

THE TURNER MOVEMENT

CONTRIBUTIONS OF GERMAN IMMIGRANTS

TO THE HISTORY OF SAN JOSE

by

Maria Brand

8691 Lomas Azules Pl.

San Jose, CA. 95135

408 - 270 - 4888

Content:**Page:**

Introduction.....	2
The Turner Movement in San Jose.....	4
What does the word "Verein," mean?.....	4
Turn Verein Principles, Ideals and Goals.....	5
Turner Fest, Saturday, July 9, 1898.....	6
Turner Fest, Sunday, July 10, 1898.....	9
Turner Fest, Monday, July 11, 1898.....	11
Jahrmarkt at Turn Verein Hall.....	13
Charles Doerr.....	16
Karl Otter.....	16
Theodor Lenzen.....	18
Michael Lenzen.....	19
Hatred toward Germans.....	19
Bibliography.....	21

INTRODUCTION

San Jose has a great ethnic diversity. Many immigrants have had an impact on the city's economic growth and vitality. The German settlers were no exception, and it was the *Turner Movement* and its members which played a significant role in the history of the city.

The *Turners* were German people promoting physical, emotional and spiritual fitness. The concept derived from Greek antiquity. The revival started in Germany by *Friedrich Jahn*. He named the participants *Turners*, meaning: turning, twisting, jumping, running, swimming and performing different exercises, using certain apparatuses to do them on. Vater Jahn, as he was affectionately called by his followers, created the *Turn Verein* (athletic club) and opened his first Turner field outside Berlin, in the *Rabbit Heather* in 1811. In 1819 the Government closed down the Rabbit Heather and arrested Vater Jahn, because of his belief and participation in the struggle to unify and liberate the many different German States and emancipate all its people. To achieve this goal Friederich knew that people were needed who were strong in mind and body, and his program, he was convinced, provided the tools to accomplish both.

Germany, at the time was ruled by autocrats, aristocrats and sometimes by clergy, who ruled their subjects by decree, religion or convention. There was no room for people like *Vater Jahn*, yet, the *Turn Verein* movement took on momentum and began to flourish everywhere.

The idea of liberty and justice for all, and a Government by the people and for the people was invented and put into practice in the United States, and was now taking shape all over Europe. 150 years ago, in 1848, the German people took to the barricades and the revolution was in full force. Most *Turn Vereine* supported the movement and hoped for the assembly to write a constitution for Germany.

Paul's Church in Frankfurt on the Main river, was the place where all the action was. Many intellectuals and students were heavily involved in the uprising. It was, however

crushed and the participants were either exiled, imprisoned or executed. Many fled to the United States where the ground for their liberal ideas was prepared and already bearing fruit.

The first Turn Verein in the United States was founded in 1848 in Cincinnati and is still in existence. The motto for the Turner organization was and still is: "*Frisch, Fromm, Fröhlich, Frei,*" meaning: "*Lively, Pious, Merry, Free.*"

The Turner Movement in San Jose, California.

In a book called *History of Santa Clara, California*, published in 1881, on page 499,¹ we find the first information on the *San Jose Turn - Verein*. It states that the society was organized in 1868. and goes on to lists the names of the founders and officers. They where as follows: Henry Seebach, Chris Yertts, Charles Doerr, Emil Reinhardt, F. Hoos, William Conradys, William Ziegler, William Althaus and Julius Kreiger ; the first officers were: President, F. Hoos; Vice-President, Henry Seebach; Recording Secretary, E. Reinhardt; Corresponding Secretary, C. Doerr; Treasurer, W. Conradys; First Leader, W. Siegler; Second Leader, Julius Kreiger and Curator was W. Althaus. The society met on the first Wednesday of each month in their hall situated on First Street, between San Carlos and San Fernando Streets.

What does the word *Verein* mean?

The word *Verein* comes from *sich vereinen*, or in English, to *unite*. The concept of a *Verein* began to take shape at the turn of the 18th - 19 century. The industrial revolution was beginning to take roots. People of all walks of life moved to the city. Living quarters and living space was limited. Usually, the families were large. As a result, people joint a *Verein*, were they could be in a warm and safe place, converse, sing or work on a project of common interest or, in case of the *Turn Verein* work to improve their physical and mental condition. Up to this day, many German people are members of a *Verein*. All sports activities take place within the *Turn Verein*, now better known as the *Sport Verein*. In 1992 Germany claimed to have 79,443 *Sports Verein* with a membership of 23, 651,350. This means that almost 30 % of the German population belongs to some kind of *Sport Verein*.²

¹ San Francisco, Alley, Bowen and Company.

² Der Blumenbaum, Fall 1993:45 - 46

Turn-Verein Principles, Ideals and Goals.

The ideals, and goals of the *Turn Verein Movement* in San Jose are best expressed in the story published on New Years Day 1892.³ The headline reads: "A strong organization founded on broad principles of humanity".

It goes on to say: The Verein was organized on June 14, 1868. Then the article mentions the officers by name, and in a typically German fashion, honors two of the original founders who were still alive and active in 1892, namely J. Moser and Charles Doerr. The first meeting took place in a house on Lighston Alley. After changing headquarters several times, the hall and *gymnasium*⁴ on Third Street was built for the amount of \$18,000 in the year 1885. The Verein had 125 active members and decided to join the North American Gymnastic Union, which had a membership of 45,000.

The Verein had several sections within the Verein; a singing section or choir, a dramatic or theater section, a gymnastic section, and classes for physical culture of both sexes, and of all ages, and conditions.

In order to join the Verein, one would have to be 18 years of age, be of irreproachable character and must be a Citizen of the United States, or at least must have taken steps to become one. One of the chief aims of the San Jose Turn Verein (*S. J. T. V.*) was, as was the aim of the Turn Verein everywhere in the United States, to persuade the Board of Education to adopt a physical fitness program in the public schools. The Turners felt that the school-attending youth would greatly benefit from an exercise and relaxation program while being subjected to ever more mental strain in the schools of the future.

The San Jose Board of Education introduced a physical culture program in 1891. This, of course, was a triumph for the Turners.

The platform of the Turners describes their principles: "We, the members of the San Jose Turn Verein, propose by our union to aid each other in rearing a people strong in both body

³ San Jose Daily Mercury, January 1, 1892

⁴ Gymnasiums in Germany are prep schools, to prepare young people for the university.

and mind. We recognize in the dissemination of culture and the fostering of ethical and moral principals, the only means of effecting a thorough reform of social, religious and political life. We strive for the development of the republic on a truly human and republican basis. We therefore, oppose most decidedly every attempt to interfere with the liberty of conscience, and also all legislative encroachments that are hostile to the perfection and development of our institutions."

The officers at the time were as follows: Henry Roehr, President ; F. Posky, Vice-president ; B. Lenz, Recording Secretary ; L. Flemming, Corresponding Secretary ; P. Warkintin, Treasurer ; F. Butter, First Leader ; K. Fisher, Second Leader ; L. Weber, Teacher ; Karl Klein, Theo Rank, Charles Doerr, Trustees ; L. Magenheimer, Manager ;

In 1892 the *Pacific Turners Union* had its officers also located in San Jose. All the Turner societies of the *Pacific Rim*, were members.

Turner Fest, Saturday, July 9, 1898

San Jose welcomed several hundred Turners from different cities along the Pacific Coast, as well as from other places within the United States.

The city was ready; special trains were scheduled; accommodations for the guests were being provided; the equipment, like: horses, rings, bars etc. for the exercises were tested and found safe; the uniforms were ironed and the musicians had their instruments polished and tuned. The Turner Hall on Third Street made a beautiful impression, decorated with greenery and red, white and blue buntings; the ladies of the Verein had prepared stakes and stakes of open-faced-sandwiches, and the kegs of beer were kept cool. *Mayor Martin* was probably rewriting his welcome speech.

Excitement was in the air. The parade was about to begin. It seemed like all 20,000 inhabitants of the city had come out to witness the spectacle. Roman candles, passed out by

the the *San Jose Fireworks committee*, spread their light in various hues. The Turners, their muscular and athletic bodies dressed in gray uniforms with a red belts around their waist, greeted the more than 500 competing Turners, arriving at the broad gauge depot. The Los Angeles and Anaheim delegation had come a day early and was on hand to help welcome and escort the visitors to their designated places. The Turners shied no effort to attend this event, as the Turner ladies from Santa Cruz proved. Others might have traveled a greater distance but none equaled or surpassed their mode of transportation. These ladies had arrived after an enjoyable trip on a three-seated rig, which was followed by a baggage wagon. They looked cute in their white shirts, red neckties, gray bloomers and black stockings. Flags and banners were waving, the brass bands and drum corps started to play and the parade began to move down First Street to Santa Clara, countermarching to Market Street, to San Antonio, to First, to Santa Clara, and then to Third Street to the Turner Hall. The sound of the Turners marching in step to the music brought cheers from the crowds. Chief Kidward on horseback and his squad of police were in the lead with the Marine Band not far behind. The San Francisco as well as the *San Jose Schuetzen* ⁵ took part in the parade. Mayor Martin and the members of the Common Council were riding in a carriage. Mr. Martin was lead into the Turner hall and unto the stage by A. Greeninger. By this time the hall was filled to its capacity. Long tables were weighted down with trays of sandwiches, beer was flowing freely to quench the thirst of the paraders. Mr. H. Roehr, president of the San Jose Turn Verein welcomed the dignitaries and guests. He thanked the heads of the various committees for all the work they had done making this event possible.

Then Mr. Martin gave a rousing speech, welcoming and thanking the Turners for

⁵ Schuetzen is the German word for protecting. In the Middle Ages, when most of the people lived in walled cities, members of the different guilds would take turns keeping watch to protect the city. Once a year they held a target shooting contest and the winner was king for the duration of the festival. Protecting the city is now done by police, but the festival is still taking place, once a year, in many regions in Germany.(Folklore) San Jose , at one time did have a Schuetzen Park. It was located on the west site of Monterey Road, beyond Oak Hill cemetery. It was abandoned in 1913 and that contributed to the closure of the trolley on Monterey Road. (Historical Footnotes of Santa Clara Valley, by Jack Douglas, Historical Museum Association, 1993, p.57)

having chosen San Jose to stage this big event. He thanked the Turners of San Jose saying and I quote: "It is particularly gratifying to me, and I am sure it is to the citizens generally of the city I represent, to greet our own organization. We know that the aims and motives of your societies are intended and well calculated for the development of men. They have furnished to our country, our state, and our city *reliable citizens* in time of peace and sturdy soldiers⁶ to our union in time of war. Such men are doubly welcome to our hospitality."

He went on to recommend a visit to the points of interest in San Jose, such as the *Lick Observatory*⁷ on Mount Hamilton, the *Normal School*⁸, *Alum Rock Park*⁹ on the East side, the public buildings in the city, the fruit packing companies and last but not least the beautiful orchards, vineyards, farms surrounding the *San Jose Garden City*.

Mr. Martin was in a position to brag about the financial state of his city and he was very willing to do so. The material wealth of this city he said, is estimated at about 18,000 000 dollars, and that of the county including. the city is about 59,000 000 dollars.

The city is proud of its churches, schools, Santa Clara College and the University of the Pacific. The people of San Jose maintain handsome charitable institutions such as sanatoriums, orphanages and homes for the aged and infirm.

Mayor Martin's speech attracted the full attention of his audience. He knew he was addressing a young, energetic and well disciplined crowd, who came from a country known

⁶ The Germans in America formed volunteer battalions from their gymnastic organizations during the Civil War. (Germanic People of America, by Victor Wolfgang von Hagen, University of Oklahoma Press: Norman, p:279)

⁷ Lick Observatory was made possible by a donation from James Lick, formerly Lueck, who was born a Pennsylvania German, in Fredericksburg. (Eugene Sayer, P. 194.)

⁸ The Normal School evolved into the San Jose University. The architect of the first main buildings of the Normal School, which later burned down, was Theodore Lenzen, a member of the Turn Verein as well as of the Germania Verein. (See: Theodore Lenzen. (biographical sketch, p.18 in this essay.)

⁹ Alum Rock Park was established in 1872, when Adolf Pfister, who came to California in 1848 was mayor of San Jose. (plaque at the flag pole in Alum Rock Park) Pfister is also known for donating his salary as mayor to lay the groundwork for the first free public library in San Jose. (San Jose Mercury News, hundred anniversary issue, June 17, 1951. He also was one of the founders of the Germania Verein in 1856. History of Santa Clara, County, California, p: 500)

for its valued educational and apprenticeship programs. People with such backgrounds were needed in fostering the growth and continued welfare of his city.

Mr. Martin said: "You are not only welcome among us now as visitors, but should any of you as we hope many will, be so charmed with our city and its surroundings as to come and make your home among us, I assure you that then as now you will be greeted and welcomed by the warm hands and hearts of a hospitable people".¹⁰

The Mayor's speech was often interrupted by applause and cheers. A few more addresses were made by various dignitaries. Finally, there was time to get acquainted and to socialize.

Later in the evening, the sequence of the program for Sunday, July 10 was announced: 6 a.m. bugle call, 9 a.m. parade from the Turn Verein Hall to the Agricultural Park where all the competitions and contests for prizes were scheduled to take place: gymnastics; mass chorus singing, (150 voices); singing by various societies; oration in German; mass wand exercises, (200 turners); club swinging; pyramids by the *Eintracht Turner of San Francisco*; a presentation of comic songs by the Singing Section of the Stockton Turn Verein; a concert and dancing; amusements for young and old. Entertainment provides the *San Jose Zither and Mandolin Club*; 6 P. M. march back to town.

Turner Fest, Sunday, July 10, 1898,

The weather was just perfect which might have been partially responsible for the great turnout of spectators who came to enjoy the second day of the Pacific Coast Turn Fest. The first thing visitors noticed by entering the Agricultural Park was the profusion of red, white and blue bunting crossing the main entrance. The pavilion was also tastefully decorated with flags and banners giving much deserved credit to the decorating committee. The setting was perfect for the great ball that was still to come Monday evening.

L. Weber, Turn instructor for the San Jose Verein, was in charge of mass swinging,

¹⁰ 20 years later the situation had changed dramatically, see p. 19 in this essay.

executed by 120 young men. Many intricate movements brought forth bursts of hearty applause. Smaller groups competed in an area next to the main hall. Some of the judges had traveled a long distance to be present at this event; H. Suder, Otto Schmidt and Emil Groener came from Chicago and William Reuter from Davenport, Iowa, to keep a critical eye on the performers and see if any mistakes were made. The winners, however, were not going to be announced until Monday evening at the Grand Ball at the Pavilion.

More contests took place in the afternoon. Tuners who were not performing on the stage, were in the crowd cheering. The best high jump was made by William Bleisner, 5 feet 5 inches, of the Turn Verein Germania, of Los Angeles; there was a tie for the best broad jump, 19 feet and 2 inches, between Carl Gollnier Los Angeles and Albert Kuenzle of San Francisco Eintracht; the best shot put was executed by W. Hintz of San Francisco with a weight of 16 pounds and a distance of 32 feet and 2 inches.

If all this was not exiting enough, one could go and dance to the music of the brass band in the grove. The San Francisco singing section gave a concert in the beautifully decorated tent. Some of the banners and flags with their colorful, integrate embroidery and designs and painted silk emblems demanded attention, as was the case with the Anaheim banner with its huge orange, the logo of Orange County. These works of art were closely examined and very much admired by the ladies.

The singers had their competition at Turner Hall. The hall was packed; spectators were moved by the power and sweetness of the 200 male voices. The singing contest was considered a novelty, and while the singers exposed every human emotion through their songs, they entertained the public while at the same time they were striving for that precious trophy. Professor Fischer of San Francisco was the director. The contestants and finalists of the various choir where as follows:

Contestant, Finalists:
Schwaben Verein, San Francisco

Leader:
Panz

Songs:
O Wald, wie schoen bist du.....
Oh forest, you are so grand.....

Oakland Turn Verein

Prof. Albrecht

Ich liebe Dich.....

		I love you.....
San Francisco Turn Verein	Professor, Fischer	Die stille Wasserrose..... The silent Water Lilly.....
San Francisco Men's Choir	Professor, Fischer	Morgenlied Morning song.....
Gesang Verein, San Francisco	Holzhauer	Arbeiter auf Workers rise.....

Winners of this Singing competition were to receive their award along with all the other contestants and winners of the event at the Grand Ball, Monday evening.

Yet there was more. The house was taken by storm by the spectacular men made pyramid, exhibited by the Eintracht Turners of San Francisco. The instructor was H.O. F. Stahl. Members making up the human pyramid were: Casper Ellenberger, Charles A. Schulz, Phillip Knack, Carl Haas, Georg Stylist, Emil Cohen, Charles Krause, William Oeschle and Loui Peck.

Some special guests who attended should be mentioned, among them Professor H. Suder, who had been Turn instructor for the San Jose Turners 19 years ago, and who now resided in Chicago holding the position Superintendent of physical culture in the public schools. Dr. Magnus formerly also a resident of San Jose, now a prominent citizen of San Francisco. Magnus complimented the ladies, or as he called them, the Turn sisters, for the great and tireless work they did to make this fest so enjoyable for all who attended.

Turner Fest, Monday, July 11, 1998.

Many activities were planed for Monday.

7 a.m.. awakening by the bugle corps; march from Turner Hall to Agricultural Park.

8 a.m. gymnastics

9 to 11 a.m. prize shooting for diplomas

A Kaulfuss became a casualty yesterday; he broke his leg while jumping over a "horse" in the Turning grounds.

Loui Scheller of the Eintracht came in first by jumping 9 feet 5 inches in pole vaulting.

C. A. Schultz of the Eintracht was best in Weight lifting. He lifted 80 pounds above his head 36 times.

Casper Ellenberger was one of the oldest Turners, but still held his own as the base man of the pyramid.

The prize for declamation in German¹¹ was won by Paul Sauer,

Robert Barth was awarded the prize for his essay on the topic: "Influence of National and District Fests Upon Physical Culture."

The singing contest was won by The Oakland Turn Verein; the San Francisco GesangVerein came in second place.

The fencing contest was won by Mart Hacker of Los Angeles.

Mr. Hermann Mueller of S. F. T. V. came in first place winning the saber contest.

Wrestling, light weight, first prize went to Charles Sturm of San Francisco.

Wrestling, heavy weight, first price was won by Rudolph Bauer, San Francisco.

Many more awards, diplomas and prizes were given to the winners.

In the afternoon, a memorial service was scheduled in honor of the Turners who had past away the previous year.

¹¹ Since *Bilingual Education* is again a subject much in the news, it might be interesting to know that the Turners of Wisconsin and Illinois had an open letter published, addressed to the Congress of the United States, in regards to *Bilingual Education*. The letter states, that America, unlike any other country is a nation of immigrants, and therefore, it has no native language to speak of and can not claim that English is the language of the land. Native born or naturalized citizens, who belong to an ethnic group other than that of the British, should be entitled to and be given the opportunity to learn their mother tongue in addition to the English language. This letter was signed by more than 40,000 Turners. The article states further that *the Bennet Law in Wis. and the Pond Law in Ill.* did eventually pass, with English being the main language and German an elective. (*Deutsche Warte*, Chicago, Dienstag, den 19 November, 1890)

Then there were bicycle races, concerts, dancing, and all kinds of amusements for children and adults.

The Grand Ball in the gaily decorated Pavilion was the right setting for the celebration at the close of the Turner Fest in San Jose. All the prizes were announced and distributed. Diplomas were eagerly awaited at the pavilion. More than 300 couples took part in the polonaise. The music was such that if one was not dancing he could not help but keep time by tapping his foot. It was an event that was going to be remembered for a long time. Young people proved that they had the discipline and energy to achieve lofty goals; yet possessed a bottomless capacity to celebrate in a wholesome way; not by practicing total abstinence to alcoholic beverages, but rather by behaving in a mature and responsible manner. The event also showed what can be accomplished when responsible leaders in the community give of themselves and their time to invest in the future generation.

Another event that contributed to the cultural scene of San Jose was the

Jahrmarkt at the Turn Verein Hall¹²

Friday, December 15 through Sunday, December 17, 1899.

The Turner Hall on Third Street was decorated with evergreens and white and red bunting; booth extended around the spacious hall. Mrs. Schoog, Martin, Roehr and Miss Dohrman were in charge of the Konditorei. The fragrance of Ginger bread, short breads, honey cake, coffee and cider was so... inviting.

Men, women and children dressed in native costumes from 8 different regions of

¹² This event started 10 days before Christmas, which makes me assume the Turners and the German immigrants in general considered this to be a Christkindel Markt. (a fair where Christmas items, food etc. is being sold) Christkindelmärkte have been staged in cities like Munich, Nürnberg, Lübeck and other German cities for many centuries. (Tradition)

Germany enlivened the scenery in the "make-believe market square." Every hour on the hour the night watchman appeared to sing out the hour of the night. Everyone participated, the traveling German Jew, as well as the Tyrolean street band.

Students in their "Studenten" garments, standing at the corner watched the girls go by.

Mrs. Webber demonstrated her craft on the spinning wheel, which had been in her family's possessions for over a century, and had survived the journey to California.

Mrs. Holtz, Hellisen, Krieg, Otter and Mrs. Huff operated the gambling booth. One could try his luck with dice or on the wheel of fortune.

The Heidelberg-Fass, or barrel of sherry, was a special attraction and would be raffled off before the fair closed.

They even had a Circus Ring with trained animals and clowns. This really proved to be a main attraction for the boys and girls. There were many other side shows like the bridal procession with the young couple and bridesmaids in their native dress. The wedding crown worn by the bride was much admired.

Then there was music, singing¹³ and dancing. Mr. Brohashka and his Orchestra played the Overture from Robin Hood as smoothly as it accompanied the choir, quartet and duet and solos, and later played for the dancing pleasure of the guests.

The singing performances by the Turners warmed the hearts of those present. The program included : The Chapel, by Kreutzer; An old romance, by Mendelson. Oh, fly with me, One night there came and Over their grave, was sung by Miss Pieper, Miss Webster, E. Wentzel and H. Dykmans.

Other songs included, were: Serenade, Calm as the night, The shepherds Sunday Song

¹³ Music in general, but particularly singing, and singing in a group had been introduced and much promoted as a means to bridge the social gaps, which, at the time of the *Turner Movement*, were much more pronounced in Germany than they are now. A proverb is very telling: "Singen heisst verstehen," meaning: "Sing together and you will get to know and understand each other." (*Deutschkunde*, Karl A. Krause; Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1929, p. 63,

and the mass chorus moved the audience with their performance: On Guard.

Then the dancing began and people danced into the night.

On Sunday after noon there was a special program for the children.

On that evening the attendance was greater than on the two previous nights. Additional entertainment was offered by the Schubert's Orchestra and the Zither duet.

The three day Jahr-Markt, or Christkindel-Markt closed with the playing of the Star Spangled Banner. The Turners were pleased with the results and the fruit of their labor. The Sick Fond had been replenished and guests had gotten their moneys worth and had left in good spirits. Christmas was around the corner, and everyone was in the right frame of mind to to embrace the holidays.

In conclusion, I would like to ask the readers to give this story some thought. In July of this year, hundred years will have passed, since the German Turners were the talk of this city. Yet, with all good intentions, the Turner Movement vanished everywhere in the United States; Santa Clara County was no exception. How was this possible? Was the hatred toward everything German so intense that people were afraid to belong to a society representing German values? Newspaper articles¹⁴ of that era certainly make you believe that. Have the shockwaves of that period really subsided? The Turners and other German organizations had build beautiful clubhouses where they could engage in *the pursue of happiness*, by practicing and teaching their culture to their children, which was *their constitutional right*. Practically all of these buildings closed and / or sold on account of *Anti German hysteria*¹⁵. Members were community minded, and contributed much to the wellbeing of the cities and towns in which they lived. This did not spare them from having to endure the spiritual, emotional, and at times physical abuse. They found strength in the discipline, which seemed to have been in the mothers milk that nourished them. The German discipline has often been praised and just as often been condemned, yet, without self discipline, man is

¹⁴Check page # 19 in this essay.

a slave to himself.

The Turners, for a short period had the light shine on them and contributed to the history of San Jose, and we, learning about them, are richer for it.

Biographical sketches of four members of the San Jose Turn Verein.

Mr. Charles Doerr¹⁶ was born in Hesse Darmstadt on February 2, 1840. He attended public schools there and at the age 18 he left to see the world and make a living for himself. He landed in Baltimore, on Christmas eve 1858 where he soon was hired as a baker and stayed for one year. In 1860 he came to California and worked for his brother Philip in San Jose who had established himself in the bakery business. After three years, realizing that the population in San Jose was growing rapidly, Charles too, risked to open his own shop. Charles, it was said, did not only fill the needs of his costumers, but anticipated them. With his good intentions, and the best product available, his popularity grew. With no help from anyone, but endowed with courage, determination and perseverance, he managed to grow quite wealthy and financially independent. By the time he retired in 1915, his modest store, which he called; "The New York Bakery" had been expanded several times. Charles had married Minna Bertelsmann, also an immigrant from Germany. They had four sons, of whom one died in infancy. Mr. Doerr served the San Jose Fire Department for ten years, the city council for two and he was also a member of the chamber of commerce. He belonged of the Germania Verein and was an honorable member of the San Jose Tur Verein in 1922.

As for Bilingual Education, I believe English should be The Language of the land. but other languages should be thought more thoroughly.

Karl Otter¹⁷ gold miner and pioneer of San Jose. A life size photo of him is displayed at

¹⁶ Eugene T. Sawyer, Santa Clara History, Los Angeles, 1922 p: 520

¹⁷ Pen Pictures, Garden of the World, H.S. Foote, 1888, p: 510

the San Jose Historical Museum at Kelly Park. He was born on August 29, 1830 in the city of Cassel, Prussia. At the age of 19 he embarked on the schooner Julius, sailed with captain Steege around Cape Horn, and having made short stops at Rio de Janeiro and Valparaiso, landed in San Francisco on April 8, 1850. At that time San Francisco was considered a small town. To his surprise, he met other German men, and not being able to speak a word of English, he felt great relief. His new friends, showed off their nuggets and gold dust which made Karl eager to start for Yuba, the gold country. Arriving at the camp he and his companions were greeted by some rough-looking characters inquiring about news. One of the fellows grabbed his rifle and asked him in German where he had obtained it. Mr. Otter, looking stunned replied, that during the revolution in 1848 in his hometown of Cassel, he and others had entered the armory and had helped themselves to a few fire arms; he felt very lucky that he and his rifle had made it all the way to Yuba. The fellow smiled, introduced himself as *Lieutenant Weber*, from the artillery in Cassel, the same man Karl and his comrades had tried to free from prison but had failed. They shook hands and realized that the world was after all, was a village. Working in the mines was hard work and not everyone was getting rich. At one time, Karl was lost in the Feather River area, contemplating cutting his veins and ending it all, he was found and rescued by Indians, who stirred him in the direction of the camp. After recuperating, he went back to San Francisco, working odd jobs, saving his money and in 1854 visited his parents, in Germany. He remained there four years when he felt the urge for new adventure, and he returned to California via Nicaragua. He finally landed in San Jose. He tried and sold the cattle business, bought and sold a share of the Santa Clara Brewery, and in 1865 entered the building trade. He erected the Arguello House at the corner of First and St. John Street. He again had saved his money and went back and forth to Germany where he arranged for his parents to join him in San Jose. Two sisters were already living here. When he arrived from his last excursion he swore he would only make one more trip and that would be to the "Oak Hill Nursery" on Monterey Road, referring to the cemetery of course.

Theodore Lenzen¹⁸ was one of three brothers whose names became somewhat of a household word in San Jose, and was known in the building trade far beyond the borders of Santa Clara County, for they together erected many public buildings as well as hundreds of homes. Theodore had his architectural bureau at 110 North Second Street in San Jose.

Theodore was born in Prussia in 1833. He attended the public schools until he was 15 years old, when he started an apprenticeship program¹⁹ to learn the building trade including drawing and architecture. He came to the United States when he was 21 years old, lived in Chicago for seven years, perfecting the skills in his profession practically as well theoretically. He set foot on the shores of the Pacific on January 24, 1861.

He helped draw up the plans for the St. Ignatius College on Market Street in San Francisco, which established his reputation as an architect. He was enticed to come to Santa Clara to build the since famous Santa Clara college, which took all his time for a whole year.

Later he was hired by the Auzerais Brothers to build the Auzerais House, which could be considered the "Fairmont Hotel" of its time. The old city hall at the intersection of Market and San Fernando Streets, was his work; the San Jose Sanatorium financed by the Hon. M.P. O'Connor for the Sisters of Charity, was done by him; so was the first Normal School in San Jose, which later burned down. He is credited for having build between 500 and 600 buildings reaching as far as Los Angeles and El Paso, Texas.

He married Caroline, Christina Wallhauer, a native of Bavaria in 1865. They had four children, all girls: Gertrude, Wilhelmina, Katrina and Emilia.

In politics he was a Republican, and believed in the protection of American industries.

¹⁸ Pen Pictures, Garden of the World, H.S. Foote, 621

¹⁹ It was a custom then as it is now, to send young people, who are not entering College or University, after graduating from mandatory public school, to learn a trade or craft by a certified master for three or four years, depending upon the trade. (Tradition)

Michael Lenzen ²⁰ was the youngest of the three brothers. It was said, Theodore is the designer, Jacob is the builder and Michael is the painter. His address is given as: 279 Park Avenue, San Jose. He had followed his trade since his arrival in San Jose in 1862, and since that time has had contracts for the largest buildings in San Jose and Santa Clara County. He married a Swiss girl by the name of Ferena Humbel. They had five children.

The parents of the Lenzen brothers had lived with their family on a farm near Cologne and emigrated to America in 1856. They settled in Chicago and after six years moved to San Jose, California. All three brothers became well known for their exceptional craftsmanship as well as their honesty in dealing with their clients. How much they loved and respected their parents is obvious, because each one remembered them in their biographical sketch. Nicholas Lenzen and Gertrude (Morsch)Lenzen found their final resting place at Oak Hill Cemetery .

(copy)

Hatred toward German Americans

San Jose Mercury, San Jose, CA. Thursday Morning, May 2, 1918

GERMAN TARRED, FEATHERED AND CHAINED TO MONUMENT GUN IN ST. JAMES PARK

Knights of Liberty of San Jose and Oakland, wearing black cowls over their heads, tried two alleged pro Germans on the Penitencia creek road five miles from here at a late hour last night. This morning one of the alleged pro Germans, George Koetzer, an employee of the Fredericksburg brewery, was found tarred and feathered and chained to a brass cannon at the foot of the McKinley monument in St. James Park.

He was freed with considerable difficulty by police and taken to the city prison. Military police hurried to the scene of the trial on the Penitencia Creek but could obtain no

²⁰ Same as Theodore

information as to the fate of the other prisoner.

While Koetzer was being released by the police he protested that he was an American citizen and that he didn't see why he should have been treated as he was.

Just before Koetzer was discovered the Mercury Herald was notified over the telephone by an unknown man of the summary action taken. This man, who declared he was a member of the Knights of Liberty, said he had taken part in the proceedings.

He stated that the Knights removed Koetzer from bed in his room in the Safe Deposit Bank building at the corner of First and Santa Clara Streets at a late hour last night, carried the partly clad man, by automobile to the corner of the Penitencia Creek Road and the Piedmont Road, where in the light of automobile lamps, a strange trial was held. While the case was being conducted, an Oakland masked party arrived with another prisoner and started a second trial. We found him guilty of making disloyal remarks. A rope was placed around his neck but we decided not to hang him but to tar and feather him.

This trial was conducted by the Knights of Liberty. We wore cowls over our heads. These have peep holes for the eyes and fall below the shoulders. The organization has 53 members in San Jose and vicinity. It has extended throughout this part of the state, having branches in San Francisco, Oakland, Stockton, Santa Rosa, Palo Alto, and other places.

"We are going to stamp out disloyalty. We give a fair and impartial trial. If the evidence warrants it, we turn the man over to military or civilian authorities."

This preceding article is just one more proof, that hate toward ones neighbor, if carefully thought and supported by authorities, can inflame the masses anywhere; Geography is no deterrent.

Bibliography

Adams, Willi Paul. The German Americans, An Ethnic Experience. Indianapolis, Max Kade German - American Center. Indiana University - Purdue University at Indianapolis. 1993,

Alley, History of Santa Clara County, California, San Francisco, Bowen and Copany, 1881

Barett, Dick, San Jose Mercury News, July 22, 1962

"Die Einwanderungsfrage". Deutsche Warte, Chicago, 19 November 1890

Douglas, Jack. Historical Footnotes of Santa Clara Valley, San Jose Historical Museum Association. 1993

Erbe, Isabella, Amerika Woche, 4732 Lincoln Avenue, Chicago, Il. 60625, 11, November 1995

German Tarred, Feathered and Chained to Monument Gun in St. James Park San Jose Mercury, May 2, 1918

Krause, Karl A. Deutschkunde New York. Charles Scibner's Sons. 1929

Pen Pictures, From the Garden of the World, Chicago. The Lewis Publishing Co. 1888

San Jose Daily Mercury, January 1, 1898

San Jose Daily Mercury, July, 10, 11, 12, 1898

Sawyer, Eugene T. History of Santa Clara County, California, Los Angeles, Historic Record Company, 1922

"Turners". Der Blumenbaum, Fall 1993: 45 - 46.

von Hagen, Victor Wolfgang. Germanic People of America, Norman, University of Oklahoma Press. 1976