

Lieblinger Verein of Chicago Newsletter

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Our 81st Year, 1939-2020

Special Coronavirus Edition

Traditions and Lore – Obscure?? Well...

You have read frequently in this column my musings about traditions – and perhaps some of you may be tired of it. Nonetheless, I will continue to apply my prerogative and discuss some traditions that I grew up with, and I imagine many of you may remember your parents and grandparents speak of them. Others, may never have heard what I'm about to present. Earlier this week, Vicky & I had to go out and cover some of our recently potted plants at night because there was a hard freeze in the wee hours of the morning. Now I don't want to say to Vicky "I told you so" but, "I told you so!" Back in Liebling, most families planted and maintained vegetable gardens. It was essential to be able to grow a significant portion of the family's food in this way. For many, including my Mom, vegetable gardens continued to be an important part of life in America. In my early years I really didn't pay much attention, but as I grew older – and became a valuable helper for my Mom in the planting and maintenance of the garden – I started paying more attention. After some years, when the weather would start to turn nice in late April, I would ask my Mom when we were going to plant. She said, "Oh, not yet. We need to wait for the 3 Ice Men to come and go. Then we can plant." This was a bit curious, so I asked her to explain.

Before I get into that, I will take a slight detour. Many of you may not know this, but in Liebling people didn't celebrate their birthdays, much.

Instead, they celebrated their "name day." Being a curious pre-teen, I dutifully asked, "What?!" My Mom took out the Schwaben Calendar, which was a book published annually – kind of a cross between the Farmer's Almanac and a calendar. In addition to a variety of informative articles, the calendar was populated every day with a name. These were, by and large, the Saints' names and those of other Biblical figures which appeared on the day of each Saint's Feast day. So, Katherines would celebrate on St. Katherine's Day, and so on.

Now, back to the Ice Men. Because of the climate in the area around Liebling, which by the way is not that different than Chicago, farmers and those tending gardens needed to make sure that their crops would not be damaged by a freeze that might come if planting was done too early. Lore developed over many generations that you needed to wait until the 3 Ice Men passed before planting. These 3 Ice Men are: St. Pancratius; St. Servatius and St. Bonifatius. Their Saint Feast days are: May 12, 13 and 14, respectively. They were called the Ice Men because many years of experience showed that after May 14 you were safe and a hard freeze would no longer occur. So, tonight Vicky & I go out and cover the newly potted plants – again! And one more bit of lore. It always rains on "Cold Sophie" – St. Sophia's day is May 15...and currently the forecast is for rain overnight, Thursday into Friday!

Stay safe – stay healthy, everybody.

Rick Stumpf - rick@rickstumpf.us

Keeping the Story Alive

by Katie

*Dedicated to Nichole and Eric Stumpf, who were married on
April 26, 2020*

Lieblinger Hochzeit

Wedding customs in Liebling remained the same for over a hundred years and were richly steeped in tradition. Since its earliest days Liebling's weddings were held on Tuesdays or Thursdays during Fasching or in late fall. From the couple's engagement through the events of the wedding day, old customs and traditional protocol were carefully followed. The bridal couple and bridal party recited the same poems and phrases, and sang the same hymns and songs as did their grandparents.

Immediately following the couple's engagement, their wedding was announced in church over the next three Sundays. On the afternoon of the third Sunday, eight young men, called "Hochsichläder", walked in pairs throughout Liebling to invite the wedding guests by oral invitation. They were dressed very dapper, carried canes, and wore flowers with long ribbons on their lapels. The men recited an age-old elaborate invitation which ended with, "Bring knives and forks, and don't be absent". On Krenzel Abend, the evening before the wedding, the Hochsichläder, again wearing their best, rode through Liebling collecting tables and benches while the Brautmäde (bridesmaids), wearing white aprons over red cashmere skirts, collected dishes and pots in large baskets for the wedding dinner.

The Lieblinger bride was dressed in all black and was dressed by her bridesmaids early on her wedding day. She wore the finest satin skirt over seven white petticoats, her fine white shirt was covered by a silk shawl and satin jacket. A satin apron, crocheted gloves, finely knitted stockings and black patent leather shoes completed her attire. A large elaborate

bridal crown (Der Kranz) with brightly colored silk flowers, tiny glass balls, and train of long black satin ribbon was placed on her head. Colorful ribbons which were gifts from her bridesmaids were tied to her sleeves. The bride carried a white handkerchief with a sprig of rosemary. The groom wore a black suit, a fine shirt handmade by his bride, and a hat and lapel badge decorated with flowers, rosemary and a long ribbon. Groomsmen wore suits and hats decorated in the front with a small flower bouquet and a band of rosemary, while bridesmaids wore their finest formal Tracht which included a satin jacket called a "mitzje".

On the morning of the wedding day, a procession lead by the band escorted the groom and bridal party to the bride's house, where family and guests had gathered. Arriving at the house, the groomsmen (Brautführer) knocked three times on the door and recited, "The groom asks for the innocent bride". Eventually the bride appeared. As the band played "Nun danket alle Gott" (Now Thank We All Our God) the bride formally took leave from her home. It was a tearful farewell as from this time forward she would live with and work for her husband's family.

The wedding procession from the bride's house to the church was assembled in precise order. At the front the music lead the bride, bridal party, female family members. They were followed by the two best men, the oldest godfather, the groom, male family members, with the fathers at the end. When the bride arrived at the church her girlfriends stood at the front door and each fastened additional ribbons to the bride's jacket. The procession then entered the church for the marriage ceremony and seated themselves in traditional order of women on the left, men on the right.

After the marriage ceremony, the wedding procession marched to the dance hall tavern for an elaborate feast and dancing. The afternoon began with the

Bride Dance in which only the bride danced with a partner while all others watched. This often lasted until three o'clock in the afternoon since the bride first danced with her husband, then bridal party, parents, siblings, godparents, family, and every guest. After each individual danced with the bride, they presented her with a wedding gift. Following the Bride Dance tables were set for the wedding feast which was carefully prepared by Lieblingers cooks. It was a five course meal: soup, soup meat with sauce, roast, stuffed cabbage, kuche. During dinner, the bride's shoe was "stollen" and later "ransomed" in exchange for cigarettes for the men and candy for the children.

After the wedding dinner, the band played concert-style musical requests, later dancing began which continued until morning, or even into the next several days. Entire families were invited to weddings so there were many school-aged children in attendance. The children danced the "Stolz Tanz", a children's dance played exclusively at Lieblingers weddings.

At midnight the young women held a somber ceremony conveying the bride's rite of passage from being a youth to becoming a wife. The ritual known as "die Abkränzung der Braut" (the removal of the bride's crown) is rich in symbolism and tradition. The bride was seated in the center of the dance floor surrounded by her friends and young married women who sang a farewell to her youth as the bridal crown was removed. Her crown was replaced with a kerchief, and with it came the responsibilities of marriage. Then the couple danced, no longer as bride and groom, but as husband and wife.

News...

Well, we have not held a monthly meeting since March, and though we are hopeful, our June meeting (scheduled for June 7th) may not happen. We'll have to wait and see if there will be any changes to our Governor's stay-at-home order between now and then.

Just to keep those future dates in front of you, here are scheduled meeting dates for the next few months:

June 7

July 12

August 9 (Annual BBQ & Picnic)

And, in other news...

WEDDING



Carrasquillo – Stumpf

Nichole Marie Carrasquillo and Eric M. B. Stumpf were married on April 26, 2020 at an intimate ceremony in Naperville, with families participating via video call. Reverend Brad Hughes officiated. Mariah Klein was the maid of honor and Jason Kruski was the best man. The bride is the daughter of Walter Carrasquillo and Luz Awilda Rivera, of Carolina, Puerto Rico. She is a bilingual Speech-Language Pathologist with CASE in Glendale Heights. The bridegroom is the son of Vicky and Rick Stumpf, of Darien, IL. He is employed with Fresenius Kabi, Melrose Park, as a mechanical engineer. The couple is at home in Oak Park, Illinois.

Vicky and I are very proud. Wir sind sehr stolz!

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