



President—Paul

Spoke Newsletter

Wednesday August 8, 2018

Attendance: 21(49%) Attendance with make ups: 26 (60%)

Wednesday, August 15, 2018

Steve Sipple—Lincoln Journal Star Sports Columnist

Program arranged by Greg Schnasse

Program Wednesday, August 8, 2018

Elfi Lee —A German girl's World War II story of survival and quest for peace

Program arranged by Dick Cumming

“Watching Over Me:” (Part 2)

A German Girl's World War II Story of Survival and a Quest for Peace



Elfi Lee is born in 1940 and lives a picture-perfect life on a quiet acreage in eastern Germany. She delights in heading to the forest with her mother, Mutti, who sings hymns as the two gather boysenberries in a basket. Free to roam on the farm, four-year-old Elfi is adventurous and dreams only of exploring more each day. Her family did not subscribe to the ideologies of the Nazi party. Devout Christians, they managed to lead fairly quiet lives on their acreage as war consumed the world around them.

This changed in 1944 as her father, (along with all men between the ages of 16 to 60 who could bear arms,) was drafted into the *Volkssturm*, or “people’s army.” He was sent away to an unknown location just before Christmas. His family still knew nothing of his whereabouts- or even if he were still alive- when they fled

their home in January of 1945 to escape the advancing Russian army. As 1944 draws to a close, shadows of war creep onto the acreage. Mutti and Elfi encounter a Russian soldier on their property, and rumors rage of an approaching enemy. On a snowy day in January 1945, as artillery fires in the distance, Elfi flees with her family to escape the advancing Red Army. They board a train headed west, destination unknown.

Now Elfi's dreams of exploring are dashed. They managed to find transport via train. The journey was interspersed with frantic scrambles to shelters to avoid falling bombs, where Elfi’s mother, ‘Mutti,’ would sing hymns in the dark to comfort her three children. Elfi longs only to hide in Mutti's arms.

Watching Over Me

**A German Girl's World War II
Story of Survival and a Quest for Peace**



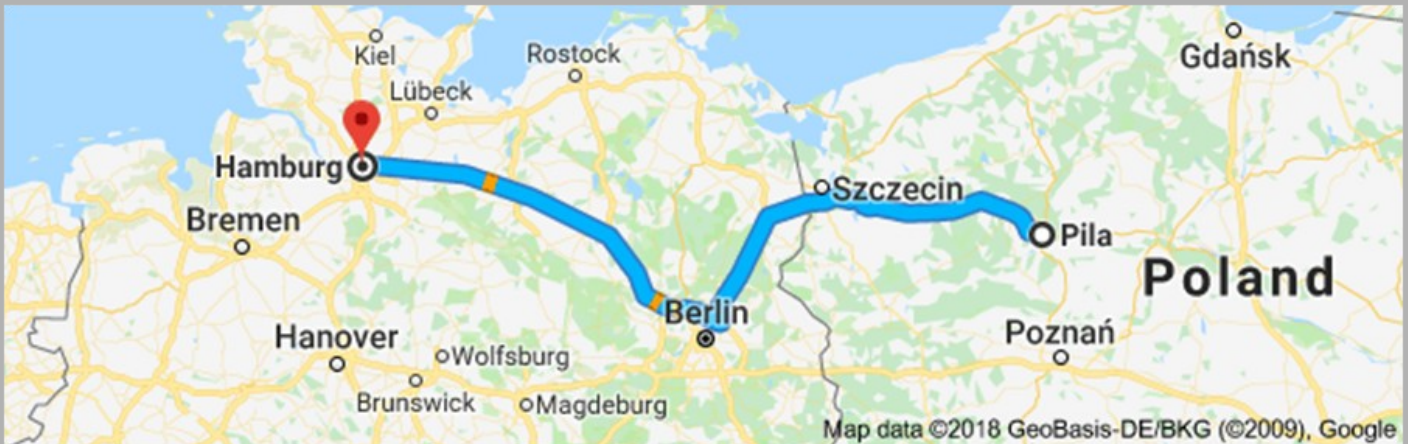
Rachel Marie Hartman

***A Rotary Thank You to Elfi Lee for another excellent presentation
on her story (Part 2) of survival during World War II.***

***Lincoln East Rotary Club
Meetings at Valentino's—70th & Van Dorn
Noon Luncheon starting @ 11:45 a.m.***

August 8, 2018

After a treacherous trip west, during which Mutti assures Elfi the angels are with them, the family arrives in a suburb of Hamburg. Reaching the relative safety of Harksheide, a city farther west, Elfi's family struggled to build new lives in the rubble. As refugees, they faced negative attitudes, inadequate housing, and meager food allotments. When Elfi's father returns unexpectedly after the war, the family is thrilled. Soon, however, the daily grind of post-war Germany sets in. Food is short, and so is spiritual nourishment, as it is hard for the family to worship freely. When an offer to come to America and live near a Lutheran church in Grafton, Nebraska arises, the family accepts. But after a journey across the sea, Elfi will need to find out if a better life and true adventure can indeed be found. *(I would encourage everyone to read "Watching Over Me")*



January, 1945. Elfi's family flees by train to Pila, Poland (1944—known as Schneidermuhl, located in rural Germany) to Harksheide, Germany west of Hamburg. Approximately 375 miles



Elfi's Farther



HAMBURG IN 1945



Elfi's Mother



ACROSS THE ATLANTIC



Elfi's Citizenship Certificate—01/26/1961

On September 23, 1952, we reached the New York Harbor. As we maneuvered into it, a tall green statue came into view. The boat slowed as we neared the monument. Our whole family stood on the deck, gripping the railing and taking in the bright, nearly glowing structure. I glanced sideways at Mutti, tears in our eyes. "It's the statue of Liberty," she explained. We didn't see the words of poet Emma Lazarus in the inner walls of the Statue noting "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free," but we felt the invitation.

(Excerpt from Elfi's book)



Anniversaries & Birthdays

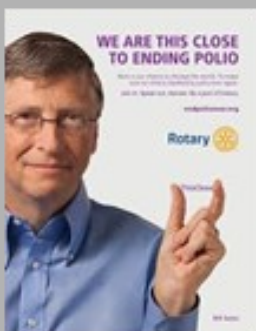
Weeks of August 8—15

Birthdays:

Melodie Pointon—August 11

Anniversaries

Paul Horton—August 10



Happy Dollars

| | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Barry Stelk | \$ 5.00 |
| Dennis Duckworth | \$ 1.00 |
| Chris Klingenberg | \$ 1.00 |
| Dean Douglas | \$ 1.00 |
| Jerry Albright | \$ 5.00 |
| Barb Roth | \$ 3.00 |
| Duane Tappe | \$ 2.00 |
| Dick Cumming | \$ 1.00 |
| Paul Horton | \$50.00 |
| Wayne Casper | \$ 5.00 |
| Total | \$74.00 |



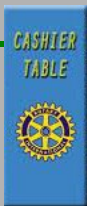
Greeter Duty

Dean Douglas—August
Dennis Duckworth—September
October—Gordon Bair

Make Ups

Gordon Bair
Charles Erickson
Ozzie Gilbertson
Greg Schnasse
Minnie Stephens

Social
Another Meeting
Concessions F.B.
Concessions F.B.
Board Meeting



Cashier Duty

August—Deb Durrie
September—Al Burdick
October—Rachel Martin
Contact Dick Cumming

Guests & Visitors

Sue Schuerman
Terri Martis
Barb Roth
Anthony Clemons

Dick Cumming
Jerry Albright
Gene Roth
Duane Tappe

Lincoln East Rotary Club—August Speaker Schedule

August 22—Dr. John Keller—"Digital Photography Workshop"—Dick Cumming
(NOTE: Bring your Digital Cameras and Smart Phones for tips in Photography)

August 29— To Be Announced

Lincoln East Rotary Club
Spoke Newsletter
Published by Wayne Casper