

Subject: The visit from Aussie's Geoff and Enis Saegenschnitter

Sent blind copy to All Worldwide Wends:

Geoff and Enis Saegenschnitter left for home ... (Australia)....about 12 hours ago, from San Diego, airport.....they are in for a long trip and won't be home for a few more hours.....After a month of gadding about.....USA.....

They visited:

1. Martin Dobring in Wisconsin (author of the Lower Wends Dictionary)...which is a beautiful book I might add....
2. State Center Iowa and the Iowa Wends.....Shirley Schaper spearheaded the efforts there
3. Sterling Nebraska Area...where Barb Uhlman hosted them
4. Texas Wenden Fest
5. San Diego to visit...the Petersen's

Here is what some of you had to say about their visit to the USA

THANKS TO SHIRLEY SCHAPER WHO WROTE THIS ABOUT THEIR TIME IN IOWA :

Geoff and Enis Saegenschnitter, the Australian Wends, made a stop in State Center , Iowa on their Wendish excursion to the U.S. At Geoff's suggestion, we (brother, Don and Judy Mahlow) met them at the Des Moines Airport . They won us over immediately with their friendliness and their "hang loose" approach to their visit. After we settled them into the local Bed and Breakfast, we took them to Applebee's for supper (still supper in rural Iowa --not dinner) as we were pretty certain they'd find something that met their dietary needs.

Sunday morning, we went to St. Paul Lutheran Church in State Center . Wends attending the services that morning were Geoff and Enis Saegenschnitter of Australia, Jake and Edith Plants of Kansas, Goldie (Schulz) of State Center, Ed (Mahlow) and Phyllis Trites of Boone, Iowa, Paul and Judy (Riese) Tieg of Roland, Ron and Dona Veren and their extended families, Don and Judy Mahlow and Shirley (Mahlow) Schaper, all of State Center.

We had invited all Iowa Wends to join us for food and fellowship at the Country House in Colo on Sunday noon. Geoff had volunteered to talk about the Australian Wends. There were 17 of us so it was a nice sized crowd. Those attending included: Geoff and Enis, Ron and Dona Veren, Don and Judy Mahlow, Shirley Schaper, Goldie Schultz and her guest, Helen Wendel, Ed and Phyllis, Jake and Edith Plants, Richard and Janet Mahlow, Ellen Riese and Marlene Riese. Geoff and Enis included a slide show and movie to go along with his presentation. Lots of interesting information was included.

As a side note---as Goldie was meeting Geoff, mention was made of her father being the last of the Wends who made the trip to Iowa and Geoff said his family was the first making the trip to Australia.

Later in the afternoon, Don transported Geoff and Enis to the Story County Wendish road where most of the Wendish settled on farms when they first came to Iowa . Marlene Riese accompanied them to do the narration of the farm histories. I understand she did an excellent job and we should have a tape recording of that narration. Thanks, Marlene! It was a rainy day so the tour was from the road. They did stop at Ellen Riese's (Mrs. Artie Riese) to look at the barn.

barn.

After the farm history tour, Don took Geoff and Enis to the Veren farm to join Ron and Dona Veren, Judy Mahlow and Shirley Schaper. Ron showed Geoff his farm machinery and told of his farming operation. Dona gave them a tour of their farm house. The original part of the house had been built by Ron's Wendish great grandmother (Schmellick) and her husband years ago. We were later joined by the Veren's daughter, Lisa and her children. Enis owns a health store and knows astrology so we had a good visit about those topics. As Don is quite versed on vitamins, supplements, etc., etc., etc., it made for an interesting conversation.

Sunday night we treated them to Bailey's Pizza in State Center --only, they had broasted chicken. Enis likes her chicken!

Monday was a full day. We toured Clemons Cemetery , Hillside Cemetery , St. John Lutheran Cemetery --each time looking at Wendish tombstones. We also showed Geoff and Enis the St. Anthony Christian Church, St. John Lutheran Church and Trinity Lutheran Church in State Center . They had already seen St. Paul Lutheran Church the day before. We were lucky enough to locate the State Center Historical Society president and he gave us a historical tour of Watson's Store, Shepler Barber Shop and Washington Township one-room country school house. Enis was enthralled with Watson's, as her first job as a teenager was in a store very similar to Watson's.

We were scheduled to go to the Dairy Farm owned by Dona's brother, Kevin Blood, but we canceled. We all took a rest period as it had been a full day already. Geoff and Enis were able to sneak in a short nap and Enis even did a quick load of wash so they'd be ready to journey to Nebraska the next day.

They told us not to pick them up before 6:30 for supper. Don Mahlow, Geoff, Enis and I (Shirley Schaper) drove to Ames where we met Judy Mahlow (she works in Ames) and ate Chinese. We journeyed back to my house so they could show us pictures on the laptop of their house and also a slideshow of their trip to Germany with the Texas Wends.

Tuesday morning, we met at the "Remarkable Rose" and bid them farewell and wished them a safe journey to Nebraska , then to Texas and on to San Diego . It had been a wonderful time spent with Geoff and Enis. Like Enis said--it was like we all had known each other forever. And---I love saying their name--Saegenschnitter. I'm batting 100 in pronouncing it. :-)

Today (Monday, Oct. 3), they're heading back to Australia and we wish them a safe journey. Also, good luck on the opening of your new health store.

Shirley

THANKS TO BARB UHLMAN WHO WROTE THIS ABOUT THEIR TIME IN NEBRASKA :

We had a wonderful time with the Aussies on their visit to NE. They were very interesting to visit with.

I think they enjoyed our farm and since Enis owns a Health Food Store, she was very interested

in what sort of crops we raised. Our garden was also a hit with them, and almost everything I served to eat came from it.

I took them to Beatrice where we visited the "Homestead National Monument" and they got to see how the early settlers lived and what became of the NE Indians.

From there we went to Sterling NE, and visited the cemetery of a Wendish Church where my Great-grandparents were buried, and the home place of my family.

They also loved to see some of our local Lutheran Churches and their organs and music systems since Geoff is an accomplished organist.

Our experience hosting people from other cultures has always been very positive and enjoyable.

Barb

ABOUT THEIR TIME IN SAN DIEGO :

Phil and I returned from Europe less than 24 hours ahead of Enis and Goeff...so we were tired and functioning below standard...both of us a little fuzzy headed at times

..that said...

Our 3 needy cats were happy to discover that Geoff and Enis were also "Cat People" ...and willing to lavish affection on our lonely critters....

We spent a day at the San Diego Wild Animal Park (well, what can I say?...there is nothing Wendish in San Diegoexcept me).....it is a beautiful place to spend some time for a while.

The next day at we had a visit to "Henry's" (health food store), Old Town (for a Mexican lunch) and shopping a bit for the last minute souvenirs and gifts, and Enis and I got some new "tops" at a big sale at my favorite shop.....

Goeff delivered a copy of Martin Dobring's Dictionary to me.....And WOW! Is it sensational!!!!!!!!!! Thanks to all the effort Martin went through creating it.

We discussed options for our plan to visit them on the way to Papua New Guinea ...which is tentatively scheduled for next August....

And the possibility of making a presentation on the history of the Wends.....to one, or both of the Australian Societies.....Goeff to make the arrangements if we can get ourselves there.

We would love to go.....and maybe able to make it happen, lets say it is on my calendar in ink ...but the tickets are not yet purchased....and nothing counts till you buy the tickets.....

We'll see what happens.....

Phil and I felt really honored that they would make time to visit us here in San Diego ...that was so nice!!!!

As they got ready to leave you could "feel" Enis' excitement they have been gone a whole month from Australia (can you imagine? I have never tried to be gone for such a long time)and she had shifted that gear that takes you back home again

.....we dropped them at the airport, ready for that last leg..... feeling their anticipation of returning to all that is familiar and that they love....

To those of you waiting for them in Australia:You'll see them soon!!!!

WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FEED BACK FROM MARTIN ABOUT THE WISCONSIN PART OF THEIR TRIP...

.....AND ANYONE FROM TEXAS WHO IS NOT COMPLETELY EXHAUSTED OUT FROM ALL THE WORK ON YOUR RECENT FESTIVAL.

JUSTTHINK....IN A FEW MORE HOURS THEY WILL BE BACK IN AUSTRALIA >>>>