roberts of Enid, OK.
? -?-84 Vol. II, p. 292.
- Mary Jane Scholz of San Antonio.
4-11-87 Vol. II, p. 260.
- Leslie August von Rosenberg, Jr. of Yoakum.
7-17-87 Vol. II, p. 161.

OPERATING BUDGET

"He who rides behind another does not travel when he pleases." It's time again to donate to our Family Operating Budget. As you know, each year we ask each family in the Association to donate \$5.00 or more for the Family expenses. Five dollars is as brief as the flutter of a star in flight. Five dollars or more is not a large sum in this day and time, but for our purposes, that small sum can be as dependable as the gleam of a lighthouse on Maine's rocky coast. So, don't ride behind

another and wait for others to support the Association, but "travel as you please" and do your part. We need everybody and everybody needs you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Robert Trenckmann, Jr. (Vol. II, p.242) was married to Evelyn L. Moore of Goldendale, WA, on Oct. 6, 1988. They reside at: XMAS Village Holly #7, Shelton, WA., 98584. Welcome to our Association, Evelyn, and make sure you get yourself to one of our Reunions so we can meet you. Don't forget to bring Robert.

Been wondering what's become of Teresa Lyn Ramirez lately? Me, too! Teresa writes that she married David Wayne Wagner on June 18, 1988, and that they live at 213 Eddy Ave., Joshua, TX, 76058 (Vol. II, p. 310). She is the grand-daughter of Charles W. von Rosenberg and the daughter of Gretchen Kateri von Rosenberg (see other announcement). David is a Ft. Worth police officer and Teresa is a registered dietitian, receiving her Master's degree in Dec. of 1989. Now, you see, you can learn about diets from Teresa, and if you don't pay attention, she'll sic David on you. Welcome, David, and congrats to you both on your marriage. We'll express more to you when we meet you at the Reunion on July 20th.

Speaking of mother, Gretchen Kateri von Rosenberg informs she was married to Donald Rudolph Cormier Feb. 18, 1989 (Vol. II, p. 310). They live in the woods in Blanco County and their mailing address is: P.O. Box 117, Dripping Springs, TX, 78620-0117. This happy couple have been partners in a computer consulting business for several years. Gretchen is currently contracted at the Texas Comptroller's office where, believe it or not, Carol Campbell, another of our members, Vol. II, p. 270, introduced herself to Gretchen after Gretchen had taught a class in Carol's section. Gretchen says "small world." Yes, Gretchen, this clan seems to be everywhere. Congratulations to you both and we'll see you at the Reunion, also.

The divorce of Dot and Phil Meerscheidt was finalized May 3, 1990.

Karen Grace Kirkley Hooks, Vol. II, p. 90, announces her marriage to Randall Bryan Wilburn in Austin, Oct. 10, 1987. Their address: 8402 Candelaria Dr., Austin, TX, 78737. Congratulations are in order for you folks also and a special welcome to you, Randall. Golly, with so many new marriages on our hands, and knowing they will all be at the Reunion, we're certainly assured there won't be that letdown I was talking about, eh?

A TIP OF OUR HAT

WHERE ARE YOU, AMANDA?

One of the highlights of the 50th Reunion was the reading of the following article by Rodney Koenig, husband of Rebeca Anne Todd Koenig, who composed it. See Vol. II, p. 203. Rebeca was unable to attend the Reunion for its deliverance, due to commitments with hers and Rodney's children, but Rodney came and made the presentation in her behalf. The article was published in the Texas Historical Society's Handbook of Texas and is an outstanding piece of work dealing with a very important part of our Family history. It is listed here in its entirety for your edification and I quote:

Amanda Fallier von Rosenberg
(1806-1864)

Amanda Fallier von Rosenberg, of French descent, possibly Huguenot, was born at Carolinienhof Estate, East Prussia, Germany, on Sept. 6, 1806. She was a well-educated woman who grew up in a cultured and refined household. Her family is believed to have originated in Italy, from the ancient family Fallieri, which was a Venetian family and later also a French family. Amanda had four sisters and one brother. At the age of twenty-four Amanda married Peter Carl Johann von Rosenberg, a Lieutenant who served in the Uhlan lance calvary under General Bluecher at Waterloo, and moved to his home at Eckitten Estate, in East Prussia, where she mothered his three children by his first wife, Carl Wilhelm, Johanna Carolina, and Johannes Carl. Amanda and Peter Carl themselves had five children, Carl Eugen (1830-1913), Amanda Karoline (1832-1911), Carl Alexander (1833-1864), and Carl August Walter (1839-1903), Carl Friedrich Wilhelm (1844-1844. In 1846, they adopted Libussa Froelich (1839-1918), niece of his first wife, Johanna Froelich.

The von Rosenbergs, aristocratic by heritage and democratic in their political philosophy, professed the liberal sentiments of "frei Denkers". Eventually, they found life in Prussia increasingly oppressive. When their grown sons, Wilhelm, an architect, and Johannes, an engineer, were forced to resign from their posts in the Prussian government, the von Rosenberg Family decided to leave behind the unrest in Germany. Persecution and threats to their safety caused the entire family to flee Germany for Texas. They sailed from Bremen on Oct. 1, 1849, on the Franziska, and after an ocean voyage of eight weeks, landed in Galveston on Dec. 6, 1849.

Amanda's husband, Peter Carl, purchased 800 acres and the house on the famed Nassau Plantation in Fayette County. They lived with their married children settled nearby until 1861, when they moved into Round Top, where Amanda died in April of 1864. She is buried in Richters Cemetery, near Round Top, which was previously known as the Soergel Hill Cemetery.

Amanda Fallier von Rosenberg's prolific, diary-like letters give a fascinating first person account of their trip to Texas and their early life there. Most letters were written to Amanda's sister-in-law, Johanna "Hannchen" Fallier at Carolinienhof, and to her dear friend, the Rev. Theil in Memel. Her letters were quite elegantly written and full of interesting anecdotes about her fellow ship passengers. Her prodigious letters also provide a vivid, contemporaneous picture of Texas Frontier life, including information on foods, farming methods, architectural styles, rural economy, and the social customs of the German immigrants who settled Texas during the 1840's.

In the words of Alma von Rosenberg-Tomlinson, Amanda "had every trait of the finest type of Texas Pioneer Woman, the kind we read about, and then enjoy and admire the fortitude and courage it took to establish a home and rear children in that early day. We love, treasure, and cherish these stories (and letters) about this grandmother especially because she had a wonderful time in this adventure. She was what we now call 'a good sport'."

(Rebeca A. Koenig)

WHY DO WE HAVE A REUNION?

I am constantly reminded by the hundreds of replies I receive saying "Phil, we can't make the Reunion this year because of this or that, but we'll try to make it next year." FOLKS, THIS IS NEXT YEAR! Those who come always enjoy and return again and again. They develop a certain "confidence" in the Association as a whole, that confidence that's like a kid on a bike shouting "look, no hands!" It's the difference that water wings make; or a child's piggy bank in the middle of the mantelpiece and yes, it's like a blank check with a signature on it. Remember, the Great Deceiver only Deceives himself. Come join us and discover what a great Association we really have. I guarantee you'll have that "confident" feeling, also. Don't forget, everybody, send me your registration forms!

REGISTRATION FORM

Please fill in and return this form to: Phil Meerscheidt 6327 Overlook
Houston, TX 77041 BY JULY 16, 1990

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

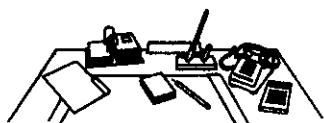
There will be _____ of us at the 1990 Reunion in La Grange.

We will arrive July 20 21 22 (circle one) between the hours of _____ and _____

There must be either 4 or 6 in each room. Please include yourself and fill in one of the lists below indicating your preference for room-mates:

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____



- \$ _____ enclosed for _____ copies of Vol. I @ \$16.00 each.
- \$ _____ enclosed for _____ copies of "Ancestral Voices" (Letters) @ \$20.00 each.
- \$ _____ enclosed for _____ copies of Vol. II @ \$13.50 each.
- \$ _____ enclosed for _____ copies of "Emigration Booklet" @ \$6.50 each.
- \$ _____ enclosed for 1990-1991 donation to the Family Operating Budget.
- \$ _____ total check enclosed, make payable to "The von Rosenberg Family."



NOTE: PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY FOR ROOM AND BOARD AT THE REUNION.



Hey
Podner!
Don't
Forget

This Newsletter respectfully submitted by:

Phil Meerscheidt

Phil Meerscheidt
Family Secretary
June 1990

Final Call!!