

Proud To Be German-American
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The famous Oktoberfest with thousands of visitors from all over the world has an enormous influence on the economy of Munich and the surrounding area. Approximately 830 Millions EURO during the 16 days are spent - 324 Millions EURO on the festival grounds for food, drinks and entertainment, 205 Millions EURO for shopping in and around Munich, public transport and restaurants as well as about 301 Millions EURO for hotel accommodation. About 12,000 people are employed to enable the world's largest and most popular festival.

The festivities begin with the grand entry of the Oktoberfest landlords and breweries, Saturday, September 22nd at 10.45 am and lasts about 45 minutes. This is the official prelude to the opening of the Oktoberfest and involves about 1,000 participants, including the landlords' families in decorated carriages, the magnificent horse-drawn drays of the Munich breweries, waitresses on decorated floats and all the beer tent bands.

The world-famous Oktoberfest costume and riflemen's procession, Sunday, September 23rd, gives an impressive insight into the fascinating diversity of customs rooted in the heart of Bavaria, in Franconia, Swabia, the states of Germany and in neighboring European countries. A varied succession of regional costume groups, "troops" in historical uniforms, marching bands, riflemen, thoroughbred horses, oxen, cows, goats, the decorated drays of the Munich breweries, floats displaying typical local traditions and historic carriages all pass by in a 7-kilometer-long procession through the streets of the city center. Ribbioned trees, harvest garlands, craftsmen's tools from bygone days, harvest produce, dancers decorated with flowers, stars and crowns, trumpeters on horseback, flag-throwers and a host of other performers transform this traditional Munich procession into a brilliant highlight on the first Sunday of the Oktoberfest.

History tells us that Crown Prince Ludwig, later to become King Ludwig I, was married to Princess Therese of Saxony-Hildburghausen on 12th October 1810. The citizens of Munich were invited to attend the festivities held on the fields in front of the city gates to celebrate the happy royal event. The fields have been named Theresienwiese ("Theresa's fields") in honor of the Crown Princess ever since, although the locals have since abbreviated the name simply to the "Wies'n".

Horse races in the presence of the Royal Family marked the close of the event that was celebrated as a festival for the whole of Bavaria. The decision to repeat the horse races in the subsequent year gave rise to the tradition of the Oktoberfest.

In 1811 an added feature to the horse races was the first Agricultural Show, designed to boost Bavarian agriculture. The horse races, which were the oldest and - at one time - the most popular event of the festival are no longer held today. But the Agricultural Show is still held every three years during the Oktoberfest on the southern part of the festival grounds.

In the first few decades the choice of amusements was sparse. The first carousel and two swings were set up in 1818. Visitors were able to quench their thirst at small beer stands which grew rapidly in number. In 1896 the beer stands were replaced by the first beer tents and halls set up by enterprising landlords with the backing of the breweries. The remainder of the festival site was taken up by a fun-fair. The range of carousels etc. on offer was already increasing rapidly in the 1870s as the fairground trade continued to grow and develop in Germany.

Today, the Oktoberfest is the largest festival in the world, with an international flavor characteristic of the 21st century: some 6 million visitors from all around the world converge on "The world city with a heart" each year. And since this 179th Oktoberfest is still held on the Theresienwiese, the locals still refer to the event simply as the "Wies'n".

Annual DANK National Raffle

By: DANK Raffle Committee

Published as submitted

Read all about it! By now, your tickets should have been delivered to your home for the new and improved annual DANK National Raffle! Here is the scoop, fifty percent (50%) of the ticket purchase goes directly to support and enhance your own chapter! The balance goes to DANK National to promote our own German culture, heritage, and language throughout the USA.

The Early Bird Drawing with four monetary prizes and a grand prize of a big screen TV was awarded on July 20, 2012 in Chicago at The Historic DANK Haus during their monthly Stammtisch. (Check out our website www.dank.org, for the names of the winners.). The lucky winners of this early drawing were reentered for a second chance to win again! **SO, we hope you mailed your tickets in early.** Remember, a German is only on time if he is early. Response has been so great that members are calling the National Office to order more tickets!

Folks are calling in for more tickets knew they had two opportunities at winning, but for the fact that every ticket is a winner anyway. If you look at the back of your tickets, you will notice that when you purchase your tickets, you will receive an incentive with that purchase. **Every ticket is a winner.**

Well-known businesses have teamed with DANK and are offering incentives with the purchase of the raffle ticket. The first on board was Matt Lodge of Laschet's Inn at 2119 West Irving Park Road in Chicago. If you purchase an entrée at Laschet's on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, you get a free 1/2 liter of beer or soft drink upon presentation of your ticket! How can you lose? Our next sponsor was Wolfgang Beyer of the Schnitzel Platz, 729 East North Avenue, Glendale Heights, Illinois. Wolf is offering a free 1/2 liter of beer with the purchase of a full meal entrée on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. In the Milwaukee area, The Old German Beer Hall, 1009 North Old World 3rd Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is giving away a free Ungerer Bratwurst with the purchase of a full price liter of beer, seven days a week! Chapter Benton Harbor will honor their coupon for a free domestic draft beer or soft drink of choice with the purchase of a dinner, good at their monthly Fish Fry or dances. In Erie, purchasers get a ticket on a drawing for a gas card. Pittsburgh is offering \$4 off entrance to their Christmas Party for non-DANK members. Chapters worked together to find the right coupon special for your area where possible.

With your help, this raffle will be the greatest success of all time. Buying DANK National Raffle Tickets gives you not only a chance of winning but also a way to help your chapter. Please support our generous sponsors all year long!

"Every Ticket is a Winner" and so is being a supportive DANK Member.

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Book Review: A Serendipitous Life

Book By: Karl Rickels MD

Review By: Stephen Fuchs

GermanPulse.com

"I am sitting in an easy chair in the library, listening to radio from the Metropolitan Opera, and reading The New York Times." This is not something you would expect to read in a letter being sent home by a German POW in America, but it is the experience that Karl Rickels had as one, and he wrote it all down in his personal memoir "A Serendipitous Life." Rickels' motivation for writing his book was to pass on his captivating life experiences to his family, present and future, but anyone that picks up this book will be instantly drawn in to his serendipitous life.

The story begins with a very well written background on his early childhood, which paints a picture of what life in Germany was like right before the start of WWII and then captures the struggles many families faced when the war

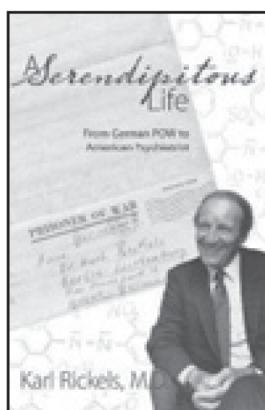
started. Like many young German males at that time, Karl Rickels had no choice but to join the German military. While stationed in Africa, Rickels is captured by American forces and in his story he recounts how life was as not all that bad as a POW in America for the first few chapters of his memoir.

After the war, Rickels returns to Germany to enter medical school and eventually returns to America, with no bad feelings of his POW days, to work as a psychiatrist at the Mental Health Institute of Cherokee, Iowa. This is where his story now changes directions to detail his career in psychiatric health and medicine with many interesting stories of his family life spread throughout.

A Serendipitous Life is filled with many enjoyable stories that will keep you entertained and often wanting more. Don't let the fact that it is written by a medical professional or that there is a focus on the research of early psychiatric medicines stop you from picking up this book. It is a very

well written personal memoir that will keep you engaged throughout the pages of the book. There are a few moments in Rickels story that get into the more technical side of his medical research, but it is only a small

portion of the 215 page memoir. When you finish the book you will have a new insight to the pre-WWII German life and will see how being in the right place at the right time can lead to some unexpected fortunes. **B+**



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*Special Danube River Opera, Ballet & Classical Music cruise from Oct. 30 to Nov. 6, 2012. Cruise prices from \$1,784 pp + opera tickets & tours. 2013 programs scheduled in April & October. Contact us for details.
*Special 2013 tour to Oktoberfest in Munich, Bavaria + 4 day Rhine River cruise September 15 - 24, 2013. Price of \$3,195 pp with tours & airfare from Chicago.
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